

# CHATHAM County Line

where all voices are heard



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FREE ~ GRATIS

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## Chatham County Career Center helps job-seekers find employment and employers find qualified employees

Located in building 41 of Central Carolina Community College's Chatham Campus in Pittsboro, the Chatham County Career Center may be one of Pittsboro's best kept secrets for both job-seekers and employers. Once known as the "unemployment office" or the "JobLink", the Career Center has revamped its services to ensure that both job-seekers and employers receive a more personalized experience, focusing on providing exceptional customer service.

Staff members located within the Career Center have undergone extensive training over the last year to make certain that they have up-to-date knowledge on workforce strategies to create a more robust economy within Chatham County. The Chatham County Career Center has been certified as an NCWorks Career Center through NC Commerce, validating the changes that have been made to certify all staff as knowledgeable, skilled Career Advisors.

One of the greatest strengths of the Chatham County Career Center is its ability to partner with a multitude of organizations within the community to improve employment

outcomes for Chatham County residents. Partners within the physical office include: Triangle South Workforce Development Board, Central Carolina Community College, Central Piedmont Community Action (CPCA), and the Division of Workforce Solutions. However, the Career Center has a number of outside partners that patrons are connected with depending on their individualized needs. Some of these needs can range from finding suitable training opportunities, entering the workforce, or returning to work. Some of the Center's partners include: Department of Social Services (DSS), Chatham Literacy Council, Division of Health and Human Services- Vocational Rehabilitation, National Caucus of Black Aged, NC Military Business Center, College and Career Readiness (CCCC), and Human Resource Development (CCCC), among others. The Chatham County Career Center recognizes that an individual's ability to find quality employment has a tremendous impact on improving the quality of life for both themselves and their families. Many times, it is necessary for everyone to

work together to fill that need.

Within the past decade, technology has transformed the way individuals have traditionally obtained employment. It is no longer the norm, to walk into a business and fill out a paper-based job application. While staff at the Chatham County Career Center typically use NCWorks Online (accessed at [ncworks.gov](http://ncworks.gov)) as a starting point for career assessment, assistance with searching for jobs, current information on the job market, and resume preparation; it is just one tool of many. The Career Center staff is skilled with assessing job-seekers' needs to provide the appropriate guidance; whether the need is to find out more about training and education programs, improve interview skills, learn about upcoming job fairs, or provide assistance with cover letters, etc.

Most recently, the Chatham County Career Center has strived to enhance its collaboration with area businesses to connect employers with qualified candidates. Over the past several months, the career center has significantly

increased the number of hiring events held for employers. In addition to holding hiring events, career center staff can assist employers with job postings, applicant screenings, qualified candidate referrals, connecting with employee training resources, and providing federal bonding assistance. Funding may also be available for which an employer may receive a supplement for training costs associated with On-the-Job Training (OJT). Essentially, the employer hires an eligible client and the funding would cover the salary of an individual while they are in training for a specified period of time.

For more information about the services provided by the Chatham County Career Center, call 919.545.8054. You can also stop by the center at Central Carolina Community College, 764 West Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312 (Building 41, 2nd Floor) or email the Career Center Coordinator at [avoss@cccc.edu](mailto:avoss@cccc.edu).

—Ashley Voss

## Alternative Cancer Facts

by Brenda Denzler

Getting a cancer diagnosis tends to elicit several kinds of responses from friends and family. First is usually an outpouring of care and support. Sooner or later (usually sooner) someone lets the newly diagnosed resident of Cancer Land in on an "alternative fact": There is a conspiracy afoot by the pharmaceutical industry and the entire cancer treatment arm of the health care industry (collectively, the "cancer establishment") to NOT cure cancer. Why? Because cancer is too darned profitable!

I've always been attracted to alternative facts. I find them interesting and sometimes compelling, the way they suggest that all is not as it seems. They offer a person the chance to be among the fortunate few with an inside track to understanding "the way it really is."

I have had a special interest in alternatives to mainstream medicine, sometimes to good effect for myself, my family and my pets. So after my diagnosis, when a few friends began bombarding me with info about how to beat cancer using all-natural methods rather relying on the cancer establishment, the fact that there were alternatives wasn't exactly news to me. But at that point, I had to take a long, hard look at these alternatives, because this time my allegiance to alternative facts could mean the difference between a longer life and a quick death. I had to choose carefully.

What I soon realized was that it was going to be pretty risky to rely solely on alternative facts about cancer when I didn't have a very good grasp of what the non-alternative facts were — as most people don't, until unhappy circumstance forces them to take a closer look. I needed to take a look at both sides.

