

# Chatham News + Record

Chatham County, N.C. | SEPTEMBER 8 - 14, 2022 | www.chathamnewsrecord.com | \$1

## STATEWIDE RESULTS RELEASED

## CCS scores show promise, despite pandemic decline

BY BEN RAPPAPORT

News + Record Staff

Chatham County Schools administrators characterized year-over-year student performance gains as "substantial," lauding the growth and performance shown in statewide standardized test scores released last Thursday.

Chatham County saw many of its public schools improve in some key measurements from recent years, despite academic challenges created by the pandemic. For the 2021-22 academic year, CCS saw 18 of 20 schools meet or exceed growth; statewide, only about 70% achieved the feat.

The only CCS schools not to meet or exceed growth were Jordan-Matthews High School and Chatham Central High School.

The N.C. Department of Public Instruction defines growth as "the amount of academic progress that students make over the course of a grade or class. Students enter grades and course at different places; some have struggled while some have excelled. Regardless of how they enter a grade or course, students can make progress over the course of the school year."

## CCS sees proficiency increases

The district also did well on School Performance Grades (SPG). Seventy-four percent of the schools in the district also earned a grade of "C" or better. Grades of D or lower are considered "low-performing" schools; CCS had five such schools: Bonlee School, Chatham Middle, Jordan-Matthews High School, Siler City Elementary and

Virginia Cross Elementary.

Statewide, the number of low-performing schools more than doubled since the pre-pandemic school year of 2018-19 — 864 schools in 2021-22, up from 376 schools three years earlier.

Across the district, one CCS school — Chatham School of Science & Engineering — received an A grade. Six schools received Bs, and seven received Cs. No CCS schools received Fs.

School Performance Grades are based on 80% of a school's achievement score and 20% of student academic growth. The total school performance score is converted to a 100-point scale, and the final grades are based on a 15-point scale: A: 85-100; B: 70-84; C: 55-69; D: 54-40; F: 39 or below.

CCS schools also did better than most of the state in reading, writing and

math end of grade (EOG) tests. CCS saw sharp composite EOG increases, with gains ranging from 10 to 20 percentage points per school.

"Generally, a performance composite gain of three to five points is considered good. When you see gains of 10 and higher, it is substantial," said Dr. Amanda Moran, CCS assistant superintendent of Academic Services & Instructional Support. "We are extremely proud of how well these schools did, and want to celebrate the work students and staff members put in to achieve this."

For each exams, students are graded on five levels of proficiency. If a student scores level two or below, they are considered not proficient. According to NCDPI, "student

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## MUSLIM-OWNED BUSINESS

## Chaudhry Halal Meats marks 26 years in business, putting family and community first

BY MAYDHA DEVARAJAN

News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Abdul Chaudhry likes to take care of his people.

He'll tell you as much on a walk-through of his Siler City business, Chaudhry Halal Meats, pointing to the several relatives he employs or the ways he looks to support his employees and their children in pursuing educational opportunities.

"I'll do anything for them," Chaudhry said.

For Chaudhry, lifting up those around him has been a constant and conscious effort for the meat wholesaler — both inside and outside the slaughterhouse on Stockyard Road.

Much of Chaudhry Halal Meats' business is rooted in servicing independent, local farmers in Chatham County. And whether it's establishing one of the first halal meat slaughterhouses in North Carolina — providing a much-needed service to Muslims across the Triangle — or founding and financing the construction of the only mosque in Siler City,

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Abdul Chaudhry sits beneath a photo of his older son, Wasim, who died from COVID-19 complications in 2021. His younger son, Atiq Chaudhry, and his daughter-in-law and Wasim's wife, Rabia Ibrahim, stand on either side; together, they have been taking on more day-to-day operations in the slaughterhouse.

## So what about the CAM site?

*Official announcement may come Friday*

CN+R Staff Report

SILER CITY — Widespread speculation about an impending announcement of a new industry locating at Siler City's Chatham Advanced Manufacturing (CAM) site was bolstered late last week by an unconfirmed report from a Raleigh TV station that Durham-based chip manufacturer Wolfspeed was expanding to Chatham County.

The WRAL report, which cited unnamed sources, was one of several saying the multi-billion dollar project could bring 1,800 jobs here.

Chatham officials aren't commenting on the reports, but the News + Record has learned of the possibility of a formal announcement that may be made by Gov. Roy Cooper's office as early as Friday morning.

Wolfspeed, formerly known as Cree, makes silicon carbide semiconductors. The 1,802-acre CAM site is located just off U.S. Hwy. 64 in Siler City near the Randolph County border.

Whenever an announcement comes, Chatham County continues to be a hotbed for development. VinFast, the Vietnamese electric vehicle manufacturer, chose Chatham's Triangle Innovation Point site — formerly known as the Moncure Megosite — in March for its U.S. production facility. That \$4 billion project is set to bring 7,500 jobs to Chatham, with site work under way this fall and production rollout scheduled for July 2024.

The News + Record will have the latest news and updates at [www.chathamnewsrecord.com](http://www.chathamnewsrecord.com).

## ELECTIONS 2022: BOARD OF EDUCATION

## 2 new challengers vie for board seats together

Winger, Moore call for 'parents-first' approach

BY BEN RAPPAPORT

News + Record Staff

School board elections across the country have become political battlegrounds and barometers of polarization, with issues like the teaching of Critical Race Theory, COVID safety measures and parent involvement in the classroom becoming common refrains in sometimes-stormy public meetings.

In Chatham County, there are three school board seats on November's bal-



Moore

lot. In Dist. 3, incumbent Democrat Del Turner — who's held the seat since 2010 — faces two challengers: Jessica Winger of Pittsboro and Clifford Stickney of Siler City. Winger, who has four children in Chatham County Schools, has been a vocal proponent of an optional school masking policy and actively advocated for a return to in-person learning while CCS was in a hybrid or remote learning schedule.

Meanwhile, in Dist. 5,

Meanwhile, in Dist. 5, incumbent Democrat Del Turner — who's held the seat since 2010 — faces two challengers: Jessica Winger of Pittsboro and Clifford Stickney of Siler City. Winger, who has four children in Chatham County Schools, has been a vocal proponent of an optional school masking policy and actively advocated for a return to in-person learning while CCS was in a hybrid or remote learning schedule.

See BOARD, page A9

## ELECTIONS 2022: ABSENTEE VOTING

## Mail-in ballots to be made available Friday

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN

News + Record Staff

Mail-in absentee ballots for November's general midterm election will be available, upon request, to voters starting this Friday, Sept. 9.

Pandora Paschal, the director of the Chatham County Board of Elections, said she and her staff have been preparing to mail out the ballots over the last week or so.

"We'll be mailing them out by the 9th," Paschal told the News + Record.

Mail-in voting originated in 1896 in Vermont but has since spread across the country, becoming an integral part of the U.S. election system.

Paschal said at first, mail-in voting was reserved for deployed military and those whose medical ailments wouldn't allow them to make it to the polls in person. That's changed over the last few years.

"Now anybody is eligible to vote by mail, and you don't have to have an excuse," Paschal said, for not going to the polls in person.

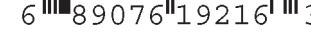
Voters who have a near relative can request a ballot themselves either on the N.C. Board of Elections website or at their local board of elections office. According to the state board of elections, "near relative" includes:

See MAIL, page A3

## IN THE KNOW

9/11 Memorial: South Tower survivor to speak at event. PAGE A8

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Events are subject to change based on closures related to the coronavirus pandemic. Verify with organizers prior to events.

### ON THE AGENDA

• The Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 8, at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center, 1192 U.S. 64 W. Business, Pittsboro (west side entrance) in the conference room. All meetings are open to the public. To be added to the agenda or for more information, please call 919-545-8440.

• The Chatham County Board of Education will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 12, at the historic courthouse in Pittsboro.

• The Pittsboro Board of Commissioners will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 12, in a regular session at Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro.

• The Chatham County Board of Commissioners will meet on Monday, Sept. 19., at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center. Sessions are scheduled for 2 p.m. and in the evening.

### OTHER

• Siler City Lions Club meetings for the month will be held on Tuesdays, Sept. 13 and 27, at Dry Dock Restaurant, 408 North Second Avenue.

• The Latino Coalition Against Covid holds a new member virtual Meet and Greet every 2nd Thursday (September 8) from 6 p.m. PT/9/9 p.m. ET. Stop by and introduce yourself to everyone at the table. Get connected with other like-minded gente. Long-time members are encouraged to join in as well.

• Chatham County Democratic Party will host a "Chatham Dems Together" fundraiser on Friday, Sept. 9, at the C. C. Agricultural & Conference Center in Pittsboro. The evening's guest speakers include N.C. Supreme Court Associate Justice Anita Earls, N.C. House Democratic Leader Robert Reives, and Dr. Ronda Taylor Bullock, a local anti-racist educational specialist. The festivities kick off at 6 p.m. with a gumbo meal prepared by 401 Main in Carrboro, guided by Melton, who besides being a musician is also a local celebrity Cajun chef. Vegan options are available. Ticket options include event only, event/dinner, or event/dessert. All proceeds will go to support Chatham County Democratic Party's 2022 Get Out the Vote activities. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit: ccdpnc.org/event.

• Mt. Vernon Masonic Lodge #143 has its Stated Communication the 3rd Tuesday (September 20) of each month with the meal at 6:30 and the meeting at 7:30. All Master Mason's are welcome. Our address is 185 Bonlee/Bennett Road, Bonlee.

• The Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department invites community members of all ages to create a masterpiece at the second

annual Sidewalk Chalk Festival on Saturday, Sept. 10, (rain date Sept. 11th) at The Park at Briar Chapel, located at 1015 Andrews Store Road, Pittsboro. For more information, visit the Chatham County Parks and Recreation website at [www.chathamcountync.gov/parks-rec](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/parks-rec), or contact Mallory Peterson at the Parks and Recreation Department at 919-545-8553 or [mallory.peterson@chathamcountync.gov](mailto:mallory.peterson@chathamcountync.gov).

• Chatham Community Library will host a virtual film screening of "Ways of Being Home." This program is free and open to the public. Access to the virtual screening will be available Thursday, Sept. 8 through 15 by visiting: <https://www.wmm.com/virtual-screening-room/> [ways-of-being-home-watch-page-chatham-community-library](https://ways-of-being-home-watch-page-chatham-community-library).

A password is required at the time of viewing. Those who are interested may contact [social.library@chathamlibraries.org](mailto:social.library@chathamlibraries.org) to request the password or for additional information. The library has purchased a hard copy of the film if residents who wish to see the film miss the virtual screening window. Residents may also visit the libraries' website [www.chathamlibraries.org](http://www.chathamlibraries.org), or contact the Library at 919-545-8084 or [rita.vanduinen@chathamlibraries.org](mailto:rita.vanduinen@chathamlibraries.org) for information.

### ONGOING

• Siler City's City Hall is currently under renovation. The 1st and 2nd floors are closed to the public. The Planning and Community Development Department is located in the basement and can be accessed through the far left door facing E. 3rd St. Parking available at the 100 block of E. 3rd St.

• Tarheel ChalleNGe Academy-New London, is currently accepting applications for the October 2022 class. This is a FREE educational program for accepted applicants, ages 16-18. ChalleNGe is the Choice for Change!

For more information contact Angelina Wilson at 704-960-9347 or visit our website at <https://nc-tcachallenge.org>. We offer our services to students who are not faring well in their current school setting. Our free program includes a 5 1/2 month residential phase, followed by a 12-month post-residential phase.

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• The Chatham Arts Council has put together a relief effort specifically for artists and arts-workers called CAARE: Chatham Artist and Arts-Worker Relief Effort. For more information on CAARE, or to donate, visit [ChathamArtsCouncil.org](http://ChathamArtsCouncil.org).

• Foster and/or adoptive information: Give children a safe place to grow. Interested in becoming a Foster and/or Adoptive parent? Call 919-642-6956 to learn more.

• Alcoholics Anonymous — North Carolina District 33, call the Help Line at 866-640-0180 for the meeting schedule for this area.

• Motorcycle Association — The Motorcycle Association for Chatham, Western Wake, Lee, Orange and Alamance counties meets in Pittsboro and is open to all riders. For information, call 919-392-3939 or visit [www.chathamCBA.com](http://www.chathamCBA.com).

• Narcotics Anonymous — For drug problems in the family, Narcotics Anonymous helps. Call 1-800-721-8225 for listing of local meetings.

• Al-Anon Meeting — Pittsboro Serenity Seekers Al-Anon Family Group meets at 7 p.m. Mondays at Chatham Community Church, in the lower level of Chatham Mill.

• League of Women Voters to Speak: In honor of the 75th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties (LWVODC), Deborah Ann Turner, MD, JD, currently serving as the 20th president of the League of Women Voters of the

United States (LWVUS), will be coming to Chapel Hill. She will speak at The Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History on the UNC Campus at 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 15. The Stone Center is located at 150 South Road, Chapel Hill. This program is free and open to the public. Free parking is available at the adjacent Bell Tower Parking Deck from 5 to 9 p.m.; registration is required: Register via our online calendar: <https://my.lwv.org/north-carolina/orange-durham-and-chatham-counties-inc/calendar>

• The Silk Hope Ruritan host a Benefit Bingo on the first, third, and fifth Thursdays of each month. This month's events will be held September 1, 15, and 29, at the Silk Hope Community Center. All are welcome.

• St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church provides a healthy meal at no cost to those who come to us hungry at noon on Thursdays. We provide a place of hospitality and fellowship for everyone. All are welcome, regardless of race, sex, age, national origin, religious preference, handicap, or income.

• The Chatham Historical Museum is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. We will be following the governor's directives. Adult and kid friendly; no admission fee. Our permanent exhibits cover all aspects of Chatham's unique history. The museum is located in the historic Chatham County Courthouse in the Circle. More info at [chathamhistory.org](http://chathamhistory.org).

• Second Bloom hours are 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. at 630 East St., Pittsboro. Credit cards are accepted. All proceeds provide support for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and promote community education in collaboration with Chatham County.

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**ADMISSION**  
Wednesday, September 14 - Saturday 17 is \$5  
Sunday September 18 - is \$5 or 5 cans of food.  
Senior Citizens (65 & Better) and School Students, admitted FREE 4:30-7:30 PM on Wednesday.  
Children under 36" tall admitted free all week.

**CARNIVAL ARMBANDS**  
\$25 on Wednesday and Sunday;  
\$30 on Thursday - Saturday \$30  
**BEFORE THE FAIR OPENS**  
Purchase armbands online at Big Rock Amusements for \$25.



**How did you LAND here?**

**HAS ERIC SOLD A PROPERTY NEAR YOU LATELY?**

**84 PROPERTIES SOLD IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS!**

**LAND (Representing Sellers) 29 units**

0 Jim Gilliland Road (64.882 Acres)  
218 Pete Thomas Road (109.11 Acres)  
0 Roselle Road (46.2 Acres)

323 Patterson Drive (5.46 Acres)  
106 Caley Wilson Road (2.185 Acres)  
0 Pete Roberson (61.21 Acres)

180 Thompson Street (.30 Acres)  
1562 Hadley Mill Road (15.489 Acres)  
0 Stone Street (50.72 Acres)

1604 Bonlee School Road (110.49 Acres)  
720 Hamlets Chapel Road (.69 Acres)

1447 Old US 1 (.870 Acres)  
0 Chicken Bridge Road (10.051 Acres)

00 Manns Chapel Road (49.41 Acres)  
2328 Andrews Store Road (24.385 Acres)

0 Pearteman Teague (23.1 Acres)  
00 Roberto Chapel Road (123.87 Acres)

45 The Whites Way (5.61 Acres)  
271 Talon Drive (11.97 Acres)

1835 Lewter Shop Road (3.24 Acres)  
0000 Jim Gilliland Road (57.284 Acres)

1447 Old US 1 (.870 Acres)  
0 Pearteman Teague Road (2 Acres)

4831 Old Graham Road (2.774 Acres)  
1571 Lydia Perry Road (3.007 Acres)

208 Stonewall Road (3.810 Acres)  
1456 Hadley Mill Road (28.353 Acres)

1475 Lewter Shop Road (4.445 Acres)  
00 Moons Chapel Road (86.599 Acres)

00 Alston Chapel Road (10.23 Acres)

**LAND (Representing Buyers) 8 Units**

388 Wade Bright Road (10 Acres)  
0 Roselle Road (46.204 Acres)

720 Hamlets Chapel Road (.69 Acres)

685 Revmont (3.893 Acres)

0 Mays Chapel Road (365 Acres)

0 Pearteman Teague (23.1 Acres)

00 Roberts Chapel Road (123.87 Acres)

45 The Whites Way (5.61 Acres)

**COMMERCIAL (Representing Sellers) 1 Units**

175 East Salisbury Street (Pittsboro)

**RESIDENTIAL (Representing Sellers) 26 Units**

52 Gentle listing missing here  
1475 Hoyt Scott Road (Bear Creek)

550 Callie Lane (Bear Creek)

3871 S. Plank Road (Sanford)

76 Millbrook Drive (Pittsboro)

5144 Rives Chapel Church Road (Siler City)

200 Valley View Lane (Pittsboro)

1822 Chandellay Drive (Durham)

5631 Swanns Station Road (Sanford)

4233 NC Highway 902 (Pittsboro)

130 Estes Drive (Chapel Hill)

1136 Sanford Road (Pittsboro)

729 Hope Hills Drive (Siler City)

1429 Van Thomas Road (Pittsboro)

1315 Hoyt Scott Road (Bear Creek)

745 Mert McManus Road (Bear Creek)

2349 S. Main Street (Goldston)

206 Olympia Street (Siler City)

8798 Sylvan Road (Liberty)

488 NC 87 N (Pittsboro)

76 Fox Chapel Lane (Pittsboro)

354 A Mountain View (Pittsboro)

138 Oakwood Lane (Pittsboro)

218 A Poplar Street (Chapel Hill)

58 Lily McCoy Lane (Pittsboro)

1637 Briar Chapel Parkway (Chapel Hill)

**RESIDENTIAL (Representing Buyers) 6 Units**

4513 Bumphus Road (Chapel Hill)

107 Hawks Spiral Way (Pittsboro)

85 Herndon Creek Way (Chapel Hill)

729 Hope Hills Drive (Siler City)

6490 Snow Camp Road (Snow Camp)

94 Pine Cone Loop (Pittsboro)

**RESIDENTIAL (Representing Buyers) 2 Units**

903 Woodland Drive (Siler City)

650 Half Dollar Road (Chapel Hill)

**New URL:**  
<https://youtu.be/3dyQI30gviE>

**NEW TOPIC: Chatham County Real Estate Statistics and Pricing mid 2022**

**Now Hiring! Administrative Position in a fast paced real estate office. Experienced preferred, but will train. Call 919-542-0523 for an interview.**

Email your questions to <a href="

# SCORES

Continued from page A1

proficiency is whether or not students have scored at a level that indicates that they consistently demonstrate mastery of the content standards and are well prepared for the next grade or course."

CCS saw increases in all three major categories — math, reading and science. The district had a 58.7% grade level proficiency (GLP) in math, a 15 percentage point increase from the previous year. CCS also saw a 55.2% GLP in reading and a 73.1% GLP in science.

"Our students and staff really worked hard last year to provide students the opportunity to rebound academically from the impacts of the pandemic during the prior two school years," said CCS Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson. "These data are a testament to the work of our students and staff and the partnership with their parents. Moving forward, we have embedded in our One Chatham Strategic Plan specific goals, strategies and tools to ensure continued academic growth, opportunities and outcomes for our students. We have a lot to celebrate in Chatham."

The district overall saw a majority of students pass proficiency exams, but that wasn't the case in every subject. Most notably, only 49% of students in CCS were proficient in the high school end of course (EOC) assessment.

According to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, which administers the exams, the EOC is "used to sample a student's knowledge of subject-related concepts as specified in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study and to provide a global estimate of the student's mastery of the material in a particular content area."

## 'We have our challenges'

CCS students also struggled in 5th grade reading, with 49% GLP, and especially in High School Math 1, with just a 29% GLP. That means of the 677 students who tested in Math 1, only 196 were considered grade level proficient.

Despite the troubling math scores, CCS's overall GLP rate grew from 48% in 2020-21 to 57% in

# State accountability model faces equity concerns

State test scores released by the N.C. Dept. of Public Instruction last Thursday showed growth following the pandemic for a majority of schools — 70% — across the state. The headline lawmakers and media outlets chose to focus on, however, was that one out of every three schools in the state is now considered "low-performing."

The accountability model approved by the North Carolina General Assembly in 2013 labels schools with "D" or "F" grades that either met or did not meet growth expectations as low-performing. Schools are graded with a formula calculated using 80% of a school's achievement score and 20% of growth. Those two metrics are then converted to a 100-point scale.

Chatham County has five "low-performing" schools based on the 2021-22 scores — Bonlee School, Chatham Middle, Jordan Matthews High School, Siler City Elementary and Virginia Cross Elementary. In the prior year, only Chatham Middle was in the "low-performing" category. Statewide, new results give 864 schools in N.C. a "low-performing" designation, up by 376 from 2018-19. (NCDPI did not issue performance grades in 2020-2021 due to pandemic challenges.)

The designation of "low-performing," however, has been criticized in recent years because it is disproportionately seen in schools with higher populations of minority students and schools with fewer economic resources.

"I will ask that no one else refer to these schools as low-performing schools — they are schools designated as low performing," Deputy State Superintendent Michael Maher said while co-presenting the data. "Why does that matter? Because they are designated based on a formula that prioritizes proficiency, and we are seeing lower rates of proficiency due to the pandemic. It is not an accurate reflection of the efforts and progress of teachers and school leaders throughout this state."

Maher said the idea of revisiting the

accountability model is not to discourage proficiency, but rather to assess students as whole people instead of as the result of one test.

State Board of Education Vice-Chairperson Alan Duncan echoed those sentiments. He told members of the accountability committee that the focus should continue to be on growth rather than proficiency because he believes growth is what moves students forward.

