



Chatham News + Record

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'PITTSBORO HAS MADE A GIANT STEP'

Water quality activists react to town's vote to seek litigation against PFAS manufacturers

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — When Pittsboro resident and Clean Haw River co-founder Katie Bryant founded the initiative in 2020, she made it her mission to advocate for action against industries discharging dangerous chemicals, including PFAS, into the Haw River, Pittsboro's main source of water. Naturally, she felt thrilled when the town's board of commissioners voted unanimously to sue the manufacturers responsible for the creation and discharge of PFAS.

"It was a relief," Bryant said. "Because it's exhausting trying to get people to do what they need to do and just constantly hitting roadblocks, constantly wanting to give up. But I knew in the background, things were slowly happening ... so I'm excited."

Pittsboro commissioners voted in July to engage Sher Edling LLP, a California-based firm with extensive experience in environmental-related legal processes, to investigate potential sources of PFAS discharges upstream. Commissioners



Sutton

followed up two weeks ago by voting unanimously to sue PFAS manufacturers, becoming the first municipal government in North Carolina to pursue legal action against PFAS producers. Activists like Bryant have advocated — through demonstrations, presentations to the board and other municipalities and more — for Pittsboro to take action against those responsible for the generations of pollution caused by PFAS. Bryant and her fellow co-founder, Dr. Jessica Merricks, started Clean Haw



Bryant

River in 2020 to advocate for clean water for Pittsboro, a problem that's plagued the town for years. Both Bryant and Merricks are Pittsboro residents, so they've also been victims of the polluted waterways and water supply. "My family's been over-exposed," Bryant said. "My husband needs more monitoring than the average person in the United States, and my children are there as well."

PFAS, per- and polyfluoroalkyl chemicals, are found in a wide range of consumer products, from food packaging to firefighting foams. See **LAWSUIT**, page A7



Dr. Merricks

TOWERS, BRIDGES & CONNECTIONS

Communities In Schools teaches the value of STEM to young students

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Three pieces of paper to build the tallest tower possible. That task perplexes Abby, a Silk Hope 4th-grader, for a moment. But she gets to work. Her first attempt is too top-heavy and falls over. Her next attempt is shorter than her peers, and she isn't settling for second best. After a few minutes of designing the tower in her mind, she decides to start cutting the paper into strips, rolling them up and taping them on top of each other. When her final design is complete — an entire roll of tape later — Abby had the highest tower in the group, at 67.5 inches. While it may not be the prettiest tower, the pride on her face from her accomplishment

lights up the room. The tower activity is part of an initiative from Communities In Schools (CIS) of Chatham County and Innovate Chatham to teach students of all ages the value of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and engineering in the modern world. Last Saturday's session marked the first week of the six-week program. A dozen students ranging from 4th to 9th grade participated in what is now the third go-around of the STEM activities at The Alliance NC in downtown Siler City.

'Thinking like an engineer'
"I want these kids to think about engineering as an option," said Burney Waring, president of Innovate Chatham, a nonprofit aimed at improving accessibility to technology for Chatham residents. "I want them to figure out what works, what doesn't and the reasons behind it. Get them thinking like an engineer."

Waring is leading the session at the Alliance. When he's not helping students build paper towers, he works as an optimization engineer, and has worked in the engineering field for more than 40 years. He said he wanted to bring these activities to Communities In Schools to show the value of design thinking — a skill he wasn't taught in school, but one he



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Jeremiah (left) and Bryson attempt to make a bridge via wood and paper at The Alliance in Siler City on Saturday. Burney Waring, in photo at left, tests the strength of student-built paper bridges with a 0.5 kg weight.

says has been invaluable in his career. As the students try to design their towers, Waring helps each of them with their ideas and tries to show where their thinking may lead to flaws. "Why do you think this isn't standing up straight?" he asks

Steven, a 5th-grade student whose tower looks more like a long stick. Steven pauses, trying to understand the physics of his tower. Waring offers an assist. He shows Steven where the tower is tipping over, poking at the

See **STEM**, page A3

ADDRESSING THE RACIAL WEALTH GAP

WEBB Squared: equity needed in entrepreneurship

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Kombucha-making, sound therapy and trucking are just three types of businesses led by Black entrepreneurs in Chatham County. While they're impacting the local economy in a myriad of ways, decades of segregation and other unfavorable policies have created barriers for other entrepreneurs of color. Now, as economic development projects and population growth loom here, advocates — such as the Pittsboro-based nonprofit Wealth through Entrepreneurship for Black and Brown Businesses — are urging intentional and robust support for those entrepreneurs. WEBB Squared, as it's better known, held its first "State of Black Entrepreneurship" Friday at the Chatham Agriculture & Conference Center. As participants entered the room, they were greeted by several WEBB Squared-as-

sisted entrepreneurs showcasing their products and services. The presentation, which was attended by Chatham political leaders, officials and business owners, shared data across a range of social and economic indicators to highlight barriers to opportunities for Black and Brown entrepreneurs. The day's purpose: to raise awareness and cultivate conversations about those barriers and to explore ecosystems to support businessmen and women living in rural counties in North Carolina. "The racial wealth gap grows from centuries of a systemic race-structured economic order embedded in institutional culture, policies, social norms and belief systems," Stephanie Terry, the co-founder of WEBB Squared, told attendees at the start of Friday's morning-long session. "Informed by this reality, we understand people of

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'PARENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS'

Education advocates push against measure

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

RALEIGH — Legislation known as the "Parents' Bill of Rights" proposed by Republicans in the N.C. Senate would ban certain curricula around gender identity and sexuality for students in kindergarten through 4th grade, as well as require school staff to tell parents when a child wants to change their pronouns. The bill has widespread Republican support, but Chatham County representatives and some local education advocates say the controversial bill is a "harmful distraction" meant to stoke the fires of a culture war, and further politicize public education. The bill, Senate Bill 49, was fast-tracked through the North Carolina General Assembly after it was proposed last week by GOP leadership. S.B. 49 was scheduled to go to the Sen-

ate floor Tuesday afternoon for a vote. It was expected to pass the Senate in a vote along party lines. (The vote occurred after publication; for the latest, go to www.chathamnewsrecord.com.) There are enough Republican lawmakers to override a veto by Gov. Roy Cooper in the Senate but one Democrat would need to side with the Republicans in the House to override a veto. **'Delusional and slanderous'** Sen. Amy Galey, an Alamance County Republican and one of the bill's primary sponsors, said the bill would protect elementary school-age children from what she feels are inappropriate topics, and give parents confidence that they were aware of what their children are being taught. "Parents are not an afterthought

See **EDUCATION**, page A6



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 County Board of Education** will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 13, in the George Moses Horton Middle School multipurpose room in Pittsboro.

• The **Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 13 at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center.

OTHER

• **Siler City's City Hall** is currently under renovation. The Planning and Community Development Department is now located on the first floor and can be accessed through the front door to City Hall (door facing North Second Avenue). Public parking is available in the town parking lot located along the 100 block of East 3rd Street (parking lot is located between North 2nd Avenue and North Chatham Avenue).

• Join the **Siler City Lions Club**. Come see how you can make a difference in the world and your local community. We meet the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Dry Dock Seafood. For more information, visit Silercitylions@gmail.com or call 910-624-5784. Together we serve!

• **Chatham Community Library** is offering free in-person classes on internet skills in February. Class info can be found at www.chathamcountync.gov/ComputerClasses. Call 919-545-8086 or email reference@chathamlibraries.org for more information. - Internet Basics, Part 1: February 9, Thursday, 3 p.m. Learn how to use a web browser, follow links, use a search engine, print from a website, and more. Participants should have prior basic computer experience. - Internet Basics, Part 2: February 16, Thursday, 3 p.m. Build on the concepts learned in Part 1. Work with browser tabs, bookmark favorite websites, view and delete browsing history, download files, find driving directions, and more. Participants should have prior basic internet experience.

• **Wren Memorial Library in Siler City** invites community members to join its Friends of the Library group. The library will host a Friends of Wren Memorial Library meeting on Monday, February 13, at 6 p.m. Attendees can learn about library updates, input their thoughts, and help grow the Friends of Wren Memorial Library. They participate in activities such as creating and conducting book sales, promoting library events and programs in the community. Friends of Wren especially needs community members to serve in the group's leadership roles. The Library is located at 500 North 2nd Avenue, Siler City. For more information about the library, individuals may contact wren@chathamlibraries.org or (919) 742-2016. Information about all Chatham Library branches can be found at www.chathamlibraries.org.

• **Chatham Community Library** will host PlaymakersMobile's production of Shakespeare's The

Tempest. This program is free and open to the public, Thursday, February 23, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Chatham Community Library, Holmes Family Meeting Room. Utilizing music, puppets, clowning, fabric, and only six actors, the PlayMakersMobile unit will bring The Tempest to life in an intimate and imaginative way on a tiny square of space, reminding people that "we are such stuff as dreams are made on." Residents may visit the libraries' website www.chathamlibraries.org, or contact the library at (919) 545-8084 for more information on this and other events and programs.

• **Cambridge Hills Assisted Living** hosts a Community and Family Dementia Support Group. We meet the first Wednesday of each month unless stated otherwise. You are invited to join us at 1:30 p.m. in our private dining room at 140 Brookstone Lane, Pittsboro. Come and meet some other family members who are on a similar journey. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8. RSVP to: angela@silver-thread.com or 919-545-9573. You don't have to be on this journey alone.

• The annual **Chatham Landscape and Green Industry Conference** will be held on February 21, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center located at 1192 US 64 Business West in Pittsboro. Facilitated by the N.C. Cooperative Extension - Chatham County Center, the conference targets landscapers, landscape contractors, arborists, homeowners, and gardeners interested in the latest recommendations from NC State Extension and other subject matter experts. Topics include underutilized native plant species, tree selection in the context of climate change, pruning techniques and methods, root-rot resistance annuals and perennials, business succession planning, and responsibilities as a pesticide applicator. NC Landscape Contractor, NCDA Pesticide Applicator, and International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Arborist Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be offered. There is a \$20 fee which includes lunch catered by Angelina's Kitchen. For information, including schedule and registration, individuals may visit: <https://go.ncsu.edu/chatham-landscape>.

• **Chatham County Public Libraries** will host the Winter Reading BINGO Challenge - Children and teens are invited to participate at all Chatham County Public Libraries branches through February 11. The Challenge, sponsored by the Friends of the Chatham Community Library, is open to youth ages 2 thru18. Readers participate by picking up a reading BINGO sheet at their local library branch and completing a 5-in-a-row BINGO to earn a free book (one book per participant, while supplies last). All readers who complete at least one BINGO will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 Gift Card to McIntyre's Books. For more information about the Winter Reading BINGO Challenge, or other youth events and programs at the Public Libraries, contact

youth.services@chathamlibraries.org or visit www.chathamlibraries.org.

• **Mt. Vernon Masonic Lodge #143** has its Slated Communication the 3rd Tuesday of each month, with supper at 6:30 and the meeting at 7:30. The February meeting is scheduled for February 21. All Master Masons are welcome. Location: 185 Bonlee/Bennett Road, Bonlee.

• The **Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District** invites students in grades 3 -12 to participate in the 2023 conservation contests. The categories are poster, essay, and public speaking, and the theme for this year is "Water... The Cycle of Life." - Contests are open to public, private, charter, and home school students. The poster contest is open to students in grades 3, 4, and 5. Essay and public speaking contests are open to grades 6, 7, 8, and 9-12. Entries are judged by grade level, with the exception of grades 9-12. Grades 9-12 will be judged together for each contest. - Poster and essay contest entries are due to the Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District office located at 1192 U.S. 64 W. Business, Pittsboro, NC, 27312 by February 28. - For complete details, rules, study materials, and NC curriculum standards correlation information, individuals may contact Ms. Oldham at 919-545-8440 or brandy.oldham@chathamcountync.gov. Information also can be found by visiting the Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District Conservation Contests web page under the Education Programs link, www.chathamcountync.gov/swcd.

• **N.C. Cooperative Extension Conference** to Offer Continuing Education for Landscape and Green Industry Professionals with the annual Chatham Landscape and Green Industry Conference will return to an in-person format for 2023 on February 21, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center. Facilitated by the N.C. Cooperative Extension - Chatham County Center, the conference targets landscapers, landscape contractors, arborists, homeowners, and gardeners interested in the latest recommendations from N.C. State Extension and other subject matter experts. Topics include underutilized native plant species, tree selection in the context of climate change, pruning techniques and methods, root-rot resistance annuals and perennials, business succession planning, and responsibilities as a pesticide applicator. N.C. Landscape Contractor, NCDA Pesticide Applicator, and International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Arborist Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be offered. There is a \$20 fee which includes a lunch catered by Angelina's Kitchen. For more information, including a complete schedule and registration, individuals may visit <https://go.ncsu.edu/chatham-landscape>.

• **Community Meals: St. Bartholomew's** Episcopal Church in Pittsboro distributes two meals each week for the benefit of the community. From 12

to 1 p.m. each Thursday, the Pittsboro Community Lunch (in its 15th year!) provides healthy, ready-to-eat meals to all who come. Just arrive hungry! Then from 4:30 to 6 p.m. each Tuesday, the Chatham Chuckwagon provides cooked/frozen entrees that are ideal for quick dinners. These meals are provided at no cost (though donations are welcomed!). Our volunteers invite you to join our efforts to preserve a caring and sharing community spirit. The church is located at 204 W. Salisbury St., Pittsboro. For more information, call 919-542-5679.

• **The Chatham Historical Museum's** permanent exhibits cover all aspects of Chatham's unique history and are appropriate for adults and children. The Museum is open Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays, 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.; no admission fee. The current short-term exhibit features the art of Pittsboro native Frank Marsden London, 1876-1945, Pittsboro, New York, Paris. The Museum is located in the historic Chatham County Courthouse in the Circle. More info at <https://chathamhistory.org>.

• 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.

• **Second Bloom** announces their winter hours from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Tuesday until Saturday. Credit cards are accepted. We are located at 630 E. Street, Pittsboro, in the Food Lion shopping center. All proceeds provide support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and promote community education in collaboration with Chatham County.

• **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 coun-

ties meets in Pittsboro and is open to all riders. For information, call 919-392-3939 or visit 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.

SCOUT NEWS

• **Boy Scout Troop 93** in Pittsboro meets at 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Harold Boone Scout Park on Hwy 64W, just past CCCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit www.bstroop93.org for more information.

• **Pack 924** of Siler City First U.M.C. meets from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays for boys, grades 1 through 5. Come join the Cub Scouts.

• **Pack 900** in Bear Creek meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Meroney's U.M.C., following the school calendar. See <http://pack900.com> for more information.

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STEM

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top section.
“It seems to me like it needs to be stronger at the bottom,” Waring says.
It clicks for the 10-year-old. Steven wastes no time, manically taping the tower to the desk.

As each student begins to understand the mechanics of the tower, they begin building taller towers. They feed off each other. At first, the tallest tower was 31.5 inches; Steven then began rolling smaller slips of paper together to make it taller and got up to 59 inches, until Abby broke the record with her design.

After each person had successfully built a paper tower, Waring called them all together for a discussion. What worked? What went wrong? And how could they improve for the future?

He also discussed examples of architectural problems engineers consider when building real towers.

“So we learned through this that a good tower, in order to not fall over needs what?” Waring prompted the group. “A strong base!” a few shout out.

Building on that idea of a strong base, Waring then had the students build 25-inch long bridges out of tape and paper capable of holding a 0.5-kilogram weight.



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Benjamin works on the base of a tower during a STEM event for young children in Siler City.

Bridging the gap

Teaching young students about STEM is about more than just building bridges; it’s about preparing students for the future. In 2018, the Pew Research Center found STEM employment had grown 79% since 1990. The study also predicted STEM jobs would continue to grow at a faster clip than other occupations as technology advances. Further, the median annual wage for STEM occupations

nearly doubled — with non-STEM occupations earning an average annual salary of \$40,020 and those in STEM occupations earning \$89,780.

Under President Joe Biden’s administration, there’s also been a federal push to get more students of color in STEM. In 2020, non-white students made up fewer than 10% of all STEM bachelor’s degrees, according to the International Journal of STEM Education.



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Abby, a 4th grader, works to strengthen the base of a paper tower with duct tape at a STEM event in Siler City last Saturday.

CIS and Innovate Chatham see their program as a remedy to this gap. While the program is open to the public, it is based in Siler City and attended predominantly by students who are already enrolled in CIS. Those students are often referred for CIS services because of challenges inside and outside of the classroom.

The skills they learn extend beyond building things with paper and tape. They learn collaboration, critical thinking and how to overcome challenges, according to Shirille Lee, CIS’s program coordinator.

“This is our third time doing this program and each time I’m amazed at what the kids accomplish,” Lee said. “They did coding, robotics, all sorts of things that are well beyond my expertise.”

Waring said he hopes to continue the STEM program to help more students see a future in engineering, and learn the

value of design thinking. He also hopes to start more STEM clubs with similar missions in other locations across the county.

“We are hoping to get some parents and grandparents to do some of these projects with their kids,” Waring said. “And, we would like to see if there are people who want to start another STEM Club or two in Chatham. Innovate Chatham would be pleased to help folks get started.”

Innovate Chatham will host a STEM event at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 16, at 79 Degrees West Hub at Mosaic in Pittsboro. It’s entitled “10 Cheap STEM Projects You Can Do At Home,” where Innovate Chatham will provide a demonstration for parents and grandparents of fun, inexpensive projects that secretly teach STEM concepts. For more information visit innovatechatham.org/techtalk.

WEALTH

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color require intentional services, resources and opportunities for wealth building.”

The data, shared by Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, showed the pervasive nature of the racial wealth gap. The average Black and Latino households in the U.S. earn about half as much as the average white household and possess only about 15% to 20% as much net wealth, according to the U.S. Federal Reserve. The gap has only increased over time as median wealth has increased exponentially for white families and stayed relatively stagnant for families of color.

“These are race-based problems that require race-based solutions,” said Jefferson-Jenkins, a Chatham resident, former president of the League of Women Voters and former director of the Hunt Institute at UNC-Chapel Hill. “We cannot separate them as Black families continue to fall behind.”

Jefferson-Jenkins challenged listeners to think about what the county, state and country might look like if that racial wealth gap were eliminated. Statis-



Photo by Emily Bennett

Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, former president of League of Women Voters and professor at UNC’s Hunt Institute, delivered the keynote presentation at Friday’s WEBB Squared event.

tically, it would mean a 4- to 6-point increase in national Gross Domestic Product and \$1.6 trillion more dollars in the economy. But beyond the data, Jefferson-Jenkins said the elimination of that gap would lead to the liberation of entrepreneurs and lead to more opportunities for people to feel included in their communities.

An unequal share

Chatham’s population has grown exponentially in the past three decades, and it’s projected to continue expanding. The county’s growth rate of 95.7% from 1990-2020 far outpaces the state average of 57.1% over that same span. Despite

the nearly doubled population over that span, the Black population in the county is shrinking. In 1990 Black residents accounted for 23% of Chatham’s population, but in 2022 they made up just 12%.

The growth of the county also isn’t adequately reflected in the number of minority-owned businesses, which make up just 12% of Chatham firms. Further, those minority-owned firms only account for 4% of total sales revenues generated in the county.

Black-owned businesses are especially underrepresented in Chatham’s business scene, making up just 7.3% of all businesses in the county, meaning they are underrepresented by 41%, according to the Chatham County Minority Entrepreneur and Small Business Needs Assessment.

“Chatham County is a magnet for demographic and economic growth,” Jefferson-Jenkins said. “Opposition to further growth are barriers to entrepreneurship and small business development, especially for minority entrepreneurs.”

She stated that to achieve equitable growth, local officials must address the racial

divide that exists within Chatham County. Part of the divide, she said, occurs from historic segregation, which leads to institutional distrust. And when potential entrepreneurs of color hold distrust, it makes them less likely to pursue financial opportunities in their communities.

Bouncing back

While the data shared by Jefferson-Jenkins illustrated the struggles of the reality for Black and Brown entrepreneurs, there is plenty of reason for optimism, too.

At a national scale, Black-owned businesses are getting started faster than ever. According to a recent story in The Washington Post, in 2021, Black-owned businesses were started at the fastest rate in 26 years. The growth was largely possible because many Black entrepreneurs across the country used federal stimulus funds to start businesses, with health-care ranking as the top sector for those business owners.

The rise of minority-owned businesses from federal stimulus checks is evidence that intentional investment in communities works as a tangible solution, according to Axios. Jefferson-Jenkins advocated

for similar intentional investment in Chatham’s future businesses. She said those investments could come directly from major future industrial players like VinFast and Wolfspeed.

The desire to see the racial wealth gap shrink in Chatham is also a goal of local government officials.

Filling the void

Last June, Chatham County Commissioners heard a presentation from the Kenan-Flagler Business School at UNC that focused on the needs of minority-owned businesses and recommended a place-based approach to solving the inequities of the county. The following month, the project was approved for further research.

The research advocates for the county to develop an inclusive and equitable entrepreneurial and small business ecosystem. This can be achieved, the report says, by creating on-ramps for entrepreneurs of color, increasing business profitability, and reducing the racial wealth gap.

Much of that research informed Jefferson-Jenkins’ presentation.

“These initiatives are not writing historic wrongs,” she said. “They are about choosing a

more dynamic future and realizing the full potential of a massively underutilized source of talent to benefit all North Carolinians.”

Further aiding the existing issues is the work of WEBB Squared, which guides Black and Brown entrepreneurs through programs and mentorship.

“Our interventions are designed to liberate consciousness and efficacy in our target populations and in the larger business stakeholder community,” Terry said. “We believe that Black and Brown entrepreneurs are the change agents that can help evolve and transform our rural economies. Our programs support translating their brilliance into profitable, sustainable business ventures.”

The model of those programs is intentional and leads to measurable success, Terry said. WEBB Squared focuses on social media marketing, coaching, preparing for capital acquisitions and more. They also tailor their approach to each entrepreneur to make it as useful as possible.

Friday’s presentation concluded with a call to action: to keep having conversations about the racial wealth gap and finding potential solutions to see it to a speedier end.

After Jefferson-Jenkins’s presentation, a panel discussion with several WEBB Squared entrepreneurs and Chatham officials discussed the future of the county and how to assist minority owned businesses through future growth challenges. The panel, moderated by former Chatham County Schools Superintendent and ex-County Commissioner Dr. Robert Logan, included Karen Howard, chairperson of the Chatham Board of Commissioners; Michael Smith and Chreatha Alston, president and board vice chairperson (respectively) of the Chatham Economic Development Corporation; Shauna Noel-Robinson, chef and owner of Tasting Queens Market; Vibrance Doncella, owner of Good Vibrations Sound Therapy; and Shannon Reeves, a Chatham real estate agent.

For more information about WEBB Squared visit webbsquared.org.

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at brappaport@chathamnr.com or on Twitter @b_rappaport.

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VIEWPOINTS

CHATHAM SCENE | TAYLOR HEEDEN

Water quality activists deserve thanks



TAYLOR HEEDEN
Columnist

Pittsboro’s fight for clean water has taken a turn for the better — commissioners voted unanimously on Jan. 23 to sue PFAS manufacturers, including large corporations like 3M, Dupont and others for alleged negligence and failure to warn when it came to the danger of PFAS to downstream communities.

