Confederate Monument: still at a crossroads in Pittsboro

by Randolph Voller

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners “BOC” met on May 6, 2019. The historic Confederate Monument still commanded attention.

By invitation from Chatham County Chairman Mike Dasher, former Town Commissioner, educator and local historian, Gene Brooks, gave a presentation to the BOC on the Chatham County history of the Confederate monument and the Civil War.

Brooks was followed by a presentation by members of the community who have organized to keep the monument in place in front of the historic Courthouse. A signed petition was presented to the BOC along with the results of an informal, non-scientific, voluntary online poll conducted by the Chatham Journal that indicated that a majority of its respondents favored the monument remaining in place.

No information was entered into the record regarding the fate of the monument.

After the presentations were over, Chairman Dasher called for more than fifty speakers to keep the monument in place. The public and his agenda were reminded by chairman Brooks to speak and keep the monument in place.

Will Sexton provided the history of Pittsboro, Indiana which was co-founded by a Chatham-born Quaker named Simon T. Hadley in 1834 in an act of pacifism and dissent. Bruce Davis, a native Southerner and descendant of several confederate army veterans, stated that the members of the Confederate Army that we have been asked to remove since 1907 all committed treason against the United States of America. (Sexton’s and Davis’ full comments are contained in this issue.)

Toward the end, a few speakers seemed to be brought to bring their soliloquies to a conclusion.

Upon conclusion of the public input the chairman thanked all of speakers for their input.

No vote nor action was taken on the fate of the monument.

Chatham County Republican Party living in interesting times

by Randolph Voller

The Chatham County Republican Party “CCGOP” may have a new motto adopted from an old expression “may you live in interesting times”. The CCGOP has had to soldier through the resignation of the former chairman, John Palermo, when he was indicted along with two of the CCGOP’s two largest donors in the last election cycle.

At the Chatham County Republican Party meeting on April 18th, the lone Republican commissioner, Walter Petty (District 5), surprised everyone and announced his resignation. Commissioner Petty was reelected in November 2018.

The CCGOP executive committee is required by law to select a candidate to replace Petty within thirty (30) days of him vacating the seat on the board. Once a candidate is selected by the executive committee and submitted to the Board of Commissioners within the thirty (30) day timeframe, it appears that the remaining Commissioners are effectively obligated to appoint the new candidate to replace Petty within thirty (30) days of him vacating the seat on the board. Once a candidate is selected by the executive committee and submitted to the Board of Commissioners within the thirty (30) day timeframe, it appears that the remaining Commissioners are effectively obligated to appoint the new candidate to replace Petty within thirty (30) days of him vacating the seat on the board. Once a candidate is selected by the executive committee and submitted to the Board of Commissioners within the thirty (30) day timeframe, it appears that the remaining Commissioners are effectively obligated to appoint the new candidate to replace Petty within thirty (30) days of him vacating the seat on the board. Once a candidate is selected by the executive committee and submitted to the Board of Commissioners within the thirty (30) day timeframe, it appears that the remaining Commissioners are effectively obligated to appoint the new candidate to replace Petty within thirty (30) days of him vacating the seat on the board. Once a candidate is selected by the executive committee and submitted to the Board of Commissioners within the thirty (30) day timeframe, it appears that the remaining Commissioners are effectively obligated to appoint the new candidate to replace Petty within thirty (30) days of him vacating the seat on the board.
of how cows react when comforted by music, and we intend to show that if you invest time and resources with us, we will not match the picture in her mind.

Since Dr. Grandin is a big fan of the space program, NASA invited her to the Kennedy Space Center to watch a launch of a satellite into space. The morning of the launch, she noticed raccoons running around. Beginning to build the building and warned NASA officials to cancel the launch. Turns out, the raccoon had been eating on critical parts of the launch. The picture of the raccoon walking out of the launch building did not match the picture in her mind.

There is a lot we now know about autism. For example, one out of every 59 children born today is thought to have some form of autism. Autism, a form of autism, has been recognized in such well-known people as Albert Einstein, Steve Jobs, and many others that were perhaps thought of as unusual in their day, but who we now label as genius. They are the ones who saw things differently.

Because of them and people like them, the world changed whether the rest of humanity wanted it to or not. Their genius is now our normal.

I encourage you to go online and watch a TED talk presented by a 16-year-old Swedish schoolgirl by the name of Greta Thunberg. In her presentation, she explains that because of her Aspergers syndrome it is difficult for her to talk, but she must. Ms. Thunberg started a trend throughout the world where students strike on Fridays to protest that we are not doing enough and in time to combat climate change. She explains that she sees things in black and white. Why should she go to school to get an education when clearly our politicians and leaders do not listen to the people on the ground who have been telling us for the past 30 years that the earth’s atmosphere is warming because of the build up of CO2 and other pollution.

Greta Thunberg sees and understands in a different way, she is asking us to all get on the same page and treat climate change as the crisis it is and take action. It gives me hope that we will listen. I admire her courage to speak out.

Joe Jacob, a Chatham resident for more than 30 years and a marine biologist by training, is president The Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co., www.hawrivercanoe.com. He worked for The Nature Conservancy for 20 years and served as Director of Science for TNC’s Southeast Region.