The new statewide proficiency rates are also much lower than prior to the pandemic, but state education leaders have cautioned against comparing the results due to educational changes and challenges brought on by COVID-19.

The results are also widely varied because of limited amounts of in-person instruction. Additionally, some high school students took the exams months after they completed the course because of COVID safety concerns. The U.S. Dept. of Education had waived the need for states to test students in the 2019-20 school year but required it for last school year to assess the extent of learning loss.

## An overhaul needed?

Among state and local education advocates, there is some debate the accountability model is due for a total overhaul. Mary Kolek, board chairperson of the Chatham Education Foundation, said issues in education are too systemic to be determined or understood solely through test score data.

"Issues that are broader than reactions to annual test scores and school ratings are long term and significant and need to be addressed at the state level and understood at the local level," Kolek told the News + Record. "Current accountability measures, notoriously, are reflective of socio-economic factors, placing schools serving less affluent and less well-resourced families and students at a disadvantage and doing them harm by labeling them and their schools with low or failing grades."

The North Carolina Justice Center, which aims to improve equity and eliminate poverty in the state, also said the accountability model has frequently been used as "a legislative tool for stigmatizing non-white schools."

The Justice Center and other education advocacy organizations argue metrics like the accountability model, and especially school performance grades, have been used by Republican lawmakers to promote an increase in private and charter schools and decrease pay for public school educators.

"North Carolina's SPG system needlessly stigmatizes schools that serve Black, brown and Native students," a 2021 report from the Justice Center reads. "Schools enrolling such students are much more likely to receive 'failing' grades than schools that are disproportionately white and Asian."

The organization said it doesn't have to be this way. The Justice Center believes North Carolina should adopt alternative approaches that move beyond test-based measures to include further variables. A recent survey by EdNC showed 90% of participants believe a school's performance grade should include metrics beyond just student achievement and student growth.

According to EdNC, the number of charter schools in the state has grown from 107 in 2013 to 203 now. During that same period, the amount of state funding for private school vouchers has grown from about \$50 million to about \$120 million for next year.

Since the data has been released, some lawmakers have already used the test score data in hopes of scoring political points. Oral arguments for the Leandro case, which would provide billions of dollars toward public school funding to ensure sound, basic education for all, took place last week. At the arguments, an attorney for House Speaker Tim Moore said the test scores don't prove a need for the funding.

- Ben Rappaport

2021-22 school year. The rate is still 7% lower than in 2016-2017, but remains six points higher than state GLP. The state's GLP was 51% in 2021-22, 13% lower than where the state was in 2016-17.

The improvements are especially noteworthy because only 45.4% of K-12 students passed state reading, math and science exams in the 2020-21 school year. The test proficiency rate was 45.6% for elementary and middle school students and 44.7% for high school students. The statewide rates are much lower than prior to the pandemic, but state education leaders have cautioned against comparing the results due to educational changes and challenges brought on by COVID-19.

"All of these results point to the fact that

Chatham County Schools is an outstanding place to educate children and an excellent place to live and work," Jackson said. "We have our challenges, we embrace them and have already begun the work of developing support plans to assist schools."

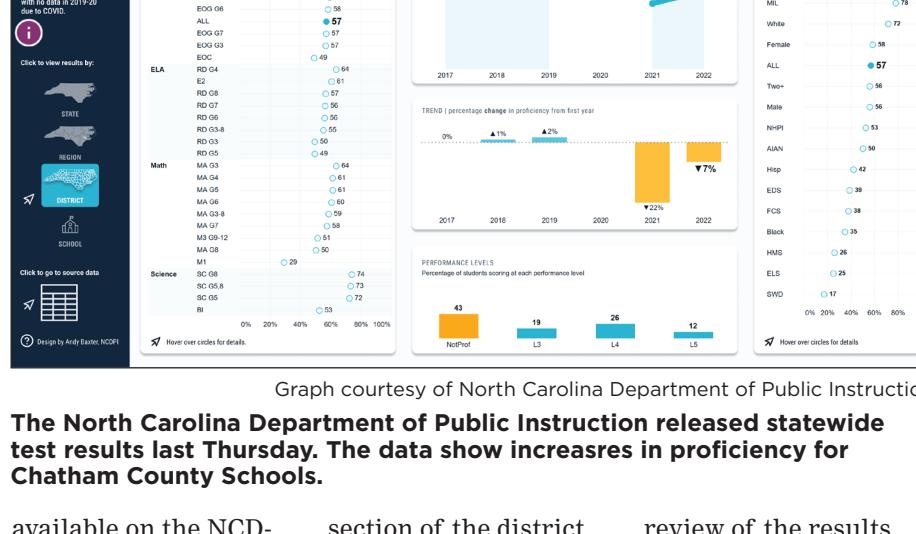
Some of those challenges

include closing the achievement gap inside the county. CCS saw widely varying degrees of proficiency depending on race and economic status. While the district's overall proficiency rate was 57%, the proficiency of white students was 72%. Meanwhile, Hispanic students had a proficiency of 42% and Black students had a proficiency of 35%.

Economics also play a role

in GLP scores with just 39% proficiency for CCS economically disadvantaged students.

Full results are



The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction released statewide test results last Thursday. The data show increases in proficiency for Chatham County Schools.

available on the NCDPI's testing dashboard, [www.bit.ly/3cQpZt6](http://www.bit.ly/3cQpZt6). Testing data reports will also be posted on the accountability

section of the district website [www.chatham.k12.nc.us](http://www.chatham.k12.nc.us) after the Sept. 12 board of education meeting where the district will give a full

review of the results.

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at [brappaport@chathamn.com](mailto:brappaport@chathamn.com) or on Twitter at @b\_rappaport

# MAIL

Continued from page A1

- spouse
- brother
- sister
- parent
- grandparent
- child
- grandchild
- mother-in-law
- father-in-law
- daughter-in-law
- son-in-law
- step-parent
- stepchild

Paschal said voters who vote by mail must have two witnesses to watch them cast their ballot and sign off on it.

"What the witnesses are signing is that they

witnessed that person voting on that ballot," she said. "So they should see the person voting the ballot, but they aren't supposed to look at how the person is voting, because that takes away their privacy."

Ballots can then be sent to the county board of elections office by mail or taken to the elections office in Pittsboro at 984 Thompson St. Suite D. Ballots mailed and postmarked by 5 p.m. on Election Day — this year on Nov. 8 — will be accepted three days after Election Day.

"You can also take the ballots to any early voting site," Paschal said.

"You cannot, however, take the ballot to the precinct on Election Day — it has to be during early voting."

Early in-person voting will start on Oct. 20 and will go until 3 p.m. on Nov. 3.

Voting by mail played a crucial role in 2020 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 43% of voters utilized the mail-in ballot system in the 2020 election, outpacing early voters (26%) and Election Day voters (31%).

But 2020's election featured misinformation regarding absentee voting by mail. Former

President Donald Trump and other politicians repeatedly falsely made claims of voter fraud via the mail-in ballot system, accusing mail-in voting of being illegitimate. Even before the 2020 election, NPR reported the former president said mail-in ballots would cause fraud that would be "an embarrassment to our country."

One of those claims is some people voted twice in 2020 — once by mail, and once in-person. Paschal said there are many checks and balances outlined in North Carolina's elections laws to combat voting twice in federal, state and local races.

"Whenever a person requested absentee ballot, the software at the early vote site can see whether or not that ballot has been returned," she said. "If their ballot has not been returned, and they go to early voting, they can vote a ballot there. They will just void out the other request."

The Chatham County Board of Elections — which consists of three Democrats and two Republicans — also uses an auditing process to check to see whether there are discrepancies in the ballots or in the number

of votes cast.

"We do audits to make sure that the system will show us if somebody's in there twice, so we can go look and determine to see whether or not they have cast a ballot," Paschal said.

Each ballot also has its own identification number, used to track and identify potential ballots for review during the auditing process.

"In the event that they vote on Election Day, we will go in and pull that ballot and that way, they'll only have one ballot counting," she said. "If that happens, we don't assume voter fraud. We just don't know why they did it, but we will retrieve the ballot and take those votes away."

The board will hold several absentee meetings for the purpose of counting mail-in ballots. However, votes are not tallied for any candidates during those sessions — it is only for counting the number of ballots turned into the elections office.

"The ballots are never tallied until Election Day," Paschal said. "Now the board will meet at 2 p.m. on Election Day to turn those keys on the absentee machine, and they'll close the polls

on those machines.

Then they'll tally those votes, but those results will not be released until 7:30 p.m. on Election Day."

If people are still skeptical regarding the mail-in voting process, Paschal said she encourages people to attend the board's meetings, since they're open to the public for viewing.

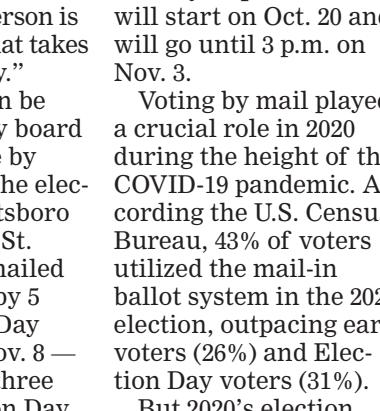
"Come to the meetings and see what's going on for yourself," she said. "It's an open process."

Meetings will also be live streamed on the Chatham County Board of Elections website at [www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings).

Mail-in ballot requests can be placed on the N.C. Board of Elections website at [www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/elections/absentee-voting](http://www.ncsbe.gov/app/home/until Nov. 1. There is also a link to the site on the Chatham County Board of Elections' website at <a href=).

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at [theeden@chathamn.com](mailto:theeden@chathamn.com) and on Twitter at @HeedenTaylor.

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Continued from page A1

Continued from page A1</p

# VIEWPOINTS

## Aloha, Serena Williams

I'm no Einstein, but I know that time is relative. My children think the four months until Christmas will last forever. I still can't believe it's September — summer slipped through my fingers like a child dashing toward the pool. Time is relative and fleeting.

Like me, I bet my readers hope to make the most of their time.

Last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that the average American lifespan

fell to 76 years, which was the third straight year of decline and represents the largest drop since the 1920s. Out of all the states, Hawaii has the longest life expectancy — as if you needed another excuse to yearn for a tropical island paradise!

Last Friday, my wife and I celebrated our 15-year wedding anniversary. Not in Hawaii. We were married on a beautiful day in Richmond, Virginia, and a decade and a half later, the bright sun was in the blue sky over Chatham County. Across the span of time and place, she and I have shared so much, including the birth of our three kids. Anniversaries are an opportunity for reflection, gratitude and wonder — where has the time gone?

She and I went out to dinner and then watched Serena Williams' last tennis match. Williams is our age, which is ancient for professional athletes. Her opponent, Ajla Tomljanovic, was 11 years younger and tireless, battling back to defeat Williams to end her storied career.

If I were writing the story, Williams would have beaten Tomljanovic and stormed her way to one last Grand Slam win. But not even the GOAT, or Greatest of All Time, stays undefeated forever. Time waits for no one.

Yet, even in defeat, Williams still inspires. She has said she is "evolving" from tennis, not retiring. She has new goals, including running her multi-million-dollar venture capital

firm with her husband, Alexis Ohanian. Williams also wants to spend more time with their 4-year-old daughter, Olympia, and has hinted at having more children.

With the disconcerting news from the CDC, I find Williams' perspective both helpful and hopeful. The truth is that no one knows how long life will last. Time passes. Things change. But we can evolve and make the best of new situations.

I mentioned Hawaii has the longest average life expectancy. Though I have no current plans to visit the Aloha State, I know that aloha can mean either hello or goodbye. Williams said aloha to professional tennis and also aloha to new opportunities for the future. I

am the same age as Williams and nowhere near retirement. But I can also evolve and grow.

My son came downstairs as I wrote this column. He was asleep before the tennis match had ended, so I had to break the disappointing news to him. He had rooted hard for Williams to win!

But he smiled: "Now, she has more time for her family. Hey, Dad, do you want to go outside and count the birds?"

Time is relative and counted in many precious ways.

*Andrew Taylor-Troutman is the pastor of Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church. His newly-published book is a collection of his columns for the Chatham News + Record titled "Hope Matters: Churchless Sermons."*

## Is what's good for the goose also good for the gander?

The longer I live, the more I believe the truth of what the late Thomas Phillip "Tip" O'Neill, the Massachusetts Democrat who served as Speaker of the House of Representatives from 1977 to 1987, said when he noted more than once "all politics is local."

You can apply that in many ways to many issues, but when you see it lived out, you also come to the truth of the old saying "Politics makes strange bedfellows." Nowhere was that more evident than in O'Neill's strong friendship with President Ronald Reagan when the Republican was in the White House from 1981 until 1989. The two were miles apart on many issues but managed to work together on substantial issues.

I say that to say this about the recent publicity surrounding President Biden's announcement that he is forgiving or canceling or whatever word you might choose significant amounts of financial debt owed by college students through the federal government's Pell Grant program. The resulting fallout has been enormous on both sides of the issue. And that's where the "strange bedfellows" of politics can be seen.

Among the many questions, first of all, is does the President have the authority, legal and otherwise, to mandate such an action with the stroke of a pen? A year ago, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the President doesn't have such authority and that such an action needs the approval of Congress. But recently, just a day before Biden made his announcement, the Speaker affirmed such authority does exist. At the same time, opponents of the measure were asking if the President considered himself an emperor or, worse, a dictator.

It's then just a hop, skip and jump to move to the rationale of the decision. Is it primarily or even purely political with mid-term elections coming up and the President's approval ratings somewhere south of where he would like?

Then there's the major question of how to pay for and absorb the loss of revenue, estimated by some economists at \$500 billion. Few significant details on how to do that have been forthcoming as of yet. Folks opposed to the measure point out that thousands of other loan recipients have paid back their obligations while proponents say inflation is making it harder to do so these days.

That, then, leads many to want to point out reasons why inflation is increasing, further, to them, solidifying their belief that the measure is mostly smoke and mirrors to win elections. That's why you see comments such as, "Just to be clear: there's no plan to eliminate student debt; there's only a plan to transfer it to those who don't have it." Folks on the other side, though, like to respond with "Not every action has to benefit everyone."

As with any other major question, there is no simple answer, but one part of the total equation that continues to amaze me in the midst of all the issues is why does it cost so stinking much

See **WACHS**, page A9

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[www.chathamnewsrecord.com](http://www.chathamnewsrecord.com)

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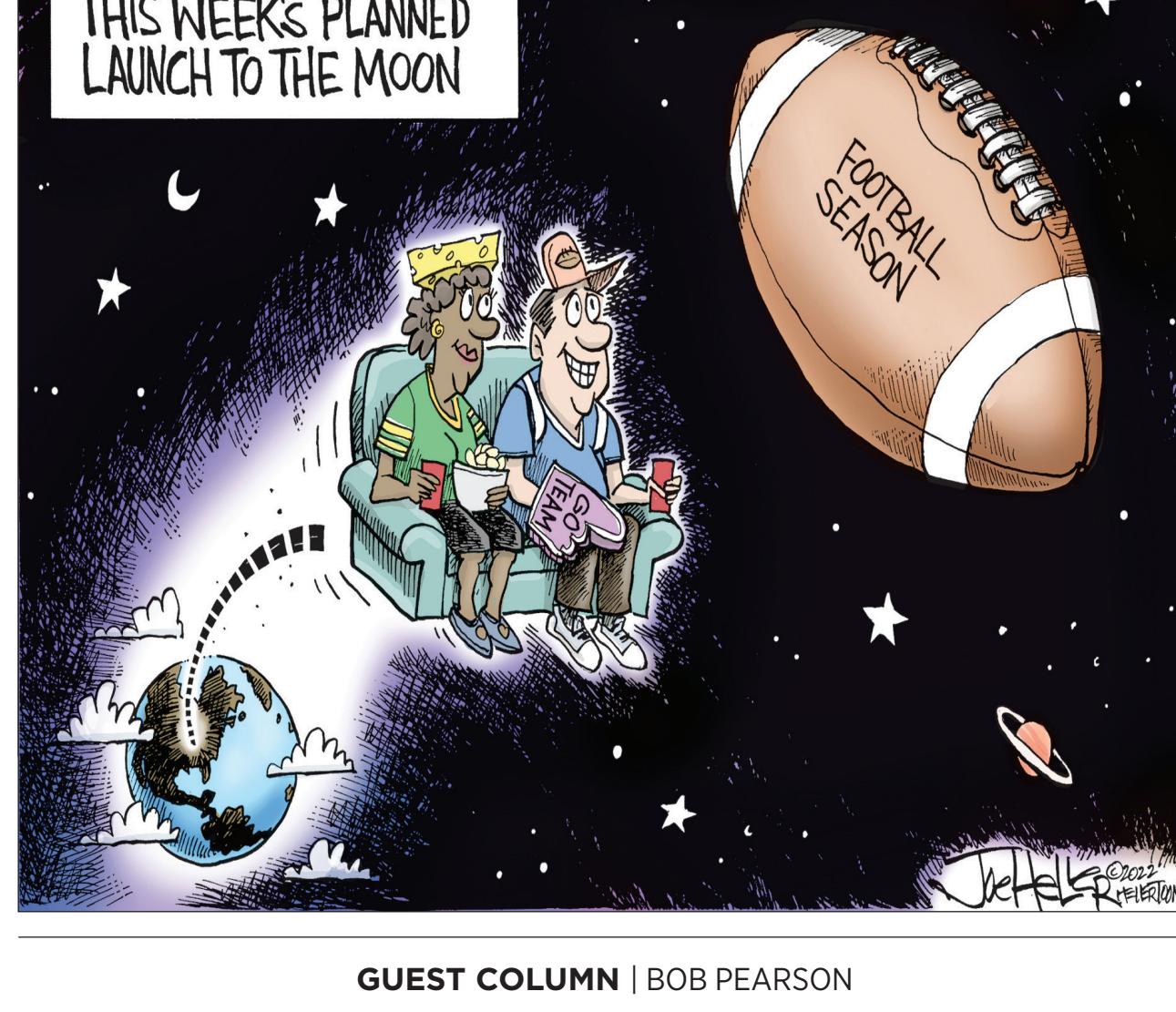
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**MAYDHA DEVARAJAN, Reporter**

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**PEYTON SICKLES & SIMON BARBRE, Staff Photographers**



**GUEST COLUMN | BOB PEARSON**

## With Ukraine, Putin's strategic options are dwindling

Vladimir Putin has a problem. His first Ukraine objective failed; he didn't take Kyiv or topple Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Ukraine's leader. Putin has failed to completely occupy Ukraine's eastern provinces and make them part of Russia. Now he's switched to a third strategy — to give Europe a Russian winter and break the will of the West to stand with Ukraine.

Putin is raising the stakes with each gamble. While he is adding troops, he cannot order a national draft because that would be another admission of his inability to enforce his will on Ukraine. He has not gone to mass mobilization and he has not gone to mass repression; both decisions not to act are signs of his constraints. By calling the invasion a limited military operation, he has signaled that it has limits and he is confident of victory.

Both these premises are now in doubt. He hopes, with gas supply shutdowns, to inflict such economic pain on Europe that the Europeans will insist on a settlement. Over time the sanctions on Russia will get worse. One of the clearest signs is the growing effectiveness of the sanctions on high technology parts and chips the Russian economy needs. Even Russian military equipment, especially missiles, now uses older technology designed for other purposes. Ukraine has succeeded in carrying the war to Crimea, shocking the Russians who thought they would never be a part of the war. Ukraine now has launched an offensive to liberate Kherson, the largest city the Russians hold.

If Russia is not winning, neither is Ukraine visibly losing. President Zelenskyy has stopped mentioning his willingness to negotiate and is talking of recovering all the territory of Ukraine, including that taken by Russia in 2014. The change in circumstances now makes it very difficult for Putin to carry out any plan to hold a popular plebiscite to annex the eastern provinces of

Donetsk and Luhansk. His army still has not pushed Ukrainian forces out those areas. Some Ukrainian resistance in Russian controlled areas now is also evident.

On balance, at this point, Putin has the more difficult side of the conflict. He knows that if Russia is losing over time, the risk of elite opposition in military and industrial circles will grow. He propagandizes the massive support he claims from the Russian people. If that wavers, then so does his position of power. NATO is stronger; national defense budgets are higher, more NATO forces have moved into Eastern Europe, aid for the Ukrainian forces grows, and Finland and Sweden are de facto NATO members. Both sides are managing the nuclear issue. The U.S. has restrained from supplying weapons that reach into Russia, and Russia has not attacked NATO supply lines in any major way.

War, as I feel I must always say, is often an unpredictable enterprise. To paraphrase Churchill, I am not predicting that this is the beginning of the end, and not even predicting that this is the end of the beginning. But it is not at all what Mr. Putin envisaged when he invaded Ukraine on February 24. The Europeans have a hard winter ahead. If they can manage their way through it, and the U.S. can continue to provide effective leadership, the world may be headed for a brighter, safer future.

*W. Robert Pearson was an innovative diplomat, leader and crisis manager at the top levels of the U.S. government. He was U.S. ambassador to Turkey and completed a 30-year career in 2006 with the Department of State as director general of the Foreign Service. He lives in Fearington Village with his wife, Maggie, who also worked as a diplomat and served as a senior foreign service public diplomacy officer from 2000 to 2006 period.*

### What's on your mind?

The Chatham News + Record welcomes letters from its readers on topics of local and public interest, as well as thoughtful and informative guest columns.

At our discretion, we may edit letters for clarity. We reserve the right to refuse letters and other submissions that promote a commercial product, contain either libelous material, personal attacks on individuals or vulgar language. Consumer complaints and letters containing unverifiable factual claims are ineligible for publication.

Each letter must contain the writer's full name, address and daytime telephone number for verification. Letters should be no more than 400 words in length. Letter-writers are limited to two published letters per month. Letters selected for publication may be edited and all letters become property of the Chatham News + Record.

To submit a letter: Mail it to the News + Record at P.O. Box 290, Siler City, N.C. 27344; or email to [bhorner3@chathamnr.com](mailto:bhorner3@chathamnr.com); or drop by our office at 303 West Raleigh Street in Siler City.

# VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | DENNIS STREETS

## Voting is the crown jewel. Why not protect it?

On Aug. 16, the State Board of Elections approved unanimously proposed temporary rule amendments governing the conduct of precinct officials and election observers at polling places. The unanimous vote included both Republicans and Democrats who serve on the board.

According to the board's website, they took this action after hearing that "county officials documented instances in which partisan observers were disruptive to the orderly conduct of voting — posting materials at the voting place, questioning poll workers carrying out their duties, repeatedly coming and going in and out of the voting enclosure, talking to voters in the voting enclosure (including discussing political issues), attempting to go into the ballot-mark-

ing area or behind voting equipment, interfering with voters submitting their voted ballots into the tabulator, asking to photograph voter forms with confidential information on them, following poll workers to their cars and filming them after they had closed the polls, and, in one incident, getting into a confrontation with a voter."

Importantly, the executive director of the state board praised the work of county boards of elections for their management of the primary elections held in May and July: "Once again, the county boards of elections did a fantastic job in this latest election, providing secure, accessible and fair elections for their voters."

North Carolina elections officials recently received the "Defender of Democracy"

award from The Center for Election Innovations and Research for their work serving voters before, during and after the 2020 elections.

As former President Reagan affirmed, "The right to vote is the crown jewel of American liberties."

Thus, I was saddened to learn that the North Carolina Rules Review Commission, chaired by Republican Jeanette Doran, blocked these new rules. One would hope all Americans would value the importance of protecting the sanctity of our voting sites. The Rules Commission is composed of 10 members — five appointed by the President Pro Tempore and five by the Speaker of the House.

Despite the failure of the Rules Review Commission to protect voters from intim-

idation and interference, I would hope all citizens would eagerly exercise their right to cast their ballot in the upcoming election. It is a right that for many has not been easily achieved.

At the start of our nation, only white landowners aged 21 and older could vote.

While Black men were given voting rights in 1870 through the 15th Amendment to the Constitution, white and Black women were still not eligible to participate, and many Black men continued to face barriers and discrimination in many locales.

It wasn't until 1920, with the passage of the 19th Amendment, that women were guaranteed the right to vote — but that still wasn't assured for many women of color as discriminatory practices

continued. In addition, Native Americans (men and women) could not vote until 1924.

In signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965, President Johnson proclaimed voting as "the basic right without which all others are meaningless. It gives people, people as individuals, control over their own destinies."

With the recent action by the State's Rules Review Commission, we find that this basic right is still being challenged. Let no one prevent you from freely exercising what previous generations fought to secure.

As former President Eisenhower cautioned us, "The future of this republic is in the hands of the American voter."

*Dennis Streets is the retired director of the Chatham Council on Aging.*

## The virtues of freedom? They're timeless.

In what had once been a land of opportunity and progress, the state had grown large and oppressive. Its leaders lost their way. Its people nearly lost their freedom.

How oppressive had the state become? No matter how you chose to make your living, government officials made constant demands on you. Every major transaction was taxed, at escalating rates. If you couldn't pay the taxes, your goods and property were seized. In many cases, you had to have special permission from the state to enter your chosen occupation.

How did the government grow to be so oppressive? It didn't happen overnight. Instead, the encroachments were gradual, each one too small on its own to provoke large-scale opposition. Many of the taxes were originally enacted as "temporary" measures, in response to emergencies, but then lingered on in seeming perpetuity.

It was a great deal for the political class — at first. In earlier times, state revenues had been used primarily to fund critical infrastructure and maintain law and order. But as the money poured in, bureaucrats hired other bureaucrats, which boosted their power and stature. Government didn't just pay them directly. Precisely because government had become so burdensome, corruption was rampant. It was cheaper for merchants to pay off public officials than to comply fully with the taxes and regulations.

Over time, however, the abuses of the political class proved counterproductive. To the extent land confiscation moved taxable property into government ownership, the tax base shrank. To the extent government made it harder to start and run businesses, there were fewer businesses generating revenues and employing people — which led to financial problems for the state as well as idleness and discontent among the population.

Finally, a new leader emerged. He was honest and ethical. Most importantly, he was observant. He recognized that the expansion of government had discouraged private enterprise and bred public contempt. He resolved to fix the problem.

The new leader slashed taxes. He eliminated regulations, and the jobs of regulators who had enforced them. He ended abusive confiscations of land, reserving that power for parcels the state truly needed for infrastructure. He fought public corruption and ensured that rich, powerful interests did not receive special treatment when the state adjudicated legal disputes.

The government didn't wither away. Instead, the new leader refocused its attention on law and order. He codified and simplified the legal code. He increased penalties, particularly for violent offenses. Crime rates dropped, which made existing residents feel more secure about starting new businesses and encouraged new people to immigrate to the area.

Care to hazard a guess about the identity of this political reformer and the state he led? No, I'm not talking about an American state, or recent events in a foreign land. The leader's name was Urukagina. He ruled the Sumerian state of Lagash, which included a capital and several nearby towns, more than 2,000 years before the birth of Christ. The site is in what is now southern Iraq.

The official chronicle of Urukagina's reforms contains the first recorded use of the word "freedom." The Sumerian term was "amargi," literally "a return to the mother." The idea being conveyed was that human beings were naturally born into a state of freedom, not a state of subservience. Another way of saying it is that humans are endowed by their Creator with certain rights that are not lost — alienated from them — just because they live in societies with governments.

Urukagina returned his people's birthright to them, their freedom. It worked for a time. Unfortunately, he didn't tend sufficiently to a core function of government, national defense. Lagash fell prey to invaders. But his tale wasn't forgotten, then or now. In 1960, the founders of the Liberty Fund in Indianapolis chose the cuneiform version of "amargi" as the centerpiece of their logo.

When it comes to expanding freedom, there have been plenty of modern innovations. But there's nothing new about the underlying concept. It's ancient and essential.

*John Hood is a John Locke Foundation board member. His latest books, *Mountain Folk* and *Forest Folk*, combine epic fantasy with early American history ([FolkloreCycle.com](http://FolkloreCycle.com)).*

## Can't stop UNC's move to Raleigh

Too late.

It has already been done.



**D.G. MARTIN**  
One on One

The Spangler building that served as headquarters of the UNC system is dark and empty for the first time since 1971, when UNC president William Friday moved the university president's offices from the center of the UNC-Chapel Hill campus to the site just a few blocks down the road.

Another empty building is the Franklin Street house that has been the university president's home since 1907.

The University of North Carolina, now called the UNC system, has moved outside the center of Chapel Hill for the first time since February 1795 when the university's first student, Hinton James, enrolled.

Now in off-campus transition quarters, the university is on the way to moving to Raleigh as ordered by the General Assembly last year and with a specific deadline of July 1, 2023, in the budget adopted this year.

It is a bad idea.

But there was little objection earlier this year when the university's Board of Governors, after a short debate, approved a lease for temporary headquarters in Raleigh.

Daughtry said, "It is my opinion that the move from here to Raleigh was done purely on the basis of politics."

As he told N.C. Policy Watch's Joe Killian, "The plan to move the UNC System offices to downtown Raleigh is expensive, ill-considered and motivated primarily by politics."

Killian continued, "Beyond the political implications, Pope and Fraley said, relocating the UNC System office, with its more than 250 employees, is an unnecessary expense when the offices and support systems for the university already exist in Chapel Hill."

Whatever the reason for the move, the uni-

versity is moving and it will never be the same.

Upon its move from Chapel Hill to Raleigh, the university becomes another state bureaucratic agency, much more concerned with pleasing state officials and legislators rather than understanding and serving the students, faculty, and campus leaders.

Looking back at The University of North Carolina led by Frank Porter Graham, William Friday, Dick Spangler, and others, operating at a distance from Raleigh in the campus environment, guided North Carolina's universities to nationally recognized success.

We will have to adapt to a new reality.

Instead of devoting a portion of time with students and faculty as Graham did with his Sunday evening open houses or Spangler did with his regular lunches at Lenoir Hall, the university president and his or her associates will miss the daily contact with university people. Instead, they will consort with other state officials in Raleigh, far away from a university campus environment.

How will the university president manage these changed circumstances?

From his experience as a university student, his service on university and community college boards and positions of educational leadership, current UNC President Peter Hans has the background to be an extraordinary president.

He would be even better, I think, if he could have kept his base of operations where the university's heart and center has been for more than 225 years.

When he recruits higher education leaders to serve in North Carolina, he may be more likely to choose from the state employees who will surround his office after the move to Raleigh.

Away from a campus, he may find it more difficult to become familiar with, understand, and recruit new university employees and faculty for the positions that need people with on-site university experience.

It will be harder and hard for the university president to be an inspiring leader rather than simply a high-level state bureaucrat.

*D.G. Martin, a lawyer, served as UNC-System's vice president for public affairs and hosted PBS NC's *North Carolina Bookwatch*.*

**MIKHAIL S. GORBACHEV**

**R.I.P.**

**(Russia's Ironic Past)**



*John Hood is a John Locke Foundation board member. His latest books, *Mountain Folk* and *Forest Folk*, combine epic*

*fantasy with early American history ([FolkloreCycle.com](http://FolkloreCycle.com)).*

# MYTHS VS FACTS

IT'S TIME TO  
DEBUNK THE MYTHS  
ABOUT  
HEARING AIDS!

myth  
#1

Hearing aids  
will make me  
feel old.



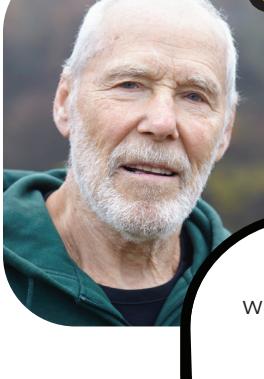
## DEBUNKED

By Cheryl P., Grand Rapids, MI

"I always thought getting hearing aids would make me feel and look old. Until I realized friends were leaving me out of conversations because they didn't want to shout. That really made me feel old. Now I can keep up on all the gossip!"

myth  
#2

Hearing loss  
isn't really a  
serious issue.



## DEBUNKED

By Roger H., Lexington, KY

"I knew I had some hearing loss, but didn't think it was a big deal. Until recently I realized I was forgetting things easily and even finding it hard to finish my daily crossword puzzle. I never thought that even mild hearing loss could lead to cognitive issues. I'm so glad I went when I did."

myth  
#3

Everyone  
will know I am  
wearing them.



## DEBUNKED

By Donna L., New Haven, CT

"I was so worried that getting hearing aids would mean that everyone would be able to see them. But they are so small and discreet, even my 10 year old granddaughter - who notices EVERYTHING, had no idea I was wearing them."

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## OBITUARIES

## JOHN DRURY ADAMS



August 8, 1932 ~ August 29, 2022  
John Drury Adams, 90, of Fearrington Village, N.C., passed away Monday, August 29, 2022, at UNC Medical Center, after a courageous battle with lymphoma.

Mr. Adams was born in Elizabeth, N.J., on August 8, 1932 to Howard and Bernice Adams. He grew up in the Midwest, in Illinois and Iowa, and graduated in 1954 from the University of Iowa, where he played basketball for the university, earning

a degree in Geography. He married Jean Scott Peatross of Washington, D.C., in 1955, and later served for two years in the U.S. Armed Forces, stationed in Heidelberg, Germany. Upon return to the U.S., John and Jean moved to Peoria, Illinois, where Mr. Adams worked as a city planner and designer. Several years later, the couple moved to Alexandria, Virginia, as Mr. Adams began a career with the U.S. Department of Education lasting over 35 years. John and Jean, married for over 50 years, raised three children in Virginia. He and Jean retired to Fearrington Village, in Pittsboro, in 1999.

Mr. Adams maintained a decades-long passion for barbershop quartet and chorus singing, and was a member of a several internationally-acclaimed quartets and choruses. During his years of barbershop involvement, Mr. Adams sang at a number of distinguished events and locales, including the White House, the Kennedy Center, Washington football team home games, events attended by the Supreme Court and members of Congress, and other special honorary occasions. He continued singing into his 80s, traveling to national conventions throughout the U.S., where his barbershop groups won national awards.

Mr. Adams was also known for his love of people, U.S. history, genealogy, travel and his deep devotion to family and friends. He had a gift for encouraging and uplifting those around him, and enjoyed meeting people and sharing life stories. He had a wonderful sense of humor. Mr. Adams was an active philanthropist, and was a member of local boards and committees in Pittsboro, N.C.

He was proceeded in death by his wife Jean Peatross Adams, and is survived by his three children, Paul Howard Adams, Cynthia Adams Quant, and Andrea Adams; five grandchildren, Caroline, Charlotte and Catherine Quant, Lauren Rozumalski, and Trevor John Adams; and many friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held at University Methodist Church in Chapel Hill, N.C., in October. Mr. Adams will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C., where his wife Jean is also interred.

In lieu of flowers, the family would ask that friends contribute a memorial contribution to their favorite charity or non-profit organization.

## BURNETT 'BUD' WENDEL ESCH

May 8, 1937 ~ August 30, 2022  
Burnett "Bud" Wendel Esch, 85, of Siler City, passed away on August 30, 2022, at his home.

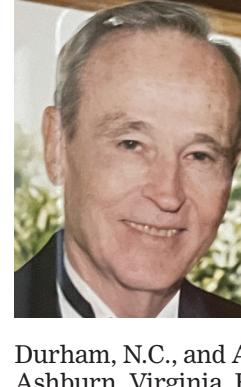
A graveside service was held at 11 a.m. on Monday September 5, 2022, at Meroney United Methodist Church Cemetery, with Reverend Dr. Fred Mangini officiating.

He was born in St. John, Michigan, the son of Burnett Casper and Zelma Grace Bond

Esch. He was a member of Meroney United Methodist Church. A contractor for more than 50 years, he also spent over 25 years as an auto mechanic. Mr. Esch is preceded in death by his parents and sister, Doris Lightner.

Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Carolyn Marie Esch; daughters, Gerrie Dean, Laura Lucile Gillespie; son, Larry Eugene Esch; brothers, Mike and Gary Esch; sister, Linda Snow; six grandchildren, and eight

## ROBERT E. MCNEILL



Robert E. McNeill, 88, of Pittsboro, N.C., passed away on August 25, 2022, at the Jim & Betsy Bryan Hospice Home of UNC following a short illness.

"Bob" was the son of the late Joseph Hubert McNeill and Alma Whifford McNeill. He was born in Waycross, Georgia. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Jeanne Truitt McNeill of Fearrington Village, Pittsboro, N.C.; his two daughters, Cynthia McNeill King (David) of

Durham, N.C., and Andrea McNeill Pyle (Christopher) of Ashburn, Virginia. He is also survived by his four grandchildren, Julia King, Isabella King, Emma Pyle, and Evan Pyle, as well as his sister-in-law, Dolores McNeill. He was preceded in death by his brother Joe McNeill of High Springs, Florida. Bob attended the University of Florida where he was on the swim team. He also was a jet fighter pilot in the U.S. Air Force and served during the Vietnam War, retiring as Major after serving 22 years. After his military career, Robert served as CPA and tax auditor for the State of Florida. He was known for his kind, gentle spirit and instilling the importance of education in his children and grandchildren.

The family will gather on September 24th, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. for a committal service in High Springs, Florida, officiated by Rev. Greg Waltermire where his remains will be buried next to his parents and brother.

Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the McNeill family.  
[www.donaldsonfunerals.com](http://www.donaldsonfunerals.com)

great-grandchildren.

Online condolences may be made at [www.smithbucknerfh.com](http://www.smithbucknerfh.com).

## JEAN LORRAINE (COVINGTON) BECTON

November 27, 1947 ~ August 26, 2022

Jean Lorraine (Covington) Becton, 74, of Sanford passed away on Friday, August 26, 2022, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Funeral service was held Saturday, September 3, 2022, at 11 a.m. at Knotts Funeral Home with burial following at Minter Cemetery.

## BILLY BAILEY LOCKLEAR

Billy Bailey Locklear, 85, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, August 29, 2022, at First-Health Hospice in West End.

The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, September 3, 2022, at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church with burial following in Lee Memory Garden.

## CHARLES LEE PERRY

Charles Lee Perry, 60, of Pittsboro, passed away on Saturday, August 27, 2022, at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

The funeral service was held Friday, September 2, 2022, at 1 p.m. at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford with burial following at Meadowview Memorial Park Cemetery in Oxford.

## GLENN LLOYD FOX

January 7, 1956 ~ August 31, 2022

Glenn Lloyd Fox, 66, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, August 31, 2022, at Sanford Health and Rehabilitation.

The funeral service was held Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at 11 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church.

## COY LEE HAYWOOD

Coy Lee Haywood, 82, of Sanford, passed away on Sunday, September 4, 2022, at his home.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Crossroads Ministries in Broadway.

He was born in Montgomery County, son of Barnie Lee and Pauline Livingston Haywood. He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister, Joyce Hinguza and brother, Gene Haywood. Coy worked forty years as a butcher.

Surviving is his wife, Nancy

Stewart Haywood of the home; a daughter, Heather Haywood of Sanford; bonus children, Mike Brown of Anderson Creek, Deborah Holder of Broadway, and Connie Craig of Sanford; a sister, Sybil Helms of Concord; eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Online condolences can be made at [www.smithfuneral-homebroadway.com](http://www.smithfuneral-homebroadway.com).

## ANGELICA ROSALES

October 16, 1932 ~ August 28, 2022

Angelica Rosales, 89, of Siler City, passed away on Sunday, August 28, 2022, at UNC-Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Pittsboro.

## GLENN LLOYD FOX

January 7, 1956 ~ August 31, 2022

Glenn Lloyd Fox, 66, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, August 31, 2022, at Sanford Health and Rehabilitation.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

## PAIGE ALONZO COX

Paige Alonzo Cox, age 55, of Siler City, passed away Wednesday, August 31, 2022, at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

## WENDY STANFORD

December 26, 1968 ~ September 3, 2022

Wendy Stanford, 53, of Siler City, passed away Saturday, September 3, 2022, at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts and Son.

## TO PLACE AN OBITUARY

The News + Record's obituary deadline is 11 a.m. Tuesdays.

To submit an obituary or death notice, please send via email to Doris Beck at [doris@chathamnr.com](mailto:doris@chathamnr.com).

Free obituaries will publish with basic information about deceased and arrangements; paid obituaries include photograph (please include high-resolution digital image in email) and additional details about survivors. Payment for paid obituaries must be received before publication.

## NEW DENTAL OFFICE

## O2 Dental Group brings convenient, affordable care

CN+R Staff Report

SILER CITY — With evening hours and special offers, O2 Dental Group of Siler City is on a mission to eliminate barriers to oral healthcare — the goal is convenience and affordability.

The full-service family practice, located in the Food Lion Plaza, is the fifth location for O2 Dental Group and plans on having Dr. Charles Shavers as the attending dentist.

O2 Dental Group offers services from general dentistry to dental implants and orthodontics. Patients have the option of having services performed under sedation.

O2 Dental Group founded in 2018 by husband and wife team Dr. Olu Oyegunwa and Dr. Lydia Oyegunwa (known as Dr. O and Dr. Lydia). The two met at the University of North Carolina and quickly bonded over the desire to bring modern, convenient and affordable dental service to families of all backgrounds.

"We treat patients with the highest level of respect in dignity," says Dr. Olu Oyegunwa, "and work hard to uphold a judgment-free environment in which all patients can feel comfortable asking questions and being a part of the care process."

O2 Dental Group's experienced hygienists take a gentle approach to cleanings and a genuine interest in a patient's overall health, helping to identify illnesses that may have an impact on teeth and gums while keeping an eye out for potential issues like oral cancer and cavities. Dental checkups for children 12 years old and younger (including a dental exam, teeth cleaning, and x-ray) are \$79.

O2 Dental Group's patients don't have to go elsewhere for braces, dentures, implants, crowns, wisdom teeth extractions, whitening or any other



Submitted photo

**The husband-wife O2 dental team of Dr. Lydia Oyegunwa (left) and Dr. Olu Oyegunwa.**

procedures — it's all under one roof, in a location convenient to Siler City, Pittsboro, Liberty, Staley, Ramseur and surrounding areas.

Emergency exams and x-rays are \$69 for new and existing patients, and can, in most cases, be scheduled on the same day as the discomfort or injury occurs.

O2 Dental's high-quality, efficient and personalized services are made possible with the latest technology — like digital x-rays that limit exposure to radiation and 3D imaging that eliminates guesswork when planning Invisalign treatments, implants, crowns and dentures. Using iTero technology allows O2's team to detect cavities with no x-rays and give patients a simulation of their new smile, before they start treatment. O2 Dental Group of Siler City offers an online appointment system that makes scheduling an appointment easy and most insurances are accepted. Book a visit online, or call 984-265-1655.

The office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday through Friday at 103 Food Lion Plaza in Siler City.

## 9/11 MEMORIAL SET FOR SUNDAY

## South Tower survivor Dittmar to speak at anniversary event

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — Joe Dittmar was on the 105th floor of the South Tower of the World Trade Center when, on Sept. 11, 2001, a plane struck the North Tower.

He'd come from his home near Chicago to visit New York City for an insurance industry meeting, and began his descent almost immediately. Dittmar made it to the 72nd floor when a second plane, in a coordinated terrorist attack, hit his tower.

He was on the 72nd floor, but others from his business meeting took an express elevator; those who did didn't survive.

On Sunday, the 21st anniversary of 9/11, Dittmar will share his story at a special service at Pittsboro's 9/11 memorial, located at 129 Sanford Rd., south of Pittsboro's traffic circle.

Billy Williams, a veteran firefighter, is organizing the event, which begins at 10 a.m.

"I first got involved with the 9/11 Memorial several years ago when I was a firefighter with the Siler City Fire Department and was ask

to serve on the board," Williams told the News + Record.

"I have served as president for seven years. It was something that

I felt very dedicated to and wanted to make sure we had a nice place to honor the fallen first responders as well as those who serve every day."