You can read more in this week’s edition (and our prior coverage, found at www.chathamnewsrecord.com), but here’s the crux of what’s new: The lawsuit comes after decades of discharges of so-called “forever” chemicals — including PFAS and 1,4-Dioxane — from industries upstream along the Haw River (Pittsboro’s primary water source), which has led to the contamination of the town’s drinking water.

The board of commissioners

has been looking to hold these manufacturers accountable over the last couple of years, but it wouldn’t have been possible without environmental stewards and activists from around the county sounding the alarm on the pollution in the Haw River.

The Haw River Assembly activists have spent the last 40 years working to educate residents along the Haw and the Jordan Lake watershed about environmental awareness and pollution prevention.

Executive Director Elaine Chiosso has been in her role since 1997 and served as a member of the N.C. Sedimentation Control Commission and the N.C. Water Infrastructure Council.

I spoke to her during my early days at the News + Record; she told me stories of the decades of pollution she and others had witnessed and investigated. Chiosso said the Haw has been subject to pollution dating back to the early days of the Industrial Revolution, with some accounts saying the river would change colors based on

what color dye from textile mills upstream was using.

Haw River Riverkeeper Emily Sutton joined the Haw River Assembly in 2016, where she monitored pollution in the Haw River by testing water samples. As the Haw’s riverkeeper, Sutton is one of the main faces in the fight for clean water in Pittsboro and along the Haw River. She does interviews to raise awareness, and her work was instrumental in bringing forth a lawsuit on behalf of the Haw River Assembly against the city of Greensboro after the city discharged large quantities of 1,4-Dioxane.

Other organizations have also rallied to fight for clean water for Pittsboro.

Clean Haw River — founded by Pittsboro residents Katie Bryant and Dr. Jessica Merricks — was created in 2020, with the mission to “bring awareness, understanding and action to Pittsboro’s drinking water crisis.”

Bryant accompanied then Mayor-elect Cindy Perry in 2021 to a city council meeting in Greensboro, where they

confronted council members about the discharges of forever chemicals into the Haw. Bryant has also attended several national conferences on PFAS, 1,4-Dioxane and other potentially harmful contaminants.

Merricks, a biology and research professor at Elon University, spent the last few years of her career educating others about the water quality issues Pittsboro faces. She and Bryant also used their role as activists to advocate for policy changes at the local, state and federal level to regulate PFAS and 1,4-Dioxane, which played a crucial role in Pittsboro’s decision to investigate polluters in the first place.

Others also dedicated time to the cause, including members of the Pittsboro Water Quality Task Force, who spent countless days coming up with recommendations on how to handle the water crisis. Members of that board include Bryant, Sutton, Bill Holman, Jennifer Platt, Becky Smith and Hunter Freeman.

Not all of those who advo-

cated for clean water lived in Pittsboro or Chatham County, for the matter.

Professor Detlef Knappe at N.C. State met with commissioners in 2014 after his research discovered the presence of 1,4-Dioxane and, later, PFAS. He continued to meet with commissioners over the last few years to tell them the dangers of these chemicals, and what it could mean for residents who drink the water. He deserves some credit, too, for his contributions to the fight for clean water.

Commissioners deserve credit for taking action against polluters. But if it weren’t for the decades of advocacy work from local activists, residents, and experts, I would argue Pittsboro wouldn’t be in the position it’s in to hold these industries accountable.

Thank you, to all those in the past and present, who’ve been on the front lines in the fight for clean water for all in Chatham County. Without your work, none of this would be possible.

Black Poetry Month: Ross Gay



ANDREW TAYLOR- TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

My highlighting of Black poets in the month of February continues with another personal favorite, Ross Gay.

This poet has achieved fame for his collections of essays, beginning with “The Book of Delights.” Written over the course of a year, Gay dedicated himself to the discipline or practice of searching for a daily delight. Most of his delights involve simple things like watching someone roller-skate, eating a delicious piece of fruit or receiving a kind word from a stranger. Gay claims that such things “occasioned a kind of delight radar ... developed a delight muscle.”

The more you look for delight, the more you see.

Gay’s award-winning poetry book, “Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude,” likewise pays attention to the apparently quotidian with profound results. His poems exemplify the idea that universal feelings are found in particular experiences. For example, in writing a poem for a wedding present for two friends, Gay describes “a goldfinch kissing a sunflower,” which becomes a metaphor for the sacrificial joy between two people. Or in the poem, “To the Fig Tree on 9th and Christian,” the fruit of a single tree draws people of different ages, races and ethnicities together to enjoy the bounty, a eucharistic feast that creates a community of “strangers maybe never again.”

I used the phrase “eucharistic feast” to mean a general meal of thanksgiving, yet I am aware that those words have spiritual undertones. A recent reviewer praised Gay’s work as “a secular blessing.” I understand that Gay does not write from a specific religious perspective. But why qualify a blessing as secular or sacred? His writing shows that the supposed dichotomy between secular and sacred is false. Delight and gratitude are not exclusive to a particular building, day of the week or religious tradition. The blessing is found in the world and in our lives.

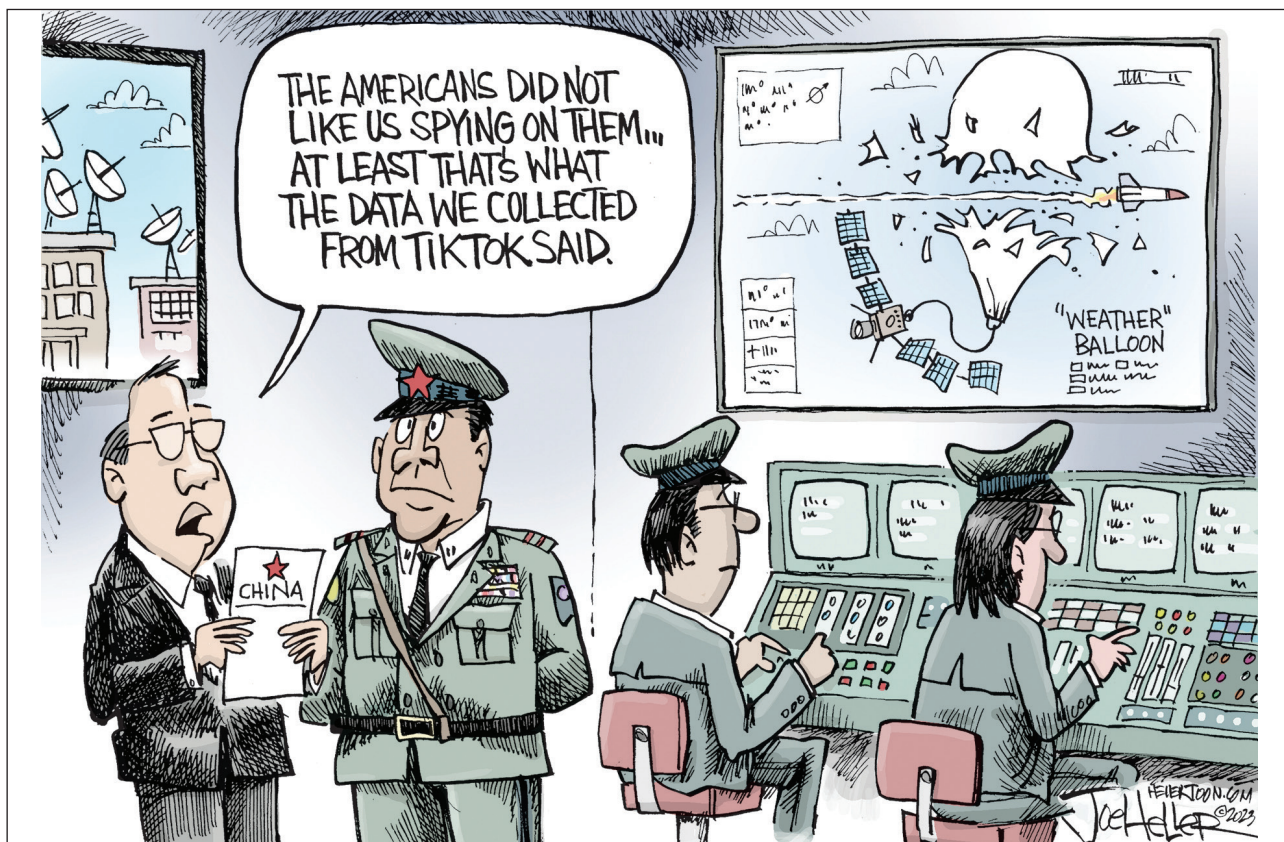
I add that Gay writes about hard truths, including his experience with racism. That same fig tree is in Philadelphia — “a city like most which has murdered its own people.” As Gay provocatively wrote, “If you’re Black in this country, you’re not allowed to be innocent.” Sit with that a moment.

Violence against people of color continues across our country at disproportionately higher rates. Look no further than Tyre Nichols in Memphis, Tennessee, or the children poisoned by lead in Flint, Michigan. The Executive Summary of the 2021 Chatham County Community Assessment included this finding: “Historic and continued systemic racism persists in driving health inequities across nearly all facets of health and well-being in Chatham County.”

Poetry that avoids painful truths runs the risk of sentimentality. Ironically, saccharine words can leave a bitter taste in one’s mouth. Gay is doing something else — “I would convert this sorrow into some kind of honey with the little musics I can sometimes make.”

Writings that perform “little musics” are indeed a blessing. I invite you to read Ross Gay to tune your delight radar, exercise your gratitude muscle and even be a part of turning sorrow into honey.

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.”



Old scent touches sense of smell, mind



BOB WACHS
Movin’ Around

Of all our five senses — sight, sound, smell, taste, touch — most would say vision is the dearest.

They’re all important, sure, but how different if, say, butter pecan ice cream tasted like cheeseburgers. How dangerous it would be not hearing an oncoming train at a rural crossing that didn’t have arms saying “stop.”

How unfulfilling it would be if sandpaper and fleece could not be distinguished by fingertips. And how

we would miss inhaling the odor of a just-washed and powdered baby, although there are some baby smells it’s just as well to miss out on.

Collectively, they’re wonderful; I was reminded of that the other day. And it came in a smell.

Sometimes in life, I’ve been accused of being British, missing a story or joke’s point, not catching on to something right away. I think I’ve gotten better at not being so naïve, maybe, but still sometimes I miss something. Fortunately it’s usually not all that important or fatal but the not knowing until later can be interesting.

You see, I thought aerosol deodorant sprays had gone the way of all flesh, outlawed because of damaging the ozone, letting in all the harmful outer space rays. I hadn’t seen any on shelves in a gazillion years but I hadn’t been looking for any, either.

But the other day as I made my way through a local establishment to resupply some toiletries, I noticed several cans of — and I’m not one to endorse products in this space — Right Guard. I’m not saying you must use it or that is necessarily my favorite. But it was the apparent favorite, judging from smell, of 28 guys who lived on second floor Mangum Dorm at UNC from 1966 to 1968. Our home away from home smelled like Right Guard.

I couldn’t resist. Bought some, went home, popped the top, gave out with a big ol’ spray ... immediately it was 1966 all over again.

Why? Why is a four-second burst of scented alcohol and whatever else is in there tied so closely to my mind and memory? Is it the same as certain versions of fried chicken and fried okra make me want my feet under Mama’s table again?

That old aroma put me to wondering where — and if — those guys still are. John Southern, who lived next door, became an Episcopal priest. Surprised me. Of course, how I turned out might surprise him. His room-

mate Sam Greathouse — aka “Frog,” because of his croaking voice — is a precious memory. Ditto for Mike Gabriel and Frank Sutton.

Aaron Clinnard is a lawyer in Thomasville or High Point — I think. Two guys across the hall — Chester Connors and Efrain Zambrana — are dentists, the former in Farmville and latter in Durham, I think. I’ve seen the Green boys, twins from Carthage, not so long ago. One of them — I never could tell them apart — went to work at the Duke Hospital pharmacy. Not sure about the other one. And I’ve run into their hometown buddy, also on our hall, Ted Lingerfeldt.

Paul Winberg, Frank Sutton’s roommate and chief cook on their room’s hot plate, became a Chapel Hill cop; later working HVAC — heating, ventilating and air conditioning. I saw him in Greenville, S.C., years ago when we were both in different lives.

I lost touch with my roommates. Bryan Salter was from about 50 miles east of Morehead City, a real “high (pronounced “hoy”) tider (pronounced “tighter”) if there ever was one. He was bright but in love with his hometown sweetheart, missing her so much that my sophomore year he went home for Christmas and didn’t come back. Later he became the Carteret County tax collector. After that, Alan Duncan, a freshman from Kannapolis, and I shared a room until I decided not to come back. He was in the Navy ROTC program, always shining his shoes and buttons. Last time I saw him was a hundred years ago when Shirley and I took in a movie at the Varsity on Franklin Street where he was making popcorn.

Interesting, isn’t it, how life goes on. I was pretty sure 55-plus years ago I would never lose contact with those guys and we would always remain tight, going on to change the world, hopefully for better.

Now, when I do my morning routine, I spray, remember them, and wonder where it went. Thank goodness for the sense of smell.

If I’m lucky I may be able to find a bottle of Jade East or Canoe and, if so — watch out, high school, here I come.

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 newspapers, he was also a bi-vocational pastor and today serves Bear Creek Baptist Church for the second time as pastor.

VIEWPOINTS

Freedom is the solution, not the problem



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

The “problem” with freedom is that other people may do things that trouble, annoy or even anger you. In a free society, you have no legitimate authority to stop them. Strictly speaking, that’s not a problem. It’s a solution. Throughout human history, much suffering has derived from a lack of freedom. One faction obtained government power, wielded it to impose its values on others, and then either successfully or unsuccessfully made its imposition stick with violence or intimidation. Another faction, aggrieved, eventually obtained power of its own, and the cycle of strife recurred. Freedom is necessary for living together peaceably in a

world of conflicting values — which is, in fact, the only world we’ve got. If you are free to worship Baal and I am free to worship God, one of us is likely to be in dire moral peril. But at least I am not also fearful of being tyrannized or killed for acting on my beliefs, and you can say the same. Moreover, in a free society I have more than just the right to worship as I please. I also have the right to attempt to evangelize you, just as you have the right to try to sell me the full Baal-Believers benefits package, complete with free Ginsu knives for ritual sacrifice (did you know they can cut through these tin cans as easily as through a ripe tomato?). Of course, in a free society, there’s nothing that says one has to listen. Therein lies the “problem.” In my experience, liberty lovers fail to appreciate how difficult it is for most human beings to handle not being listened to, and to be

confronted with the fact that others are doing something self-destructive or wrong but can’t be enjoined from continuing. Such psychic pain is also an inalienable facet of human nature. It can be excruciating. Yielding to the temptation to use government coercion to make this pain go away is wrong — no less than yielding to other kinds of injurious temptations — but surely one can understand why it happens. It has become fashionable in modern society to attribute this behavior primarily to religious conservatives, typically portrayed as puritanical busybodies or hypocrites. But I find at least as much willingness among groups on the political Left to use governmental coercion to impose their beliefs. On public university campuses, they restrict free speech and require participation in tendentious diversity training. In legislative bodies and

regulatory agencies, they seek restrictions on advertising, either because they don’t like the products being sold or they don’t like consumers are smart enough to understand the claims made. They claim the right to impose restrictions on wages, prices, working hours, and other conditions of employment regardless of what the parties to an employment contract may seek or think is fair. They think it’s OK to force taxpayers with strongly held moral or religious views to fund obscene art or social-justice activism but think it’s outrageous that taxpayer money goes to educational institutions and social-service nonprofits that teach or adhere to traditional views. Freedom isn’t easy. It requires us to be grown-ups, to settle for living in a society in which some people, no matter how hard we try, just aren’t going to do what we say or believe what we believe.

It requires hippies to respect the rights of fundamentalists, and those with less to respect the rights of those with more, and LGBT to respect the rights of straights, and pacifists to respect the rights of hunters. Yes, it also means the reverse in each case. It works both ways. Yielding to the temptation to coerce inevitably creates a more serious problem than the problem of learning to live with daily annoyances and outrages — just as yielding to a strong temptation to drink or overeat can make one feel good in the short run but cause severe harm in the long run. I guess it’s time for a new 12-step program.

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).

Dripping classified documents



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

Was it the classified documents? Is this what the political experts will ask themselves if Joe Biden loses the 2024 presidential election? Will they say the 2024 election was decided when classified documents were found in President Joe Biden’s home, prior offices, and vacation house? And that President Biden had allowed classified documents to be stored in his private homes and offices? We do not know. But every experienced political expert would say that a problem such as Biden’s classified documents is best handled by getting the matter out

to the public all at once, rather than dripping out pieces over time. On the challenge of minimizing the drip-drip, Biden got off to an awful start. Here is how the story has “dripped” so far based on a Key Events summary prepared by ABC News (<https://abc-news.go.com/Politics/key-events-biden-classified-documents-probe-updated-timeline/story?id=96396261>). **Nov. 4:** The National Archives inspector general contacted the Justice Department to say the White House notified the National Archives that documents bearing classification markings were identified at Penn Biden Center, the think tank in Washington that Biden used after leaving office as vice president in 2017. **Nov 9:** FBI commenced an assessment to understand whether classified

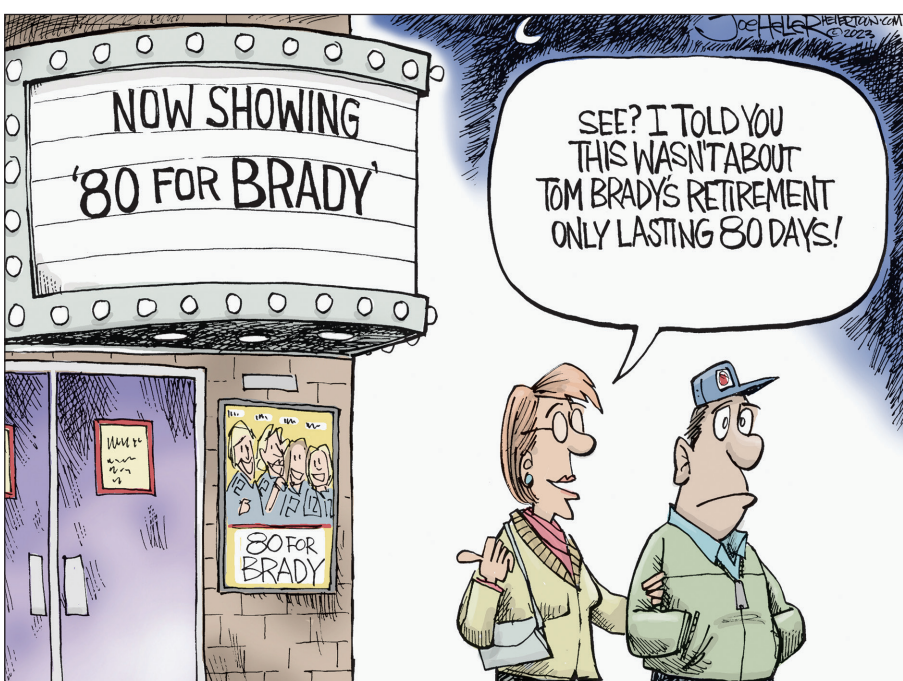
information had been mishandled. **Nov. 14:** Attorney General Merrick Garland assigned U.S. Attorney John Lausch to conduct an initial investigation on whether to appoint a special counsel. **Dec. 20:** Biden’s personal counsel informed Lausch that additional documents bearing classification markings were identified in the garage of Biden’s Wilmington, Delaware, home. The FBI went to the location and secured those documents, Garland said. **Jan. 5:** U.S. Attorney Lausch advised Garland that further investigation by a special counsel was warranted. **Jan. 9:** News broke that Garland assigned Lausch to review classified documents found at the Penn Biden Center. The White House confirmed that the president’s attorneys found a “small number of

documents with classified markings” in a locked closet at the center. **Jan. 10:** Biden said he was “surprised” to learn that there were any government records at the Penn Biden Center, adding, “I don’t know what’s in the documents.” **Jan. 12:** The president’s personal counsel called Lausch and stated that an additional document bearing classification markings was identified at the president’s residence in Wilmington. **Jan. 14:** A special counsel for Biden, Richard Sauber, confirmed that “five additional pages” of classified information were found when he was working with the Department of Justice to hand over a one-page classified document found days earlier at the Wilmington home. **Jan. 20:** The Depart-

ment of Justice searched Biden’s Wilmington home and took possession of more items containing classified information. **Feb. 1:** The FBI conducted a “planned search” of Biden’s home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. And the story continues dripping, day by day. Possibly, Biden’s problem with classified documents, as serious as it is, can be successfully managed with explanations that include comparison with other important political figures, including former Vice President Pence, who made similar careless mistakes. But it is also possible that the dripping messages about classified documents could wear down Biden. Dripping messages about then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s alleged mistakes in the so-called Benghazi affair

being responsible for the deaths of four Americans helped sink her 2016 presidential campaign, and a similar series of messages could do the same to Biden’s 2024 campaign. In Biden’s case, the drip-drip messages about his carelessness in handling classified documents provides a way to imply that his advanced age diminishes his ability to handle important routine matters. That message in its simple form would be that the 80-year old Biden is just too old to be president again. It might not be fair, but that will not keep it from being an effective campaign tactic to be used by any Biden opponent.

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



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Anger as quicksilver ...



JAN HUTTON
This Being Human Thing

Me? Angry? No! Of course, not! Think again, Jan; you are angry. No! I’m just ... Well, OK, I’m angry and it’s wisping out (which means my anger is evident and in direct contrast to my avowed image of being a peaceful Quaker). What is wrong with me? I SHOULD have greater emotional control. Barbed comments in meetings do not align with my self-image of peaceful communication. (Excuse me, thou art human; just a minor detail, of course.) As you might have surmised, I’m struggling with temper control. Me! Temper control! Heretofore I would have considered loss of temper and Jan to be an oxymoron. Gone, gone, gone. And I’m incredibly self-critical because I seem unable to maintain my value of not displaying anger wisping out of my ears. Calling a time-out. Need to stop, take a breath and turn to possible origins of this new behavior. Kind of a 180, but mysteries often are, aren’t they? Gotta go exploring ... Several years ago, I was diagnosed with the c-word. You know what I’m referring to, right? It’s not a word I like and do find quite toxic, but cutting to the chase — cancer. Now, we’re all on the same page, yes? Great. Since finishing treatment and maintaining ongoing visits to multiple MD providers, I’ve had a much sharper edge to my temper. The kind of edge which, to some degree, mystifies me. (In other words, this is a new behavior to me, and I’m not a youngster.) The distance from being emotionally grounded to suddenly approaching the temper rapids is, well, very short. Sort of the proverbial 0 to 60 mph in seconds

flat. And to top this off, braking my excessive anger is a real challenge. Like trying to contain liquefied quicksilver. (Have you ever tried??) As someone who has a life-long fondness for maintaining self-control, this “0 to 60” emotional propulsion is perplexing and a bit scary. I have yet to be completely submerged in the rapids of temper, but, oy, what an EFFORT it takes to dog paddle away from the edge (and I was never a great swimmer to begin with). OK, OK, here’s a question I’ve asked myself about this phenomenon. Am I angry due to the diagnosis? (That would be pretty straightforward, wouldn’t it?) And the answer is “no.” This propulsion of angry emotions first occurred two months prior to the diagnosis. (I’m guessing my body’s innate wisdom was already aware of the c-word, but my conscious mind was not.) Where the heck does this leave me with my inability to fully control my temper? And yes, my less-than compassionate stance toward myself for actually having this experience of temper? Ouch, ouch, ouch. Wouldn’t I just love a straightforward answer? I don’t have one. Sigh. What I do have are these deeply hopeful words from Rainer Maria Rilke, the late German poet: “Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves ... Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing, live some distant day into the answer.” Oh, so wish to easily check off instructive self-help items, in boxes, regarding the mitigation of this new behavior and it just ain’t happening. Couched in the context of Rilke’s words above, I’m on a journey of self-discovery. Looks like I’ll just have to persist in discovering the answers, with love for myself, as this journey continues. Thanks a lot, universe.

