

## DISPATCH

## Budding entrepreneurs honored

A crowd of more than 30 people gathered Thursday evening, May 23 at the Siler City Country Club for an awards ceremony to honor the winners of the second annual Chatham High School Business Plan Contest sponsored by Brookwood Farms Barbecue. Three teams took home cash prizes for their work in developing business plans.

Katy Young, Malik Crayton and Amanda Mauldin of SAGE Academy earned first place for their business plan to open a family-friendly entertainment venue that combines a skating rink and dance club with space for meetings and watching sports. The proposed business would locate in an existing building in Siler City. The students received a \$500 scholarship.

Kenton Edwards and Preston Wilson, also from SAGE, received second place and \$300 for their business plan to open SWAG Nation, a nightclub for teenagers to hang out. Moli Eddins and Alyssa Gordon of Northwood High School came in third place, winning \$200, for their idea to start a multi-sport complex.

Three teams received honorable mention: Blazin' Kicks, with team members JayQuan Wiley and Fred Brooks from SAGE; Galaxy Grill and Cinema, with team members Adam Leviner, Stephanie Thompson and Diane Thompson from Northwood; and Positive Outlook Solutions, with team members Laura Shactman and Nathan Campbell from Northwood.

"We are very excited and proud of the work each of our student teams produced," said SAGE Academy Principal Bobby Dixon. "Each of our teams focused on contributing to the economic development of their home community which reflects their pride in Chatham County. I believe this experience provided relevance and rigor which develops life-long learners and a focus on community."

This year's competition was launched in February. The first three rounds required teams to create a business plan, analyze the business structure and marketing, and prepare financial statements. Six semifinalist teams delivered business pitches to a panel of judges in April.

Central Carolina Community College's Rural



Chatham Economic Development Corporation President Dianne Reid, SAGE Academy teacher Walter Johnson, first place winner Amanda Mauldin, Brookwood Farms President Twig Wood and SAGE Academy Principal Bobby Dixon.

Entrepreneurship through Action Learning (REAL) course instructor Diane Kannarr, Chatham Economic Development Corporation board member Andrew Weniger, and Chatham CCCC Small Business Center Director Gary Kibler served as judges for the contest.

"I was very impressed with how creative the students' ideas were and the amount of work they did to be a part of this contest," Kannarr said. "More importantly, they all did a great job with their presentations to the judges. They should be very proud of their work!"

"I was inspired by the enthusiasm and creativity of the students and I look forward to seeing these budding entrepreneurs develop successful businesses in Chatham," Weniger added.

The program encouraging youth entrepreneurship was made possible with the generous support of Brookwood Farms Barbecue.

"Brookwood Farms is extremely happy to sponsor this contest," Brookwood Farms President Twig Wood said. "We view this as an important competition to help develop tomorrow's business leaders and hopefully bring their hard work and ideas back to Chatham County."

The contest was organized by the Chatham Economic Development Corporation.

"Youth entrepreneurship is critical for development in rural counties," Chatham EDC President Dianne Reid said. "We look forward to continuing this program and planting the entrepreneurial seed in more young people."

## BRIEFS



## Chatham County Animal Welfare Summit

The first, countywide, animal welfare summit will be held on Saturday, June 8, beginning promptly at 9 a.m. and ending at 12 p.m. at the Pittsboro Roadhouse, 39 West St., Pittsboro. Bagels and coffee will be provided.

The purpose of the summit is to bring together as many of the animal welfare groups and individuals in the county, as possible, to discuss strategies to reduce and ultimately eliminate animal suffering in Chatham County.

While non-profit groups, interested

citizens, and members of the county's health department advisory committee and animal control division are being invited, it is important to note that this not an official, county-sponsored event.

Three hours is not enough time to cover everything that needs to be discussed but the hope is that it will be the start of a process. Given the limited amount of time for this first summit, we are planning to limit the discussion to issues relating to cats and dogs. If this format proves successful we can expand the scope in the future.

After our discussion, we may find that we are already doing everything that can be done or we may be able to identify specific action steps to improve. We are certain to

get to know each other better and have a more complete understanding of the efforts that are on-going and planned.

Please help spread the word about this event by passing along this information to anyone you feel should or would like to attend.

To help us plan accordingly, please RSVP to Brian Bock (brian.bock@chathamnc.org) at your earliest convenience. If you are part of a group, please let him know how many plan to attend.

## Orchids and wine at Raleigh Street Gallery

The Raleigh Street Gallery of Siler City proudly announces it's celebration of the Beauty of Summer with the exhibit of Elizabeth Irwin's photographs of orchids, and potter Christy Eubank's hand made orchid pots, on Friday June 21 and Saturday 22. The Orchid Gallery will bring the "live" touch to the exhibit with their selection of orchids. To add to our celebration Friday night Benjamin Vineyards will feature a wonderful selection of wines.

This exhibit will feature over a dozen beautiful photographs of orchids taken at the recent New York Botanical Gardens Annual Orchid Shows. Live orchids and unique pots will be on display throughout the gallery along with all the other wonderful art for visitors to enjoy and purchase.

The Raleigh Street Gallery is located 120 W Raleigh St., Siler City.

## Friends of the Library Annual Meeting/Program

The Friends of the Chatham Community Library will hold their annual meeting on Wednesday, June 12 at 7 p.m. in the Holmes Meeting Room at Chatham Community Library. The brief meeting to elect new officers will be followed by a presentation by Scott Mason, "The Tarheel Traveler." Scott will discuss his favorite stories and show brief clips based on his many years traversing North Carolina's highways and byways in search of the quirky, the spooky, and downright kooky.

Scott Mason has spent more than 25 years in television, much of that time with WRAL-TV, the CBS affiliate, in Raleigh. He has won dozens of awards for documentaries, writing, and feature reporting, including three National Edward R. Murrow awards and 16 regional

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## CHATHAM COUNTY LINE

"where all voices are heard"

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Chatham County Line is a community newspaper serving all of Chatham County as well as the southern part of Orange. Our mission is to inform our community by providing a forum "where all voices are heard." We seek all views and ideas about our community, and we report on important matters — including our cultural life — comprehensively and in-depth. Our commitment is to create the best-written, best-edited and most stylish community newspaper anywhere. Chatham County Line is published ten times a year.

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