Williams says he drops by the memorial — which includes a beam from one of the towers — whenever he can to "think of all the people that lost their lives that day. Also, I try to imagine how scary it had to be for the firefighters going in to help the people inside knowing they were most likely

not going to survive that day."

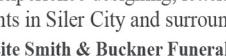
Williams said Dittmar, who used to live in Chatham County, will share the story of how the decisions he made that day saved his life.

"Everyone young and old should come out to hear Joe speak of his true-life experience," Williams said. "As a firefighter for 40 years and having two children currently serving as first responders, I feel that everyone should remember and honor first responders of all agencies every day. We just don't know what minute of the day or night we may need one of them to help us out."

For more information, go to <https://www.facebook.com/chathamncfirstrespondersmemorial>.

## CHATHAM MONUMENT CO.

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Opposite Smith & Buckner Funeral Home

# BOARD

Continued from page A1

incumbent Gary Leonard, who is the board's chairperson, faces Timothy Moore. Leonard, a former athletic director and coach at Chatham Central High School, was first elected in 2010. Moore, a Texas native and U.S. Army veteran, has joined Winger in campaigning for a "parents-first" approach to board policy-making.

Stickney is not seeking the BOE office as part of the Republican bloc of Winger and Moore.

Dist. 4 BOE incumbent Jane Allen Wilson is also up for reelection, but appears alone on November's ballot. Wilson was expected to be challenged in an organized write-in campaign by another Republican, Wendy Copeland, who was seeking office as part of a bloc with Winger and Moore. Board of Elections Director Pandora Paschal previously told the News + Record that Copeland told her she wasn't going to pursue the write-in campaign.

The News + Record spoke to two of the challenging candidates about their reasons for running and their goals if they were elected to office.

## Motivation for seeking office

Moore is a political newcomer. He works in logistics in Siler City at Siemens Healthineers and is a former parent and current grandparent of students in the Chatham County Schools system. His granddaughter attends Chatham Charter School, and he says seeing her school have much higher scores and performance than public schools in the county made him consider why that may be the case.

"Our youth are our future and a lot of the issues we see in our country right now are reflected in how we are teaching them," Moore said. "The U.S. is getting

outpaced in education by other countries. We aren't in the top 20 in the core curriculum of reading, writing or mathematics."

The crux of Moore's platform is improving on those outputs in Chatham County. He believes N.C. and the country at large are struggling to produce viable job candidates because of lackluster performance in those core areas.

"There are a lot of emotional discussions surrounding our schools right now," Moore said. "But the bottom line is we are just not producing the skills we need to be competitive in a global market."

He said the focus of education needs to be on the core subject areas — reading, writing and math — because he believes school is about preparing students for the future and setting them up for careers.

"There's a lot of other things we can look at, but if we haven't conquered the reading, writing and mathematics then you're not producing an adequate skillset," Moore said. "It has to be focused. I look at programs like One Chatham or whatever it may be and those are fine, but unless you focus on the key three elements, anything you do outside of that is not going to help the student."

Winger says her motivations for seeking a board seat are based on her personal experience as a mother in CCS. She said she saw firsthand the hardships of virtual learning during COVID lockdowns and what she describes as a lack of transparency and responsiveness from the school board.

When students were first welcomed back to the school building in 2021, Winger signed up to be an elementary school substitute teacher in CCS, which she says was an eye-opening experience.

"Seeing where our schools are at confirmed some things and revealed a lot to me,"

Winger said. "I never had an intention to run for school board. I've always tried to be supportive of the schools and be involved."

Winger said her involvement stepped up during the pandemic because her children were

**"We felt the parent perspective was pushed to the side. It was always 'OK, we hear you, we don't care.' That was extremely frustrating."**

**JESSICA WINGER, Board of Education candidate**

"drowning at home" doing virtual learning. She said her involvement in the PTA and in the classroom couldn't turn the levers of power toward a more in-person learning experience. It was then that Winger decided to attend CCS Board of Education meetings.

"I started attending to be a voice for parents," she said. "It was really discouraging to see a lack of conversation and questioning about what was happening... And what I found was a disconnect between the school board and the parents, and really the whole community."

During the height of the pandemic, Winger was outspoken at board meetings in support of less masking in schools and promoted a return to in-person learning.

## Transparency concerns

While the board of education is nonpartisan, Winger and Moore have attended candidate events with the Chatham County Republican Party and openly identify as Republicans. And both said among their top priorities if elected to the board is addressing what they believe is a lack of transparency between the school board and the parents, with both adding that the school board should serve as a liaison between the schools and the community at large.

Winger said any time she has tried to offer a parent perspective at a school board meeting she felt pushed aside or dismissed, which she believes diminished trust between some parents

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and the school district.

"We felt the parent perspective was pushed to the side," Winger said. "It was always 'OK, we hear you, we don't care.' That was extremely frustrating."

Leonard, the board's chairperson, disagreed

the achievement gap. She says overall she's proud of what the board has done in her three terms because she believes she's helped move the district forward.

"I have expectations for the outcomes of these new programs like AVID and I want to be there to see it," Turner said. "I want to see the outcomes of the visions that I had."

Turner said she's seeking another term on the board because she has pushed for changes like AVID for the last decade and wants to see those plans come to fruition.

## Parent's rights

Winger and Moore say they each want transparency at every level of the school, including more openness about lesson plans and curriculum so that parents know what teachers are sharing in the classroom.

This would mean allowing parents to opt their children out of certain lessons if they disagree with the lesson plans.

"Parents are a child's primary teacher," Moore said. "We need to trust parents first to make the decisions that are best for their children."

He said communities are best off when parents have a voice in education. Winger agreed, saying "politics should be left out of the classroom."

Leonard said parent involvement is important in the school community, but he believes the board has actively made strides to increase that involvement. He pointed to the recent creation of the CCS Parent Advisory Committee, where a parent from each school

can provide input to the superintendent, staff and administrators.

"There are always going to be some [parents] that feel like they don't have that opportunity," Leonard said. "But we try to give people every opportunity we possibly can for them to get involved and we will continue to do more of that."

Winger said the Parent Advisory Committee doesn't go far enough because it isn't open to all parents in CCS and the parents are chosen by district staff.

She believes trust has been lost between the community and the board because of what she sees as a lack of input during the peaks of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We need to let teachers do their job, but this is also where transparency becomes important," Winger said. "Parents shouldn't be blindsided. This is where that clear communication is super important."

She said teachers should allow for parent conversations about curriculum and lesson plans because clear communication is imperative to transparent education.

## 'They came making demands'

Turner said the first time she recalls Winger

attending a board meeting was during COVID-19, where Winger was a vocal advocate to end masking in schools.

"They came making demands," Turner said of Winger and a group of parents. "We got insulted, got called stupid, and they said we weren't looking at the science and all this kind of thing."

Turner said while she understood Winger's opinion on the matter, she would not allow a group of a dozen parents to make decisions on behalf of the 9,000 students in the district and their parents.

"Twelve parents can't arbitrarily represent the some 18,000 parents in the district," Turner said. "That was a point of contention. A small group of people felt that we should do what they asked, but we could not do that for the safety of the children."

Decisions made about school operations were made in the interest of public health, Turner said. She believes the track record of the district should speak for itself because it's one of the few school systems in the region that did not cease operations during the pandemic.

National conversations surrounding curriculum transparency and parent involvement have been rebutted by many teachers and school officials. They say the law in the United States has long supported the idea that education should prepare young people to think for themselves, even if it differs from their parents.

"We're not teaching CRT," Leonard, who was usually the lone voice on the board in encouraging a return to optional masking during COVID, said. "We are trying to take care of each individual child that we work with. We want to do the best job we can with each one socially and emotionally ... I do this job to help look after children and I don't know if there is a higher calling than that."

Moore and Winger would be the only Republicans on the board if elected. They said their viewpoints would offer a needed different perspective on the approach to education. They said because the BOE is nonpartisan, they do not believe the different political viewpoints would hinder the progress of the board.

The deadline to register to vote is Oct. 14, and early voting in Chatham County begins on Oct. 20. For more information about the upcoming election visit [www.chathamcountync.gov/elections](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/elections).

The News + Record expects to host two candidate forums for all open offices, including the CCS Board of Education seats, in September and October.

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at [brappaport@chathamnr.com](mailto:brappaport@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter @brappaport.

## Piney Grove United Methodist Church

### CHURCH WIDE

# YARD SALE

Yard Sale/Bake Sale • September 10

7am- 12pm (rain date Sept. 17th)

**Breakfast biscuits will be sold.**

2343 Piney Grove Ch. Rd. • Siler City

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## The Flatwoods Festival

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ALL EVENTS WILL BE HELD OUTSIDE



**Friday September 9th**

(In Front of Bennett Fire Department)

5:00 PM FOOD VENDORS

7:00 PM LIVE AUCTION: Pottery, Antiques, Collectables

**Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 FOOD & CRAFT VENDORS

10:00 PARADE- MAIN STREET BENNETT

Vintage Cars, Trucks, & Tractors (25+ Yrs).

Special Show Vehicles, Floats,

Horses & Horse Drawn Vehicles

11:45 HINDSIGHT BLUEGRASS

1:00 FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

1:30 PARADE AWARDS

RAFFLE DRAWING

## WACHS

Continued from page A4

to go to college anyway? Figures for 2020-21, the most recent I could find, reveal the total cost to attend Duke University is \$77,000 per year.

Is it worth it? Maybe if you want to be a doctor or lawyer, but for a degree in, say, philosophy? Is it possible that part of the overall situation in which we find ourselves is bloated salaries of college administrators?

I'm not opposed to any-

one getting an education,

but is it possible there is

a teachable life lesson in here somewhere? Like, don't obligate yourself for more than you can stand at any one moment.

Reminds me of my days as an undergrad at UNC. I had a stereo in my room, a \$40 Sears thing and a few favorite LPs. One day in the mail, I got an offer from Columbia Record Club (yes, there used to be such things) to send me 10 free vinyls of the best of the Temptations, Four Tops, Ventures and a few others. All I had to do was obligate myself to purchase one more album each month for eight or 10 or I don't

remember how many months.

A good deal, I thought. Only problem was I didn't have a job. No income.

It took me forever to pay the thing off. Is that so bad?

Bob Wachs is a native of Chatham County and retired long-time managing editor of the Chatham News/Chatham Record, having written a weekly column for more than 30 years. During most of his time with the newspaper, he was also a bi-vocational pastor and today serves Bear Creek Baptist Church for the second time as pastor.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

## REAL ESTATE

**LEARN ABOUT LAND** - Chatham Land Experts - www.learnaboutland.com - (919)-362-6999. Jy2,tfnc

## OFFICE SPACE RENT

**OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT**, Approximately 2,000 sq. ft. reception area, conference room, six offices, kitchenette and restrooms. Siler Business Park, (919) 930-1650. Jn15,tfnc

## RENTAL APARTMENTS

**POWELL SPRINGS APTS.** Evergreen Construction introduces its newest independent living community for adults 55 years or older, 1 and 2 bedroom applications now being accepted. Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call (919) 533-6319 for more information, TDD #1-800-735-2962, Equal housing opportunity, Handicapped accessible, A2,tfnc

**ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS** now for one bedroom apartments, adults 55 years or older. Water included, appliances furnished, on-site laundry, elevator, keyless entry. Section 8 accepted. No security deposit. Application fee \$25 per adult. Call Braxton Manor, (919) 663-1877. Handicap accessible. Equal Housing Opportunity. Jy14,tfnc

## FOR SALE

**TV ANTENNAS** - Come by MacPage Communications at 102 North Third Avenue, Siler City. (919) 227-6698, Au4,tfnc

## AUCTIONEERS

**RICKY ELLINGTON AUCTIONEERS** - Equipment, business, liquidation, estates, land, houses, antiques, personal property, coins, furniture, consignments, benefits, etc., NCAL #7706, (919) 548-3684, (919) 663-3556, rickyellingtonauctions@yahoo.com, J6,tfnc

**AUCTIONEER SCOTT L. HARRIS** at JHA. One Call...We sell it all!! Real estate, personal property, estate settlement, farms & land, business liquidation. JHA has been conducting auctions in the state of NC since 1989. Fully licensed Real Estate and Auction Firm. NCAL #8420 Firm #8086 www.Jerry-HarrisAuction.com, (919) 498-4077, J6,tfnc

## SERVICES

**CASH PAID FOR JUNK CARS** and pickups. Call (336) 581-3423, Jy28-O13,14tp

**RAINBOW WATER FILTERED VACUUMS**, Alice Cox, Cox's Distributing - Rainbow - Cell: (919) 548-4314, Sales, Services, Supplies. Serving public for 35 years. Rada Cutlery also available. Au26,tfnc

**AUTO BROKERS RECYCLERS** - Cash paid for Junk/Wrecked vehicles. Call (919) 545-0194. My13,tfnc

**JUNK CARS PICKED UP** Free of charge. Due to many months of low steel prices and unstable steel markets, we cannot pay for cars at this time. Cars, trucks, and machinery will be transported and environmentally correctly recycled at no charge. (919) 542-2803. A2,tfnc

**LETT'S TREE SERVICE** - tree removal, stump grinding, lot clearing. Visa & Master Card accepted. Timber. Free estimates. (919) 258-3594 N9,tfnc

## HELP WANTED

**CHATHAM CARES COMMUNITY PHARMACY** is hiring a part-time Executive Director/Pharmacy Manager. Must be a licensed pharmacist and located in the Piedmont region of the state. Bilingual English/Spanish skills a plus. For more info, or to apply: Chatham-Cares.com/executive-director. Au18-O6,8tc

**FOOD SERVICES STAFF**, Pittsboro Christian Village is accepting applications for Server, Pantry Cook, and Cook. Apply in person 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday - Friday, at 1825 East St. in Pittsboro. Jy14,tfnc

## LEGALS

**CREDITORS NOTICE** **NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY** Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **HAZEL PATTERSON STONE**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of the deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 18th day of November, 2022 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted

to the Estate of the deceased will please make immediate payment. This the 15th day of August, 2022. Pattie Stone Turner, Executrix 2978 Butterwood Drive Jamestown, NC 27282 Au18,Au25,S1,S8,4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

#### NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

All persons having claims against **CLINTON PEARCE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 18th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 15th day of August, 2022.

Ronald Pearce, Executor 6205 Buckhorn Rd Greensboro, NC 27410 Au18,Au25,Au1,Au8,4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

#### NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **SANDOR ALAN BALOGH** [22-E-449] late of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 17th day of November, 2022 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

This the 18th day of August, 2022. Lunday A. Riggsbee, Executor of the Estate of Mary Strowd Ward Riggsbee 3868 Mt. Gilead Church Road Pittsboro, NC 27312 Au18,Au25,S1,S8,4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

#### NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

22 E 450 All persons having claims against **MARY STROWD WARD RIGGSBEE**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 17th day of November, 2022 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

This the 18th day of August, 2022. Lunday A. Riggsbee, Executor of the Estate of Mary Strowd Ward Riggsbee 3868 Mt. Gilead Church Road Pittsboro, NC 27312 Au18,Au25,S1,S8,4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

#### NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

22 E 460 All persons having claims against **ELIZABETH MCCOY MASON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 18th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 15th day of August, 2022. Melissa Young Allen, Executrix 210 Hillsborough Street Chapel Hill, NC 27514 Au18,Au25,S1,S8,4tp

### IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

#### SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION BEFORE THE CLERK

#### FILE NO: 22-E-448

#### NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

IN RE: ESTATE OF MARY JOHN RESCH A.K.A.

MARY L. RESCH NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE UNDERSIGNED having qualified as co-Executors of the Estate of **MARY JOHN RESCH, a.k.a. Mary L. Resch**, Deceased, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Chatham County, do hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the said Decedent to present them to the undersigned on or before November 21, 2022, said date being at least three months from the date of the first publication or posting of this Notice as indicated below, or the same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment.

This Notice is given pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 28A-14.1.

This the 18th day of August, 2022. Mary Resch Lloyd Margaret Resch Morgan ESTATE OF MARY JOHN RESCH a.k.a. MARY L. RESCH 3853 Philip Ludwell Williamsburg, NC 23188

Taylor Avioli Narron Wenzel, PA 5400 Glenwood Ave., Suite 201 Raleigh, NC 27612 Au18,Au25,S1,S8,4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

#### NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

22 E 459 All persons having claims against **DONALD LEE BRAY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 18th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 15th day of August, 2022. Pattie Mason Sturdivant, Executrix 3867 Crawford Dairy Rd Chapel Hill, NC 27516 Au18,Au25,Au1,Au8,4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

#### NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

22 E 459 All persons having claims against **STANLEY JOHN GIROUX**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 25th day of August, 2022. Cheryl Ann Giroux, Co-Administrator 6 Crown Dr., Unit 110 Quincy, MA 02169 Andrea Marie Hayes, Co-Administrator 593 Canal Town St. Brunswick, MD 21716 c/o John M. Perna, Attorney at Law 202 Davis Grove Circle, Suite 105 Cary, NC 27519 Au18,Au25,S1,S8,4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

#### NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

22 E 363 All persons having claims against **JOHNLIE LONDON ALSTON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 82 Patton Avenue, Suite 500, Asheville, NC 28801 on or before November 28, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 23rd day of August, 2022.

400 Honeysuckle Dr., Pittsboro, NC 27312 919-542-5410 TDD 1-800-735-2962

Email: [pittsborovillage@ECCMGT.com](mailto:pittsborovillage@ECCMGT.com)

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

August, 2022, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the attorney for the estate on or before the 20th day of November, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 18th day of August, 2022. James Harold Hilkey, Personal Representative c/o Larry H. Rocamora, Attorney for the Estate, McPherson, Rocamora, Nicholson, Wilson & Hinkle, PLLC 3211 Shannon Road, Suite 400 Durham, NC 27707 Au18,Au25,S1,S8,4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

#### NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

22 E 442 All persons having claims against **JOHN ROSS DOWDY, JR.**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the attorney for the estate on or before the 25th day of November, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the attorney for the estate.

This the 15th day of August, 2022. Maxine C. Forester, Executor of the

Estate of Stanley Dee Forester Attorney for Estate: Richard J. Kania The Kania Law Firm, P.A. 82 Patton Avenue, Suite 500 Asheville, NC 28801 Au25,S1,S8,S15,4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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This the 15th day of August, 2022. Maxine C. Forester, Executor of the

Estate of Stanley Dee Forester Attorney for Estate: Richard J. Kania The Kania Law Firm, P.A. 82 Patton Avenue, Suite 500 Asheville, NC 28801 Au25,S1,S8,S15,4tp

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Estate of Stanley Dee Forester Attorney for Estate: Richard J. Kania The Kania Law Firm, P.A. 82 Patton Avenue, Suite 500 Asheville, NC 28801 Au25,S1,S8,S15,4tp

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Estate of Stanley Dee Forester Attorney for Estate: Richard J. Kania The Kania Law Firm, P.A. 82 Patton Avenue, Suite 500 Asheville, NC 28801 Au25,S1,S8,S15,4tp

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This the 15th day of August, 2022. Maxine C. Forester, Executor of the

Estate of Stanley Dee Forester Attorney for Estate: Richard J. Kania The Kania Law Firm, P.A. 82 Patton Avenue, Suite 500 Asheville, NC 28801 Au25,S1,S8,S15,4tp

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This the 15th day of August, 2022. Maxine C. Forester, Executor of the

Estate of Stanley Dee Forester Attorney for Estate: Richard J. Kania The Kania Law Firm, P.A. 82 Patton Avenue, Suite 500 Asheville, NC 28801 Au25,S1,S8,S15,4tp



ing on Sep. 19, 2022 at 6:30pm in the in the multipurpose room of the Wren Memorial Library located at 500 N. 2nd Ave. Legislative hearing and Board discussion will be conducted on the following requests:

G5 Investments, LLC (D.H. Griffin Jr.) proposes to rezone ~81.049 acres from Agricultural-Residential (A-R) to Heavy-Industrial (H-I). The subject properties are located along the northern boundary of US 64 West (west of Benjie Williams Rd.) and is identified as parcel # 12553, 12551, 63971, 12552, 78171.

The proposed item is available for review by contacting the Planning and Community Development Director at jmeadows@silercity.org or 919-742-2323. All persons interested in the outcome of the item are invited to attend the legislative hearing and present comments, testimony, and exhibits on the above referenced

item. The Planning Board will meet on Sep. 12 @ 6:30 pm to consider a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. The Town of Siler City as an Equal Opportunity Employer, invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided other accommodations, such arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Tina Stroupe at 919-742-4731, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina

27344, or tstroupe@silercity.org for accommodations for this request. Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Tina Stroupe al tstroupe@silercity.org o 919-742-4731 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.

\$8,515,2tc

#### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Section 5311 (ADTAP), 5310, 5339, 5307 and applicable State funding, or combination thereof. This is to inform the public that a public hearing will be held on the proposed Chatham Transit Network Community Transportation Program Application to be submitted to the North Carolina Department of Transportation no later than October

7, 2022. The public hearing will be held on **September 16, 2022 at 9:00 am** before the Chatham Transit Network Board of Directors. Those interested in attending the public hearing and needing either auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or a language translator should contact **Anna Testerman** on or before **September 14, 2022**, at telephone number 919-542-5136 or via email at [a.testerman@chathamtransit.org](mailto:a.testerman@chathamtransit.org).

The Community Transportation Program provides assistance to coordinate existing transportation programs operating in **Chatham County** as well as provides transportation options and services for the communities within this service area. These services are currently provided using **on-demand and subscription**. Services are rendered by **Chatham Transit Network**. The total estimated amount

requested for the period **July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024**.

**NOTE:** Local share amount is subject to State funding availability.

**Project**  
Total Amount  
Local Share  
Administrative  
\$249,183  
\$37,377 (15%)  
5310 Operating  
\$300,000  
\$150,000 (50%)  
**TOTAL PROJECT**  
\$549,183  
\$187,377

#### Total Funding Request

#### Total Local Share

This application may be inspected at 127 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Pittsboro, NC 27312 from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. Written comments should be directed to Anna Testerman before September 16, 2022.