Chatham students have outstanding showing for All-District Band

From Chatham County Schools

PITTSBORO — Chatham County Schools middle and high school students had an excellent showing in tryouts for the 2023 All-District Band. Thirty-three CCS middle and high students have been invited to perform. Students will participate in two-day clinics at the end of this month in Durham.

“I am so excited to see how well our students have done,” CCS lead arts teacher Sharon Allen said. “Many arts programs saw students lose ground the past few years. Thanks to our outstanding instructors and hard-working students, we are seeing our students excel.”

Students who placed into top chairs at All-District will be eligible to audition against top chairs in the other six districts. The school districts that Chatham auditioned against for All-District include Alamance, Caswell, Durham, Franklin, Granville, Guilford, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rockingham, Vance and Warren county schools.

“In Chatham County Schools, we value the many pathways students can find success, including academics, athletics and the arts,” Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson said. “This is a clear reflection

of the ways our students are achieving, and our students and staff should be very proud of what they have achieved.”

Students who placed in the top chairs at All-District will be eligible to audition against the top players from the other six North Carolina districts.

The following students have been selected for All District Band:

- George Moses Horton Middle School**
- Central District Concert Band: Kayla Richard, flute
- Margaret B. Pollard Middle School**
- Central Region Jazz Band A: Charlotte Lloyd, trombone (all-state eligible)
 - Central Region Jazz Band B: Karthik Seligman, trumpet
 - Central District Symphonic Band: Mira Kosturi, flute; Owen Cammett, clarinet (all-state eligible); Ezennia Adibe, 1st chair bass clarinet (all-state eligible); Nehemiah Ajayi, alto saxophone; Eva Ray, trumpet (all-state eligible); Ellie Kristiansen, horn; Paige Reinhardt, 1st chair trombone (all-state eligible); Charlotte Lloyd, trombone

(all-state eligible); Andrew Balk, 1st chair euphonium (all-state eligible); Grace Wilson, 1st chair tuba (all-state eligible); Ethan Usher, tuba

- Central District Concert Band: Caitlin Campbell, clarinet; Owen Mergliano, 1st chair alto sax; Karthik Seligman, trumpet; Sam Zwahlen, trumpet; Calvin Britt, 1st chair horn; Judah Alexander, 1st chair string bass

- Chatham Central High School**
- 11/12 band: Carolyn England, flute
- Northwood High School**
- 9/10 band: Sabrina Wright, 1st chair bassoon (all state eligible); Holden Jarstfer, alto saxophone
 - 11/12 band: Mia Collins, horn; Oliver Ewy, clarinet
- Seaforth High School**
- 9/10 band: Andrew Kosturi, flute (all state eligible); Michael Harrigan, clarinet (all state eligible); Jackson Vaughn, 1st chair clarinet (all state eligible); Sanjay Sannareddy, horn (all state eligible); Nova Morgan, horn; Josie Quick, trombone; Casey Brekke, trombone

EDUCATION

Continued from page A1

in public education,” Galey said during a press conference last week.

“Parents do not surrender their children to government schools for indoctrination opposed to the family’s values. The government is not a partner in raising our children.”

Edward Walgate, a Northwood High School science teacher and president of the Chatham County Association of Educators, said he found Galey’s rhetoric harmful — especially given the General Assembly’s track record of what he believes to be underfunding of public education.

“For anyone to say that overworked and underpaid educators are indoctrinating children is delusional and slanderous,” Walgate told the News + Record. “The use of the word ‘indoctrination’ by Sen. Amy Galey when introducing this bill, is another example of how detached these politicians are from the reality of public education.”

He said the bill was a distraction from larger issues facing public education. He cited a study from the Education Law Center published last month, which shows North Carolina ranking 48th in the nation in per pupil education funding and last in the nation in the percentage of Gross Domestic Product dedicated to education at 2.32%.

“It is time for the N.C. legislature to stop undermining public education and invest in our students,” Walgate said.

National attack on LGBTQ+ youth

A similar bill, House Bill 755, came before the House of Representatives last session but was not voted on. At the time, Cooper said he would veto the bill, and Republicans did not have the votes to override the veto. In this session, however, Republicans are just one vote shy of override powers.

When that bill was proposed in the House, students from Chatham County Schools told the News + Record they felt threatened and targeted by the legislation. Some minor differences between S.B. 49 and last year’s H.B. 755 are that this year’s bill addresses the K-4 curriculum, instead of K-3. The Senate bill also changes language using “sexual activity” rather than “sexual orientation.”

The bill also provides exceptions to providing records to parents “when a reasonably prudent person would believe that disclosure would result in the child becoming an abused juvenile or neglected juvenile.”

Despite the changes, opponents say the bill falls in line with similar so-called “Don’t Say Gay” bills, which have been passed in states such as Florida and proposed in Republican-led and swing states across the country. The bill would ban kindergarten through 4th grade curricula from including “instruction on gender identity, sexual activity or sexuality.”

Galey said she believes the bill would increase transparency for parents in their children’s education.

“It baffles me to think that this bill could be divisive,” Galey said. “I cannot understand why it would be controversial to say that children ages 5 to 9 years old should not be taught about sexuality or sexual activity in a public school classroom. That blows my mind.”

LGBTQ+ advocates, however, say S.B. 49 would cause harm and exacerbate mental health challenges among queer youth. According to Equality N.C., a nonprofit advocating for LGBTQ+ people across the state, young people questioning their sexuality or identity face disproportionate consequences of bullying and depression and attempt suicide at higher rates than their peers.

“This legislation would target educators, healthcare professionals, and LGBTQ+ youth and families for discrimination and exclusion,” the organization said in a statement.

At a state Senate committee hearing last Thursday, teachers, doctors, psychologists and mental health professionals also warned lawmakers S.B. 49 would be harmful to the mental and physical health of LGBTQ+ students. Similar concerns were raised by Walgate.

“This bill unfairly stigmatizes LGBTQ+ students because their journey will be policed and reported back to their parents,” Walgate said. “All students deserve to feel safe in our schools. They should be able to trust staff members to support them and not surveil them.”

He said he fears the bill would erode the relationship between staff and students because it would make students wary of having intimate conversations with their teachers. That lack of trust, he said, would make learning harder for both parties.

Chatham’s representative vote on this bill comes from Sen. Natalie Murdock (D-Dist. 20). She told the News + Record she strongly opposes the bill and would vote against it. She said she believes the bill doesn’t support students and puts teachers in danger.

“This legislation does nothing to deal with teacher vacancies, learning loss or any of the other issues facing education,” Murdock said. “I think that this is harmful to youth who identify as LGBTQ+ by forcing those students to be outed.”

She said national trends toward targeting LGBTQ+ youth in education legislation are disheartening and frustrating. Murdock added that she believes the bill could lead to a chilling effect on students in the classroom. She said school should be a safe space, especially when LGBTQ+ youth are more likely to face neglect, abuse or homelessness.

‘A real slippery slope’

The 10 rights listed in S.B. 49 frequently invoke the idea that parents now lack access to information about their child’s education. Many of these rights,

however, are already protected in the North Carolina Constitution. According to the state Constitution, students cannot be forced to participate in activities that are directly contrary to their religious beliefs. However, schools are not compelled to excuse student participation just because the family disagrees with, or dislikes, the ideas presented or because the ideas conflict with their religious beliefs.

This means parents do not have the right to dictate the curriculum, restrict the flow of information from the school, or jeopardize the health and well-being of other children. These cases have been litigated in N.C. courts including the 1996 case *Herndon v. Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Board of Education* which found school requirements don’t infringe on parental control of student’s education. It was also found in the 2006 case of *Leebart v. Harrington*, which ruled parents do not have the right to tell public schools what children will be taught.

“We already have statutes that allow parents to have a say so over their child’s education,” Murdock said. “We’re not denying that.”

S.B. 49 would include a number of “new” rights for parents:

- The right to review statewide standardized assessment results as part of the State report card
- The right to access information relating to the State public education system, State standards, report card requirements, attendance requirements, and textbook requirements
- The right to participate in parent-teacher organizations
- The right to review all available records of

materials their child has borrowed from a school library

Amy Kappelman, who leads Chatham’s Moms For Liberty chapter, attended Monday’s Senate Rules Committee hearing on the bill in Raleigh.

“This bill is a first step in putting into law what is common sense to most parents,” she told the News + Record. “Asking for transparency concerning the education and health care of children should be considered a given for parents and guardians. Schools are partners with parental decision making, not primary drivers. Parents should have the final say in all important decisions with regard to their minor children, except where there is provable, legally argued harm.”

Murdock said she felt the bill was problematic for the future impacts it may have on education policy in N.C.

“We don’t need to create an environment that makes it even more challenging for teachers to provide instruction in the classroom,” Murdock said. “And I think it’s a real slippery slope. That is where we could be headed if this bill were to pass and be signed into law.”

Transparency concerns

Murdock said it was ironic that the bill lauded transparency as its focal point, yet was fast-tracked through committee and onto the Senate floor in less than a week with minimal public notice.

“If we really wanted to be transparent, we would really slow this bill down,” she said. “And really think about the long-term impacts that it’s going to have on schools.”

The idea that parents

are shut out from their child’s education, according to Murdock, was borne out of the pandemic and has since festered into a national cultural phenomenon in conservative circles.

And the idea that there isn’t inherent transparency between parents and the school system is “absurd,” according to Chatham County Board of Education member Del Turner. She called the proposed bill “frivolous and sad.”

“The same people introducing this bill are the same people who constantly invoke the Constitution of the United States and patriotism,” Turner told the News + Record. “And it seems to me that this bill is in direct opposition to those things that they throw in everybody else’s face.”

She said Chatham County Schools, and districts across the state, have several avenues for parent involvement including volunteer opportunities, parental advisory committees and weekly phone calls from each school to parents.

“This bill seeks to subvert that process by adding in things that cause chaos in the system,” Turner said.

She said one aspect going overlooked in this bill is the rights of the child in his or her own education process. Turner added that young people have a right to explore their own identities and make choices about their futures.

“In this country, education and the legal system are supposed to be non-partisan offices because they deal with everyone,” she said. “Education is meant to impart knowledge on children, and it shouldn’t be restricted. They should be allowed to explore whatever they want to explore.”

Central Electric sponsoring two youth to attend basketball camp

Central Electric awards two Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships annually to local students in Chatham, Harnett, Lee, Moore, or Randolph counties. A young man will be selected to attend the Carolina Basketball School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a young woman will be selected to attend the Wolfpack Women’s Basketball Camp at N.C. State University in Raleigh.

To be eligible to apply, the student must be in the sixth or seventh grade during the upcoming school year, have permission from a parent or guardian to attend the overnight camp and must provide their own transportation if selected to attend.

Scan the QR code or visit CEMCPower.com for more information or to apply. The deadline for applications to both camps is March 31.



LAWSUIT

Continued from page A1

icals, are considered likely human carcinogens and consistently found in raw water samples from the Haw, which is Pittsboro’s source of drinking water.

PFAS may also be linked to increased cholesterol levels, decreased vaccine response in children, changes in liver enzymes, increased risk of high blood pressure or preeclampsia in pregnant women, decreases in infant birth weights, and an “increased risk for kidney and testicular cancer,” according to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Merricks — a biology professor at Elon University — said Pittsboro’s decision to pursue litigation against PFAS manufacturers was “a long time coming.” While she’s only lived in Pittsboro since 2019, she’s monitored her home’s water and installed an under-the-sink filter as a safeguard.

“We had been in our house just a few months when that vague letter came through the mail, about the water, and we sprung into action as quickly as we could,” Merricks said. “We’ve just been dealing with the financial burden of it.”

Merricks said she was glad the town decided to pursue litigation, but it doesn’t necessarily make up for years residents had been consuming the likely human carcinogens.

“It’s been terribly inconvenient, stressful, annoying and a completely unnecessary amount of stress on us to have to deal with it,” she said.

Bryant and Merricks also worked with the town to come up with recommendations for solutions to the water crisis through their appointments to the Pittsboro Water Quality Task Force. Bryant also was the person who recommended the law firm — Sher Edling LLP — pursuing the litigation against PFAS manufacturers on the town’s behalf.

“I had to take a big step back and not overdo it and push and yell and scream and kick and fight,” Bryant said. “They have definitely slowly made their way — like a sloth — towards this moment, but I’m happy I’m so happy that they finally did.”

Clean Haw River wasn’t the only organization fighting for clean water for Pittsboro residents. The Haw River Assembly, created in 1982, advocates for clean water along both the Haw River and the Jordan Lake watershed.

Haw River Riverkeeper Emily Sutton has been with the Haw River Assembly since 2016 and



Courtesy of Clean Haw River

Clean Haw River co-founder Katie Bryant (left) has advocated for cleaner water for Pittsboro.

served with Merricks and Bryant on the Pittsboro Water Quality Task Force. When she heard about the board’s vote to sue PFAS producers, her first reaction was relief.

Still, Sutton said she still felt action could’ve come sooner.

“We’ve been trying to get the town of Pittsboro to take meaningful action on this issue for six years, and we have presented at countless town council meetings and county commissioners meetings trying to get the town of Pittsboro to protect the members of their community,” she said.

The Haw River Assembly filed multiple class-action lawsuits against municipalities, including Greensboro and Burlington, for the role their water treatment plants played in discharges of chemicals such as PFAS and 1,4-Dioxane.

Sutton said when she read through the contents of Pittsboro’s 51-page lawsuit, however, she was concerned with the approach the law firm appears to be taking.

“Their goal is to go after the manufacturers of these chemicals themselves, rather than the industries who are responsible for polluting their drinking water supply,” Sutton said. “We’re talking about DuPont and Chemours and all of these large corporations who think this is very small issue.”

While the approach is different than what the Haw River Assembly is doing in its litigation, Sutton said there is the potential for the Pittsboro suit to bring forth actual change.

“Now I do think that there’s a meaningful strategy here, and I hope that other municipalities take a similar route,” she said. “If these compounds can be removed from manufacturing processes as a whole, then that protects communities throughout the globe.”

The Haw River Assem-

bly is still working to hold industries responsible for the discharges accountable, and she said she will continue to urge Pittsboro to take action against the polluters as well as manufacturers.

“We’ve been able to identify the sources of pollution within the cities,” Sutton said. “But these industries who have just dumped toxins into our surface water for decades need to be held accountable by the people that they’re poisoning.”

Merricks said she and Bryant are also working to campaign for further legislation at the state level to address the possibility of regulating PFAS, along with other unregulated substances.

“Every term we end up with a handful of bills related to PFAS, and none of them make it to a vote,” Merricks said. “I think we’re very much focused on supporting those representatives who have the citizens’ best interests at heart and trying to advocate for those people to get in office or stay in office — that’s important to us.”

Clean Haw River is also in the process of pursuing its own class action lawsuit against polluters and PFAS manufacturers, according to Bryant. She said while Clean Haw River is in the beginning stages of planning this undertaking, she and Merricks want to extend their activism beyond Chatham County’s borders to neighboring communities, including Sanford.

For now, though, Bryant said she’s optimistic in the direction her town is going in fighting for clean water for its residents.

“This lawsuit is the stepping point — it’s the beginning of the end of this pollution,” Bryant said. “Pittsboro has made a giant step ... It’s the beginning of the end of a really terrible time. I hope this even makes more major changes in the U.S. and our state.”

Here’s what you need to know about Pittsboro’s PFAS lawsuit

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — When the town’s board of commissioners voted to sue PFAS manufacturers during their Jan. 23 meeting, it marked the first time in North Carolina history a municipal government sued companies responsible for creating, selling, distributing and discharging PFAS chemicals.

The 51-page lawsuit was filed at the Chatham County Superior Court on Jan. 26, where the town demanded the court mandate the companies responsible for manufacturing PFAS, which has continuously contaminated the Haw River, reimburse and pay future costs of treating the contaminated water.

Here are the key takeaways from the complaint:

What is PFAS?

PFAS, also known as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are a family of manufactured chemicals commonly “used in industries such as aerospace, automotive, construction and electronics,” according to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

These chemicals contain a chain of connected carbon and fluorine atoms, one of the strongest atomic bonds known to man. Because of this, PFAS doesn’t disintegrate easily.

PFAS may also be linked to increased cholesterol levels, decreased vaccine response in children, changes in liver enzymes, increased risk of high blood pressure or preeclampsia in pregnant women, decreases in infant birth weights, and an increased risk for kidney and testicular cancer, according to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Some studies have indicated Pittsboro residents have elevated levels of PFAS in their bloodstream and are among some of the people with the highest concentrations of PFAS in the United States, according to a PFAS exposure study conducted by Duke University’s Nicholas School of Environment.

How did the lawsuit originate?

The town of Pittsboro voted last June to investigate potential polluters upstream; that action paved the path to litigation. The action was taken after years of chemical discharges into the Haw River — Pittsboro’s source of drinking water — from several sources upstream.

These forever chemicals — so-called because of how long it takes for these substances to disintegrate — have contaminated Pittsboro’s water supply, resulting in the town having to spend more, including a recent \$3.5 million Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filtration system, to treat for unregulated contaminants, including PFAS, PFOS, PFOA, 1,4-Dioxane and more.

What is AFFF?

AFFF, also known as aqueous film forming foam, is a common product used in fire-fighting foam. The material is known to contain several forms of PFAS and was sited as one of the main sources of contamination in the lawsuit.

How long have these discharges occurred?

Chemical discharges in the Haw River have been under the spotlight over the last three to five years, but the use of PFAS in manufacturing dates back to the 1940’s. The suit claims the manufacturing companies either knew, or should’ve known, PFAS would be “very likely to contaminate the environment, including surface water and ground water, including the town’s drinking water supply.”

Who is Pittsboro suing, exactly?

The complaint filed on Jan. 26 lists several PFAS manufacturers, including 3M, DuPont de Nemours and Company (DuPont), the Chemours Company, Tyco Fire Products LP and more.

Each company listed in the suit was cited for contributing to the manufacturing, selling and distribution of PFAS, as well as knowing prior to distribution the potential harm PFAS could cause.

What are Pittsboro’s claims in the lawsuit?

The complaint lists six different claims made by the town’s attorneys: design defect, failure to warn, public nuisance, private nuisance, trespass and negligence.

The town stated in the lawsuit that the contamination of PFAS was caused by and the “defendants’ wrongful, deceptive and tortuous con-

duct,” and the negligence will result in the town and its taxpayers spending more money to treat for PFAS in water.

Who filed the suit on Pittsboro’s behalf?

Pittsboro commissioners approved a motion last July to engage Sher Edling LLP, an organization based out of California which has extensive work in environmental-related legal processes, to investigate potential sources of PFAS discharges upstream.

Sher Edling LLP, along with Pittsboro Town Attorney Paul Messick Jr., filed the suit.

Where was the suit filed, and where will it be contested?

The suit was filed at Chatham County’s Superior Court on Jan. 26. The suit is set to be contested in Chatham County, but the defendants can file a motion to move the case to state or federal court, which would change where the case would be heard.

What does Pittsboro want?

The town is seeking financial restitution for past and future damages caused by the contamination of PFAS in its water supply. This could be in the form of paying for water treatment plant renovations, the upkeep of the town’s new Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filtration system, future treatment expenses and more.

What might that cost?

The lawsuit aims to have the manufacturers pay for past and future costs for treating Pittsboro’s water supply. Some of the reimbursed costs would include the \$3.5 million the town spent to install a GAC filtration system at the water treatment plant.

The future costs for treating Pittsboro’s water can’t be quantified, as a lot of different factors could impact what that amount would look like.

Has there been a lawsuit like this before?

This is the first lawsuit of its kind in North Carolina from a municipal government, and it’s among one of the first in the country.

North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein has filed multiple lawsuits to combat PFAS and AFFF manufacturers, including DuPont, 3M and Chemours. Two of Stein’s suits are related to the pollution at Piedmont-Triad International Airport, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station New River. According to the attorney general, the investigation into PFAS manufacturers could still bring more lawsuits to court.

Similary, 3M and Dupont have faced multiple other lawsuits in different states like in New Jersey, where four towns — instead of just one — and other suppliers filed suit, as reported by WHYY.

How long will the legal process take?

It’s hard to say — the length of the process is dependent on if the defendants will opt to request a switch to federal court, if a settlement is reached or if it goes to a jury trial.

What about 1-4,Dioxane litigation?

The town said in it’s Jan. 23 meeting they’re working with Sher Edling LLP to possibly bring forth a separate lawsuit for 1,4-Dioxane manufacturers. There isn’t a timeline for an announcement regarding a 1,4-Dioxane related suit.

What are the next steps for the town?


Pittsboro commissioners will continue to pursue a merger with the city of Sanford to increase Pittsboro’s water capacity.

Information regarding the next steps in the litigation process will be limited until either there is a settlement reached or the court elects to hear the case.

For more:


To find more information about Pittsboro’s history with PFAS contamination, read the News + Record’s updated timeline of events leading up to the litigation decision at <https://www.chathamnewsrecord.com/stories/an-updated-timeline-of-pittsboros-fight-for-clean-water,15383>.

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at theeden@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @HeedenTaylor.



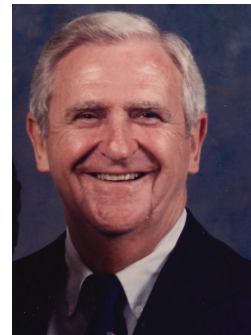
The Board of Education determines education policies; The Board of Commissioners determines education funding.

DID YOU KNOW?



OBITUARIES

ROBERT ‘BOB’ REYNOLDS RUSSELL



December 22, 1932 ~ February 2, 2023
Born on December 22, 1932, in Stanley County, the son of Grover Russell and Leola Huneycutt, Bob Reynolds served as a Petty Officer in the U.S. Navy on the USS Kearsarge during the Korean War. Upon leaving the Navy, he continued his career with the N.C. State Highway Patrol, serving in Robeson and Chatham counties. After leaving the NCSHP, he went to work at the Siler City Post

Office as a rural letter carrier until his retirement in 1996. He later returned to work in the mail services department at Moses Cone Hospital for another 17 years until his second retirement.