Up until my diagnosis, it had been easy to buy the anti-cancer-establishment line because the alternative facts about cancer upon which it is based were so easy to understand. So simple! But human beings are beset with a thing known as "confirmation bias"—we see what we want to see, hear what we want to hear, and deny and denigrate whatever doesn't fit in with that. I had to try to override my desire to see only the best about the alternative facts and only the worst about the alternative TO

the alternative facts. It wasn't easy.

In the world of alternative cancer facts, cancer is cancer is cancer. As a result, many alternative treatments are promoted as pretty much one-size-fits-all things. Ingesting baking soda mixed with maple syrup will kill cancer. All cancers. Period. Following this diet or that diet will kill cancer cells — not certain types of cancer cells better than others or certain stages of cancer better than others, but cancer cells. Period. Without distinction.

In the world of alternative cancer facts, the evidence for a given alternative treatment is often based largely on strictly alternative data. This tends to consist of heartfelt testimonials from satisfied users and/or a set of single case studies of cancer patients whom the purveyor of the treatment in question claims to have helped. (It goes without saying that there are no countervailing testimonials from the people for whom the touted treatment did not work, because they are all dead, and the treatment promoters are not usually much inclined to provide information on the numbers of patients they've treated who have not done well...if they have even bothered to systematically collect that information.)

In the world of alternative cancer facts, making a case for the value of the treatment method being promoted can involve a lot of denigration of the treatment methods used by the cancer establishment—and not just one derogatory statement, but numerous statements salted more or less liberally throughout the promotional materials. In other words, they build themselves up by tearing the other person down.

### WHAT ABOUT THE ALTERNATIVE TO THE ALTERNATIVE FACTS ABOUT CANCER?

The cancer establishment sees cancer as a collection of diseases that share certain features but that also have features unique to each particular kind. As a result, what works on one kind of cancer—or even one stage of one kind of cancer—may not work for other kinds or

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## Loving Nature and ignoring divisive labels

by Joe Jacob

Evidence of an early spring is everywhere along the Haw River. You see it in the activity of birds and the greening of the landscape. You feel it in the air and see it in an increase in the amount of sunlight. You smell it in the soil as people begin to plant their spring gardens. I often think that when it comes time for me to make my transition from this earthly existence, it won't be in spring. Of course, I am not sure when it will be, but it definitely will not be in spring. There is too much optimism and excitement that comes with this season. It's time to get outside and hike the trails and paddle the rivers and lakes.

It may have been spring when I first realized that I was in love with Nature. I suppose I am an incurable environmentalist and happy to be one. It is easy to be in a state of love when you see all of the animal and plant life around you. What a gift it is. I suppose it is strange that I can accept Nature on its terms when it sometimes disrupts life like when a hurricane brings torrential rain and destructive wind or you get a tick-borne illness. Humans on the other hand can sometimes disrupt or disappoint when your expectations of them are unrealistic. You can count on Nature. There is a consistency in Nature. Spring always comes. Plants always grow. Wild rivers always flow to the sea. Humans aren't always consistent. They have to be forgiven, and we all have to learn the power of forgiveness.

I can remember many times in my younger life when specific people disappointed me, but I think the first time when humanity disappointed me was when a developer filled in a swamp where I used to play. It seemed so unfair because it was so irreversible. Where were the fish and birds suppose to go? Why did those beautiful cypress trees have to be cut down just to make more streets and houses for people? It just didn't make sense to me until I realized

that developers are putting their need for money and security ahead of the welfare of the life they displace. Sure, life will be better for some people, but what about the rest of Creation. Why does society allow this to happen? Who speaks for the rest of life on earth? Are humans the only ones that matter?

If you are as old as I am, you will remember the CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite. In those days, the three major television stations not only reported the news, but also had someone do a commentary. For CBS, it was Eric Sevareid. Mr. Sevareid was a respected World War II correspondent who, like Walter Cronkite, "told it like it was". In his own words, Mr. Sevareid had the quality of being "socially conservative and politically liberal". Immediately after graduating from high school, he paddled a canoe 2,500 miles from Minneapolis, MN to Hudon Bay in Canada to prove that it was possible to float the continent's heartland entirely by water. His adventure led to his first book in 1935 entitled "Canoeing With the Cree". So, why do I tell you this story about Eric Sevareid. I tell this story because I remember one of his commentaries. He talked about the irony of people cutting down trees and digging up the earth in the name of progress being called conservatives while those wanting to save some of Nature for humanity being called liberals. He was pointing out that environmentalists may actually be conservatives, but are called liberals.

As an environmentalist, does that make me liberal or conservative, a good person or a bad person? Does that put me in the same category of someone who sits in the top of a giant redwood tree so that it is not cut down or does it put me in the category of a business person who puts people out on the Haw River so that they feel connected

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