8,1tc

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND

**DEBTORS OF DAVID COOPER WHITE**  
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against **DAVID COOPER WHITE**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit them to William McKinley White, Jr. as Executor of the decedent's estate on or before December 9, 2022, c/o Gregory Herman-Giddens, Attorney at Law, 1340 Environ Way, Chapel Hill, NC 27517, or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named Executor.

This the 8th day of September, 2022.

William McKinley White, Jr., Executor  
c/o Gregory Herman-Giddens, Atty.  
Galbraith, PLLC  
1340 Environ Way  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517  
\$8,515,522,529,4tc

## SCHOOL HONORS - DEAN'S LIST

**COLUMBIA COLLEGE**  
Columbia College has announced its dean's list for the Summer 2022 Semester. Among those named to that list is Jeffery Ninnemann of Pittsboro, who attended Online. That school is located in Columbia, Missouri.

## CHURCH NOTES

### CORINTH A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

Revival services will begin at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 11, at Corinth A.M.E. Zion with Rev. Dr. Ricky Frazier bringing the morning message.

The weekly services will continue Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 12 and 13, at 7 p.m. with the revivalist, Rev. Samantha C. Robinson, pastor of Fire Chosen Ministries of Pittsboro.

Everyone will be welcome. The church is located at 491 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Siler City.

### MT. PLEASANT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church announces a special event from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 10.

Join us as we celebrate the grand opening of our new playground, and the new school year! We recently renovated the playground, and we want to share it with all of you. Join us for a complimentary hot dog lunch and the Maple View Ice Cream Truck as we share our new playground with our community. Invite your neighbors and friends!

We are located at 269 Manns Chapel Rd., Pittsboro.

### LOVES CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Homecoming/Memorial Day will be observed at Loves Creek Baptist Church on Sunday, Sept. 18. We will be celebrating 197 years (1825-2022) of God's Blessings on the church and its people.

The Fishers of Men Singers will be in concert, and there will be remembrances of those people who passed away since last year. There will also be a covered dish meal with desserts.

The church is located at 1745

East 11th Street, Siler City.

### HOLLAND CHAPEL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

All are invited to join us as we celebrate our annual Family & Friends Day at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 18, at Holland Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church. Food will be served.

You may call the church office for more information at 919-362-7831.

The church is located at 360 Burgess Road, Apex (Chatham County).

## PITTSBORO TOWN STAFF

# Hazen Blodgett approved as interim town manager

BY MAYDHA DEVARAJAN

News + Record Staff

**PITTSBORO** — Former Matthews Town Manager Hazen Blodgett will serve as Pittsboro's interim town manager, the board approved at a special meeting last Wednesday, Aug. 31.

"It's very exciting," Blodgett addressed the board and meeting attendees. "It's my first interim job, I'm looking forward to it."

Blodgett's first day as interim manager will be Sept. 19; his employment agreement runs through Jan. 31, Chris Kennedy, Pittsboro's current town manager, said.

Kennedy, who was appointed to the position in July 2020, submitted his resignation to the board in August, citing a desire to focus on work-life balance. Kennedy said he'll continue to serve in his role until Sept. 19 and will be passing information to Blodgett as he gears up to begin in the position.

"To have someone like Hazen come in is just awesome," Kennedy told the News + Record. "He's got 37 years of experience. He's been there, done that, so I'm confident he'll do a great job."

In April, Blodgett retired after 19 years as town manager of Mat-



Courtesy of Colby Sawyer

**Pittsboro's interim manager Hazen Blodgett takes an oath of office after being approved in the role at the town's special meeting at the Pittsboro Town Hall.**

thews, a town of more than 29,000 in southeastern Mecklenburg County. Prior to that, he served as town manager in Whiteville, a town of around 5,000 an hour outside of Wilmington.

"The board and I anticipate that Interim Manager Hazen Blodgett will sustain and move forward important initiatives during his term," Pittsboro Mayor Cindy Perry said in an email statement. "Among those

initiatives are the bidding and award for the Sanford Force Main and the merger of utilities with Sanford."

As the town looks for a permanent town manager, Blodgett said he plans to focus on bridging the gap in continuity of staff and the board's priorities so that there is as little disruption for the next manager as possible.

When it comes to specific issues he expects

to focus on, Blodgett also mentioned the town's water and sewer issues. Pittsboro declared its intent to merge with the city of Sanford's water and sewer capacities in May.

"I think my role is to help the board and help the staff in this whatever five-month period in this transition, so y'all can hire the best manager possible and create the best town for the future," Blodgett said in his address to meeting

attendees.

Blodgett was the only candidate Pittsboro's board of commissioners interviewed, Kennedy said.

The incoming interim manager's background and experience in town government is something Mayor Pro Tem Pamela Baldwin also appreciates.

"Someone that has that level of experience in a town this size with a lot of things upcoming —

he is the type of person that could handle that," Baldwin said.

Blodgett will continue to live in Matthews but said his intention is to be in Chatham County Monday through Wednesday, and to be available by email or phone the latter half of the week.

*Reporter Maydha Devarajan can be reached at [mdevarajan@chathamnr.com](mailto:mdevarajan@chathamnr.com) and on Twitter @ maydhadevarajan.*

## GENERAL

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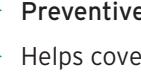


## Dental Insurance

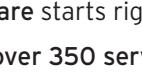
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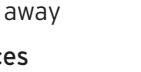
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# SPORTS

## NEWS & ENTERTAINMENT

SEPTEMBER 8 - 14, 2022 | [chathamnewsrecord.com/sports](http://chathamnewsrecord.com/sports) | SECTION B

CHAPEL HILL 55, NORTHWOOD 35

## Chargers show no quit in road loss to undefeated Chapel Hill



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood senior Will Smith (2) ran for 126 yards and three touchdowns on 21 carries Friday against Chapel Hill.

BY JEREMY VERNON  
News + Record Sports Editor

CHAPEL HILL — The Northwood football team didn't quit, but it could not overcome the early hole it put itself in Friday night against Chapel Hill High.

Despite taking an early 8-7 lead, the Chargers gave up the next 28 points. Head coach Chris Kenan's team battled to make things a two-possession game late, but the game was

always in hand for the Tigers, who eventually won 55-35.

"Whether we're up big or down big, we're a team that's shown some consistency in refusing to quit," said Northwood head coach Chris Kenan. "I can appreciate that as a coach. We may not have the most numbers. We may not be the biggest, fastest or strongest team. But you're going to have to beat us."

Things started on a sour note for the Chargers (1-2), as they went 3-and-out on their opening

possession, and a bad snap on the ensuing punt gave Chapel Hill (3-0) the ball at Northwood's 19-yard line to start its first possession. The Tigers immediately capitalized with a 19-yard touchdown run by senior Cayden Forbes to make it 7-0.

Northwood marched right back down the field and scored on a 28-yard scamper by quarterback Will Smith on 3rd-and-11, and a successful two-point conversion gave the Chargers their first, and only,



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood freshman Robert Tripp (25) ran for 116 yards and one touchdown on 15 carries Friday in a 55-35 loss to Chapel Hill.

lead of the ballgame.

Just two plays later, Chapel Hill scored on a 70-yard run by senior Drew Allen. The Tigers ended up scoring on three of their next four possessions to take a commanding 35-8 lead early in the third quarter.

Northwood struggled to contain Chapel Hill's high-octane offense. The Tigers finished the night with 305 rushing yards on 25 carries, 183 of which came from Allen.

Forbes, meanwhile, had 66 yards and three touchdowns on eight carries.

"I just have to do a better job of getting our guys ready to play," Kenan said. "I take full responsibility for that, but hats off to Chapel Hill, too. Their coaching staff is always on point. I know they're always a well-coached group, and they had some athletes on the back end

See CHARGERS, page B4

### GIRLS TENNIS

## Seaforth girls already a force

BY EVAN ROGERS  
News + Record Correspondent

PITTSBORO — The Seaforth High School varsity girls tennis team has already established itself as one of the upcoming 2A programs in the state — and it's only year two.

In 2021, the Hawks finished second in the Mid-Carolina conference and clinched a spot in the 2A state playoffs in their inaugural season. This year, they're off to an even stronger start as Seaforth won its first four matches — including a gusty win over Chatham Central High School, the defending conference champions, on Aug. 31.

Despite dropping its first match of the season to Carrboro High School, 7-2, last Thursday, head coach Peter Petrides understands the importance of testing his team early in the season to give him a barometer of their strengths and weaknesses.

"I had a few matches circled on our calendar before the season and definitely our first matchup with Carrboro was in bold and circled," he said. "Having a match against a team like them this early in the season allows us to get a good sense of where we are."

In the singles competitions, the Hawks' perseverance was tested.



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Seaforth junior Evelyn Atkins returns a volley in the Hawks' 7-2 loss to Carrboro on Thursday.

The top singles match featured Seaforth junior Evelyn Atkins battling Carrboro senior Ella Strickler. The Jaguars' top player came into this year fresh off a runner-up finish in the 3A state individual playoffs last season, and her play lived up to the hype.

In the first set, Strickler had little trouble with Atkins, as her powerful rallies and blistering serves led the Jaguar to a 6-0 win. After the opening

set — that saw Atkins capture a few points — the young Hawk was comforted by Petrides, who reminded his top player to, "Have some fun."

"I try to stay strong and tough on the court," Atkins said. "But I also want to allow myself to enjoy it and not get too frustrated."

Atkins' collectiveness was present in the proceeding set, as she began

See SEAFORTH, page B2

### FOOTBALL ROUNDUP

## Seaforth, J-M shut out; Central scores first points

BY JEREMY VERNON  
News + Record Sports Editor

Week 3 was another tough slate for Chatham County high school football teams, as the four area varsity programs went 0-4 and lost their games by a combined score of 188-47.

Through the first three weeks of the season, only Northwood (1-3) has a win to its credit. The Chargers fell to Chapel Hill High, 55-35, in Week 1 despite a spirited second-half comeback attempt.

Here's a look at how the other three schools fared last week.

### Willow Springs 49, Seaforth 0 (Thursday)

The Week 3 schedule started Thursday as Seaforth traveled to Willow Springs. The Hawks ended up losing, 49-0, to fall to 0-3 on the year.

Through three weeks, Seaforth has yet

See ROUNDUP, page B4

### VOLLEYBALL

## Woods Charter looks even better after historic season

BY JEREMY VERNON  
News + Record Sports Editor

CHAPEL HILL — The Woods Charter volleyball team had by far its best season in program history last fall, when the Wolves went 18-4 overall, won the Central Tar Heel 1A Conference Tournament and made it to the third round of the state playoffs before falling to Neuse Charter.

But as successful as Woods Charter was in 2021, the Wolves might be even better this season. Entering Tuesday's match against Triangle Math & Science, head coach Amanda Gough's team was 4-1 and on a two-match winning streak.

Gough, who is in her first year as the Wolves' head coach, was hired in July as the replacement for Scott Green, who took the same job at Seaforth. Green coached four seasons at Woods Charter with a career record of 22-48.

Before 2021, the Wolves' best season as a varsity program came in 2017 when they went 7-13 overall.

Last Thursday, Woods Charter dominated River Mill, sweeping the Jaguars, 3-0, in its first game of conference play. Last season, the Wolves finished the league schedule with a 9-1 record, which landed them in a tie with Chatham Central for first place in the conference standings.

One of Woods' top players in 2021 was sophomore outside hitter Lexi Smollen, who led the team in kills by a wide margin with 474. She also led the team in service aces (69) and was second in both total blocks (15) and digs (193). But Smollen isn't back with the Wolves in 2022.

Over the offseason, Smollen transferred to Chapel Hill High. Through seven matches this season, the junior has

See WOODS, page B4



Staff photo by Nikki Witt

Woods Charter freshman Josephine Vargas (8) spikes the ball against River Mill on Thursday.

## SCORES AND SCHEDULES

<b>Monday, August 29</b> Girls golf	Bartlett Yancey 3, Seaforth 0 North Moore 3, Chatham Central 2 Walter M. Williams 3, Northwood 0	Willow Springs 49, Seaforth 0 North Stokes 37, Chatham Central 12	and Science Academy (6:15 p.m.) Jordan-Matthews at Cummings (6 p.m.)	(5 p.m.)
Chatham Charter wins Central Tar Heel 1A Conference match at Southwick Golf Course. Knights' junior Mackenzie Crossman posts low round of 41 on nine holes. North Moore defeated Chatham Central and Seaforth in a conference match at The Preserve at Jordan Lake. North Moore had a total score of 225, besting the Bears (233) and Hawks (253).	Boys soccer	<b>Friday, September 9</b> Football	Boys soccer	<b>Friday, September 9</b> Volleyball
Girls tennis	Jordan-Matthews 7, Providence Grove 0	Chapel Hill 55, Northwood 35 Providence Grove 44, Jordan-Matthews 0	Chatham Charter at Ascend Leadership Academy (5 p.m.)	Chatham Charter vs. Cover Garden (6 p.m.)
Seaforth 9, North Moore 0 Walter M. Williams 7, Northwood 0 Research Triangle 8, Chatham Charter 1	<b>Wednesday, August 31</b> Girls tennis	Cedar Ridge 6, Northwood 3 Seaforth 5, Chatham Central 4	<b>Wednesday, September 7</b> Girls tennis	<b>Football</b>
Volleyball	Volleyball	Chatham Central 3, Eastern Randolph 0 Chatham Charter 3, Bethany Community 0 Woods Charter 3, Jordan-Matthews 0	Jordan-Matthews vs. Seaforth (4:30 p.m.) Chatham Central vs. Graham High (4:30 p.m.) Chatham Charter girls tennis vs. Cornerstone Charter Academy (4 p.m.)	Northwood vs. Seaforth (7 p.m.) Chatham Central at Wheatmore High (7:30 p.m.) Jordan-Matthews vs. Trinity (7:30 p.m.)
Chatham Charter 3, North Moore 1 Jordan-Matthews 3, South Davidson 1	Boys soccer	Boys soccer	<b>Monday, September 12</b> Girls golf	<b>Monday, September 12</b> Chatham Charter and Woods Charter at Siler City Country Club (3 p.m.)
Boys soccer	Eastern Randolph 6, Chatham Charter 0 Asheboro 4, Northwood 1 Franklin Academy 9, Woods Charter 0	Chatham Central cross country at North Moore (4:30 p.m.) Chatham Charter/Woods Charter cross country at Harris Lake County Park (4:30 p.m.)	Seaforth at Graham High (6 p.m.) Northwood at Walter M. Williams (6:45 p.m.) Jordan-Matthews at Bartlett Yancey (6 p.m.) Northwood vs. Carrboro (6 p.m.)	Seaforth and Chatham Central at Beacon Ridge (3:30 p.m.)
Willow Springs 3, Seaforth 0 Northwood boys 4, Carrboro 1	<b>Thursday, September 1</b> Girls tennis	Girls tennis	<b>Girls tennis</b>	Northwood at Orange High (4 p.m.) Chatham Central at North Moore (4:30 p.m.)
<b>Tuesday, August 30</b> Cross country	Chatham Charter 5, Chatham Central 4 Carrboro 7, Seaforth 2	Seaforth vs. Carrboro (4:30 p.m.) Chatham Central at Bartlett Yancey (4:30 p.m.) Northwood vs. Person High (4 p.m.)	<b>Boys soccer</b>	<b>Boys soccer</b>
Seaforth won the conference race against Jordan-Matthews, Chatham Central and North Moore. Hawks sophomores Jack Anstrom (18:06.13) and Katherine Leonard (23:34.09) won their respective 5,000-meter races.	Volleyball	Volleyball	Seaforth vs. Chatham Central (6 p.m.) Chatham Charter at Triangle Math and Science Academy (6 p.m.) Woods Charter vs. Clover Garden (6:15 p.m.) Jordan-Matthews vs. North Moore (6 p.m.)	Seaforth vs. Cummings (6 p.m.) Northwood at Cedar Ridge (6:45 p.m.) Chatham Charter vs. Bethany Community (5 p.m.)
Volleyball	Cedar Ridge 3, Northwood 0 Chatham Central 3, Graham 0 Woods Charter 3, River Mill 0	Chatham Central vs. Bartlett Yancey (6 p.m.) Northwood vs. Person High (6 p.m.) Chatham Charter at Southern Wake (6 p.m.) Woods Charter vs. Triangle Math	Boys soccer	Volleyball
	Football		Northwood vs. Jordan-Matthews (6:45 p.m.) Chatham Charter vs. North Moore	Jordan Matthews vs. Northwood (6 p.m.) Chatham Central vs. Uwharrie Charter Academy (6 p.m.)

## Predicting the 2022 NFL season

The opening game of the NFL regular season, AKA September Christmas, is upon us: the defending Super Bowl champion Los Angeles Rams

for Herbert to make the next step, and if he can lift LA to the playoffs this season, he'll be among the favorites for MVP when the awards are announced following the regular season.

#### Offensive Player of the Year: Justin Jefferson, WR, Minnesota Vikings

Last year's Offensive Player of the Year was Los Angeles Rams' receiver Cooper Kupp, who won the receiving triple crown by leading the NFL in catches (145), receiving yards (1,947) and receiving touchdowns (16). Kupp was aided by the playcalling of offensive coordinator Kevin O'Connell, who schemed up the No. 5 passing offense in the league last season.

Now, O'Connell is the head coach of the Vikings, and the player standing to benefit most is receiver Justin Jefferson. Already one of the premier young skill-position players in the league, Jefferson owns the NFL record for most receiving yards (3,016) in a player's first two seasons in the league.

With O'Connell calling plays, Jefferson will be the focal point of the Minnesota offense. Don't be surprised if he wins the triple crown this season, a feat that would assuredly also make him OPOY.

#### Defensive Player of the Year: Micah Parsons, LB, Dallas Cowboys

Last year's Defensive Rookie of the Year, Micah Parsons came in to Dallas as a linebacker, but he quickly developed into one of the best edge-rushers in the league when the Cowboys needed some help getting pressure on opposing quarterbacks.

Parsons — who is a blur off the edge — totaled 13 sacks as a rookie in 2021. This offseason, he set a personal goal of breaking the NFL's single-season sack record (22.5). That's the type of ambition you want from your defensive leader.

There's also precedent of a player winning DROY and DPOY in back-to-back seasons. In 2013, Carolina Panthers linebacker Luke Kuechly won Defensive Player

of the Year after being named the league's best defensive rookie in 2012.

#### AFC Playoffs

Here are the teams I have winning their respective divisions and earning wild card spots:

- AFC North: Bengals
- AFC East: Bills
- AFC South: Colts
- AFC West: Chargers
- Wild Card: Chiefs
- Wild Card: Ravens
- Wild Card: Broncos

#### NFC Playoffs

Here are the teams I have winning their respective divisions and earning wild card spots:

- NFC North: Vikings
- NFC East: Eagles
- NFC South: Buccaneers
- NFC West: Rams
- Wild Card: Packers
- Wild Card: 49ers
- Wild Card: Panthers

#### Super Bowl: Chargers vs. Packers

In what would be one of the best quarterback matchups in recent Super Bowl memory, Justin Herbert battles Aaron Rodgers for the title come season's end.

The Chargers have made improvements on both sides of the ball, especially on defense, where they have signed splash free agents J.C. Jackson and Sebastian Joseph-Day to go with returning veterans Joey Bosa and Derwin James. With Justin Herbert at the helm offensively, I feel confident in making the Chargers my AFC Champions.

On the other side, I like Green Bay to emerge from a Wild Card spot to make the Super Bowl. This year's Packers team reminds me of the 2015 Panthers — elite quarterback, elite defense, no receivers. It worked out O.K. for Carolina, which made it to the Super Bowl that season before falling to the Broncos. If there's anyone you want with the ball with your season on the line, it's Aaron Rodgers.

As far as the winner, I'll take the Chargers to defeat the Packers, giving Herbert his first of what could be many Super Bowl rings.

*Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at [jeremy@chathamnrc.com](mailto:jeremy@chathamnrc.com) or on Twitter at [@jbo\\_vernon](https://twitter.com/jbo_vernon).*

## SEAFORTH

Continued from page B1

to fight back against Stickler. And though the second set ended in the same fashion as the first, 6-0, Atkins was more competitive in each game and even forced a deuce at one point.

"It's awesome, I live for these types of matches," she said. "Even when I lose it's a great opportunity to grow and to learn from (Strickler) and learn from my own mistakes as well."

Atkins' individual match finished first, but rather than sulk about her defeat, the junior stood atop the hill adjacent to Carrboro's tennis courts.

There, she had a brief discussion with Petrides before cheering on her fellow teammates still locked into their contests. With every cheer and shout from Seaforth's team captain came a promising response from those in burgundy. By the end of the singles matches, the Hawks had captured two wins via sophomores MaKenzy Lehew and Jenna Robinette.

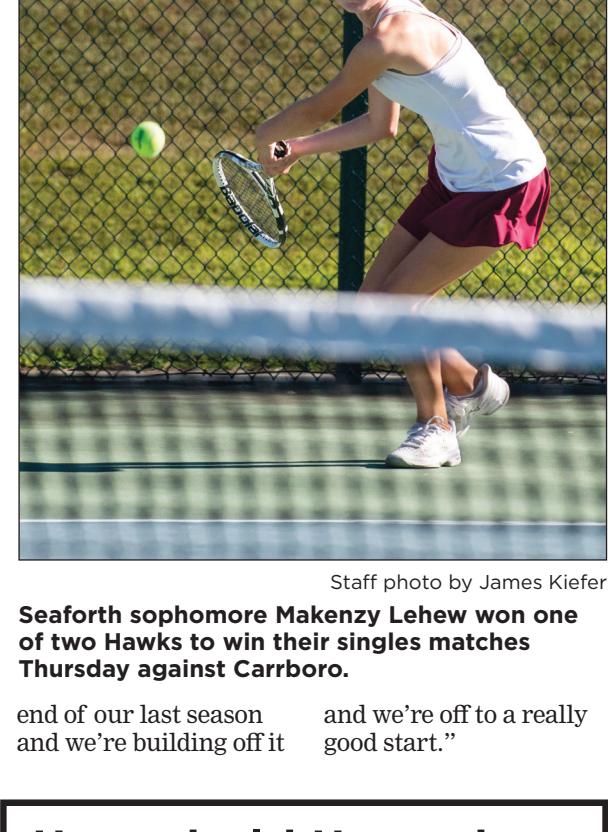
"I try to be a leader to my team without being too overbearing — trying to find a good balance," Atkins said. "We all have so much respect for each other."