Bob was preceded in death by his wife of 54 years, Loretta Russell; his parents; brother, Mac Russell of Daytona, Florida, and his sister, Betty Bursleson of Albemarle, N.C.

He is survived by his two daughters, Bonita Russell and Pam Hayes, both of Siler City; three grandchildren, Jennifer Hayes and Christopher Hayes of Siler City, and Courtney Davis (Ron) of Archdale; great-grandchildren, Alexis and Joshua Hayes, and Isaiah and Jonah Davis; and several nieces and nephews.

The family received friends on Monday, February 6, 2023, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 N. Second Ave., Siler City. A funeral service was held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at Siler City Pentecostal Holiness Church with Pastor Mark Richardson, Pastor Ron Davis and Isaiah Davis officiating. Burial followed at Chatham Memorial Park with Military Rites.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Siler City PHC, RFTW, 17475 U.S. Hwy. 64 W., Siler City, N.C. 27344.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Russell family.

Online condolences may be made at www.smithbucknerfh.com.

VIRGINIA BREWER WELCH



March 19, 1925 ~ February 2, 2023
Virginia Brewer Welch, 97, of Siler City, passed away on Thursday, February 2, 2023.

Mrs. Welch was born in Chatham County on March 19, 1925, the daughter of William and Mabel Lane Brewer.

Virginia was the oldest living member of Brush Creek Baptist Church, and a member of the Bessie Gilbert Sunday School Class. She was also a former choir member.

She retired after many years at Kellwood as an inspector. Virginia was a hard worker who loved working in her yard, and was always laughing. She cherished her time with her family, and was a wonderful, loving mother. Her kitten, Abby, whom she adored, was always by her side.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Billie Newton Welch, and sister, Mary Catherine Brewer.

She is survived by her daughter, Janice Catherine Welch of the home.

Memorials may be made to Brush Creek Cemetery Inc., c/o Judy Lane, 45 John Lane Rd., Bear Creek, N.C. 27207.

A graveside service was held on Sunday, February 5, 2023, at 3 p.m. at Brush Creek Baptist Church, 5345 Airport Rd., Bear Creek, N.C., with Rev. Ed Lowder officiating. The family received friends after the service at the cemetery.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Welch family.

Online condolences may be made at www.smithbucknerfh.com.

DEVON LEE KELLY WICKER

February 28, 1981 ~ January 26, 2023

Devon Lee Kelly Wicker, 41, of Sanford, passed away on Thursday, January 26, 2023, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Private services will be held at a later date.

She was the daughter of the late Gregory Lee Kelly and Donna Hall Kelly. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her grandparents, Gladys and Joseph Hall, Jean Poe and Lee Roy Kelly, and brother-in-law, Jason Lee Wicker.

Devon is survived by her

SHERRY ELLIS MYERS



May 17, 1960 ~ February 5, 2023
Sherry Ellis Myers, 62, of Cameron, passed away on Sunday, February 5, 2023.

Mrs. Myers was born in Chatham County on May 17, 1960, the daughter of Gilbert J. Ellis and Betty Maness Frye. Sherry loved crafting, and going to White Lake. She enjoyed watching Duke basketball and NASCAR racing on the television. Sherry adored her family, and was always on the sidelines at her grand-

children's sporting events. She is preceded in death by her father, Gilbert Ellis; and niece, Betty Sue Ellis.

She is survived by her husband of 36 years, George "Kenneth" Myers; sons, Isaac Jordan and wife Stephanie of Lemon Springs, Travis Jordan and wife Kimberly of Cameron; mother, Betty Maness Frye and husband Billy of Pittsboro; sister, Donna Rose Ferguson of Staley; brothers, Walter Steven Ellis of Ramseur, and Gilbert Wayne Ellis of Staley; grandchildren, Marshall Jordan of Callahan, Fla., Jonathon Jordan and Matthew Jordan of Lemon Springs, and Izzabella Jordan and Kolton Jordan of Cameron; and several nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the family.

The family will receive friends from 12 to 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 11, 2023 at Smith & Buckner Chapel, 230 N. Second Ave., Siler City, NC 27344, and other times at 110 Eaker Drive, Cameron. NC 28326. The funeral service will follow at 2 p.m. with David Summerlin officiating.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Myers family.

Online condolences may be made at www.smithbucknerfh.com.

husband, Tracy Wicker; children, Courtney Martin, Tracy Brooks Jr., Caylee Jaye Wicker; brother, Greg Kelly Jr.; and two grandchildren.

Please consider contributions to the funeral home to assist the family with expenses.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

CINDY LAWANNA TYSINGER JONES

April 4, 1958 ~ January 29, 2023

Cindy Lawanna Tysinger Jones, 64, of Bennett, passed away on Sunday, January 29, 2023, at Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem.

Visitation was held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, at Joyce-Brady Chapel. The funeral will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, February 2, at 2023, at Maple Springs Community Church, with Rev. Ed Carter presiding. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

Cindy was the daughter of Clyde and Blanche Coble Tysinger, who preceded her in death. She owned and operated C & S Home Care for 10 years.

Cindy is survived by her husband of 44 years, Steven E. Jones; and a brother, Clyde E. Tysinger Jr. of Asheboro.

Flowers are accepted or donations may be made to the Tri-County Ruritans, P.O. Box 101, Bennett, N.C. 27208 or Maple Springs Community Church, 6231 N.C. Hwy. 22/42, Ramseur, N.C. 27316.

Condolences may be offered online at www.joycebrady-chapel.com.

Joyce-Brady Chapel is hon-

ored to serve the Jones Family.

CARLETTA RICHARDSON CAGLE

July 27, 1927 ~ February 1, 2023

Carletta Richardson Cagle, 95, celebrated her passing on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, at home.

Carletta was the daughter of John Richardson and Mattie Brown Richardson. She graduated from Elise High School and received a diploma in Nursing from McCain Sanatorium. Her husband, H.M. Cagle, preceded her in death. They had six children: Claudia Cagle Hayes, Hugh Michael Cagle, Cathy Cagle Callahan, John Timothy Cagle, Jeffery Lynn Cagle, Cynthia Cagle Marks; 12 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. She is survived by her sister, Georgia Richardson Bean (93) of Carthage.

The funeral service was held on Sunday, February 5, 2023, at 2 p.m. at Hillmon Grove Baptist Church with Rev. Wayne O'Quinn, Rev. Chris Wroten and Dr.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

EARL ELMORE

December 25, 1938 ~ February 1, 2023

Earl Elmore, 84, of Siler City, passed away on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, at his home.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

The son of Millard and Lucy Waddell Elmore, Earl was a U.S. Army Veteran, who served during the Korean Conflict. He retired after many years as a truck driver for Pilot Freight, then later worked for C&W Enterprise in Staley. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his sister, Mary Lois Wilson; and brother, Jimmy Elmore.

He is survived by his partner, Vera Teague Harris, and his brother, Curtis Elmore.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Elmore family.

Online condolences may be made at www.smithbucknerfh.com.

JUNE WILSON DICKENS

June 29, 1938 ~ February 2, 2023

June Wilson Dickens passed away on February 2, 2023.

A graveside service was held

Monday, February 6, 2023, at 2 p.m. at Cameron Grove cemetery with Rev. Russell Blackmon and Rev. Fallon Melvin officiating.

She was the daughter of the late Robert Alexander Wilson and Mary James Wilson. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Vaudie A. Dickens, and later, husband Ted Driggers. June worked as a bookkeeper for Davis Glass Company for over 30 years.

Surviving relatives include her children, daughter, Pamela D. Thomas; sons, Andrew L. Dickens and Joel W. Dickens; brother, Dr. Thomas A. Wilson; eight grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, you may honor June with a donation to the charity of your choice.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

ERIC ALVAREZ

October 14, 2005 ~ February 4, 2023

Eric Alvarez, 17, of Siler City, passed away on Saturday, February 4, 2023.

The family will receive family and friends from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, February 9, 2023, at Smith & Buckner Chapel with Pastor Eddis Lopez speaking. Burial will follow at Chatham Memorial Park.

Eric was the son of Juan Carlos and Maria Elena Alvarez. He was of the Christian faith.

He is survived by his parents; a daughter, Alyssa Maria Alvarez; sisters, Denise Montiel, Vanessa Sankey, and Selma Alvarez; grandmothers, Narcisca Santana and Maria Mendoza; great-grandparents, Maria Lopez and Isidonio Lopez.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Alvarez family.

Online condolences may be made at www.smithbucknerfh.com.

SUSAN STRINGER

August 12, 1956 ~ February 4, 2023

Susan Stringer passed away on February 4, 2023.

She was the daughter of Margaret Giragosian and Arthur Huller.

She is survived by three children, Ashley Claus, Christopher Doughty, Allison Smyth; and four grandchildren. Susan was very involved and successful in the medical field as an EMT and Paramedic. She loved and wished to spend her final years living in Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

CHARLIE LOUIS BLAND

January 25, 1946 ~ January 30, 2023

Charlie Louis Bland, 77, of Pittsboro, passed away on Monday, January 30, 2023, at Chatham Hospital, Siler City.

The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Tuesday afternoon at Mt. Sinai AME Church, with burial at Pittsboro Community Cemetery.

LAVONNE ELIZABETH (MCIVER) MCCUTCHEN

June 23, 1964 ~ January 22, 2023

LaVonne E. McCutchen, 58, of Sanford, passed away on Sunday, January 22, 2023, at her residence.

The funeral service was held at 11 a.m. Saturday, February 4, 2023, at Zion Hill Christian Center, with burial following at

See **OBITS**, page A9



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Opposite Smith & Buckner Funeral Home

Chatham’s David Hamm honored for service with state education organization

From Chatham County Schools

PITTSBORO — The North Carolina School Boards Trust recently honored Chatham County Board of Education member David Hamm for his years of service on the state organization’s Board of Directors.

Hamm served on the Trust’s Board of Directors from 2018 through 2022. The North Carolina School Boards Trust, through the N.C. School Boards Association, has been the primary and trusted risk management partner of North Carolina public school districts throughout the state.

NCSBT is the only mem-

ber-funded, member-managed risk management program in the state designed specifically for our public school districts. It is governed by a board of trustees composed of board of education members from across the state. The program provides a number of coverages to its members through its three funds: Errors and Omissions/General Liability, Automobile/Inland Marine and Workers’ Compensation.

“I was honored to have the opportunity to support education on a state level,” Hamm said. “This organization provides vital services for local school boards across the state, and I was thrilled to be able to contribute to its mission

through my service.”

Hamm has served on the Chatham County Schools Board of Education since 2008. He has been a Chatham County resident since 1970. Hamm graduated from Northwood High School and attended East Carolina University where he earned undergraduate and master’s degrees in Elementary Education. He completed his administrative degree from UNC-Chapel Hill. Hamm was a first-grade teacher (Pittsboro Elementary), assistant principal (Siler City Elementary), and principal (Bonlee and Pittsboro Elementary) in Chatham County Schools for 28 years.



Courtesy of Chatham County Schools

David Hamm, a member of the Chatham County Board of Education, was recently honored for his service to the N.C. School Boards Trust.

Chatham County Libraries awarded Food Literacy Center Grant

From Chatham County Government

PITTSBORO — Chatham County Public Libraries has been awarded a \$17,000 Food Literacy Center grant from the State Library of North Carolina.

In partnership with the Chatham County Public Health Department and the N.C. Cooperative Extension - Chatham County Center, Chatham County Public Libraries has received a grant to purchase a mobile teaching kitchen and curriculum to advance food literacy programming at all library branches. Instruction will be held monthly and will be conducted by staff from the N.C. Cooperative Extension - Chatham County Center and the Chatham County Public Health Department.

The teaching kitchen is the product of the Charlie Cart Project based in Berkeley, California, and is designed

to promote food literacy programming that focuses on food, health and the environment. The teaching kitchen includes a convection oven and induction cooktop, a stainless-steel sink with spray nozzle pump and gray water recovery, storage for pots, pans, dishes and lesson plans, and a power and electrical system optimal for instruction. The portable kitchen will be used primarily at Wren Memorial Library in Siler City.

The first event as part of this program will be about eating healthy to lower blood pressure at 6 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 30, at Wren Memorial Library.

According to the Charlie Cart Project, food literacy is defined as understanding the impact of people’s food choices on their health, environment and economy — and understanding that their impacts are not experienced equitably.

“We want to empower our community members to make informed food choices,” said Linda Clarke, Chatham County libraries director. “The teaching kitchen will be a great tool to increase residents’ accessibility to the knowledge they need to make these choices.”

“Our food system is complicated and much of the burden falls on the consumer to make healthy choices. This food literacy grant is an opportunity to provide interactive food programs to educate Chatham residents in making informed decisions for their health and wellbeing,” added Tara Gregory, extension agent for the N.C. Cooperative Extension - Chatham County Center.

Laura Hearn, registered dietitian with the Chatham County Public Health Department, also expressed her enthusiasm.

“We’re thrilled that the library is receiving this grant,” she said. “This

program is a productive collaboration that also offers the public an easy way to learn about healthy foods, proper nutrition and reducing the risk of chronic conditions. As public health dietitians, we are very excited about the potential impact for this program on the well-being of residents.”

The food literacy center grant is made possible by funding from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) as administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (IMLS grant number LS-252476-OLS-22).

For more information about this program, individuals may contact Tabatha Weaver at 919-742-2016 or by email at tabatha.weaver@chathamlibraries.org. Information about all Chatham County Library branches can be found at www.chathamlibraries.org.



EMPTY BOWLS

Tickets Now on Sale



Building a Community Without Hunger

Sunday
March 19, 2023
5:00 pm- 8:00 pm at Galloway Ridge

- Delicious soups from local restaurants
- Handcrafted bowls from local artisans
- Live music

CORA is a nonprofit organization that serves local residents facing food insecurity.

Join us for this wonderful, collaborative, and community effort supporting CORA’s work of providing abundant, safe, and nutritious food to those facing hunger across Chatham County.

For more information and to but tickets visit
WWW.CORAFoodPANTRY.ORG

CHURCH NEWS

CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Center United Methodist Church is sponsoring a free Country Breakfast with all the trimmings from 6:30 to 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 25. Donations will be accepted.

There will be sausage/bacon, country ham, homemade biscuits, gravy, grits/eggs, stewed apples, with coffee and drinks.

The church is located at 9203 Center Methodist Rd./Green Hill Rd. off N.C. Hwy. 87 South, Graham. Everyone is welcome.

GUM SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. John Hackney will deliver the 10 a.m. message, Sunday, Feb. 12, at Gum Springs Baptist Church. Rev. Hackney previously served Juniper Springs

BAPTIST CHURCH IN SANFORD

Baptist Church in Sanford. Join us for a time of worship and fellowship at 227 Gum Springs Church Rd., Moncure.

LOVES CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Loves Creek’s Mid-Winter Ping Pong Tournament Outreach and Hot Dog Supper will be held at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 19, in the church’s Fellowship Hall. Invite a friend or unchurched neighbor and join us for an anticipated evening of laughter, fun, food, and fellowship. Please sign up to play in the singles tournament and pick a doubles partner and sign up to play together. Prizes will be awarded.

We are located at 1745 East 11th Street, Siler City. We look forward to seeing you there.

OBITS

Continued from page A8

Lee Memory Garden.

NECHOL RASHAWN CLARK

December 28, 1979 ~ January 23, 2023

NeChol Rashawn Clark, 43, transitioned into eternal rest on Monday, January 23, 2023, in Charlotte.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. Friday, February 3, 2023, at 2 p.m. at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford.

STEPHANIE BRIDGET (EAVES) CHEEK

July 22, 1964 ~ January 28, 2023

Stephanie Cheek, 58, of Pittsboro, passed away on Saturday, January 28, 2023, at her residence.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 4, 2023, at Alston Chapel United Holy Church.

IRWIN STRICKLIN

October 15, 1932 ~ January 26, 2023

Irwin Stricklin, 90, of Sanford, passed away on Thursday, January 26, 2023, at his residence.

A graveside service was held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at Sandhills Veterans Cemetery at Fort Bragg.

SHENITA LAFONYA (HARRIS) RYNER

March 17, 1974 ~ January 31, 2023

Shenita L. Ryner, 48, of West End, passed away on Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at her residence.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

ANGELA FAYE SWANN

February 21, 1973 ~ January 30, 2023

Angela Faye Swann, 49, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, January 30, 2023.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home-Sanford.



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lockyourmeds.org/nc

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CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE

LEARN ABOUT LAND - Chatham Land Experts - www.learn-aboutland.com - 919-362-6999. Jy2,tfncc

RENT

TWO BEDROOM, One bath, mobile home, No pets/no smoking - Bear Creek, 919-837-5689, Leave message! w/phone number. F9,16,2tp

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,tfncc

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,tfncc

PETS

NEED HELP caring for small family pets. Must be organized, dependable and reliable. Call 919-770-6356

F9,16,23,M2,4tp

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD FOR SALE - Dry, ready to burn. Call 919-742-4561, F2,9,16,23,4tx

TV ANTENNAS - Come by MacPage Communications at 102 N. Third Avenue, Siler City, 919-227-6698, F2,F9,2tc

AUCTIONS

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,tfncc

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SERVICES

DIGGING AND DEMO - Land improvements, mini-excavating, stump removal, mobile home and building tear down, al digging. Call John Hayes, 919-548-0474, J19-Ju1,20tp

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,tfncc

AUTO BROKERS RECYCLERS - Cash paid for Junk/Wrecked vehicles. Call 919-545-0194. My13,tfncc

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,tfncc

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

HELP WANTED

PART-TIME, Retired Perfectionist, needs Handyman/Carpenter, at Old Farm Place and Retreat - \$12.00 per hour; 910-773-0722 F9,16,23,M2,4tp

NEED HELP caring for small family pets. Must be organized, dependable and reliable. Call 919-770-6356

F9,16,23,M2,4tp

CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT - Active relationship with Christ and membership in a church of like-faith required. 18-20 hrs/wk to manage office, prepare publications, and maintain records. Computer proficiency required. Submit resume and hourly salary re-

quirement to: Personnel Committee, Tyson's Creek Baptist Church, 10891 Siler City-Glen-don Rd., Bear Creek, NC 27207 or email to tysonscreek@tysonscreek.com. J19,26,F2,9,4tc

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,tfncc

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 26 All persons having claims against **ALLENE H. HARMON AKA ANNIE ALLENE HARWARD HARMON**, deceased late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 19th day of January, 2023. Jane Harmon Pendergrast, Executrix 140 West Newman Rd Chapel Hill, NC 27517 J19,J26,F2,F9,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, having qualified as **Executrix of the Estate of TROY M. HANCOCK, JR.**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the said decedent or his estate to present them to her at 2755 Bonlee-Bennett Road, Siler City, NC 27344 on or before the 20th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All of those indebted to the said estate are hereby requested to make prompt payment to the undersigned. This the 19th day of January, 2023. Ann P. Hancock Executrix of the Estate of **Troy M. Hancock, Jr.** 2755 Bonlee-Bennett Road Siler City, N.C. 27344 J19,J26,F2,F9,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 2022 E 000711 All persons having claims against **MARTIN PALMER ODOM JR.**, deceased late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 19th day of January, 2023. Margaret T. Odom, Administrator 5128 Bonlee Carbonton Road Goldston, NC 27252 J19,J26,F2,F9,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 8 All persons having claims against **ELIZABETH BROOKS COBB**, deceased late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 19th day of January, 2023. Christopher William Cobb, Co-Executor 6368 Waterway Drive Falls Church, VA 22044 Anna Lees Cobb, Co-Executor 1315 Langdon Place 1315 Fearrington Post Pittsboro, NC 27312 J19,J26,F2,F9,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 2023 E 000018 All persons having claims against **HELEN MARY KNAPP**, deceased late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 27th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 26th day of January, 2023. Andrea Paula Judge, Executor 35 John Laurel Dr

Murphy, NC 28906 J26,F2,F9,F16,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 2 All persons having claims against **KATHERINE H. DOTSON**, deceased late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 27th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 26th day of January, 2023. Jeffrey P. Dotson, Co-Executor 152 Mockernut Rd Pittsboro, NC 27312 Douglas R. Dotson, Co-Executor 326 Mockernut Rd Pittsboro, NC 27312 J26,F2,F9,F16,4tp

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO: 22-CVD-237 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY **TARA TENNILLE FARRELL, Plaintiff VS CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL FARRELL, Defendant** **NOTICE of SERVICE OR PROCESS BY PUBLICATION TO: CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL FARRELL** TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed on the 13th day of April, 2022 in the above entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Plaintiff is seeking an absolute divorce from defendant based upon one year's separation. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than 40 days following the 26th day of January, 2023, said date being the first publication of this notice, or from the date complaint is required to be filed, whichever is later, and

upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought. This 26th day of January, 2023. **TARA TENNILLE FARRELL, Plaintiff** **MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE** **W. Ben Atwater, Jr. Attorney for Plaintiff** P.O. Box 629 Siler City, NC 27344 (919) 663-2850 J26,F2,F9,3tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 2022-E-0300 Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **CATHY S. STOW**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 27th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment. This the 26th day of January, 2023. c/o David A. Burns, Attorney for Jeffrey A. Stow, Executor of the Estate of Cathy S. Stow PO Box 17803 Raleigh, NC 27619 Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton, LLP 4101 Lake Boone Trail, Suite 300 Raleigh, N.C. 27607 P: 919.781.4000 F: 919.781.4865 www.wyrick.com J26,F2,F9,F16,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **ROBERT C. BROOKS**, deceased, of Chatham County, NC, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before April 28, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar

of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 26th day of January, 2023. Shelia Elizabeth Jenkins, Executor c/o Bagwell Holt Smith P.A. 111 Cloister Court, STE 200 Chapel Hill, NC 27514 J26,F2,F9,F16,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 23-E-032 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, Edward Culberson, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **LACI DAWN HART**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 26th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 26th day of January, 2023. Edward Culberson, Administrator c/o Robert Cummings Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 J26,F2,F9,F16,4tc

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Line ad deadline Tuesday — Noon

Display ad deadline Monday — 5 p.m.

Rates and payment Minimum charge of \$5 for each classified advertisement of 25 words or less per week. For each additional word, no matter how many insertions, add 20¢ per word. Payable in advance.

Blind ads No information will be given out by this office to the identity of person placing "keyed" or "blind" ads.

Errors In advertisements that run more than one week, we are responsible for errors appearing in the first week only. If you find an error in your ad, report it immediately.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **EVELYN M. THOITS**, Deceased, late of Chatham

PITTSBORO VILLAGE APARTMENTS

Now accepting applications for 2BR, 1.5BA Range, refrigerator, dishwasher are included in the rent. Rent starts at \$630 and up. 400 Honeysuckle Dr., Pittsboro, NC 27312 919-542-5410 TDD 1-800-735-2962 Email: pittsborovillage@ECCMGTCOM   **EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES**

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CALL: 919-542-3151 Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for appointment to complete application and interview. **Pittsboro Christian Village 1825 East Street, Pittsboro, NC**

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• Rental Assistance Available Rent Based on Income

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An Affordable Housing Community for the Elderly, Handicapped or Disabled (Persons 62 years old, Handicapped or Disabled of any age)
One and Two Bedroom Units and HC Accessible Units
Rental Assistance Available and Housing Vouchers Accepted (On a Limited Basis and for those who Qualify)
Please call 919-542-2669 TDD/TYY # [1] 800-735-2962
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- 1 & 2 Bedroom Apartments
- Units for Persons with Disabilities Available
- Rent Based On Income-

Rental Assistance Available. Please call,

(919) 742-4058

TTD/TYY # 1-800-735-2962

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County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the office of IDOL LAW, PLLC, 2741 University Dr., PO Box 51759, Durham, NC 27717, on or before the 30th day of April, 2023 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment. This is the 26th day of January, 2023. Richard Stuart Thoits, Executor Estate of Evelyn M. Thoits, Deceased Robert A. Idol, Esquire IDOL LAW, PLLC Attorneys at Law PO Box 51759 Durham, NC 27717 (919) 401-5151 J26,F2,F9,F16,4tc

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified on the 20th day of January, 2023, as Executor of the Estate of **GRETA L. OWENS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the undersigned Executor on or before the 28th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment. This the 26th day of January, 2023. The Estate of Greta L. Owens Susan O. Biggs, Executor 7239 Bulb Road Julian, NC 27283 Attorney for the Estate: William H. Flowe, Jr. P.O. Box 1315 J26,F2,F9,F16,4tc

Liberty, NC 27298 Phone: (336) 622-2278 J26,F2,F9,F16,4tc

CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **MARGARET ANN HART MCLAURIN**, deceased, 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 26th day of April, 2023 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 26th day of January, 2023. Stephen Keith McLaurin, Executor 2075 McLaurin Road Siler City, North Carolina 27344 J26,F2,F9,F16,4tc

CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified on the 5th of January 2023, as Administrator of the Estate of **SUSAN JULIE WHITE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 26th day of April 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment. This the 26th day of January 2023 W. Woods Doster, Administra-

tor of the Estate of Susan Julie White 206 Hawkins Avenue Sanford, NC 27330 Attorneys: Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A. 206 Hawkins Avenue Sanford, NC 27330 J26,F2,F9,F16,4tc

NOTICE OF HEARINGS TOWN OF SILER CITY The following item will be considered by the Siler City Planning Commission on Monday, February 13, 2023. The hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room of the Wren Memorial Library located at 500 N. 2nd Ave. The item will also be heard by the Town Council for Siler City on February 20, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the multipurpose room of the Wren Memorial Library located at 500 N. 2nd Ave. **Legislative Hearing R23-0201.** Rezoning of four tract from Agricultural-Residential (A-R) to Heavy Industrial (H-I) tracts totaling 43.35 acres ±, addressed as 394, 438, 546, and unaddressed Bish Road (parcel numbers 12773, 12774, 12705, and 61190), and being the properties of Hilltop Holdings, LLC, Chandra B and Lynn Lafone III, D H Griffin Wrecking Company, LLC, and Samantha Rachelle and Bobby Tucker, represented by Tims Farm & Fosestry I, LLC Timothy Booras, Manager. The proposed item is available for review by contacting Jennifer C. Baptiste at jlbaptiste@silercity.org or 919-726-8626. 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. These are separate hearings: Interested parties may submit evidence and written comments. Written comments or evidence on these applications can be submitted by email to jlbaptiste@silercity.org. Individuals desiring to speak must sign up by calling 919-726-8626 before 12:00 p.m. on or before

the scheduled public hearing date. 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 Tammy Thomas at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or thomas@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 Tammy Thomas al thomas@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud. F2,F9,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 56 All persons having claims against **LEON DAVIS LEE, SR.**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of May, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 2nd day of February, 2023. Cledia Lee Holland, Executrix 181 Lee's Point Moncure, NC 27559 F2,F9,F16,F23,4tp

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY HAVING QUALIFIED as Executor of the Estate of **CHARLOTTE RICHARDS HALL** late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of May, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 26th day of January, 2023. William Valmer Hall, Executor of The Estate of Charlotte Richards Hall 2525 Harleston Green Drive Florence, South Carolina 29505 MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE ATTORNEYS AT LAW BOX 629 SILER CITY, NORTH CAROLINA 27344 (919) 663-2850 F2,F9,F16,F23,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY HAVING QUALIFIED as Executor of the Estate of **LIZZIE VALERIE MCLAURIN, LIZZIE W. MCLAURIN, LIZZIE WOMBLE MCLAURIN**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of May, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 26th day of January, 2023. Wilma McLaurin Perry, Executor of The Estate of Lizzie Valerie McLaurin, Lizzie W. McLaurin, Lizzie Womble McLaurin 806 Woodland Drive Siler City, North Carolina 27344 MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE ATTORNEYS AT LAW BOX 629 SILER CITY, NORTH CAROLINA 27344 (919) 663-2850 F2,F9,F16,F23,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 590 All persons having claims against **SYLVIA B. BUTLER**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of May, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 2nd day of February, 2023. Laura Partin, Administrator 175 Holly Run Pittsboro, NC 27312 F2,F9,F16,F23,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **ELLEN SUE TOLIN**, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before May 2, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 2nd of February, 2023. Shara Lee, Executor of the Estate of Ellen Sue Tolin, Paul A. Yokabitus, Attorney 1033 Wade Avenue, Suite 104 Raleigh, NC 27605 F2,F9,F16,F23,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY All persons having claims against **KARL KUO-LIANG CHANG**, also known as **KARL L. CHANG**, of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on December 20, 2022, are notified to present them to Cynthia Chang Donovan, Executor of the Estate of Karl L. Chang, in c/o Michael S. Munson, Attorney for the Estate, at Munson Law Firm, PLLC, P.O. Box 4312 Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27515, on or before May 10, 2023. Failure to present a claim in a timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Executor, and the devisees of Karl L. Chang. Those indebted to the deceased are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate. Michael S. Munson Munson Law Firm PLLC P.O. Box 4312 Chapel Hill, NC 27515 F2,F29,F16,F23,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY All persons having claims against **HENRY WALLACE PARKER**, also known as **H. WALLACE PARKER**, of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on December 9, 2022, are notified to present them to Meriel S. Parker, Executor of the Estate of H. Wallace Parker, in c/o Michael S. Munson, Attorney for the Estate, at Munson Law Firm, PLLC, P.O. Box 4312, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27515, on or before May 10, 2023. Failure to present a claim in a timely

fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Executor, and the devisees of H. Wallace Parker. Those indebted to the deceased are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate. Michael S. Munson Munson Law Firm PLLC P.O. Box 4312 Chapel Hill, NC 27515 F2,F29,F16,F23,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY All persons having claims against **MARY SMITHIES CASON**, of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on November 3, 2022, are notified to present them to James Walter Cason, Executor of the Estate of Mary Smithies Cason, in c/o Michael S. Munson, Attorney for the Estate, at Munson Law Firm, PLLC, P.O. Box 4312, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27515, on or before May 10, 2023. Failure to present a claim in a timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Executor, and the devisees of Mary Smithies Cason. Those indebted to the deceased are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate. Michael S. Munson Munson Law Firm PLLC P.O. Box 4312 Chapel Hill, NC 27515 F2,F29,F16,F23,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY HAVING QUALIFIED as Executor of the Estate of **REBECCA D. ROUTH** late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of May, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 1st day of February, 2023. Joshua A. Lee, Executor of the Estate of Rebecca D. Routh 122 S. Chatham Avenue P.O. Box 629 Siler City, North Carolina 27344 MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE, ATTORNEYS AT LAW BOX 629 SILER CITY, NORTH CAROLINA 27344 (919) 663-2850 F9,F16,F23,M2,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY HAVING QUALIFIED as Executor of the Estate of **SHIRLEY GRACE STROHM** late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of May, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 1st day of February, 2023. Traci S. Mabe, Executrix of Estate of Shirley Grace Strohm 733 Ward Road Staley, North Carolina 27355 MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE ATTORNEYS AT LAW BOX 629 SILER CITY, NORTH CAROLINA 27344 (919) 663-2850 F9,F16,F23,M2,4tc

Notice of Proceeding and

Service of Process by Publication COUNTY OF WAKE In the General Court of Justice District Court Division File Number 22JT243 In the Matter of: BABY GIRL CAPPs (DOB 11-28-22) TO: A HISPANIC MALE NAMED "DANNY" and any other unknown father of a baby girl born to Isabelle Mia Capps on November 28, 2022 in Orange County, North Carolina. Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-captioned action in Wake County, North Carolina. The nature of the relief being sought is termination of your parental rights to the above-named child. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than 40 days from February 9, 2023. If you fail to answer this petition, your parental rights will be terminated. You are entitled to attend any hearing affecting your rights. You are entitled to have counsel appointed by the Court if you are indigent. If you desire counsel, you should immediately contact the following attorney who has been provisionally appointed to represent you: Michael Fury, 6300 Creedmoor Rd. Suite 170 #258, Raleigh, NC 27612, 919-264-6450. At the first hearing the court will determine whether you qualify for a court-appointed attorney. This the 9th day of February, 2023. Robin Strickland Attorney for Petitioners 434-2350 Fayetteville St. Raleigh, NC 27601 (919) 701-9690 F9,F16,F23,3tc

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE A public hearing will be held by the Chatham County Board

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of Commissioners on Monday, February 20, 2023, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The hearing will be held at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center, 1192 US 64W Business, Pittsboro NC 27312. Additional information is available at the Chatham County Planning Department office. Speakers are requested to sign up at the meeting prior to the hearing. You may also sign up on the county website prior to the meeting at www.chatham-countync.gov by selecting the heading County Government, then Commissioner Meetings, then Public Input/Hearing Sign Up. The public hearing may be continued to another date at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive input, both written and oral, on the issues listed below:

1. A legislative public hearing requested by Kiran Addepalli for a rezoning on Parcel 88797 (18.170 acres) and a portion of Parcel 9268 (15.61 ac) totaling approximately 33.78 acres, located on Roberts Chapel Road, Goldston, from R-1 Residential to Conditional Use Neighborhood Business for grounds and facilities for open air games and sports specifically for six cricket fields with practice pitching areas and future clubhouse/dining area,

Gulf Township.

2. A legislative public hearing requested by Derrick and Latanya Smith for a rezoning on Parcel 85396, located on Moncure Pittsboro Road, Moncure, being approximately 2.003 acres from Conditional Use Neighborhood Business back to R-1 Residential in order to construct a new residence, Haw River Township. Substantial changes may be made following the public hearing due to verbal or written comments received or based on the Board's discussions.

Notice to people with special needs: If you have an audio or visual impairment, unique accessibility requirements or need language assistance, please call the number listed below prior to the hearing and assistance may be provided. If you have any questions or comments concerning these issues, please call the Chatham County Planning Department at 542-8204 or write to P.O. Box 54, Pittsboro N.C. 27312.

F9,F16,2tc

NOTICE OF SALE
Pursuant to the Order Granting Possession, Custody, Control, and Sale of Real Property

entered on September 7, 2022 in the above captioned proceeding, notice is hereby given that the subject property will be put up for public sale on February 24th, 2023 at 10:00 a.m., the sale will be held at the Chatham County Courthouse in the designated area for sales

The subject property is described as follows: Chatham County Tax Parcel 0072559 on Dewitt Smith Road approximately 1.403 acres, more particularly described at Lot 3 on a map entitled, "Survey for Joseph B. Gill," prepared by Van R. Finch, dated August 3, 2004, recorded at Plat Cabinet 2004 Slide 299, Chatham County Registry. An earnest money deposit from the highest bidder equal to ten percent (10%) of the amount of the bid is required at the time of the sale as evidence of good faith. Said bid reported to the Court and will remain open for the upset bid period as required by law. The Court reserves the right to approve or reject all bids. THE PROPERTY IS SOLD AS-IS, WHERE-IS, WITH ALL FAULTS. F9,F16,2tc

CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS SURPLUS SALE
Chatham County Schools is

offering surplus school items for sale via sealed bids. The surplus items can be viewed on:

Date: February 15th, 2023
Time: 8:00am - 1:00pm
Location: Chatham County Schools Maintenance/Construction Facilities
401 South 6th Avenue
Siler City, NC 27344

If you would like to see a list of items, please visit Chatham County Schools website: <https://www.chatham.k12.nc.us/Page/23650>
F9,1tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 40
All persons having claims against **JOAN S. RAMIREZ**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of May, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 9th day of February, 2023.
Melissa R. Johnson Executrix

236 Beachers Brook Ln
Cary, NC 27511
F9,F16,F23,M2,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 50
All persons having claims against **MARIE ELIZABETH LANG**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of May, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 9th day of February, 2023.
Lynn Ellen Lang, Executrix
3546 Birkdale Lane
Palm Harbor, FL 34684
F9,F16,F23,M2,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 2023 E 000061
All persons having claims against **LARRY WELDON YOUNG, SR., LARRY W. YOUNG, SR.**, deceased, late

of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of May, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 9th day of February, 2023.
LARRY W. YOUNG III, Administrator CTA
240 WALTER BRIGHT RD
SANFORD, NC 27330
F9,F16,F23,M2,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations holding claims against **CLIFTON THOMAS WHYBURN**, deceased, of Hamilton County, OH are notified to exhibit same to the undersigned on or before May 12, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This 9th day of February 2023.
Kay Paul Whyburn, Exec. c/o Clarity Legal Group
PO Box 2207
Chapel Hill, NC 27515.
F9,F16,F23,M2,4tp

Pittsboro's 'The Plant' recognized by the N.C. Business Council

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — Tami Schwerin, founder of The Plant, was honored with a Sustainable Business of the Year Award by the North Carolina Business Council at its annual awards banquet on Jan. 26.

The 6th annual event was held at Transfer Co. Food Hall in downtown Raleigh and included a record number of nominees.

"I was stunned," Schwerin said. "We've been re-developing The Plant since 2005, but this is the first award we have received for our endeavor."

The Plant campus is home to dozens of mission-driven businesses, manufacturing everything from beer to spirits to clothing made from hemp. It has emerged as a popular visitor destination, for food and beverage, outdoor activities, and events.

The Business Council is a statewide coalition of businesses and business partners who have a passion for creating purpose-driven businesses.

"We've invested in local food, solar energy and stormwater management because they are things we believe in," Schwerin said.

Visitors to The Plant can enjoy its hiking trail and its expansive park, complete with a constructed wetland. Scooters, e-bikes and axe



Courtesy of The Plant

Tami Schwerin, founder of The Plant in Pittsboro, was honored with a Sustainable Business of the Year Award by the North Carolina Business Council.

throwing are included in some of its activities, along with picnics and bird watching, set in an edible landscape of increasingly native plants.

"We are glad the North Carolina Business Council shares our passion for developing a restorative local economy," Schwerin said. "And we are delighted to have won this year's award."

The Plant is located at 220 Lorax Lane, just east of downtown Pittsboro. For more information, go to www.theplantnc.com.

Pittsboro moves offices from Chatham Mills to Main Street Station

PITTSBORO — The town of Pittsboro has moved its offices formerly located at Chatham Mills and downtown Pittsboro into a new office space located at Main Street Station, 287 East St., Suite 221-A, in Pittsboro.

The town's Planning, Engineering, Parks and Recreation, and Downtown departments, as well as the administration for the Public Works and Public Utilities departments, have worked on moving over the past week and are now operating out of the new facility.

The offices are open following the same 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. schedule that was followed at Chatham Mills.

Volunteer river cleanup set for Loves Creek Greenway:

SILER CITY — Volunteers are needed to assist with the restoration process of Loves Creek's in Siler City, where participants and organizers will pick up trash from Loves Creek and the area along the Greenway from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 25.

Volunteers are asked to gather and park in the Bray Park Parking Lot on 700 Alston Bridge Rd., Siler City. Adults and youth age 12 and up are welcome to participate. Youth ages 12 through 15 years must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

If the event gets rained out on the original date, the make up day will be on Saturday, March 4.

Gloves and trash bags will be provided. Participants are encouraged to wear shoes or boots that are water-safe. A signed liability waiver will be required for each participant and are available at the site or may be downloaded it [HERE](#) to sign and bring with you.

Contact us at lovescreekNC@gmail.com for questions or information.

EMBRACE's 'Building a Birth Equity Village' retreat set for March 11

Moms and Babies Realized Across Chatham (EMBRACE) is holding its first ever retreat from 9

NEWS BRIEFS

a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 11, at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center.

This is a day dedicated to story sharing, reflection and community building led by skilled facilitator and life strategist Kim Pevia.

EMBRACE welcomes women, birthing people, birth workers and advocates dedicated to collectively working on maternal and infant health disparities in Chatham County. This collaborative grant-funded project hopes to bring a diverse group of community members together to share stories, connect and reimagine what is possible in the pursuit of equity for moms and babies in Chatham County.

Free on-site child care and meals are provided with registration.

Interested individuals can register at this link: <https://check-out.eventcreate.com/1st-annual-embrace-retreat-190086-6b745b/select-buy>

Sherwin-Williams' Pittsboro grand opening set for Feb. 22

The Chatham Chamber of Commerce invites community members to attend the Feb. 22 ribbon cutting and grand opening event for Sherwin-Williams Pittsboro on 1697 Hillsboro St.

The ribbon cutting will occur at 11 a.m. followed by lunch and open house until 3 p.m. Lunch is provided by Allen & Sons. There will be raffle prizes and 40% off painting supplies during the event.

NCDOR opens 2023 individual income tax season

The N.C. Dept. of Revenue officially opened the 2023 individual income tax season and began downloading 2022 returns on Feb. 2. Taxpayers who file state returns electronically will now receive acknowledgments.

Even as the NCDOR begins accepting returns, it will be early March before it begins processing and validating return information and issuing refunds.

This delay is necessary as NCDOR completes updating and test-

ing of the refund fraud validation system. Once it begins processing and validating the returns, NCDOR will post the "Where's My Refund" application on the NCDOR.gov webpage that allows taxpayers to check the status of their tax refund.

Tax returns are typically due on April 15. However, by law, North Carolina considers income tax returns with a due date on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday as being timely filed if delivered in person or mailed or electronically submitted to the NCDOR on or before the next business day after the Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

In 2023, April 15 falls on a Saturday, and Emancipation Day, a legal holiday for income tax purposes, will be observed on Monday, April 17. Therefore, if a taxpayer files their 2022 calendar year income tax return on or before April 18, 2023, the NCDOR will consider the return timely filed.

Taxpayers are encouraged to file their taxes electronically; it is safer, more convenient and will move through our process faster than traditional paper filing. Free online filing (eFile) options for qualified taxpayers are available through the NCDOR.gov website using NCfreefile. Eligibility requirements for NCfreefile are available at: <https://www.ncdor.gov/ncfreefile>. Note: taxpayers must start at the agency website, www.ncdor.gov, to file their taxes for free.

CCCC Foundation gets grants from N.C. Arts Council

SANFORD — The Central Carolina Community College Foundation has received four grants from the North Carolina Arts Council Grassroots Arts Program supporting the college's Academic and Cultural Enrichment Series (ACES) and Student Activities Programming.

The Harnett County Government awarded two grants for programs in Harnett County — a Grassroots Arts Program grant of \$5,650 to fund a series of arts events celebrating Black history and Black artists and an ARPA Grassroots grant of \$1,500 to fund a lecture and meet and greet with Pulitzer Prize winning photojournalist José Galvez.

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NEWS & ENTERTAINMENT

FEBRUARY 9 - 15, 2023 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B



Photo courtesy of Northood Athletics

Northwood senior Dream Walker won the state championship in the heavyweight division at this past weekend’s NCHSAA girls wrestling invitational.

Dream to reality: Northwood’s Walker wins state wrestling title

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

Even after a strong performance at the mideast regionals the previous week, Northwood senior Dream Walker was all nerves early this week leading up to this past weekend’s NCHSAA women’s state wrestling invitational.

Entering the tournament as the No. 2 seed in her region in the heavyweight division, Walker would need to win four bouts to take home a state championship. But before that, she had to fight the pit in her stomach.

Everything came to a head on Thursday, according to Walker.

“The whole week leading up, I was extremely nervous,” she said. “On Thursday, I had a whole breakdown about it, because I was like, ‘I don’t know if I can do this.’ I really doubted myself, but after talking with my athletic trainer and director about it, they helped me out a lot and gave me a lot more confidence heading into



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Northwood senior Dream Walker receives a flower during Senior Night celebrations back on Jan. 6.

it. On Friday, I was prepared mentally, just telling myself, ‘OK. You’re going to go win this. You’re more than capable of doing it.’ I guess it all worked out.”

Walker defeated her first two opponents by technical fall before taking down fellow senior Jillian Boothe of Mallard Creek in the heavyweight semifinals by a 7-3 decision. Her final bout against Lum-

berton junior Wyntergale Oxendine lasted 4:51 before she muscled out the victory by technical fall — winning the gold medal in the process.

With the win, Walker becomes the first girls wrestler in Chatham County history to win a state championship, and the fourth Chatham athlete this season to win a state

See **TITLE**, page B4

Give me the Eagles



JEREMY VERNON
Sports Editor

Well, it’s finally upon us.

In a matchup of the No. 1 seeds in each conference, the Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles meet Sunday in Phoenix for Super Bowl LVII (57) with a spot in football history on the line.

The story of Sunday’s game will undoubtedly be how Kansas City and Patrick Mahomes handle a vaunted Eagles defense that has been the best pass-rushing team in the league this season by a wide margin.

Mahomes is certainly capable of great moments — throws that will make you question the very nature of physics and calculus — but this test might be too much for even “Baby GOAT” to handle. In a meeting of the NFL’s No. 1 passing offense and the No. 1 passing defense, the Eagles will make life a living hell for a gimpy Mahomes, and I expect Philadelphia to end Sunday night raising the Lombardi trophy for the first time since 2018.

In 17 regular season games this season, the Eagles racked up 70 sacks, tied for the third-most in NFL history behind the 1984 Bears (72) and the 1989 Minnesota Vikings (71). They’ve followed that up by totaling eight sacks in their first two post-season games.

One member of Philadelphia’s defense who is playing the best football of his career right now is outside linebacker Haason Reddick. After joining the Eagles from the Panthers over the offseason, Reddick totaled 16 sacks and five forced fumbles during the regular season, and his 3.5 sacks in the postseason so far as the most of any player.

Reddick — who was named second-team all-pro after the regular season — totaled at least one sack in each of the Eagles’ first two playoff games, dominant victories over the Giants and 49ers, but he isn’t the only one wreaking havoc in the Philadelphia front seven. Philadelphia’s starting defensive line of Josh Sweat, Fletcher Cox, Jason Hargrave and Brandon Graham weighs in at just over 1,100 pounds, and all four have at least one sack this postseason.

Now, I might feel differently about this game if we had any clearer picture of Mahomes health. After suffering a high ankle sprain in the divisional round against Jacksonville, the quarterback played the AFC Championship game with a heavy tape job. But he has performed well in both games playoff games so far, completing 69.9% of his passes with 521 passing yards, four touchdowns and zero interceptions.