The camaraderie seen between the Hawks was evident between the singles and doubles bouts.

The girls all beamed with smiles and congratulated each other on their individual performances, no matter the result. And though the Hawks went on to lose all their doubles matches, the team's improvements from 2021 were clear to see.

Last year the Hawks were swept, 9-0, in their match against Carrboro. This time around, Seaforth stole two points on the Jaguars' home courts.

It's the small signs of growth, seen both on the scoreboard and in the team's morale, that has Petrides excited about the near future and what this year's squad can do in just its second season.



Staff photo by James Kiefer

**Seaforth sophomore MaKenzy Lehew won one of two Hawks to win their singles matches Thursday against Carrboro.**

end of our last season and we're building off it and we're off to a really good start."

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## CLIPBOARD Q&amp;A

# Seaforth cross country runner Jack Anstrom looking to build on runner-up finish at last year's state meet

BY JEREMY VERNON  
News + Record  
Sports Editor

One of the top returning long-distance athletes in Chatham County this fall is Seaforth sophomore Jack Anstrom.

Competing in his second year for the Hawks, Anstrom opened his 2022 cross country campaign on a high note as Seaforth's first home meet of the season on Aug. 30 against Chatham Central, Jordan-Matthews and North Moore.

Anstrom won the boys 5,000 meter race, finishing in a time of 18:06.13,

over a minute faster than the runner who finished second place. As a team, Seaforth placed seven runners among the top eight and 10 among the top 12. The Hawks also won the girls race while competing against Jordan-Matthews, with sophomore Katherine Leonard taking first place with a time of 23:34.09.

Last season, Anstrom led the Seaforth boys to a second place finish at the 2A midwest regionals, finishing second in his respective race in a time of 16:23.86. The Hawks went on to finish eighth at the 2A

state championship meet, though Anstrom was also the second individual runner to finish in that race.

Earlier this week, Anstrom spoke with the N+R about his terrific freshman season, his first race this fall and his expectations for the rest of 2022.

**You competed in and won the first race of your sophomore season last week in a meet against Chatham Central, Jordan-Matthews and North Moore. How did you feel during the race and what did it feel like racing in a competitive setting again?**

JACK ANSTROM: It was meant to be an easier effort than what it shaped out to be. We're definitely

working on preparation for the rest of the season. We're going out to some big invitationals, are looking to win states and looking to qualify for some bigger meets down the road. It's just another step for us.

**You had a strong season last fall. What are some of the things you worked on during the offseason to build on what you accomplished in 2021?**

To continue to build I need to kind of square with myself what the season was last year. As a freshman in my first true season of competitive racing, I didn't know anything. I'm taking

what I know now from the experience of the trial and error, which kind of ended up being a lot of error. It still went well, but now I know where I can improve as far as racing, preparation, how I'm running in practices and work-outs. I think with that knowledge, I can become such a better version of myself.

**Your team is a bit unique in that it's only your second year as a program, and last year you only had freshmen and sophomores on the team. What is it like knowing you have a group of athletes around you that you're going to be able to grow with this season and beyond?**

Our team is pretty tight. As a unit, we're growing together. We're not only running together, but we're going to the same classes. We're going through the same testing sessions and we're learning things at the same time. It's almost like putting two eggs in an incubator together. There's some sort of unique bond.

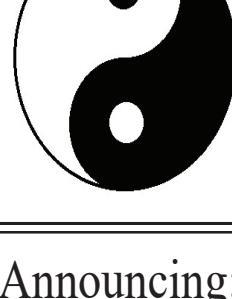
**The girls also had a successful season last fall, finishing third at the 2A midwest regionals. What is the rivalry like between the girls and boys team?**

We have a good rivalry going. Our girls team is strong, particularly in 2A. We're definitely working around just being young and not knowing very much. We have a great coaching staff who really values our development and values us as people. As we grow with the guidance we're receiving, we're going to become pretty good.

**What would make this a successful season in your opinion?**

As a team, a successful season, we're really worried about states. If we can kind of hold something off at regionals and have the energy advantage at states — kind of relax our way through the regionals and get in — that's a route we're going to take 100% of the time. We're going to work stronger together as a team. We want to do great at states.

**Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at [jeremy@chathamnr.com](mailto:jeremy@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter at @jbo\_vernon.**



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### Free Event Includes:

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# CHARGERS

Continued from page B1

this time ... To get a good quality win on the road against a team like Chapel Hill, you have to be almost flawless, and we were far from it."

Trailing by 27 points early in the second half, the Chargers started stringing together some of their best drives of the night. After forcing a turnover on downs on Chapel Hill's next possession, Northwood drove downfield and scored on a 5-yard run by freshman Robert Tripp.

Chapel Hill fumbled the ball on the first play of its next possession, and eight plays later the Chargers found the end zone again on a seven-yard keeper by Smith to cut the game to 35-20. Smith scored a third rushing touchdown at the

start of the fourth quarter and later threw a 43-yard score to sophomore Gus Ritchey to trim Chapel Hill's lead to 48-35. This was as close as the score would get, though.

Northwood was led offensively by the duo of Smith and Tripp, who combined for 242 rushing yards and four touchdowns on 36 carries. Tripp earned the start at running back for the injured Carson Fortunes, who was injured in the Chargers' Week 2 win over Jordan-Matthews.

After the game, Kenan commended his quarterback's effort in the second half. Smith has become the focal point of Northwood's offense with the recent injury to junior running back Carson Fortunes, and he hasn't shied away from the opportunity.

"(Smith) has shown a tremendous amount of guts," Kenan said. "It doesn't matter what the down and distance is. It doesn't matter what the play call is. He's confident in his abilities and his teammates no matter what the situation is or how ugly things might look."

## Up next

Northwood (1-2) has a solid chance to get back in the win column this week, as it hosts Seaforth this Friday at 7 p.m. The Hawks (0-3) — who have yet to score points this season — have lost their three games this fall by a combined score of 128-0. Seaforth lost Willow Spring, 49-0, in Week 3.

*Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at [jeremy@chathamnr.com](mailto:jeremy@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter at @jbo\_vernon.*

# ROUNDUP

Continued from page B1

to score any points while allowing their opponents a total of 128. Head coach Terrance Gary has preached patience with his team all season, and he told the News + Record that the team is getting better each week, even if the results don't necessarily look that way.

"We know what our situation is, and the guys have been stepping up to the plate every week," Gary said. "We can see the improvement on the field, even though the scoreboard doesn't necessarily show it. On film, you can see how much we're improving."

Seaforth is in its first season as a varsity program. The Hawks have no seniors on the team and the roster is mainly made up of juniors and sophomores who first started playing football last season when the school competed at the JV level.

The Hawks are rather green when it comes to fundamentals, but Gary knows things will get better over time.

"We've got to get better at tackling and certain blocking techniques," Gary said. "These are just things where, if you've played football for a while up until this point, you should be a little bit better at. But we're starting from behind."

Seaforth will have another tough test this week as it travels to play Northwood. The Chargers are the only team in the county with a victory so far this season, defeating Jordan-Matthews, 52-0, in Week 2.

## North Stokes 37, Chatham Central 12 (Thursday)

Also playing Thursday night, the Chatham Central football team lost at home to North Stokes, 37-12. The Bears (0-3) trailed by just two scores at the half, but the Vikings scored all 17 points in the second half to put the game to rest.

Chatham Central gained 234 yards of total offense. Quarterbacks Brandon Toomer, Hasteen Paige and River Warren combined to complete 8-of-19 passes for 134 yards and one touchdown against four interceptions. Toomer threw the lone touchdown to junior Devonte Johnson, who had three catches for 83 yards and also ran for a touchdown in the loss.

The Bears are still winless on the season, but Thursday marked the first time they scored points this fall, so things seem to be moving in the right direction. Chatham Central will look for its first win of the 2022 season Friday night on the road at Wheatmore, who is also 0-3.

Last season, Wheatmore defeated Central, 39-6. That said, the Warriors did graduate their starting quarterback over the offseason in Ben Walker, who was 17-of-27 for 211 yards and two touchdowns and an interception in the win over the Bears in 2021.

## Providence Grove 51, Jordan-Matthews 0 (Friday)

The largest margin of defeat in Week 3 belonged to Jordan-Matthews, which fell to Providence Grove, 51-0, at home Friday night. The Jets (0-3) couldn't

get anything going offensively at any point Friday night, ultimately finishing the game with -21 yards of total offense. Jordan-Matthews failed to complete a pass in the loss and threw four interceptions in six attempts.

Still, there were some encouraging things to take away from Friday, like the performance of the Jets' defense in the second half. Entering the locker room at halftime trailing 44-0, Jordan-Matthews rallied together and only gave up seven points over the final two quarters.

"I think we were better in the second half, especially defensively," said J-M head coach Ryan Johnson. "The guys showed some passion. That's been something we've been talking about (since the start of the season), just playing with passion and showing some heart. I thought our guys showed some glimpses that we hadn't seen in the first couple of weeks."

Through the first three weeks of the season, Jordan-Matthews has lost its three games by a combined score of 165-6, but Johnson believes his team is steadily improving week after week. The Jets will try to get their first win of the season Friday as they host Trinity (2-1), which defeated Chatham Central, 52-0, in Week 1.

Last season, the Bulldogs defeated J-M, 48-12.

"The guys are showing up every day and they're resilient," Johnson said. "We haven't quit. We're looking forward to bigger things coming down the road with the work they're putting in right now."

*Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at [jeremy@chathamnr.com](mailto:jeremy@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter at @jbo\_vernon.*

## Chapel Hill 55, Northwood 35

CH | 14 | 14 | 13 | 14 | — 55  
NW | 8 | 0 | 12 | 15 | — 35

### Scoring summary

CH — Cayden Forbes 19 run (Owen Kornstein kick)  
NW — Will Smith 28 run (Run good)  
CH — Drew Allen 70 run (Kornstein kick)  
CH — Allen 2 run (Kornstein kick)  
CH — Josh Kelley 1 run  
CH — Forbes 2 run (Kornstein kick)  
NW — Robert Tripp 5 run (Pass no good)  
NW — Smith 7 run (Pass no good)  
CH — Allen 2 run (Kick no good)  
NW — Smith 12 run (Run good)  
CH — Ameer Burgman 20 pass from Kelley (Kornstein kick)  
NW — Gus Ritchey 43 pass from Smith (Rui Aguiar kick)  
CH — Forbes 41 run (Kornstein kick)

### Team Stats

Chapel Hill | Northwood  
15 | First downs | 14  
423 | Total yards | 348  
25-305 | Rushing attempts-yards | 44-258  
11-14-118 | Passing completions-attempts-yards | 6-12-90  
0 | Interceptions | 1  
1-1 | Fumbles-lost | 1-1  
8-95 | Penalties-yards | 7-60

### Individual stats

Rushing: CH — Drew Allen 9-183, Cayden Forbes 8-66, Isaiah Roberson 4-12, Josh Kelley 3-19, Sachi Alston 1-25; NW — Will Smith 21-126, Robert Tripp 15-116, Landon Roberson 8-16

Passing: CH — Josh Kelley 11-of-14, 118 yards, one touchdown; NW — 6-of-12, 90 yards, one touchdown, one interception

Receiving: CH — Tarren Keyes 2-22, Allen 2-18, Forbes 1-27, Ameer Burgman 1-20, Ben Bollinger 1-12, Dylan Evans 1-9, Roberson 1-(-3); NW — Gus Ritchey 2-56, Jackson Shaner 2-(-3), Cam Fowler 1-26, Ryan Brinker 1-11

# WOODS

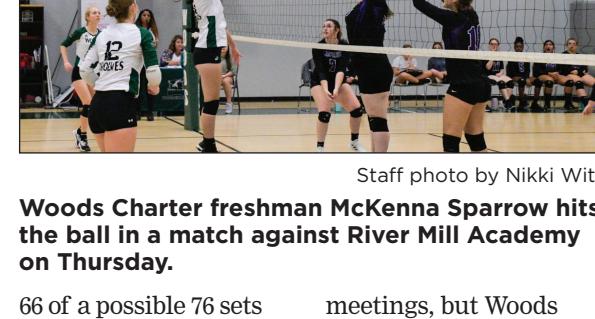
Continued from page B1

10 kills in just 10 sets of action. The Tigers hope Smollen will put them over the hump after going 22-5 overall and losing in the second round of the 4A state playoffs.

In Smollen's absence, Woods Charter has turned over attacking duties to freshman Josephine Valgus, who had 81 kills through her team's first five matches for an average of 5.8 kills per set.

But the Wolves are not a one-woman band. Captain Maya Sheridan has returned for her sophomore season, and she has picked up right where she left off after breaking out as a freshman in 2021.

Through five matches, Sheridan already had 107 of the team's 111 assists this season. Though her 7.6 assists per set is slightly down from last season (8.2), it's entirely possible she eclipses last season's assist total of 542. Sheridan only played



Staff photo by Nikki Witt

**Woods Charter freshman McKenna Sparrow hits the ball in a match against River Mill Academy on Thursday.**

66 of a possible 76 sets last season. If she played in 76 sets this season and maintained her averages, she would finish the year with 577 assists.

This season, the Wolves will fight for the Central Tar Heel 1A Conference title with Chatham Charter, who entered Tuesday's match at Southern Wake Academy with an overall record of 3-3.

In 2021, the Knights and Wolves shared the top spot in the league standings during the regular season with a conference record of 9-1. The two teams split their two regular season

meetings, but Woods Charter won the season series with a sweep of Chatham Charter in the finals of the conference tournament.

This year's Chatham Charter team is currently only operating with six players on its roster. The Knights' top player this season has been senior Emerson Clark, who led the team with 69 kills, 18 service aces and 158 digs entering Tuesday's match.

*Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at [jeremy@chathamnr.com](mailto:jeremy@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter at @jbo\_vernon.*



## Council on Aging Activities Calendar

September 12th through September 16th

### Monday, September 12th

#### Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8:15 a.m. - Body Conditioning w/Jackie (masks required)
- 9 a.m. - Chair Yoga w/Liz (Chatham Grove Community Center and on Zoom)
- 10 a.m. - Arthritis Foundation Exercise w/Jackie
- 10:30 a.m. - Matter of Balance (Chatham Grove Community Center, RSVP Liz)
- 11 a.m. - Bluegrass Music w/Uncle Edd and the Original Haw River Crawdaddies

#### Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - Strong & Fit w/Olivia
- 12:30 p.m. - Advisory Board Orientation
- 2 p.m. - Geri-Fit

### Tuesday, September 13th

#### Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8:15 a.m. - Body Conditioning w/Jackie (masks optional)
- 9 a.m. - 3G's Men's Group
- 9:30 a.m. - Tai Chi for Arthritis (Chatham Grove Community Center)
- 9:45 a.m. - Farmers Market Trip (RSVP to Jackie Green)
- 10 a.m. - Woodcarvers
- 10:30 a.m. - September & "90 and Better Birthday Party"
- 1 p.m. - Rummikub

#### Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9:45 a.m. - Chair Exercises w/Olivia for Beginners
- 1 p.m. - Rook; Book Club at Western Center Library
- 2 p.m. - Fitness Room Orientation w/Olivia

### Wednesday, September 14th

#### Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 10 a.m. - Chair Yoga w/Liz (in-person and Zoom)

#### Western Chatham Senior Center

- 8 a.m. - Veterans Benefit Assistance
- 9 a.m. - Strong & Fit w/Olivia
- 10 a.m. - Bible Study; Cardmaking
- 10:30 a.m. - Diabetes Discussion w/Ann Clark
- 1 p.m. - Cornhole
- 1:30 p.m. - Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group
- 2 p.m. - Crafting w/Kathryn (Fall String Art)

### Thursday, September 15th

#### Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8:15 a.m. - Body Conditioning w/Jackie (masks optional)
- 9:30 a.m. - Tai Chi for Arthritis
- 10 a.m. - Crafts and Conversation

#### Western Chatham Senior Center

- 11 a.m. - Nutrition Education by Ann Clark, MMS, RD/LDN
- 1 p.m. - Board Games & Cards
- 1:30 p.m. - Line Dancing
- 3 p.m. - Gentle Yoga w/Liz

### Friday, September 16th

#### Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8:15 a.m. - Body Conditioning w/Jackie (masks required)
- 10 a.m. - Arthritis Foundation Exercise w/Jackie
- 11 a.m. - Stories w/Neriah
- 1 p.m. - Card Games

#### Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - Strong & Fit w/Olivia
- 1 p.m. - Zoom Games with Western Center
- 7 p.m. - Friday Night Dance (fee required to attend)

For more information on these and other programs, call our centers Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Eastern Chatham Senior Center  
919-542-4512

Western Chatham Senior Center  
919-742-3975

Visit our website at [www.chathamcoa.org](http://www.chathamcoa.org)



# Police arrest 3 from Siler City shooting incident in July

CN+R Staff Report

**SILER CITY** — Police have made three arrests stemming from a July shooting incident at the Park N Shop convenience store at 201 E. Eleventh St.

At just before 7 p.m. on July 9, the Siler City Police Department responded to a reporting about a shooting in the parking lot of the convenience store. While en route to the call, officers learned that the vehicles and subjects involved had fled the scene. Officers

began collecting evidence and interviewing bystanders and witnesses once they arrived at the crime scene.

During the investigation, officers learned at least two businesses were hit by stray bullets fired during the incident — the Park N Shop and Hand Car Wash and Detailing (201 E. Eleventh St.) — as well as a vehicle parked at La Bamba (1110 N. Second Ave.).

As a result of the investigation, three subjects were identified and charged. One of

the suspects is a juvenile and wasn't named; the other two arrested were Kiemen Deandre Mason, 20, and Xzavier Willie Raquan Allison, 21, both of Siler City.

## Kiemen Mason

Mason turned himself into the Siler City Police Department on July 25. He was released after bonding out the same day. His charges:

- Assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill G.S. 14-32(C)

- Discharge weapon into occupied property G.S. 14-34.1(A) — two counts

- Simple affray G.S. 14-33(A)

- Injury to real property G.S. 14-127

- Injury to personal property G.S. 14-160 — two counts

- Discharge firearm in the city

## Xzavier Allison

Allison was taken into custody by the United States Marshals Service in Greensboro on Aug. 19. He is being held in the

Chatham County Jail with a secured bond. His charges:

- Assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill G.S. 14-32(C) — three counts

- Discharge weapon into occupied property G.S. 14-34.1(A)

- Assault by pointing a gun G.S. 14-34

- Carry a concealed gun G.S. 14-269(a1)

- Simple affray G.S. 14-33(A)

- Injury to personal property G.S. 14-160

- Discharge firearm in the city

# Hoppin' John Fiddlers' Convention gears up for 15th annual event

CN+R Staff Report

**PITTSBORO** — The 15th Annual Hoppin' John Fiddlers' Convention will take place Sept. 15-17 in Pittsboro and will feature an exceptional lineup of multi-talented musicians.

Hoppin' John, the only fiddlers' convention in the North Carolina Piedmont, offers string band and instrument contests, concerts, workshops and family activities for music lovers of all ages. With the added benefit of on-site camping at this event, jam sessions will be happening around the clock on the campgrounds.

## Concert and Showcases

This year's listening highlights feature a concert on Friday, Sept. 16, with Triangle-based duo Larry & Joe (Larry Bellorin and Joe Troop), and showcases that run throughout the day on Saturday afternoon,

# HOPPIN JOHN FIDDLERS' CONVENTION

produced in partnership with Music Maker Foundation. This up-and-coming collaboration between Bellorin and Troop, boasts the fusion of Venezuelan and Appalachian folk music traditions.

This year's showcases will focus on regional music from the Piedmont and western N.C. mountains — both string band and blues. Local musicians Wayne Martin, Evelyn Shaw, John Gaster and others pay homage to Lee County's late banjo master, Marvin Gaster, and share the music of their families in "String Band Music of the North Carolina Piedmont." Jake Owen, Cary Fridley, Lillian Chase and Travis Stuart will display the rich old-time music tra-

ditions of western North Carolina in "Old-Time Music of the Appalachian Mountains."

Local bluesman Big Ron Hunter and his wife, Belinda Hunter, will share traditional and original blues and gospel music in an informal dance tent setting in this Music Maker Presents showcase, leading into an instructional workshop on Piedmont Blues.

## Contest categories

Contest categories are divided into Old Time String Band and Other String Band (Bluegrass, Other Traditional and Non-Traditional). Individual contest categories are divided into Fiddle, Banjo, Guitar, Mandolin, Other Stringed Instrument (Bass, Dobro, Dulcimer, etc.), Folk Song, Dance, Youth Fiddle, Youth Other Instrument,

and Youth Dance. All Youth contestants will receive a participant ribbon. Bands, musicians and dancers who compete in the convention will be awarded a total of \$3,800.

## Dancing

This year's event sees a return of the traditional called dance, back for the first time since the pandemic. Offerings include square dances from family workshops to late-night rowdy ones, flatfooting and clogging workshops, cake walks and a Saturday night country two-step. With the world-famous Green Grass Cloggers opening the Saturday night stage, there will be no shortage of movement at Hoppin' John this year.

## Instructional Workshops

As always, there will be instructional workshops covering a variety of topics within roots music and dance traditions. Workshops begin at 4:30 p.m. on Friday and run

throughout the day on Saturday. Instructors include local musicians Wayne Martin and Tampa Enoch-Reese, plus mountain ballad singer Cary Fridley and guitarist David Hughes. Festival attendees are encouraged to bring instruments and/or dancing shoes and learn something new! These events are also accessible to non-musicians.