Still, it’s obvious to see Mahomes isn’t at 100%. His unique

See **EAGLES**, page B2



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Northwood’s home crowd celebrates during the ‘Play 4 Karen’ game against Orange on Friday.

Northwood honors late Chatham teacher/coach at 2nd ‘Play 4 Karen’ game

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

Kerri Snipes knows first-hand the impact Karen Heilman had on her student-athletes. As a young Chatham County athlete growing up, Snipes was coached by Heilman at the middle school level in basketball, softball and soccer at Perry Harrison Elementary back when it was K-8. So when she heard the news of Heilman’s death on Sept. 9, 2021 from an aggressive form of cancer, it hit that much harder.

“She meant a lot to me, personally,” Snipes

said. “She did it all, and it was such a big loss to our community a couple years ago when she passed away.

A teacher and coach in the community for over 20 years, Heilman led many student-athletes who went on to play at Northwood High. So fittingly, when Snipes became the head coach of the Chargers’ girls basketball team in 2021-22, she figured out a way to help honor her former mentor.

Working with Northwood athletic direc-

See **NORTHWOOD**, page B4



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Chatham Charter senior Adam Harvey (with ball) leads his team with 17.2 points per game this season.

BASKETBALL

Hawks host Knights on Saturday in marquee double-header

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

The final day of the basketball regular season sees four of Chatham County’s top teams duke it out, with the Seaforth girls and boys teams hosting Chatham Charter at 4:30 and 6 p.m. on Saturday. Though the game won’t count toward conference standings, it offers a great opportunity for any of

the four programs to earn some much-needed momentum entering the postseason.

The first game of the day will feature the Seaforth and Chatham Charter girls teams, which entered this week’s games with a combined record of 35-7 overall. This is the second meeting between these two teams over the past two seasons. The first saw the Hawks defeat the Knights, 57-37, exactly a year ago.

This year’s Seaforth team boasts an 18-3 record, but the Hawks have also dealt with their fair share of bad luck. Over the past few weeks, injuries have sidelined multiple rotation players, including sophomore Gabby White, who leads the team in points (15.6), rebounds (8.9), assists (3.3) and steals (3.9) per game this season. There is no current timetable for her return, though Seaforth obviously hopes it will be sometime

during the postseason.

“We’ve definitely grown a lot over the course of the past couple weeks,” said Seaforth head coach Charles Byrd. “Overall, I feel like it has made us stronger as a team, and it’s given us an understanding of how to deal with adversity and how to continue to push forward when you’re hit with difficult things. That’s really what

See **HAWKS**, page B2

SCORES AND SCHEDULES		
SCORES	Wrestling	
TUESDAY, JANUARY 31		
Girls basketball		
Northwood 54, Burlington School 50 Seaforth 78, Jordan-Matthews 2 Chatham Central 57, Cummings 32 Chatham Charter 62, Southern Wake Academy 15 Triangle Math & Science 68, Woods Charter 30		
Boys basketball		
Seaforth 56, Jordan-Matthews 50 Cummings 77, Chatham Charter 66 Chatham Charter 102, Southern Wake Academy 16 Triangle Math & Science 53, Woods Charter 25		
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1		
Girls basketball		
Clover Garden 70, Woods Charter 20		
Boys basketball		
Woods Charter 49, Clover Garden 38		
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2		
Girls basketball		
Chapel Hill 51, Seaforth 40		
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3		
Girls basketball		
Northwood 77, Orange 46 Seaforth 61, North Moore 22 Chatham Charter 71, Triangle Math & Science 50		
Boys basketball		
Northwood 58, Orange 42 Seaforth 58, North Moore 21 Chatham Central 66, Jordan-Matthews 40 Chatham Charter 97, Triangle Math & Science 18		
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4		
	Wrestling	
	Boys wrestling individual regionals (all day)	
	Indoor track	
	State championships (all day)	
	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11	
	Wrestling	
	Boys wrestling individual regionals (all day)	
	Girls basketball	
	Seaforth vs. Chatham Charter (4:30 p.m.)	
	Boys basketball	
	Seaforth vs. Chatham Charter (6 p.m.)	
	Swimming	
	State championships (all day)	
	Indoor track	
	State championships (all day)	

HAWKS

Continued from page B1

I’ve been honing in on, like, ‘Hey, ladies, this is a part of life. You’re going to deal with adversity. Unfortunately, we’ve had some things happen to us, be we have to keep moving forward.’”

The Hawks have hit their stride defensively in recent weeks, allowing 30 points or less in eight of their last nine games overall. They’ll have their hands full Saturday, however, when they meet Chatham Charter senior Tamaya Walden. Walden — a senior guard who passed 1,500 career points earlier this season — is averaging a county-high 22.2 points per game this winter and is trying to close out her high school career on a high note.

As a team, the Knights (17-4), like Seaforth, also make their living on the defensive end. In 21 games this season, Chatham Charter has allowed its opponents to average just 34.0 points per game.

After cruising through their respective conferences, the two teams will meet Saturday with not only bragging rights, but momentum, on the line.



Staf photo by Simon Barbre

Seaforth sophomore Peyton Collins shoots the ball over a Chatham Central defender on Jan. 27

Regardless of the outcome, though, both teams should benefit from playing another high-quality opponent before the start of the postseason.

“It’s always good to get another test right before playoff time,” Byrd said. “Last week, we played Chapel Hill, and that was the reason I scheduled that game, too. I feel like it’s important to get different looks and see

different teams, because when you’re in the play-offs, you never know who you’re going to have to play.”

On the boys side, Chatham Charter puts its undefeated record (26-0 at press time) against a Seaforth team that has won five of its past six games and stands at 15-6 overall. The stakes aren’t terribly high, but a win for the Knights on Satur-

day would mark a new first for the team — its first undefeated regular season. But don’t expect head coach Jason Messier’s team to make the moment more than it is.

“We don’t even talk about it, to be honest with you,” Messier said when asked if his team felt any added pressure. “We’re just taking it one game at a time. And as far as how we go about doing things, we’re not going to change anything.”

Sticking to the game-plan seems a wise move for the Knights, who have been utterly dominant in all phases this season. Entering this week’s games, Chatham Charter averaged a county-high 75.8 points per game while allowing a county-low 29.2 points to their opponents.

As a team, the Knights are shooting 54.4% from the field and 31.8% from 3-point range. Chatham Charter’s top player this season in terms of offensive output is senior Adam Harvey, who is averaging 17.2 points per game while shooting 64.8% from the field with 190 made field goals — the 20th most of any boys player in North Carolina this season.

“Adam will take

whatever the defense gives him,” Messer said. “He’s a high-IQ player. He understands that the closer he gets to the rim, the percentage goes up. He’s not afraid to drive. He can hit the mid-range shot, and if he’s open for a three, he can shoot that. He has a knack for the game, and he has great hands. He gets to a lot of loose balls and a lot of rebounds. He also knows how to finish around the basket.”

On the other side of the court, Seaforth will likely lean once again on junior forward Jarin Stevenson, who is leading the team in points (21.8), rebounds (11.5) and blocks (3.6) per game. Stevenson has made 158-of-259 (61.0%) of his shots attempts this season. The rest of the Hawks, meanwhile, have combined to shoot just 300-of-766 (39.2%).

When these two teams met last regular season — a 44-23 Chatham Charter win — Stevenson totaled

12 of his team’s points while making four of his seven shot attempts. Though Stevenson is one of the top players in his class, ranked No. 14 nationally by 247Sports’ composite rankings, Messier is confident in his team’s defensive gameplan entering Saturday’s game.

“We understand that Jarin is a high-caliber, five-star recruit who is getting the attention of a lot of the top programs in the country,” Messier said. “We are a team. We’re not looking to beat one guy. We play as a team, and we understand that team basketball has allowed us to be successful. We have a lot of our own high-caliber players, ourselves. They’re not five-star recruits, but we’re a five-star team.”

Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at jeremy@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @jbo_vernon.

EAGLES

Continued from page B1

skillset is often predicated on athleticism to give him the time and space to make crazy throws, but those types of plays have been fewer and farther between since the injury.

That’s not to say the Mahomesian magic is completely dead. He showed that late in the divisional round win over the Jags, when he jumped off one foot to find Marquez Valdes-Scantling for what ended up being the game-winning touchdown.

The KC quarterback will need to provide that sort of magic in spades if he hopes to win the second Super Bowl of his young career, but it seems like too much to ask this time around.

On the other side of the ball, I don’t envision Philadelphia having much of a problem moving the

ball on Kansas City’s defense. The Eagles finished the regular season as the No. 3 offensive team in the league, and during the postseason they have averaged over 200 yards rushing per game.

Philadelphia is led offensively by quarterback Jalen Hurts, a dual-threat who has totaled over 4,400 total yards and 35 touchdowns — including 13 rushing — during the regular season. The Eagles also have a 1,000-yard rusher in Miles Sanders (1,269, 11 touchdowns) and a nice change-of-pace back in Kenneth Gainwell (240, four touchdowns).

The Eagles are also capable of making big plays through the air, and they have arguably the top receiving tandem in the league in A.J. Brown and DeVonta Smith, who combined for over 2,600 yards and 18 touchdowns during the regular season.

Kansas City’s pass defense was middle of the road this season,

allowing 220.9 yards per game, but they have had some issues locking down talented receivers. Back in Week 5, Kansas City gave up 124 yards and two touchdown to Las Vegas’ Davante Adams, and the following week, the Chiefs allowed Buffalo’s Stefon Diggs to rack up 148 yards and a touchdown.

If Philadelphia can connect on a big shot downfield early in the game, it could provide the team with some key early momentum. And if the Eagles build up a lead, they can pin their ears back and do what they do best — rush the quarterback.

Going down early would be a recipe for disaster for Kansas City, even with arguably the greatest quarterback in the league on its side.

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CLIPBOARD Q&A | NOAH NIELSON

Northwood junior Nielson enters indoor championships with tons of confidence

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports
Editor

season comes to a close this weekend, with state championships set for Friday and Saturday at the JDL Fast Track in

Winston-Salem. Among the myriad county athletes preparing to compete at their respective state

meets is Northwood's Noah Nielson. A junior, Nielson has arguably the top individual runner in Chatham this indoor season, and he has plenty of momentum entering this weekend's championships. At the Mondo Elite HS Invitational this past weekend, which was also held at JDL, Nielson ran a new PR of 2:32.26 in the 1,000-meter race, the top time by any North Carolina junior this season and also the top time of any 3A competitor.

Nielson has credited his recent success to many factors, including the inspirational story of his first cousin, Jason Smyth — a Paralympian who owns world records in both the 100- and 200-meter dashes. Nielson grew up around the corner from Smyth for a short time after the former was born in Northern Ireland, and he told the News + Record he draws a massive amount of inspiration from his cousin.

Here's what else Nielson had to say heading into Friday's 3A state meet.

How is your mindset heading into this weekend's state championships? How do you feel personally? How do you feel about the team's chances?

NOAH NIELSON: I am very confident heading into the state championships, and I think, most importantly, I'm super excited for this opportunity. This is my first-ever indoor season, so I'm looking really forward to it. I really like the track (in Winston-Salem). I have a really good shot at bringing home not

just one, but potentially multiple state championships, which would be absolutely incredible. In regards to the team this year, it's been fabulous. We've had so much improvement, especially with the new kids. Being one of the older kids on the team, even though I'm only a junior, it's really cool to be with these guys every day and then seeing them improve as well. Overall, everyone has a pretty positive mindset entering the weekend.

You ran at the track in Winston this past weekend and set a new PR in the 1,000-meter race. What did it mean to put a nice bow on a successful regular season?

I kind of went into the race with high expectations. My goal was to go sub-2:33 flat, because that's the elite national qualifying time for the New Balance invitational. My goal was to qualify for that, and the time I told myself I wanted to run was 2:32.4. The whole week, that was the number I had in my mind. And then I went out there and knew it was going to be fast, so I just trusted my gut the whole race. I came through the 800 at 2:02, and I knew at that point it was going to be pure grit, just grinding the last 200 meters out. I finished in 2:32.26, so about a 10th of a second off the time I said I would run. I was ecstatic. We went back to the hotel that night, and I probably have never been more excited in my life. I was thrilled.

You're also part of a few successful relay teams.

How does running in a relay event differ from running as an individual, outside of the obvious?

It's been amazing. The guys on the relay team are honestly my best friends. It's awesome, because we're all really dedicated to the sport. Individually, it's great racing, but when we come together, it's combining kind of like the best of the best. We've also set high goals for ourselves. Running with three people you're so close with and who are there to push you everyday just makes the experience more enjoyable and more beneficial overall.

You mentioned this was your first indoor season. How would you compare the indoor experience to the outdoor experience?

I've really liked it so far. I heard going into it, some people prefer outdoor. I would say this is probably the most serious I've taken any track season or any running season in general so far. I've been so focused. It's the first time I've really given my everything into it. I've loved it. I love the JDL track in Winston. I love that I've gotten to run a ton of fast races with these awesome runners in North Carolina, and even outside of there. It has definitely been the best running experience I've had so far at Northwood. I just think it's gone better than I could have hoped for coming into it.

Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at jeremy@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @jbo_vernon.

Council on Aging Weekly Activities Calendar

Monday, February 13

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8 a.m. - **Body Conditioning w/Jackie (Full)**
- 9 a.m. - **Chair Yoga w/Liz (at Chatham Grove Community Center and on Zoom)**
- 10 a.m. - **Geri-Fit Part 2 w/ Jackie (Full)**
- 11 a.m. - **Original Haw River Crawdaddies Bluegrass Music**
- 2 p.m. - **Table Tennis**

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 8:30 a.m. - **Quilting Collaboration Meeting with Chatham Middle Art Students**
- 9 a.m. - **Strong & Fit w/Olivia**
- 10 a.m. - **Cornhole**
- 2 p.m. - **Strength & Tone**
- 3 p.m. - **Caregiver Support Meeting**

Tuesday, February 14

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8:15 a.m. - **Body Conditioning w/Jackie (Full)**
- 9 a.m. - **3G's Men's Group**
- 10 a.m. - **Woodcarvers; Bingo w/Joe**
- 11 a.m. - **February Birthday Party w/Liz**
- 1 p.m. - **Rummikub**

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9:45 a.m. - **Chair Exercises w/Olivia for Beginners (in-person and Zoom)**
- 10:30 a.m. - **Ping Pong**
- 1 p.m. - **Rook/Phase 10/Rummikub; Book Club; "Bring Your Own Project" Gathering**
- 2 p.m. - **Fitness Room Orientation; Quilting Collaboration Meeting w/Chatham Middle Art Students**

Wednesday, February 15

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 10 a.m. - **Chair Yoga w/Liz (in-person and Zoom); Coffee and Games w/Pittsboro Police Department**
 - 11 a.m. - **Bincocize (Full); Mind Games w/Alan**
 - 1 p.m. - **Open Art Studio w/Ashlyn**
 - 2:30 p.m. - **Sweetheart Tea and Virtual Sweetheart Tea**
- Western Chatham Senior Center
- 9 a.m. - **Strong & Fit w/Olivia**
 - 10 a.m. - **Bible Study; Nutrition Education w/Ann Clark**
 - 2 p.m. - **Crafting w/Kathryn (Heart Wreath)**
 - 3:30 p.m. - **Beginner Quilting**

Thursday, February 16

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8:15 a.m. - **Body Conditioning w/Jackie (Full)**
- 9:30 a.m. - **Blood Pressure Screening**
- 10 a.m. - **Crafts & Chat; Chair Volleyball; Walmart Shopping**
- 11 a.m. - **Diabetes Discussion Group - Physical Activity**
- 1 p.m. - **Games/Cards**
- 1:30 p.m. - **Line Dancing**
- 3 p.m. - **Gentle Yoga w/Liz**

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9:30 a.m. - **Men's Coffee & Conversations**
- 10 a.m. - **Music Jam Session**
- 10:30 a.m. - **Show & Tell**
- 1 p.m. - **Book Club**
- 2 p.m. - **Tai Chi**
- 3 p.m. - **Bingo (in-person & virtual)**

Friday, February 17

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8:15 a.m. - **Body Conditioning w/Jackie (Full)**
- 10 a.m. - **Geri-Fit Part 2 w/Jackie (Full)**
- 11:15 a.m. - **Stories w/Neria; Cornhole & Shuffleboard**
- 1 p.m. - **Card Games/Euchre**
- 1:30 - **Zumba Gold Intro**
- 3 p.m. - **Jukebox Live! (Grateful Hearts)**

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - **Strong & Fit w/Olivia**
- 10 a.m. - **Beginning Quilting**
- 7 p.m. - **Friday Night Dance (fee required to attend)**



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SWIMMING

Seaforth boys enter state meet on hot streak; Central's Eskelund makes history

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports
Editor

The Seaforth swimming and diving teams will compete at the 1A/2A state championships Thursday at the Triangle Aquatic Center in Cary. And while the Hawks are only in their second season as a program, they have plenty of momentum entering the biggest meet of the season.

Competing at this past weekend's 1A/3A central regional championships, the Seaforth boys placed first with a score of 208, 11 points better than Cornerstone Charter Academy. The Seaforth girls placed fifth, meanwhile, in a hotly contested meet.

The Hawks didn't win any individual events, but the team of Ben Lajoie, Evan Hepburn, Jackson Vaughn and Colton Roberts took first in the 400 free relay in a time of 3:30.04.

Seaforth's boys earned second-place finishes in four different events. Roberts took the runner-up spot in the 200 and 500 frees, while Hepburn finished second in the 100 breast and Lajoie finished second in the 200 inter-medley.

"It was so much fun watching them compete," said Seaforth coach Amanda Peele. "Not only did they perform very well, but I could tell they had a great time. It's

great when you can do both, and they were able to deliver this weekend. It's been a couple good Saturdays in a row for us. We're on a roll, and I'm hoping we can carry that into this coming week."

At last year's state competition, Seaforth's boys finished 13th overall, while their top individual finish in an event occurred when Lajoie took sixth in the 500 free. Now, with a year of experience under their belts, Nielson and the rest of the Hawk boys feel like they are ready to make noise at the biggest meet of the season.

"They're a little older and a little bit more prepared (than they were last year)," Peele said. "They're ready. Every meet, the stakes get a little bit higher. It's a bigger venue, there are more people, there is faster competition. And they keep rising to meet the challenge. I know that there are probably some nerves, but these guys are ready to get out there and do their best, and hopefully we'll be able to bring home some more accolades."

Outside of Seaforth, one other Chatham County swimmer set to compete at the 1A/2A championships is Chatham Central's Jesse Eskelund, who qualified for the state meet with an impressive third-place finish in the 100 free at 50.64 seconds. Eskelund

was the first swimmer in Chatham Central history to compete at the regional championships, and he will be the first to swim at the state meet, as well.

Fighting for a possible state title at its respective meet is the Northwood girls team, which placed second overall at the 3A central regionals this past weekend.

The Chargers finished third overall at last year's 3A competition, but they'll have their work cut out for them this year going up against defending champion Carrboro, which dominated last year's competition and also placed first at this year's 3A central girls regionals.

Northwood saw one individual competitor win her event at regionals, as Abby Emrich took first in the 200 free in a time of 1:56.58. Abby's sister, Lauren, placed second in the 200 breast, while both girls were part of the 400 free relay team that took first place in 3:53.12.

Northwood head coach Rebecca Reed has adjusted well after losing several seniors from last year's team, and now the Charger girls are ready to fight for what would be their first state title this weekend.

Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at jeremy@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @jbo_vernon.



Photo courtesy of Seaforth Athletics

Members of the Seaforth boys swimming team, from left to right: Colton Roberts, Ben Lajoie, Jackson Vaughn, Broden Jones, Evan Hepburn.



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Nothwood senior Te'Keyah Bland drives to the basket against Orange in a 58-42 win Friday.

NORTHWOOD

Continued from page B1

tor Cameron Vernon, Snipes helped create the first "Play for Karen" game last season. This past Friday was the second edition of the "Pink Game" to support cancer research awareness, which worked to raise money for the scholarship named in Heilman's honor, which is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Pittsboro.

The night proved very successful, as hundreds showed up to support Heilman and the Northwood community, while \$844 was raised for the scholarship fund, which will benefit high school seniors at Northwood and Chatham Central. On top of that, both the Chargers' girls and boys teams were victorious in their games against Orange.

"To see the community come together was just incredible," Snipes said. I've always said that we have the best support in our community, and we certainly saw that this year with our state championship run. To see the love and outpouring of support, not only simply by showing up to the game and wearing pink, but people being able to donate what they had to go towards her scholarship fund, was absolutely amazing."

Before the "Play 4 Karen" games, Northwood used its annual Pink Game to support the Kay Yow Cancer Fund, which is named after the former N.C. State women's basketball coach. While the new cause certainly hits close to

home, Vernon felt it was important to put together an event with a stronger connection to the local community.

"I never felt like the Play for Kay event was very successful, and I think a lot of it had to do with there being no personal connection for a lot of people with Kay Yow," he said. "When Karen passed away, Coach Snipes and I had spoken about maybe redirecting that night in honor of Karen."

Vernon used to go against Heilman back in his days as a middle school coach, but ultimately he found himself leading several players who came to Northwood from Perry Harrison, including Heilman's daughter, Rebecca.

He remembered her as a passionate leader of young girls, who always loved to support the students and players she came in contact with each day.

"I know she really loved the kids," Vernon said. "So many of the kids I coached at Northwood, she coached them, and she would always come and support. Her daughter, Rebecca, played for me for two years, but even when Rebecca decided not to play basketball anymore, Karen was at our games supporting. She really just loved the game and loved the kids. It was awful what happened. She passed away too young. But we want her memory to live on, and hopefully this is a way we can all remember her. She meant a lot to a lot of people in Chatham County."

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TITLE

Continued from page B1

title, joining Chatham Central's Olivia Brooks and Ellie Phillips (1A tennis doubles) and Seaforth sophomore Jack Anstrom (2A cross country).

While the NCHSAA women's state tournament has only been around for a couple seasons, the sport as a whole is growing across the state. Next school year, girls wrestling will be an NCHSAA-sanctioned team sport for the first time. While she won't get to benefit from this decision, Walker said she is thrilled about the direction the sport seems to be headed.

"I'm excited about how the sport is grow-

ing," Walker said. "I'm a little bit jealous knowing that it's going to be a sanctioned team sport now, but I'm happy that other girls in my shoes are going to be able to have the opportunity to go to states and go to all these various women's tournaments. It can be hard when you're always up against the men."

Walker was one of two Chatham County wrestlers to compete at the women's invitation-al, along with Seaforth freshman Keira Rosenmarkle. After finishing first at the mideast regionals the previous week, Rosenmarkle took second in the 145-pound division, falling to Lake Norman's Caleigh Suddreth in the championship bout. Though

she finished the year runner-up in her weight class, Rosenmarkle had a remarkable freshman season for the Hawks, boasting a 43-8 record in all competitions.

"Keira's a fantastic wrestler, and I'm excited to watch her grow," Walker said. "I was shocked by the outcome (of her final match), but she's going to get it next year, and the year after that, and the year after that."

Last week, Rosenmarkle told the News + Record she looks forward competing next season as part of an official girls wrestling team.

Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at jeremy@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @jbo_vernon.



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‘One Chatham’ is a heavy lift. Who’s doing the work, and what are its deliverables?

‘We came up with something we feel can really help us be better for our children’

Editor’s note: second of two parts.

Chatham County Schools’ strategic initiative, “One Chatham,” is an ambitious five-year plan with 111 specific strategies used to measure progress toward achieving goals in five key areas. Last week, we spoke with Dr. Amanda Moran, the assistant superintendent for academic services & instructional support for Chatham County Schools, about One Chatham, and to get a progress report on the plan. This week, in the second of two parts, we look deeper into One Chatham and find out, among other things, how those involved are being inspired by the effort to make the project’s goals a reality.

The goals enumerated in the plan are plentiful, immense. With any goal, a key question is: how attainable? The scope of all this makes it a very heavy lift. Who’s doing this work, and how? And what’s the timeline for One Chatham?

We will work to achieve these various goals and strategies over the next five years. The great news is that One Chatham really includes everyone. We all have a part of this work. Each of the five focus areas has a main point person assigned who is a senior cabinet member. Those individuals are responsible for tracking the progress of their area, working to manage the various projects associated with that focus area. For example, I oversee the Curriculum and Innovation area. It is the largest area with four overarching goals and 39 strategies. It is indeed a heavy lift. The goals are ambitious. The Academic Services & Instructional Support Division is the largest division, so all directors and support staff have various roles with pieces of the plan. Principals also play a key role in supporting each of the five areas as it relates to their schools. There are some divisions like finance and technology that you will see across all five focus areas. It is

definitely a labor of love and a team effort. A quality strategic plan cannot be written or carried out in a silo. It feels exciting to have an amazing team all moving in the same direction toward a common goal that is focused on students.

Can you elaborate on some of the specific deliverables — and, again, what they’ll mean for the students and the community?

There are 12 goals and 111 strategies in our new plan, so it is difficult to give details about each one. The strategic plan document on our website explains the deliverables for each goal, how we will get there and the impact it will have for students. On the One Chatham site, you can also find videos that outline some of the key areas and deliverables. You can find that site here. <https://www.chatham.k12.nc.us/domain/2996>

What have you learned and observed from the collaboration and workflow on this project? What’s surprised and delighted you, and what’s frustrated you?

As I mentioned before, I have been involved in developing these plans in several districts and I could not be more proud of what we have accomplished. We did this during a time of change and a time of great hardship. We were also on a tight timeline because our old strategic plan had expired, and we knew we needed to have a new one in place by a specific date. We were still coming out of a global pandemic, we had a new superintendent who was learning the district and community, and we also had several district leaders in new roles.

The mere fact that we were able to collaborate and complete this by our deadline was pretty spectacular. It all came together sort of effortlessly. The community answered our call for sharing their perspectives and ideas. That collaboration made this such a rewarding experience. It was hard



Courtesy of Chatham County Schools

Dr. Amanda Moran

work, but I think we had a sense of urgency to develop something we were all proud of so that created synergy. Again, the community’s desire to buy into this process — to be a part of this plan’s creation — was extremely rewarding, and we were so grateful for that. Things really just came together because we had a common vision and a clear mission.

I would say what was the most frustrating was the development of the goals themselves. Everyone has different ideas about what is a good goal or what is a metric that is attainable. We sought to have goals that were SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound). But even that was difficult at times. As the instructional leader for the district, I understand what type of growth is typical growth, or I know what the national norms might be for a specific subject area or where we fall in relation to surrounding districts. So I may set a goal that to someone else might seem like it is too low. On the flip side, another member of the team might understand metrics around communication or transportation that I don’t understand. So we had to really work to write goals that would make sense to everyone. That was not as easy as it sounds. I remember days when we would look at each other and say, “Why is this so hard... It is just one goal.” Then we would have to walk away, take a break and then regroup.

In the end, I think we came up with something that we are all proud of and something that our community can be proud of, and most importantly we came up with something we feel can really help us be better for our children.

How are you keeping track, and communicating your progress, to your stakeholders?

We will have regular Board of Education updates on our plan. We have typically done that two to four times each year in board meetings and also in follow-up community sessions. One thing that is a little different with this plan is it is not a static document that we printed thousands of glossy copies of. It is a document and plan that is dynamic in nature and changes as we progress. We have goal areas that currently have baseline information for Year 1. As we achieve milestones, we will fill in those key metrics and we will also color code our progress on strategies so stakeholders can easily see our progress (green is complete, yellow is underway, white is not started). This helps to hold us accountable.

Also, by working to have our agenda items for board meetings mapped to the five focus areas and other training meetings also aligned with district goals, we show that the work we are doing is connected. That kind of alignment, accountability and focus will help propel us forward.

THE 12 GOALS OF ‘ONE CHATHAM’

Here’s a list of One Chatham’s 12 goals, which fall within five key areas of focus for Chatham County Schools.

Curriculum and Innovation

Goal 1 - By 2027, Chatham County Schools will increase Grade 3 Reading Performance for ALL students to 85% or higher as measured by the EOG and state required literacy assessment.

Goal 2 - By 2027, every Chatham County School will meet or exceed growth as measured by EVAAS and will maintain a School Performance Grade of a C or better.

Goal 3 - Chatham County Schools will increase the 4-year graduation rate to 95% or higher and will maintain a percentage above the state average.

Goal 4 - By 2027, each Chatham County School will meet or exceed the Federal Long Term goals in reading as indicated by NCDPI for each identified group of students in an effort to close the district’s achievement gaps.

Student Health and Safety

Goal 1 - By 2027, 100% of Chatham County Schools will receive an annual rating of “optimizing” on the state’s Facilitated Assessment of Multi-tiered System of Support.

Goal 2 - By 2027, Chatham County Schools will reduce the percentage of students who receive out-of-school suspensions by 50%.

Faculty and Staff

Goal 1: By 2027, Chatham County Schools will establish and maintain a human capital pipeline resulting in position fill rate of 90% or higher, while increasing the diversity of our teaching staff by 20%.

Goal 2 - By 2027, Chatham County Schools will retain 90% or more of its full-time permanent workforce annually in an environment that fosters a sense of well-being and professional satisfaction.

Facilities and Infrastructure

Goal 1 - Serviceable Capacity of 95% or higher
Goal 2 - Transportation Efficiency Rating of 90% or higher

Communications and Information Sharing

Goal 1 - Increase Chatham County Schools’ audience reach and profile in the community using statistics from social media analytics and on metrics for traditional media articles and appearances annually.

Goal 2 - Increase Chatham County Schools’ audience reach and profile in the community using statistics from social media analytics and metrics for traditional media articles and appearances annually.

Our goal is to be transparent about who we are, where we want to be, and how we plan to get there.

How are you, and your co-workers, being inspired by this effort?

For me one of the most exciting things about “One Chatham” is how it has caught on beyond the walls of just the school district. We see our car magnets on Sheriff’s Office cars and

community members’ vehicles. We have other government agencies asking if they can refer to One Chatham, and we have commissioners and other key leaders in our community using this as almost a verb to express how we can be better as a community if we act as one. That is a pretty prolific and powerful thing to think about. There’s a lot going on in the world. We’ve all been through a lot the past few years. There’s so much change coming to our community. I can’t think of a better time to be One Chatham than now. Our future as a vibrant community depends on it. I chose Chatham County as my home more than 16 years ago. It reminded me of where I grew up in the mountains of North Carolina but also had a community feel that I knew I wanted to be a part of. I love the people. I love the landscape. I love the focus on children. I love the sense of pride that you feel here. Chatham has a rich history of success and Chatham has also been that sleepy little district that has been just waiting for the right time to grow and to shine.

I truly believe that time is now. I get goosebumps when I think about the possibilities that are right before us if we can truly act as ONE. We hope everyone in our community will come get involved in this movement. Learn about our programs, come volunteer, come join our team — we’re hiring, come participate in our amazing student performances and events. We need you! Together we can build One Chatham for ALL students.



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BLACK SENIOR ATHLETES | HELEN FARRAR

Farrar finds niche in Chatham County Senior Games

BY JIMMY LEWIS
Chatham County Council
on Aging

Editor's note: second in a
four-part series.

PITTSBORO — Helen Farrar didn't fancy herself as an athlete growing up, or even in her working years. But the lifelong Pittsboro resident had zero interest in just sitting on the couch once retirement came in 2013. She simply had to find an outlet to keep moving. At that time, the Chatham County Senior Games were in their infancy. When Farrar came to exercise classes, staff members at the Chatham County Council on Aging started the recruitment process to find athletes. The 78-year-old Farrar knew she wanted to be active in some capacity, making her response to the queries rather simple. "At that time, when they started mentioning the Senior Games, they just asked if I would participate," Farrar said. "Most of the people I was exercising with did participate." That's not to say Farrar was completely new to physical activity. Growing up, she would take in the occasional game of baseball or

volleyball. However, the most demanding form of physical conditioning came in the daily walk from her downtown home to the site of what is now Horton Middle School. From what was her home roughly a quarter-mile behind Elizabeth's Pizza, Farrar walked to and from school — in all forms of weather conditions. Since she barely lived inside town limits, busing was not an option, and the round-trip from her home to the Horton site each day was two miles. Farrar started her Senior Games journey with bocce, cornhole, and later, bowling. She also participates in the Fun Walk, another element of the Games. "In school I did not participate in hardly any sports," Farrar recalled. "It's something I picked up. I wanted to be able to stay moving, to be able to continue moving, and it helped me connect to other people. It began to be fun." Farrar began to discover her competitive nature — one that focused on herself rather than other athletes. "I call it challenging," she said. "I try to meet the challenge, to see how well I can do. I don't think, at this point in

my life, I call it being a competitor as much as it is challenging myself to see how well I can do." In bocce, teams or individual competitors are given four balls to throw as close to a target, known as the pallina, as possible. Knocking opponents off course or further away from the pallina is encouraged and passes as a regular cost of doing bocce business. Farrar's mastery of bocce was enough to earn a gold medal in the event during the 2022 Chatham County Senior Games. As far as bowling is concerned, Farrar is still deciding whether to participate. During the 2022 competition, Farrar traveled to the site thinking that she would be taking part in a practice session — only to discover that it was actually the day of the event. "I thought we were going to practice, and that was the day of the competition!" she said. "I had not had any practice, but I did get a (bronze) medal." While Farrar admits she's never been a strong athlete and the Senior Games represents the most she has participated in sports, the benefits of taking part are multifold. "It keeps me moti-

vated, energized and connected to other senior citizens," Farrar summarized. "It's fun, and it's good to be able to see some of the competitors from the year before. All the competitors are not people who I exercise with every day. Maybe, I just see them during that time." For more information about the Council on Aging and the Senior Games, go to <https://chatham-councilonaging.org>.



Courtesy of the Council on Aging
Helen Farrar of Pittsboro challenges her limits and capabilities through Chatham County Senior Games in the events of bocce, cornhole, bowling and the Fun Walk.

SILER CITY COMMISSIONERS

New town clerk sworn in, board meets new police officers

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Mayor Chip Price swore in new Siler City Town Clerk Kimberly Pickard at the town's board of commissioners' meeting Monday. Pickard was surrounded by her family members, who held onto the Bible that Pickard was sworn in on. "I am thankful for this opportunity," she said. "I look forward to serving Siler City." Pickard served as the county's facilities coordinator before becoming Siler City's town clerk after Jenifer Johnson was promoted to the budget manager position that was reclassified from the financial analyst position in the town's finance department. Pickard's first day was Monday, and she will be present at every commissioner meeting from now on. The board also met two of the police department's four new hires during Monday's meeting. Erica Vargas and Israel Foxx were brought into the Siler City Police Department, filling vacancies that've been unfilled since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Vargas is the first recruit to go through the recruitment program Police Chief Mike Wagner created with Town Manager Hank Raper to bring more officers into town. She was sworn in as an officer on Feb. 1. Foxx comes to Siler City from the Chatham County Sheriff's Department, where he worked in corrections in the county jail. "He knows everyone in town," Wagner told the board on Monday. "He's doing his field training right now, so we anticipate having him fully released sometime by early March or earlier." Raper said there were other police department

The board also met two of the police department's four new hires during Monday's meeting. Erica Vargas and Israel Foxx were brought into the Siler City Police Department, filling vacancies that've been unfilled since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. hires going through the training to become officers, which will help with the shortage the department has faced over the last two years. "We're making some inroads when it comes to our recruiting," Raper said. "Our police departments are starting to move in the right direction." Other business: • Commissioners unanimously approved the town's Strategic Plan, which has been in the works since late last year. No discussion was held on the item. Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at theeden@chathamnr.com.



Can You Reduce The Medicare Surcharge?

Before you turn 65, you'll want to become familiar with Medicare's rules and features. And if you're a high earner, you'll want to be especially aware of the Medicare premium surcharge — because, over time, it can add up to some significant dollars. The premium surcharge — known as the income related monthly adjustment amount, or IRMAA — is assessed on premiums for Medicare Parts B and D, and generally is based on an individual's modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) of two years ago. So, the IRMAA for 2023 would be based on one's MAGI from 2021. For someone who's married and files taxes jointly, and whose MAGI for 2021 was \$194,000 or less, the Part B premium for 2023 will be \$164.90 per month, and the Part D premium will be whatever amount is charged by their Medicare plan. But if their 2021 MAGI was between \$194,000 and \$246,000, they'll pay \$230.80 (a surcharge of \$65.90) for Part B and an additional \$12.20 for Part D. And the IRMAA rises at different income levels, reaching a maximum of \$560.50 (a surcharge of \$395.60) for Part B and an additional \$76.40 for Part D for a MAGI of \$750,000 or more. If you're unprepared for the IRMAA, it can be an unpleasant surprise. So, if you've still got a few years until you enroll in Medicare, you may want to look for ways to control your MAGI and possibly limit the surcharge. Here are a few suggestions: • **Contribute to a Health Savings Account (HSA)** — If you have access to a Health Savings Account (HSA), your contributions will reduce your taxable income, helping you on the IRMAA issue. Furthermore, any investment growth within your HSA is tax free, as are withdrawals for qualified medical expenses, which can include Medicare premiums, deductibles and copays.

• **Contribute to a Roth IRA** — Roth IRA withdrawals are tax free, provided you don't start taking them until you're 59½ and you've had your account at least five years. These tax-free withdrawals can enable you to avoid taking taxable withdrawals from other accounts, which may help you avoid an increase in your IRMAA. • **Consider a Roth IRA conversion** — You could convert some, or perhaps all, the assets of a traditional IRA into a Roth IRA. But you'll need to consider the impact of taxes — any deductible contributions to your traditional IRA and the earnings generated by these contributions will be fully taxable the year of the conversion, so you'll want to have funds outside your IRA available to pay these taxes. Also, timing is important — to be on the safe side, you might want to complete the Roth conversion three or more years before you enroll in Medicare, so the conversion and the likely increase in your MAGI won't increase the IRMAA. • **Manage your withdrawal rate** — Taking large withdrawals from your retirement accounts can bump up your MAGI bracket and your IRMAA. So, as you near retirement, you'll want to establish a sustainable withdrawal rate — one that provides you the income you need but without going overboard. While these moves could potentially help you control the Medicare surcharge, they still must make sense for your overall financial strategy. It's obviously desirable to keep the surcharge as low as you can — but it's even more important to take the steps necessary to reach your financial goals. This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Edward Jones, Member SIPC.

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JMArts receives Chatham Arts Council grant to develop the foundation for future success

From JMArts

SILER CITY — Not long ago, after celebrating a successful first-decade serving Jordan-Matthews High School artists and the broader community, JMArts was poised to launch a campaign to recruit new volunteers that could sustain the high school arts foundation for years to come.

The future seemed bright at that moment, the beginning of the 2020 spring semester.

And then everything stopped.

The COVID-19 pandemic killed that project and made life even more difficult for nonprofits worldwide. Volunteers disappeared. Many contributors did, too. Audiences evaporated; even after live performances returned with stringent safety guidelines, many people were worried about their health and no longer in the habit of attending in-person events.

All of a sudden, JMArts was scrambling to provide creative opportunities for student artists to develop their talents and keep moving forward. The future that once seemed so bright was in real jeopardy.

JMArts has just received some much-needed help in the form of a Chatham Arts Council Capacity Building Subgrant, a \$5,000 award to help the nonprofit foundation strengthen itself for a sustained, promising future. The official purpose of the grant: to “review, revise and add to



the structural framework of JMArts — including by-laws, board makeup, volunteer recruitment and strategic plan.”

“The bottom line is that we now have some money that will help us find and welcome the volunteers we hoped to draw into the foundation just before the pandemic hit,” JMArts President Rose Pate said. “It also will allow us to seek long-term funding and develop new tools that should strengthen JMArts for many years to come. I’m excited to have the chance to work on behind-the-scenes projects that will make JMArts function better in the long term, especially our outreach to parents and other volunteers.”

Chatham Arts Council and JMArts have worked together over many years to provide opportunities for students.

Last winter, JMArts produced a Latin jazz clinic for high school and some middle school musicians. Gregg Gelb and La Fiesta Latin Jazz Sextet taught Latin jazz technique and performed a demonstration before returning later for a free public performance. And the spring before, in one of the

first in-person workshops after pandemic lockdowns, JMArts produced an after-school theater dance workshop open to all students and led by Temple Theatre Producing Artistic Director Peggy Taphorn, a Broadway actor and choreographer.

And later this spring, Jordan-Matthews visual artists and students studying occupational and basic life skills will participate in “Gourd-geous Art Day: Art Meets Nature,” a day-long workshop where artists Martha Danek and Cara Bevan will show students how to incorporate natural materials into works of art.

All three events were offered with Chatham Arts Council through Grassroots Arts Grants supported by the N.C. Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

“The Grassroots Grants offered by the Chatham Arts Council have been key in helping bring arts opportunities and expertise to students at Jordan-Matthews,” Pate said. “We’re excited to continue our relationship with this vital community organization as we learn how better to serve students and families in Siler City.”

More information about JMArts, including a schedule of all upcoming arts events and information on membership, is available online at JMArts.org.



JMArts photo by Chip Pate

Percussionists Beverly Botsford, left, and Ramon Ortiz of La Fiesta Latin Jazz Sextet taught student drummers Latin jazz technique during last year’s workshop offered in partnership with Chatham Arts Council.



JMArts photo by Chip Pate

Peggy Taphorn, a Broadway performer and producing artistic director for Temple Theatre in Sanford, leads an after-school theater dance workshop for Jordan-Matthews High School students. This workshop offered in partnership with Chatham Arts Council was one of the first in-person events in 2021 after pandemic lockdowns.

Growth in Pittsboro prompts voting precinct splits

Pittsboro, Manns Chapel will be broken into four new precincts

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — Population and registered voter growth in and around Pittsboro has prompted Chatham County’s Board of Elections to break up two voting precincts into four.

In January, the board unanimously voted to split the existing Manns Chapel precinct into two separate precincts. The precincts will be split with roughly 5,700 voters in the more densely populated eastern quadrant, which includes the Briar Chapel area of Chatham County, and 3,800 registered voters in the larger, but less densely populated western section west and north of Manns Chapel Road.

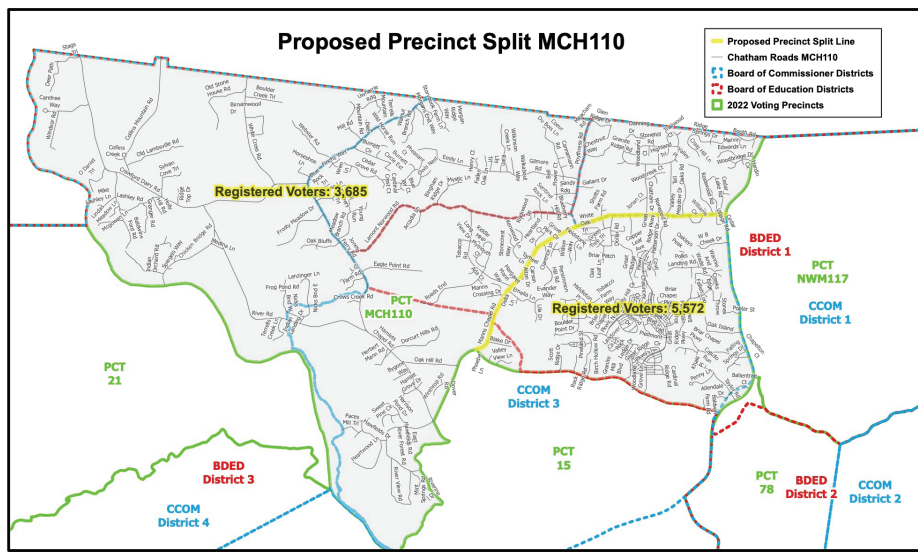
The board is also seeking name ideas for the two new precincts.

At the board’s upcoming Feb. 21 meeting, a

proposal to split the Pittsboro precinct into two new precincts — either north/south or east/west — will also be considered.

“These precincts are two of our largest precincts and the fastest growing in the county,” Pandora Paschal, the director of the county’s elections office, told the News + Record. “The board was concerned about the number of registered voters and what effect this could have on Election Day voting with long lines, constraints on election officials and getting results back to the office faster on election night.”

Now, Mann’s Chapel voters vote at Perry Harrison Elementary School, and Pittsboro votes at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center. When changes to the precincts are approved by the N.C. Board of Elections, voters



Chatham County Board of Elections

The Manns Chapel voting precinct is being split into two new smaller precincts, thanks to population growth in the area. Chatham’s Board of Elections is seeking suggestions for names for both precincts.

in those precincts will be notified of precinct change information 45 days before the 2024 Primary.

As of Jan. 3, the Pittsboro precinct had 8,188 voters. At its Feb. 21, the board will consider three potential splits:

- a north/south split delineated roughly along U.S. Hwy. 64 and the Hwy.

64 bypass

- a north/south split delineated entirely along the U.S. 64 bypass
- an east-west split delineated along Old Graham Road going into N.C. Hwy. 87.

The board of elections is seeking feedback about the split, which can be provided by email at elections@

chathamcountync.

gov or by attending the upcoming meeting (virtually or in person), which begins at 5:30 p.m. at the board’s offices at 984 Thompson St., Suite D, in Pittsboro.

For more information, see the board of elections’ notice at <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/department>

ments-programs-a-h/ elections.

In addition, the board will consider formal contracts with Chatham municipalities to stipulate reimbursement for operating elections.

“The municipalities and Goldston Gulf currently reimburse the county for some of the cost, but with the increase of goods and services the county and the board thought this would be a good time to move forward with the contracts,” Paschal said.

Draft contracts for the towns of Siler City, Pittsboro, Cary and Goldston, as well as the Goldston Gulf Sanitary District, drawn up by the county and approved by the county attorney were discussed in January; costs for the contracts haven’t been finalized. Paschal said the board voted to move forward with providing contracts and discussed some changes, which will be reviewed before final approval on Feb. 21.