## Kids and Family Activities

Speaking of learning something new, the passing of tradition is a core tenet of Hoppin' John's philosophy. Available for the little ones are hayrides, kid-centered music and dance workshops, arts and crafts and stories.

## Vendors

Hoppin' John Fiddlers' Convention offers multiple food and beverage options on-site. Attendees can also shop for locally-made crafts, instruments and supplies from vendors located near the stage.

Advanced tickets are available now for the music festival and on-site camping at [www.HoppinJohn.org](http://www.HoppinJohn.org). Proceeds from Hoppin' John benefit the educational programming at Shakori Hills Community Arts Center, an N.C. not-for-profit corporation.

Hoppin' John will take place at 1439 Henderson Tanyard Rd. in Pittsboro. To learn more, view the full schedule and purchase tickets, visit [www.HoppinJohn.org](http://www.HoppinJohn.org).

Shakori Hills Community Arts Center's mission is to provide diverse, culturally significant arts, music and sustainability education and inclusive outreach to local community and schools, while preserving the greenspace of its 72-acre Chatham County homestead. The Center's most notable events are the annual Hoppin' John Old-Time and Bluegrass Fiddlers' Convention and the biannual Shakori Hills Grassroots Festival of Music & Dance. For more information, visit [www.ShakoriHills.org](http://www.ShakoriHills.org).

# Chatham to celebrate substance abuse prevention and recovery through community rally

CN+R Staff Report

**SILER CITY** — The community is invited to the Chatham County Recovery Celebration, scheduled for noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 10.

The celebration, to be held at the Chatham Rabbit in the N.C. Arts

Incubator in Siler City, will feature individuals who have recovered from substance abuse; it's designed to increase awareness and understanding of mental health and substance use disorders.

Organizers hope to encourage individuals in need of treatment and recovery to seek help

by allowing local guest speakers to share their stories and hosting a wide variety of community vendors with information on their services.

The family event is hosted by Chatham Drug Free, in partnership with the Chatham County Sheriff's Prevention Partnership on Con-

trolled Substances and the Chatham County Public Health Department, the Department of Social Services and Court Programs.

The theme of this year's event is "Recovery is for Everyone" and will bring together local substance use treatment, mental health, and community-based resources to offer a network of support for recovery in all its forms. The event will celebrate the thousands of individuals in the Chatham community, including resident Candace Green, who are proudly living in recovery, sending a message of hope and encouragement to those who are beginning their recovery journey.

The fun-filled afternoon will include testimonials, music, games, free food, and giveaways to celebrate those in recovery within the local community.

Additional information can be found at <https://www.chathamdrugfree.org/ccrc2022>. Individuals also may contact Renita Foxx, director, Chatham County Court Programs at 919-614-1098 or [renita.foxx@chathamcountync.gov](mailto:renita.foxx@chathamcountync.gov).





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For more information contact

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NATIONAL  
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NC DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES  
Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services

# J-M students receive academic honors from College Board National Recognition Programs

From Chatham County Schools

SILER CITY — Jordan-Matthews students have earned academic honors from the College Board National Recognition Programs. These National Recognition Programs grant underrepresented students with academic honors that can be included on college and scholarship applications and connect students with universities across the country, helping them meaningfully connect to colleges and stand out during the admissions process.

Colleges and scholarship programs identify students awarded National African American, Hispanic, Indigenous and/or Rural/Small Town Recognition through College Board's Student Search Service.



Courtesy of Chatham County Schools

**Jordan-Matthews students Brady Andrew (left), Maggie Thornton and Byron Martinez (right) were recognized by the College Board for outstanding academic performance.**

Students recognized by the College Board were:

- Brady Andrew: NRSTA (National Rural and Small

Town Award)

- Byron Martinez: NHRA (National Hispanic Recognition Award)

- Maggie Thornton: NRSTA (National Rural and Small Town Award)

"We're thrilled that our students have earned this recognition," said Amanda Moran, assistant superintendent for Academic Services and Instructional Support. "We are very proud of them for their achievements in their classrooms and on College Board assessments. These programs help students from underrepresented backgrounds stand out to colleges during admissions."

Students who may be eligible have a GPA of 3.5 or higher, have excelled on the PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10, or earned a score of 3 or higher on two or more AP Exams, and are African American or Black, Hispanic American or Latinx, Indigenous, and/or attend school in a rural area or small

town.

Eligible students will be invited to apply during their sophomore or junior year and will be awarded at the beginning of the next school year. Students will receive their awards in time to include them in their college and scholarship applications.

"We want to honor the hard work of these students through the College Board National Recognition Programs," said Tarlin Ray, College Board senior vice president of BigFuture. "This program creates a way for colleges and scholarship programs to connect directly with underrepresented students who they are hoping to reach. We hope the award winners and their families celebrate this prestigious honor and that it helps them plan for their big future."

## Chatham County Solid Waste & Recycling to host application event for staffing Collection Centers

From Chatham County Government

PITTSBORO — Chatham County Solid Waste & Recycling is hosting an application event to help fill 29 Collection Center attendant positions.

Current Collection Center staff is provided through a contractor, but starting Oct. 3, all Collection Center staff will become county employees. The attendants operate and maintain the Collection Centers, verify decals to use the cen-

ters, inspect and direct items to manage the bins correctly, operate equipment, and maintain tools, supplies and signage.

The application event will be held from 3 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 14, at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center, located at 1192 U.S. Hwy. 64 W. Business, Pittsboro. Everyone who comes will have an opportunity to fill out a paper application, ask questions about the job, engage in an interview with county

staff and participate in an exercise related to the job. Applicants will need to provide their previous work history dates and contact information for former employers, as well as names and contact information for three references.

Anyone who has already applied to the attendant position is welcome to participate in the application event. For the full job descriptions and to fill out an application ahead of the event, go to <https://www.chatham-nc.gov/1177/Collection-Center-Attendant-Jobs>

countync.gov/Home/Components/JobPosts/Job/4387/44

"We want to make the application process as simple as possible," said Kevin Lindley, the county environmental quality director. "This will be a great opportunity for anyone interested to fill out an application, find out more about the job and be interviewed all in one day."

There will be a combination of full-time and part-time attendant positions available. Full-time

attendants receive all county benefits, including health and dental insurance, paid sick leave and vacation, 401k contribution and retirement. Part-time attendants do not receive insurance, but they do earn pro-rated time off and receive 401k contribution and retirement plans.

Hiring decisions for the attendant positions will be made as soon as possible following the application event. Those attendants hired who have not previously worked as

an attendant will receive training during the week prior to the transition.

More information about Chatham County Solid Waste & Recycling's decision to bring the Collection Center staff in-house can be found at [www.chathamcountync.gov/CollectionCenter-Staffing](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/CollectionCenter-Staffing). Residents can also contact the Main Office at 919-542-5516 Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or email anytime at [recycle@chathamcountync.gov](mailto:recycle@chathamcountync.gov).

## Council on Aging receives \$8,000 grant

From Chatham Council on Aging

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Council on Aging received a boost to its Meals on Wheels program recently with the receipt of an \$8,000 gift from The Grace Jones Richardson Testamentary Trust.

The gift extends a multi-year relationship with the Trust, which has served as a key partner in the Council's efforts to maintain a robust Meals on Wheels program in Chatham County.

"The tireless and compassionate efforts of our Meals on Wheels volunteer drivers are on display each day

with a knock, conversation and hot meal to our homebound clients in Chatham County," Council on Aging Grants and Communications Specialist Jimmy Lewis said. "We thank the Grace Jones Richardson Testamentary Trust for its continued investment in Chatham, ensuring that our older adults have access to quality meals when they need it most."

Established in 1962, the Greensboro-based foundation primarily provides grants for the arts, education, environmental conservation, health care and human services.

During the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the Coun-

cil served a total of 33,709 meals through its various meal programs, including congregate (in-person), frozen meals, shelf-stable and Meals on Wheels. The Council's frozen meals program exists for prospective Meals on Wheels clients who are on a waiting list for the service, but are otherwise eligible.

For more information on the Council on Aging and the full range of its services, call the Eastern Chatham Senior Center in Pittsboro at 919-542-4512, the Western Chatham Senior Center in Siler City at 919-742-3975. Or, log onto [www.chathamcoa.org](http://www.chathamcoa.org).

## Newest Members



We celebrated the addition of our newest members at this week's meeting at Postal Fish Company in Pittsboro! Courtney & Bonnie recognize the importance of giving back to our community and truly embody Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self."

Rotarians are people of action, problem-solvers, opportunity-creators, & community-builders!

Join us! We meet weekly on Wednesdays (noon @ Postal Fish) or at our upcoming After-Hours Club Meeting on Sept. 15 (5:30 pm @ Red Moose Brewery)

Sponsored by



## Look Closely At Open Enrollment Choices

Once again, it's the season for football games and back-to-school activities. And if you work for a medium-size or large employer, it will soon be open enrollment season — the time of year when you can review your employee benefits and make changes as needed. What areas should you focus on?

Actually, it's a good idea to pay close attention to all your benefits. Some of the offerings may have changed from last year — and you might have experienced changes in your own life, too, which might lead you to look for something different from your existing benefits package.

You may want to start with your health insurance. If you're satisfied with your coverage, and it's essentially the same as it's been, you may well want to stick with what you have. However, many employers are increasingly offering high-deductible health plans, which, as the name suggests, could entail more out-of-pocket costs for you. But high-deductible plans may also offer something of benefit: the ability to contribute to a health savings account (HSA). Your HSA contributions are made with pre-tax dollars, so they can reduce your taxable income for the year. Also, your earnings grow tax-free, and your withdrawals are tax-free, provided the money is used for qualified medical expenses. (Withdrawals taken before age 65 that aren't used for qualified medical expenses are taxable and subject to a 20% penalty; once you reach 65, the penalty no longer applies, although withdrawals are still taxable as income if not used for a qualified expense.)

Your next benefit to consider: Life insurance. Your employer may offer a group life insurance plan, but you'll want to evaluate whether it's sufficient for your needs, especially if you've experienced changes in your personal situation over the past year, such as getting married or

adding a new child. There's no magic formula for how much life insurance you need — you'll need to consider a variety of factors, such as your income, family size, mortgage and so on — but it may be necessary to supplement your employer's coverage with a private policy.

Your employer may also offer disability insurance as a benefit. Some employers' disability policies are fairly limited, covering only short periods of time, so you may want to consider a private policy.

Beyond the various insurance policies your employer may offer, you'll also want to closely look at your 401(k) or similar retirement plan. Typically, you can make changes to your 401(k) throughout the year, but it's important to make sure your investment selections and contribution amounts are still aligned with your risk tolerance and goals. Also, are you contributing enough to earn your employer's match, if one is offered? And if you've already receiving the match, can you still afford to put in more to your plan if such a move makes sense for you?

Your employee benefits package can be a valuable part of your overall financial strategy. So, as open enrollment season proceeds, take a close look at what you already have, what's being offered, and what changes you need to make. It will be time well spent.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.*

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**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

# Toyota announces \$2.5 billion expansion of nearby plant with 350 additional jobs, BEV battery capacity

CN+R Staff Report

**LIBERTY** — Toyota has announced an additional investment of \$2.5 billion in its newest North American facility, Toyota Battery Manufacturing, North Carolina (TBMNC), under construction in nearby Liberty in Randolph County.

This investment adds capacity to support battery electric vehicle (BEV) battery production and adds 350 jobs, bringing the total employment to approximately 2,100. Scheduled to begin production in 2025, the facility will produce batteries for hybrid electric vehicles (HEV) and BEVs.

Last year, Toyota Motor Corporation announced a global investment of approximately \$70 billion for electrification efforts. As part of this aspirational goal, TMC announced a future battery production commitment of up to \$5.6 billion, which includes the new North Carolina investment.

"This marks another significant milestone for our company," said Norm Bafumo, senior vice president, Unit Manufacturing and Engineering at Toyota Motor North America. "This plant will serve a central role

in Toyota's leadership toward a fully electrified future and will help us meet our goal of carbon neutrality in our vehicles and global operations by 2035."

In 2021, Toyota, in partnership with Toyota Tsusho, announced the new Liberty location with an initial investment of \$1.29 billion for battery production and the creation of 1,750 new jobs. With this new announcement, TBMNC's total investment is \$3.8 billion.

"This is an exciting time for Toyota, the region and the many North Carolinians we will soon employ," said Sean Suggs, TBMNC president. "This incremental investment reflects our continued commitment to ensuring jobs and future economic growth for the Triad region."

House Democratic Leader Robert Reives II, in a statement on Toyota battery plant expansion said, "I am excited to see Toyota double down on their investment in the Liberty facility. These are good jobs that will improve our communities. Manufacturing is on the way back in North Carolina and this is another big victory for our rural economy."

## National Hunting and Fishing Day events announced

**RALEIGH** — National Hunting and Fishing Day in North Carolina is Saturday, Sept. 24, an annual celebration that promotes outdoor recreation and conservation.

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, the state's agency mandated to conserve and sustain the state's fish and wildlife resources, will host two family-friendly events that Saturday, highlighting the region's extraordinary hunting and fishing heritage. The John Lentz Hunter Education Complex will host the official National Hunting and Fishing Day event from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and the John E. Pechmann Fishing Education Center will host a Wildlife Expo, also from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Lentz Center, located at 1017 Millstone Road in Ellerbe, is a recently renovated shooting sports complex that will host an array of outdoor activities for all ages on National Hunting and Fishing Day. This will be the first time the Lentz Center hosts the event and is the ideal location because of its expansive property and versatility.

Attendees can freely roam the campus to explore interactive, wildlife-related exhibits and demonstrations throughout the day, or participate in a scheduled program of events. Activities will include fishing, shooting ranges, archery, decoy carving, turkey calling, hunting and hunter safety demonstrations, skins and skulls demonstrations, Wildlife Enforcement Officer Q&A and cooking demonstrations. Registration is not required for this event.

The Wildlife Expo at the Pechmann Center, located at 7489 Raeford Rd. in Fayetteville, will offer approximately 20 hands-on activities and demonstrations including fishing, fly tying, lure making, kayaking, aquatic insect education, BB gun range, archery, boating safety, duck and goose calling, hunter education and safety, reptile handling, retriever demonstrations and field-work appara-

tus displays. Pre-registration is required due to limited space.

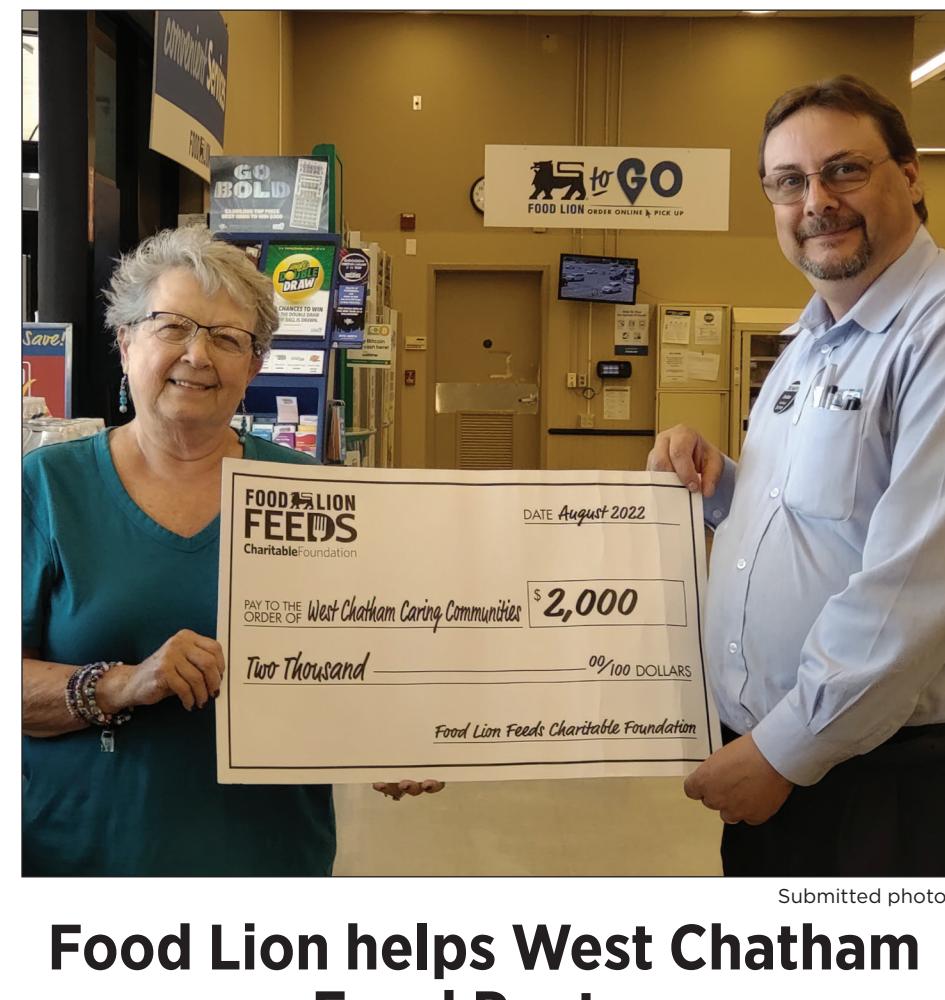
National Hunting and Fishing Day, formalized by Congress in 1971, was created by the National Shooting Sports Foundation to celebrate the conservation successes of hunters and anglers. Hunting, fishing and related activities directly support upwards of 123,600 wildlife-associated jobs in North Carolina according to the U.S. Department of Commerce in 2021.

## CCL encourages science exploration through ecoEXPLORE partnership

**PITTSBORO** — Chatham Community Library is pleased to announce a partnership with ecoEXPLORE, an incentive-based citizen science program for children in grades K-8. Developed by The North Carolina Arboretum, this innovative program combines science exploration with kid-friendly technology to foster a fun learning environment for children while encouraging them to explore the outdoors and participate in citizen science.

Chatham Community Library is now designated as an ecoEXPLORE Loan Spot, a location where ecoEXPLORE participants can use their library card to check out equipment to aid in their observation of the natural world. Effective Sept. 1, any Chatham County Public Libraries cardholder can check out a Discovery Pack from the Chatham Community Library. Discovery Packs have been provided by ecoEXPLORE, and contain kid-friendly binoculars, bug net, a birdcall, a trail camera and more. Kid scientists are encouraged to record their natural discoveries and submit them via the ecoEXPLORE website.

In addition to lending Discovery Packs, Chatham Community Library will host programs presented by ecoEXPLORE science educators. Families with children in grades K-8 are invited to join the library for an Intro to ecoEXPLORE



Submitted photo

## Food Lion helps West Chatham Food Pantry

Food Lion is proud to partner with local food pantries in a continuing effort to nourish Chatham neighbors and help set them up for success in life. Here, Food Lion #1698 Store Manager Chris Black presents a check for a \$2,000 grant to Dianne Smith of the West Chatham Food Pantry. "Dianne and her team do tremendous work for our local community and we are happy to help," Black said. The grant comes from Food Lion's charitable arm Food Lion FEEDS.

## NEWS BRIEFS

at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 12, in the Chatham Community Library Holmes Meeting Room. Program facilitators will give an overview of what it means to be a citizen scientist, how to participate in ecoEXPLORE, and then head outside to practice making a scientific observation.

For more information, contact Youth Services at [youth.services@chathamlibraries.org](mailto:youth.services@chathamlibraries.org).

### Ruth Pauley lecture series kicks off 35th consecutive season with Pulitzer Prize-winning author

**SOUTHERN PINES** — The Ruth Pauley Lecture Series will kick off its 35th consecutive season of free lectures at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 15.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author and noted speaker Marcia Chatelain will begin the series by speaking on the topic "Hungering for Change: Food Justice and Civil Rights."

In 2021, Chatelain was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in History for her book "Franchise: The Golden Arches in Black America," which also won a James Beard Foundation Book Writing Award. She also authored "Southside Girls: Growing Up in the Great Migration," which chronicles Chicago's great migration through the lens of Black girls.

Chatelain is a Chicago native. She has studied at University of Missouri and Brown University, has received a fellowship from University of California-Santa Barbara and has worked at University of Oklahoma Honors College and now Georgetown University, in addition of having received multiple prestigious awards.

In 2014, in the wake of civil unrest in Ferguson, Missouri, Chatelain created the #FergusonSyllabus providing a space for educators to discuss integrating the events that happened in Ferguson into classrooms. Because of this, in 2016 the "Chronicle of Higher Education" named Chatelain a Top Influencer

in academics in recognition of the success of #FergusonSyllabus.

As of August 2020, she has hosted the Slate podcast "The Waves" on feminism, gender and popular culture, and remains a frequent lecturer on race, culture and women's issues.

The lecture will be held in the Bradshaw Performing Arts Center in Owens Auditorium on the Sandhills Community College campus. The lecture will be preceded with a cash bar in the auditorium lobby, and will be followed by a Q&A session and a reception. All Ruth Pauley lectures are free and open to the public. For more information, visit [www.ruthpauley.org](http://www.ruthpauley.org)

### NCDC Approves GREAT Grant for Chatham County

**RALEIGH** — Gov. Cooper has announced another round of Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) grants. The announcement was made in Alamance County at the Mebane Public Library. This funding will help ensure that more residents in Chatham County have access to affordable, high-speed internet. Internet service providers must be participants in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). That program allows eligible households to receive a \$30 per month discount on high-speed internet.

Residents should check [GetInternet.gov](http://GetInternet.gov) to see if they qualify for the \$30 per month discount. Many people still remain who could benefit from this program and save hundreds of dollars a year.

The local grant approved is for Connect Holding II LLC.

"I understand the need for affordable, high-speed internet in Chatham County because I have experienced first-hand how poor internet can be a challenge here," Rep. Robert Reives II said. "As Chatham County continues to grow, we have to ensure that reliable and affordable, high-speed internet is available. It is essential for small businesses, students and families."

## CRC-C to host historical marker unveiling

CN+R Staff Report

**PITTSBORO** — The Community Remembrance Coalition-Chatham (CRC-C) will host a public unveiling of a new historical marker in downtown Pittsboro at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24, at 65 East Chatham St.