501 Landing being developed north of Pittsboro

From Bold Development Group

CHAPEL HILL — Bold Development Group’s 501 Landing shopping center is under construction and on target to open for business this summer.

The North Chatham/South Chapel Hill shopping center is set to become a hub of convenience and community for the area.

Prominently located on U.S. Hwy. 15-501 across from Harris Teeter in Chatham Downs Shopping Center, the center is in close proximity to downtown Chapel Hill, as well as minutes from the Briar Chapel, Governors Club, Southern Village and Farrington Village neighborhoods. The center consists of two buildings, each 7,200 square feet. The end units have a shared, partially-covered outdoor



patio area. The property is ideal for retail, office and/or medical use.

As construction wraps up on the building shell, 501 Landing is already halfway leased. Seeds of Wonder Spanish Immersion Daycare, Mi’s Nail Spa and Ignite Wellness Chiropractic Center are working on their fit-ups and expect to open later this year. Leasing options are still available for businesses looking to join this exciting new development.

“We are excited to bring this much-needed shopping center to the community and can’t wait for residents to experience the convenience and variety of services that 501 Landing will offer,” said Chela Tu, commercial broker for Bold Commercial Real Estate.

“With its prime location and ample space, we are confident that this shopping center will become a beloved destination for local residents.”



Courtesy of Bold Development

Bold Development Group’s 501 Landing shopping center is scheduled to open this summer. This North Chatham/South Chapel Hill shopping center is set to become a hub of convenience and community for the area, located on U.S. Hwy. 15-501 across from Harris Teeter in Chatham Downs Shopping Center.

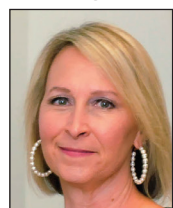
Melissa Fogarty receives CCCC Faculty Member of the Year honor

From Central Carolina Community College

SANFORD — Melissa Fogarty, Central Carolina Community College medical assisting program director and Chatham Health Sciences Center site director, is the 2022-2023 CCCC Faculty Member of the Year.

“Having the opportunity to do this job is the best reward,” said Fogarty, who was a finalist for the North Carolina Community College System’s Excellence in Teaching Award. “I love Central Carolina Community College and what it represents. We serve the students and community with

love and grace. I am grateful for the guidance and support of my team, colleagues and college leaders.”



Fogarty

believes that a successful program requires a successful relationship between faculty and students, and she models that every day for her team. I have watched countless students over the years speak about Ms. Fogarty’s compas-

sion and advocacy during their pinning ceremony comments. I have also seen the genuine fellowship that exists among the medical assisting faculty ... and I believe that much of this can be attributed to the supportive environment Melissa’s leadership fosters.

“Melissa knows the value of ‘taking students from wherever they are to as far as they can go,’ Chapman said. “She experienced it as an adult CCCC student many years ago. She excelled then (I know, because I taught her) and she is excelling now. What a great example of what we mean to the communities we serve.”

Mark Hall, CCCC’s Chatham County provost, said Fogarty “exemplifies the highest quality and standards of instruction, recruitment, support, retention, and success of students as well as the professionalism and development of her colleagues and coworkers. ... She reliably surpasses expectations and models how all community college employees, not only instructors, should approach careers and public service.”

“She has incredible compassion for her students and truly embraces the college’s vision of exceptional learning for all,” said Denise Martin, CCCC dean

of health sciences and professional services. “Everything that she does, from advising, to teaching, to program administration, she does with student success in mind. She creates an exceptional learning environment in her program by focusing on meeting the needs of the students and providing them with every resource they need to be successful.”

Fogarty, who began her CCCC teaching career in 2001, received her Associate of Applied Science degree from Central Carolina Community College and her Bachelor of Science degree from North Carolina Wesleyan University.

May all your weirdness bring you more prosperity

BY BUCK RYAN AND LEI JIAO

Special to the News + Record

LEI: Buck, you’re weird.

BUCK: Gee, Lei, why would you interrupt my breakfast with a comment like that?

LEI: What did you order?

BUCK: The usual — two scrambled eggs, bacon, coffee and orange juice.

LEI: You’re just making my point.

BUCK: Really now. What did you think I ordered, dim sum?

LEI: Dim sum! Oh no, I forgot my chopsticks. I wonder whether their jasmine tea is green, black or white.

BUCK: Don’t get your hopes up. Here, have a seat. What’s that book you’re reading?

LEI: “The WEIRDest People in the World: How the West Became Psychologically Peculiar and Particularly Prosperous.” It’s based on anthropology, economics, history and psychology.

BUCK: Who wrote it?

LEI: Harvard professor Joseph Henrich. He’s an anthropologist but describes himself as a “cultural evolutionist.” He thinks culture — ideas, beliefs and values — develops over hundreds of years and gets transmitted across generations.

BUCK: You mean like Darwin and natural selection, only for information in the mind.

LEI: Right, Buck.

BUCK: Next thing you know college students won’t be taking just “biology,” they’ll be studying “human evolutionary biology.”

LEI: Henrich is chair

of the Department of Human Evolutionary Biology at Harvard. He studies “evolutionary approaches” to psychology, decision-making and culture.

BUCK: That’s weird.

LEI: Wait, Buck.

WEIRD stands for Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich and Democratic. How does that sound for you?

BUCK: Four out of five ain’t bad.

BUCK: Is it a new book?

LEI: No, I missed it when it first came out in 2020. I was distracted by the COVID panic, I guess.

BUCK: So do you like it?

LEI: I’m just skipping through to see what Henrich says about China — you know, trying to figure out why the East didn’t become psychologically peculiar or particularly prosperous. But, mostly, it’s helping me understand how weird you are.

BUCK: I’m weird.

LEI: Yep. For one thing, you’re a Catholic, right?

BUCK: Amen to that.

LEI: Well, the book says a big advantage for the West was Catholic Church edicts on marriage that disrupted “kin-based” societies in Europe.

BUCK: What does that mean?

LEI: Well, for one, it means marrying a cousin, something the Roman Catholic Church banned in the Middle Ages.

BUCK: Wait, didn’t Edgar Allan Poe, H.G. Wells, Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein, Saddam Hussein and Jerry Lee Lewis marry their cousins?

LEI: Yep, but no Catholics there, Buck.

BUCK: I see.

LEI: Henrich argues that the church largely

destroyed kinship within Europe even as “clan-based societies” persisted in other parts of the globe — you know, like China. The result, Henrich says, was that the West adopted more analytical, scientific and individualistic ways of thinking.

BUCK: So being open-minded to strangers and marrying outside of family broadened Europeans’ horizons and created a more dynamic, innovative and creative culture?

LEI: Yes, and that led the West to the Industrial Revolution and prosperity — or so Henrich argues. To be honest, I find this idea weird. What do you think?

BUCK: I think we became so prosperous because the nuns taught us how to raise money at bingo games.

LEI: Buck Ryan.

BUCK: In the U.S. you can marry a second cousin, no problem. About half the states permit marriage between first cousins, but with some limitations.

LEI: What about North Carolina’s marriage law?

BUCK: According to the North Carolina Judicial Branch website, “The parties cannot be more closely related than first cousins, and cannot be double first cousins (for instance, the children of two sisters who married two brothers).”

BUCK: How about in China: Can you marry your cousin?

LEI: No, at least not for the last 40 years. The People’s Republic of China Marriage Law banned all marriages to cousins in 1980.

BUCK: So it wasn’t a big deal before that, eh?

LEI: In the old days,

it was quite normal for people to marry their kins. There’s a phrase in Chinese that translates to “add kinship to kins, or be doubly related.” One of the Four Great Classic Novels in Chinese literature, “Dream of the Red Chamber (1791),” involves a love story between cousins.

BUCK: What about way back, like in the Middle Ages?

LEI: Throughout different times in Chinese history, the laws about marrying cousins got changed back and forth, with most of the time forbidden and about only more than a hundred years allowed.

BUCK: Ah-ha! Now you know why China fell so far behind the mighty Europe — no influence of the Catholic Church.

LEI: Well, I certainly hope God forgives all those atheists.

BUCK: Seriously, Lei.

LEI: Seriously, Buck, that’s crazy talk. Five of our most powerful dynasties — the Sui, Tang, Song, Yuan and Ming — prospered during the Middle Ages. Remember China used to be the world’s biggest economy. We hit a peak when the Tang Dynasty (A.D. 618-907) accounted for 58% of the world’s GDP.

BUCK: How could that be?

LEI: During the Middle Ages we revolutionized agriculture, shipbuilding and porcelain; we increased commerce with the use of paper money, and we invented movable type for printing, the compass for navigation, mechanical clocks and gunpowder.

BUCK: Sounds like Henrich might be a little too Eurocentric for his own good.

LEI: He’s certainly not without his critics. Even

Henrich admits in his last chapter that he left out a few factors in his analysis.

BUCK: Like what?

LEI: “The very real and pervasive horrors of slavery, racism, plunder and genocide.”

BUCK: Nothing like plunder to increase one’s chances for prosperity.

LEI: No kidding. China endured imperialism for six centuries of colonialism by those enlightened Europeans right up until Portugal turned over Macau to us in 1999.

BUCK: Anything in the book ring true?

LEI: Henrich cites the research of Richard Nisbett, a social psychology professor at Michigan. He wrote a book 20 years ago titled, “The Geography of Thought: How Asians and Westerners Think Differently...and Why.”

BUCK: So what does “differently” mean?

LEI: Henrich puts it bluntly: “In China, people ... explicitly distrust strangers, foreigners and new acquaintances.” Chinese like me are more likely to emphasize family connections and allegiances in trying to understand which people to trust.

BUCK: Gwan-she, right?

LEI: Yes, guanxi. It refers to having personal trust and a strong relationship with someone. Relationships are everything in China. The book says WEIRD people like you will focus more on personal attributes and intentions in deciding on which people to trust.

BUCK: What’s your own theory?

LEI: I think there’s a big difference between the people in Boston, or Harvard’s neighborhood, and the people of Chatham County, for example. If you’re from

a maritime civilization that prospers on exploration and expansion, then you’re more likely to trust strangers than if you grew up in an agricultural setting that focuses on working on one’s land and building families. In that way, people in rural China and rural North Carolina are a lot the same.

BUCK: With all due respect, Lei, I think the Chinese are weird. I have a brain teaser for you. Ready?

LEI: Ready.

BUCK: So I’m a visiting professor at a new journalism school at Jilin University in northeast China, near the North Korean border. A Chinese journalism prof invites me to meet her mentor. She brings along a young man she introduces as an outstanding student. He’s going to be our translator because his English is much better than hers. Now for the brain teaser: Who is the young man really?

LEI: I give up.

BUCK: It’s her younger brother. I found out later.

LEI: Makes sense to me.

BUCK: Really?

LEI: Yep. She would never discuss family in a professional setting like that. It’s too personal.

BUCK: You’re kidding.

LEI: Unless you were going into business together. Then she would want to know everything about you, Buck, including how much money you make, your religious beliefs and even your Chinese astrological sign. Those extremely personal inquiries that make Westerners uneasy are a kind of compliment — you’re one of us, not one of them.

BUCK: That’s strange.

LEI: Strange to you, maybe. But not to me.

BUCK: Lei, you’re weird.

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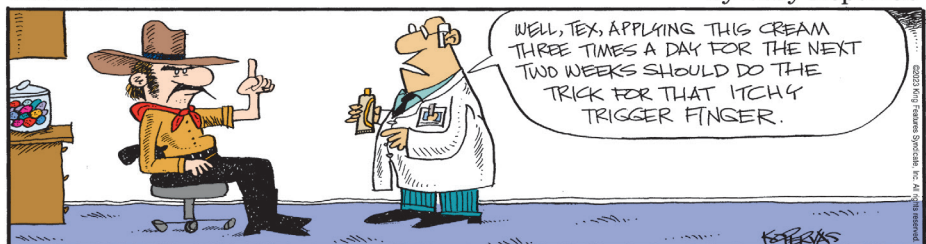
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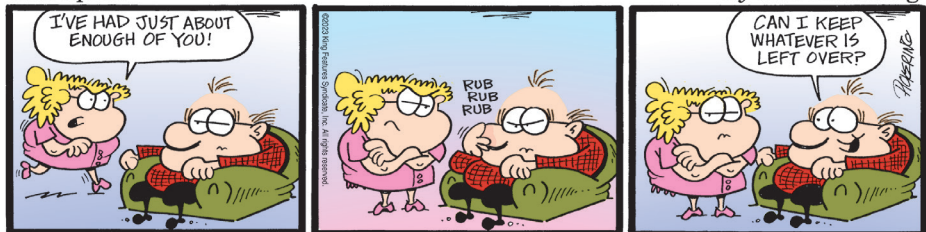
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



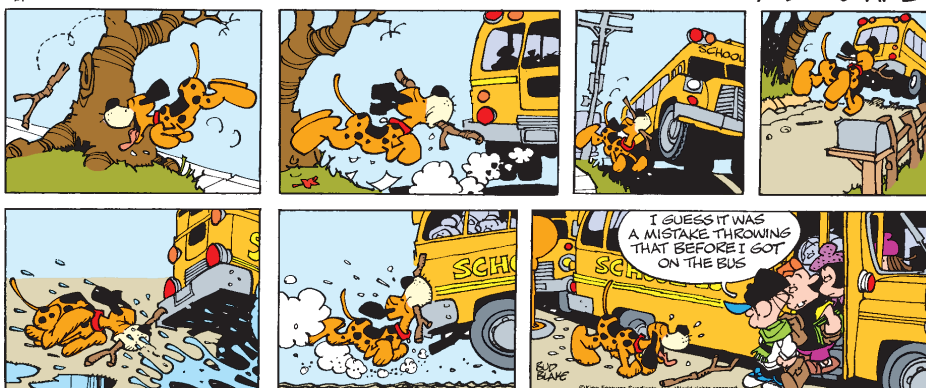
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TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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19 Purim's month
20 Patio cooker
22 Sage guide
23 Pope after Sergius II
24 Acting Ward
25 "Same here"
26 Arab country
27 Player hitting to prepare for a spike
30 Energetic journalist
32 Chicago-to-Tampa dir.
33 Suffix with leopard
34 Caroling song
35 Journalist covering a particular sector
38 To be, to Bardot
39 Lock of hair
40 Dubai's country, for short
41 "Kung Fu Hustle" director and star

45 Canonized Mile.
46 Campers under canvas
50 Field unit
51 Jarred
55 Having no commercials
56 High-scoring hoops shot
59 Met or La Scala frequenter
61 "That didn't escape my notice"
62 Prior to, to bards
63 Pooch's cry
65 Country singer Blake
67 Andrea — (ill-fated ship)
69 Swimming sensation at the 1972 Olympics
71 Nine-sided shape
75 Comic buffoon
78 Entertainer Zadora
81 Deli salad
84 Injury rehab professional
86 Scattering in the field
88 Baja blanket
90 Vandals, e.g.

92 Gillette brand
93 Genghis Khan followers
95 Silvery gray
96 Deliverer of a fine spray
99 Text-scanning device, briefly
100 Revises text
103 First letter of the Arabic alphabet
104 130-to-135-pound bout competitor
108 "— Well That Ends Well"
109 Cavity fillers' org.
112 According to toothbrushes
113 Sheriff's star
114 Popular yoga pose ... or something found seven times in this puzzle
117 Color shade
119 Research facility
121 TV "Warrior Princess"
122 Duck with soft feathers
123 Tortilla treat
124 One of the singing Braxton sisters

125 Eternally
126 Love, to Lucia
127 Place of bliss
128 Stuck-up type
129 Relaxation
130 Crowded

DOWN

1 Give birth, as a whale
2 Margarines
3 Forerunners of cellos
4 Pernicious
5 Like July, order-wise
6 Dinosaurs, so to speak
7 Exemplar
8 Passageway
9 Brand of toothbrushes
10 DOJ heads
11 She wrote "Jane Eyre"
12 Apple quaffs
13 Most sluggish
14 Past time
15 Lousy pieces of advice
16 Rub out
17 Piano fixer
21 Talk like Dafy Duck
28 Past time
29 See
27-Across
31 See
30-Across

36 Sports sites
37 Snitching sort
38 Sort of sword
41 Fill totally
42 Sch. worker
43 Went wrong
44 See
41-Across
45 Give a bias to
47 Wildlife-tracking aids
48 Lulu Hogg player Peggy
49 Stitch up
52 GI address
53 "Blechl!" poet
54 "The Raven" poet
57 Spanish river
58 See
56-Across
60 Red Muppet
64 Infant's cry
66 Nabisco treat
68 Doing sentry duty
70 See
69-Across
72 H.S.-level exam
73 "... bug — feature?"
74 Quarterback great Joe
75 Relief sound
76 Mao — -tung
77 Other, to Gabriela
79 About

80 Petri dish gel
81 Old JFK jet
82 Meadow
83 Haughtiness
85 Gridiron
score after a throw, in brief
87 Street urchin
89 Alternative to "Section 2"
91 Steadfast
94 Spring farm machines
97 Earthen pot
98 Interpret wrongly
101 Starts eating, informally
102 "— kick from champagne" (Cole Porter lyric)
104 Milk, in Italy
105 Homer epic
106 Bulb unit
107 See
104-Across
108 Two of Henry VIII's wives
109 Append
110 Active sorts
111 Match up
115 "— Only Just Begun"
116 Very thin coin
118 2,000 pounds
120 See
119-Across

Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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

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Y C I T N A M O R X A D S V U
N I L L A F O R O B A L T R Q

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: **In Tennis : Server 2 Opponent 0**

Affectionate	First	Parental	True
Brotherly	Labor of	Puppy	Unrequited
Enduring	Maternal	Romantic	Young
Fall in	Motherly	Selfless	

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	1		6				7
		6	3			4	
4					8	2	
7					9		8
		3		4		5	
	9		6				3
	3		5				2
1				7		8	
		7			4		9

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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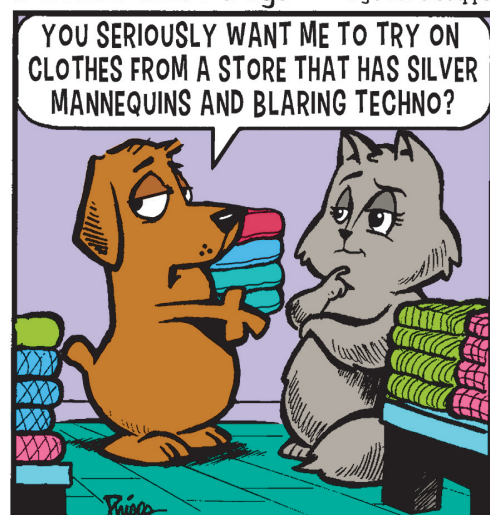
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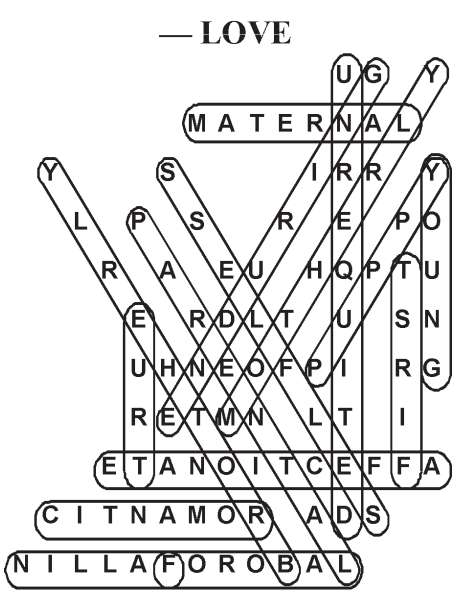
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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

3	1	5	4	6	2	9	8	7
8	2	6	3	9	7	1	4	5
4	7	9	1	5	8	2	6	3
7	5	4	2	3	9	6	1	8
6	8	3	7	4	1	5	2	9
2	9	1	6	8	5	7	3	4
9	3	8	5	1	6	4	7	2
1	4	2	9	7	3	8	5	6
5	6	7	8	2	4	3	9	1

A pineapple dichotomy



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook
(for what-ever reason — no judgment), please read no further.

The office next door to the lobby of my apartment building closed down a while back. It was fun for a couple of months, as I passed by each day to wonder what the first demo guys, then builder guys were demo-ing then building, Turns out, it was an absolute genius, and honestly, the more I think about it, and the more you think about it too, Gentle Reader, the more absolute, sterling, breath-takingly brilliant idea it becomes: a corner bar in one of the most heavily traveled corners by the profitable trifecta of residents, area workers, and visitors' corners in the Triangle. Here's one more reason why it's a Noah-level brainstorm, the name. The Waiting Room. Literally on the path between a safe parking garage and the rest of Downtown Durham, including the BDAP and the DPAC. Let that sink in. I'll wait ... Right? I know!!

Darby's Perfect Sidecar

Made with mandarin orange and Meyer lemon juice, a splash of Cointreau and rimmed with sugar. Two shots brandy, 1/4 shot Cointreau. Squeezed juice from a tired Meyer lemon, juice from 2 tired mandarins and just a tiny splash if sweet and sour shaken and pourer into chilled martini glass rimmed with sugar.

The Kid's jam jar mojito

A nearly empty jar of berry jam (the one that's been sitting in the back of your fridge that you can't quite bring yourself to throw away). Strawberry is my favorite, but you do you.
Two sprigs of mint
2 shots of white rum
The juice of one quarter of a lime
Soda water

1. Add leaves from one mint sprig to the jar of jam, muddle with the remains of the jam.

2. Add lime juice and rum to the jam jar, and shake vigorously, until everything is combined.

3. Pour into a glass over ice, and top with soda water. Give it a quick stir, and garnish with a sprig of mint, and a twist of lime if you want to be fancy.

Pineapple Dichotomy

¼ cup (2 oz.) rum
2 tablespoons lemon juice
2 tablespoons simple syrup (1-1 sugar/water heated until sugar's fully dissolved)
½ cup (4 oz) pineapple juice

If you don't have a cocktail shaker: Pour all the ingredients into a metal (preferably) or plastic bowl along with a handful of ice cubes. Whisk together and pour into a chilled glass.

If you have a cocktail shaker: Do the same thing but in a cocktail shaker.

The lighted marquee above the door wins first prize for best Ye Olde England/Sam Spade cool mashup, it's a white sign with the silhouettes of a comfy yet sophisticated armchair and a couple of bar glasses. Inside the surroundings and staff could be insufferably hipster, but in Durham, where hipster poseurs look to for inspiration is just Durham, why? As you might imagine, opinions are of two

schools in my building. There is the, "OMG! A bar right downstairs! WooHoo! And it's a cool bar too!" In a (hoity-to-ity voice) "Cocktails at the corner, Daah-ling!" school of thought. And the more sober (honest, no pun intended), mature point of view, "Uh oh, this could get expensive, addictive, jeans-restrictive, or all three." What you may not have imagined is that both schools conduct classes



Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Darby's Perfect Sidecar, a delicious drink made with simple ingredients.
in my little flat. So while I may, on occasion, visit and have a cocktail, I realize not everybody has a cool yet comfy lounge downstairs, so I polled Darby and The Kid for a do-able cocktail recipe that wouldn't take a bunch of special, expensive ingredients, then added one of my own.



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