The marker commemorates the lives of the six lynching victims of Chatham County between 1885 and 1921: Eugene Daniel, Henry Jones, Lee Tyson, John Pattishall, Harriet Finch and Jerry Finch.

The donation of the marker was approved by the Chatham Board of Commissioners on June 21.

The marker is a collaborative effort between CRC-C and the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI). Earlier in the week, members of CRC-C will be in Montgomery, Alabama, with EJI as part of

the Community Soil Collection Project, which gathers soil at lynching sites for display in haunting exhibits bearing victims' names.

According to EJI, the historical marker describes the devastating violence, today widely unknown, that once took place in these locations.

These projects and the other engagement efforts that community coalitions develop, center the African American experience of racial injustice, empower African American community members who have directly borne this trauma, and invite the entire community to use truth to give voice to those experiences and expose their legacies.

On behalf of Chatham County, the Chatham Board of Commissioners will be accepting this marker, which will stand

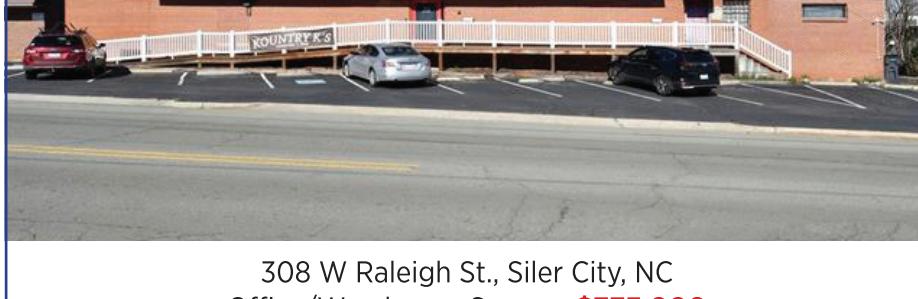
on public property in Pittsboro. Guest speakers at the unveiling include Rep. David Price, Sen. Valerie Foushee, Pittsboro Mayor Cindy Perry, NC NAACP President Deborah Maxwell, Judge Christopher Todd Roper and more.

"The marker will be presented to the County of Chatham as a historical record of our past and collective call for renewed progress towards equal justice and reconciliation within our community," CRC-C's website reads.

"This first recognition by the County of Chatham of these injustices is a momentous step forward for all the people of Chatham, and for the future of our community, and we welcome the public to the presentation."

For more information visit [www.crc-c.org](http://www.crc-c.org)

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Courtesy of CCCC

Graham Stafford (center) of Siler City, a student in the Central Carolina Community College Computer-Integrated Machining Program, has received a recognition award given in memory of Gilbert A. Toon. The gift — a Starrett 4-piece combination set — was given through the CCCC Foundation by Mr. Toon's wife, Phyllis A. Toon of Pittsboro. Stafford is pictured along with Glenn Shearin (left), CCCC Computer-Integrated Machining Instructor, and Edwin Thomas (right), CCCC Computer-Integrated Machining Chairperson.

## CCCC student recipient of CCCC Foundation donation

SILER CITY — Graham Stafford of Siler City, a student in the Central Carolina Community College Computer-Integrated Machining Program, has received a recognition award given in memory of Gilbert A. Toon.

The gift — a Starrett 4-piece combination set — was given through the CCCC Foundation by Gilbert Toon's wife, Phyllis A. Toon of Pittsboro.

"While serving in the United States Air Force, Gilbert learned a trade that provided him with a successful career after his military service," said Phyllis Toon. "He took those skills along with his knowledge of the importance of self-mo-

tivation, teamwork and perseverance and built his future in his chosen field of heating and air conditioning."

At the end of his career, Gilbert Toon found his true calling by becoming a teacher at the Monmouth County Vocational School in New Jersey. He enjoyed sharing his knowledge and experiences with his students while helping them prepare for their future, his wife said.

"It is my hope that this small gift encourages you to continue to follow your dreams, to persevere and to look beyond the obvious to find solutions to problems encountered along the way," said Phyllis Toon.

Learn more about the CCCC Computer-Integrated Machining Program at [www.cccc.edu/curriculum/majors/machining/](http://www.cccc.edu/curriculum/majors/machining/).

The CCCC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization affiliated with, but independent of, the college. It receives donations of money and equipment on behalf of CCCC and uses them to promote the educational mission of the college and assist students through scholarships and grants.

For information on giving to the CCCC Foundation, contact Emily C. Hare, executive director of the CCCC Foundation, 919-718-7230, or [ehare@cccc.edu](mailto:ehare@cccc.edu).

### LET ME OUTTA HERE!

# The world is too crazy, hot and scary. It's time to escape. Buy me a ticket out of this universe.

BY BUCK RYAN & LEI JIAO

Special to the News + Record

LEI: Aww!

BUCK: A primal scream, that's not like you. Remem-

ber what you told little

Ruby: "Use your words."

LEI: Sorry, Buck. I'll try

again. Let me outta here!

BUCK: Outta where?

LEI: Wuhan. It's just too

hot. I'm living indoors 24/7

in AC.

BUCK: Gee, Lei, that

sounds like what's happen-

ing here in the U.S.

LEI: No, Buck. It's a

record for southwestern

China — 11 weeks and

counting — for the most in-

tense heatwave in 60 years.

It was 104 degrees or above

for two straight months.

It hit 113 for the first time

in Chongqing with its 16

million people.

BUCK: Yikes.

LEI: If it's not the

wildfires or the flood risks,

then it's the drought. When

a ship gets stuck, it has to

offload its cargo onto may-

be 500 trucks. People are

taking selfies on cracked

riverbeds. Ugh!

BUCK: A global heat

wave is drying up water-

ways across Europe, too.

They can see the "hunger

stones" again and the long-

lost "Spanish Stonehenge."

LEI: Here in Wuhan the

Yangtze River has receded

to reveal ancient Buddhist

statues.

BUCK: That's nothing,

Lei. In the Mojave Desert,

where Arizona meets

Nevada, the drought has

lowered Lake Mead to

reveal something more

interesting: ancient mob

hits out of Las Vegas

LEI: Oh, Buck, that's

very American.

BUCK: What else is

bothering you?

LEI: The economy —

the factory closures, the

pathetic job market for

our college grads, the

mortgage crisis with all the

street protests, our poor

farmers staring at yellowed

rice stalks and withering

Sichuan peppers.

BUCK: Inflation is wil-

ting us, Lei. Recession is the

new watchword. Our stock

market tanked the other

day after the Fed chair-

man channeled Mr. T and

played the role of Clubber

Lang in "Rocky 3."

LEI: What do you mean?

BUCK: He was describ-

ing his battle against infla-

tion by increasing interest

rates. Then when he was

asked for his fight predic-

tion, he said: "Pain."

LEI: Ha! Remember,

Buck, if you cross Mr. T,

he'll dot your eyes.

BUCK: I'm worried

about that scream, Lei.

There must be more to it.

LEI: Well, there is some-

thing really scary.

BUCK: You mean the

House Speaker and all

those visits to Taiwan by our members of Congress, not to mention our two warships sailing through the Taiwan Strait in a show of force?

LEI: Yes, Buck, you can tell them to stop. We get the point.

BUCK: You mean all the posturing isn't doing the Chinese people — on either side of the Strait — any good, eh?

LEI: No, it's not. The only ones enjoying the idea of World War III are in the military-industrial-pharmaceutical complex.

BUCK: Well, Lei, you cheer me up. I thought China was poised to supplant us as the No. 1 country in the world. Now those fears are gone, especially with you thinking about leaving.

LEI: Wait, Buck, I'm not leaving China. I love my country. And you love yours, too, despite all the difficulties. I have a better idea.

BUCK: What's that?

LEI: Buck, we can escape to the Metaverse! We can live in a world of our own creation.

BUCK: Oh, Lei, I think the heat fried your brain.

LEI: Well, they made fun of Vannevar Bush, too.

BUCK: Who's that?

LEI: He's the engineer and inventor who predicted the Memex: "Consider a future device ... in which an individual stores all his books, records and communications, and which is mechanized so that it may be consulted

BOLD

with exceeding speed and flexibility. It is an enlarged intimate supplement to his memory."

BUCK: You mean the iPhone in my hand?

LEI: Right, and Bush predicted that in 1945. His essay in *The Atlantic* was titled, "As We May Think."

BUCK: I may think you're serious.

LEI: Yup. I'm looking into buying all my clothes at Tribute Brand. It's a high-end digital fashion boutique.

BUCK: Digital? Why would you buy clothing that doesn't exist.

LEI: Au contraire, mon ami. It does exist in a world that really matters to my friends and colleagues — a virtual world. No more closets for me. I can be the best-dressed free thinker in cyberspace.

BUCK: Where did you get that idea?

LEI: I heard Tribute Brand's founder, Gala Marjia Vrbanic, interviewed on the TED Radio Hour in an episode titled, "Incognito."

She launched the first-ever direct-to-consumer digital fashion brand in 2020.

BUCK: Ah, that's when people ditched face-to-face encounters during the pandemic. What appealed to you?

LEI: Augmented reality, or AR, which can combine real and virtual worlds.

BUCK: What virtual world would inspire your new Metaverse lifestyle?

LEI: I would head back to 1899, so I could live in

the Wild Wild West, sitting around a bonfire, chatting with outlaw Arthur Morgan.

BUCK: What happens when a bounty hunter — or tax collector — comes after you?

LEI: I turn myself into a peacock.

BUCK: Ha! That's crazy.

LEI: Here's something crazy for you, Buck. Vrbanic says in her TED talk that someone in a Roblox video game resold a virtual Gucci bag for almost \$800 more than what it costs in real life.

BUCK: You're kidding.

LEI: No, \$4,115, or 350,000 Robux, for a \$3,400 Dionysus Bag with Bee. Both prices are really out of this world.

BUCK: Well, partner, you're going to need to dust off this road map for your Wild Wild escape. It's a new book, "The Metaverse And How It Will Revolutionize Everything," by Matthew Ball, a former Amazon Studios exec.

LEI: What do you think of it?

BUCK: I had a flashback to what Duke University professor Dan Ariely said a decade ago about the big data craze in computing.

I think the same is true about the Metaverse: "Big data is like teenage sex: everyone talks about it, nobody really knows how to do it, everyone thinks everyone else is doing it, so everyone claims they are doing it."

LEI: That's hilarious.

BUCK: Ball offers his

first official definition of the Metaverse: "A massively scaled and interoperable network of real-time rendered 3D virtual worlds ... LEI: I see.

BUCK: There's more. "... that can be experienced synchronously and persistently by an effectively unlimited number of users with an individual sense of presence ... and with continuity of data, such as identity, history, entitlements, objects, communications and payments."

LEI: Oh jeezers, Buck. When will the Metaverse arrive?

BUCK: That is Chapter 12's title. The answer ranges from it's "already here" from Microsoft's CEO to it will emerge "over the coming decades."

LEI: Who gave the long-range forecast?

BUCK: The CEOs of Epic Games, a video game and software developer based in Cary, N.C., and Nvidia, a California technology company that designs and manufactures graphics processing units.

LEI: Does Ball mention a China connection?

BUCK: Yes, several times.

China is one of the key

players among the global

bettors pouring tens of

billions of dollars a year into

Metaverse development.

Ball predicts "multiple national Metaverses" as different nations will have their own specific regulations.

LEI: Oh, so you and I

won't be zooming around together much, eh?

BUCK: China's Metaverse will be more "centrally controlled" than those in Western nations, Ball predicts. Then there's an interesting twist in terminology.

LEI: What's that?



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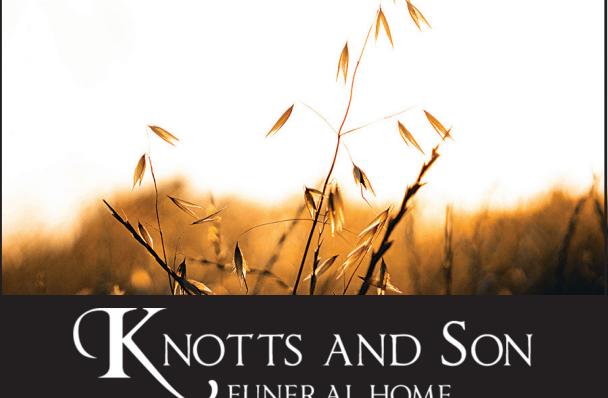
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## MAGIC MAZE ● FOOTPRINTS AT GRAUMAN'S CHINESE THEATRE SINCE 2010

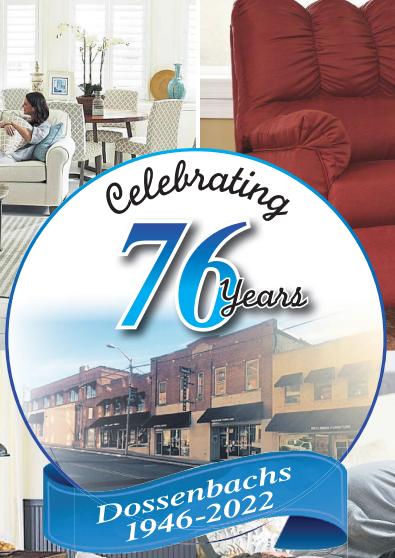
G N K I F C Z W U R P M J H E  
C Z X U S Q N L J G E C Z X V  
T O R P N L J H E C R L A Y W  
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W U W R T A S I R A P V O M L  
J E E I G N E R R I M U E D B  
L P A Y X R A P W U A D N O F  
T P L U M M E R S S S K O O R B  
S Q N O T S I N A L O P P O C  
P O N L R E L L I T S K J H G

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
Unlisted clue hint: CARL AND ROB —

Aniston	Duvall	Mirren	Spears
Brooks	Fonda	Novak	Stiller
Cher	Goodman	Perry	Tarantino
Coppola	Lewis	Plummer	

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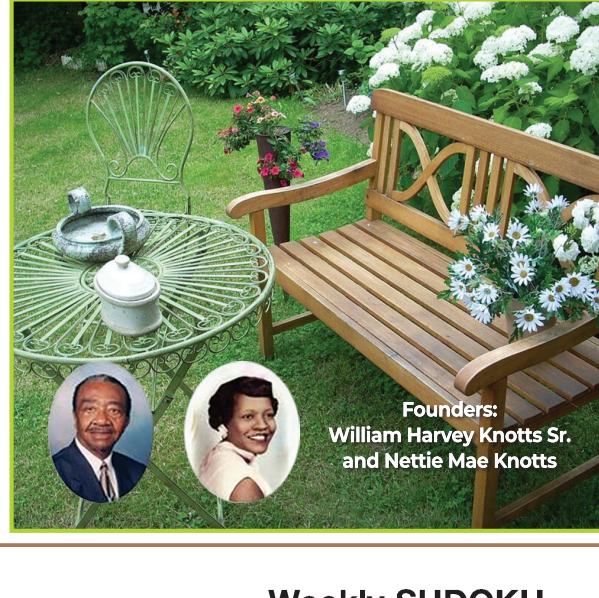
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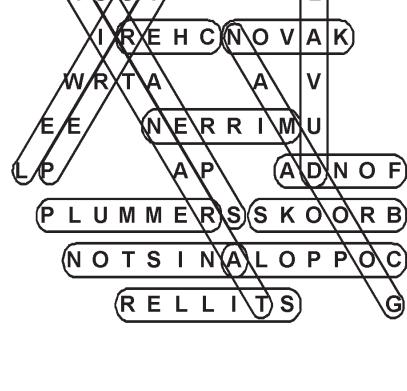


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FOOTPRINTS AT GRAUMAN'S CHINESE THEATRE SINCE 2010



## Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

7	3	2	6	9	8	4	5	1
8	6	4	1	7	5	3	2	9
1	5	9	4	3	2	6	7	8
2	9	6	7	8	4	1	3	5
5	4	8	3	1	6	7	9	2
3	7	1	5	2	9	8	4	6
6	8	5	9	4	3	2	1	7
4	2	7	8	5	1	9	6	3
9	1	3	2	6	7	5	8	4

## Meanwhile, back at the ranch ...

The Murphies.

I know that's not the grammatical-

ly-correct spelling, but it's the way I spell it in my head, like one might refer to a bizarre phenomenon, some type of a rare celestial event, or an ice cream dessert named after famous singing siblings from the late 19th century which had a revival at dinner parties in the 1970s.

Whenever we moved to a new city, I would walk around the neighborhood, meeting other kids — most military kids are crusty veterans at this by the time they're in the 1st grade.

I say most military kids, but my brother was an exception, so whenever I re-connected the unfamiliar territory, I always asked if the kids had any "little brothers or sisters, 'cause I have a brother."

A couple of days after we moved to Ramey Air Force Base, in Puerto Rico, I walked around the corner, toward the homes which faced the ocean cliffs. In a twist that was shocking to no one except a 9-year-old kid, this was the street on which the officers lived.

A girl who was a couple of years older than me, (known instantly in that uncanny way kids have) was outside the second house. Turns out her mother was sick and she was making meatloaf for supper — by herself.

I followed her inside to help.

About 11 hours later we turned out a dinner that at best, didn't kill anybody.

But my life changed forever that day — the day I met the Murphies.

Bear, aka Captain Edward Murphy, was the patriarch of the family, self-taught piano virtuoso, helicopter pilot and Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard air station and my dad's new boss.

Mama Cat, AKA Kathy Murphy, was matriarch, trained chemist, elegant hostess, diabetic, and the most hilarious and fascinating women I had ever met.



Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

**The only ranch dressing I'll use ...**

Michael, oldest son, kind, courtly, he treated strays with kindness, and had the most adorable brown curls ever.

Chrissie, now my closest, oldest friend, then a mean poop head who never had a nice thing to say and always seemed angry.

Min, the oldest daughter and my meatloaf making buddy. Min one of the most unusual people I ever met.

She was part 200-year-old wise woman living deep in the forest, part fairy, and some sort of human/animal communication conduit wrapped in the burrito of an 11-year-old girl. Sadly, she didn't reach adulthood. I wonder how she would have reshaped this world if she had lived.

And, the youngest girl, Kitty. She was one month younger than me and the most exciting, funny, smart kid I ever met. We became best friends and honorary members of each other's families.

The housing for base command was built for entertaining — in the '40s.

This is the absolute classic recipe from the 1970s. The only changes I approve of on behalf of Mama Cat is the substitution of toasted pecans for bacon, and the addition of fresh, bright strawberries.

2 pounds baby spinach

8 ounces mushrooms, cleaned and sliced

1/2 pound of the crispiest of bacon shards

1/4 red onion half moons, as thin as you can slice them

4 medium-cooked eggs

Ranch dressing

Place everything except bacon in a large bowl and toss gently with bare hands.

Add dressing, a bit at a time until the salad is lightly coated.

Serve by mounding on a plate and garnishing with bacon shards. Serves 2 as a main.

### Reverse-Engineered Avocado Ranch dressing

2 cups freshly made Hidden Valley Ranch dressing

2 ripe avocados

Juice of 2 limes

Big pinch of Tajin

Big pinch of Caribbean Citrus Garlic seasoning

2 teaspoons salt (not all at once)

Freshly cracked pepper

Blend everything in blender or using an immersion blender until it is as smooth and glossy as silk.

Whisk in salt, a bit at a time between tasting until you can taste the salt, but it's not salty.

Mama Cat's kitchen was straight out of a Billy Wilder comedy. It had a large kitchen, a pantry literally as large as my kitchen, a butler's pantry and a small suite meant for the live-in housekeeper. Somehow Min had finagled this for herself.

I was constantly encountering new foods at their table.

When I entered high school, we moved from San Diego to Elizabeth City. The Murphies lived there, but Bear had retired from the Coast Guard and was no longer my dad's boss.

Kitty and I resumed out friendship, Chrissie was still a cranky presence, and Michael, returning from a stint in the Air Force, was more fascinating than ever.

They introduced me to the Reuben, a sandwich that shouldn't work, but is that odd gestalt that is the mark of all great sandwiches.

They showed me how to pop corn in a Dutch oven. So cool.

I learned about growing asparagus (Bear was an avid gardener who made

his kids do the hands on work).

And one night, for dinner, Mama Cat made a spinach salad. Well, it was the first time I'd ever eaten spinach raw; I discovered I like it.

The major revelation though, was what she served on it.

Ranch dressing.

Oh my good googa mooga.

I imagine I felt this way the first time I had chocolate.

I've loved it ever since. In the ensuing years I've eaten a bathtub's worth.

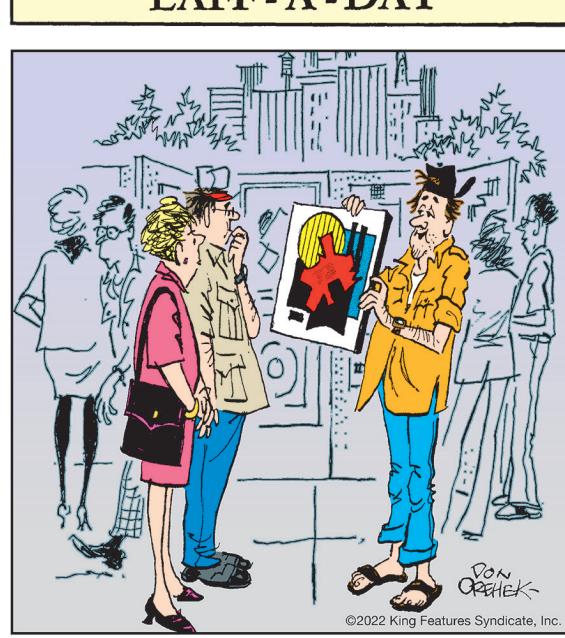
I eat less of it these days, but I don't use the bottled (the vinegar they have to add to make it shelf stable ruin it for me), and I don't make it from scratch.

I have never had any ranch that tastes better, or has a better texture than the old school packet where you have to use buttermilk along with the mayo. And, if you use fat-free buttermilk, you can call it "light" with a straight face.

Thanks for your time.

Contact me at dm@bulldogcity.mom.

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