Currently, eBay is one of the best venues to buy and sell collectible watches for great prices. If you want to buy a watch, find a reputable seller with a policy that allows for returns if the watch is defective. If you have an expensive watch (or collection of watches) to sell, provide as much detail about the item(s) as possible and be sure to take clear, high quality pictures for prospective buyers. Who know, maybe that old watch in the drawer is now worth enough to pay for your next vacation!

CONTACT US
Have a treasure or family heirloom that you’re curious about and would like to have appraised? To inquire with Chris DiGiovanna by phone or visit www.traderchris.biz.

Chris DiGiovanna is the President of Matched Watch Co., a division of Avanti Media Consultants, which specializes in selling valuable collectibles, jewelry, watches, and watches and has sold over 20,000 lots to buyers in every US state and 54 countries. For more information, please visit www.traderchris.biz.

VISION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
Blackbird Flying: A Memoir
Reviewed by Judy Hogan

BLACKBIRD FLYING is more about aging than a memoir. As it’s ordered, it’s a myth. Symbols in a narrative. Sheila Nickerson sees the crowds of red winged blackbirds when young, and the birds continue to return for winters in the South Carolina Low Country. Among birds, they cope unusually well when their territory no longer affords forage or the swampy salt water where they like to build their nests. They move on, and as a species, they are polygamous—can have many mates. They lay eggs and raise young two or three times a year. They are survivors.

Nickerson likens them to her family, who left Ireland during the potato famine of the middle 1800s and settled in New York City, became wealthy entrepreneurs but fell into weakness, alcoholism, and in the case of the women, often lost their memories. When hard times came again, they migrated again. They kept moving west, and she and her husband Martin ended up in Juneau, Alaska.

Through the years, the family visited their South Carolina home on Lady Island, part of the Intracoastal Waterway near Beaufort, and Sheila returns there to see the birds, to plot her way forward, and to think about the early naturalists, John White [1540?-1606?], Governor of the lost Roanoke Colony; John Lawson [?–1711] who came to early Charleston and would write “A New Voyage to Carolina”, and Mark Catesby [c. 1683-1749] who landed in Williamsburg, VA, and made drawings of both birds and the plants in their lives (“The Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahama Islands”). These men recorded in words and paintings the bird life, the other creatures, and even some words from the indigenous people’s languages. Some traces of their pioneer works survive, but all those men were lost, killed, or prevented by the situation in England from returning to the new world that fascinated them. They become her guides in her mission to learn “the world’s name and the name of the world to come” [p. 25]

Yet, even with the risk of being killed by the indigenous people or lost in myriad other ways, they kept going into the unknown. They come out of their past to represent Nickerson’s future. Feeling alone now, the oldest in her maternal family, her mother and brother, gone; her son alienated, she would travel into her future. She asks where do those lost ones go? Where do their memories go? She visits mediums who bring back the voices of the dead, but she isn’t sure she will meet her lost ones where she is going. She’s fascinated by the phenomena of the Fata Morgana, when visions appear out of the past because of a trick of the light, like seeing The Flying Dutchman on the horizon in Alaska. Like the red winged blackbird, she’ll take her chance, as she goes into the immensity of the universe, not certain that any traces of her or her story will be left.

Nickerson gives us one myth for the end of our lives, but there is no certainty here, and little hope. There is only courage to keep flying forward. She doesn’t talk about all the books she has written or all the people who have read and loved her books. On certain websites you will find more about her and her books. She lived in Alaska 27 years and was one of their Poet Laureates. She taught poetry to children, to university students, and to prisoners. She also wrote of the Alaskan wilderness. There will be seeds left, Sheila, on the web and in the hearts of the living.

Judy Hogan is a poet, mystery novelist, and freelance writer living in Moncure, fighting coal ash, gardening, and keeping hens.

BOOK review
BY SHEILA NICKERSON (2019)
FUZE PUBLISHING, ASHLAND, OREGON
PAPER: $ 14.99

The right team. RIGHT HERE.
For expert, dedicated health care, you don’t have to look very far. At UNC Chatham Hospital in Siler City, we offer direct access to the exceptional care you’d expect from UNC Health Care. With a wide range of services, we’re committed to providing personalized care in a convenient and comfortable setting.

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475 PROGRESS BLVD., SILER CITY, NC 27344 | (919) 799-4000

TO PLACE AN AD, EMAIL chathamcountyline@gmail.com
HEALTHmatters

Going plant-based for your health
by Karen Pullen

Eating plant-based has proven beneficial for those suffering from heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and obesity. And, reduces the risks of those chronic diseases in the first place.

Sound great? Let’s be healthy and live longer! But when you think about changing your way of eating, to a whole foods plant-based diet, the challenges are obvious. What can I eat? How do I get enough protein? My partner won’t go along with this... argh! What about holidays? So much chopping! What can I put in my coffee? What if I’m in a hurry and need convenience food?

My journey took two leaps. I eliminated meat from my diet 28 years ago after reading about Dr. Temple Grandin, the brilliant autistic scientist who designs humane slaughterhouses. (Now there’s an oxymoron.) She knew that animals are sentient creatures with emotions, who want to live just like the rest of us do. A light went on — I mean, duh. So I suppose you could say I became vegetarian for ethical reasons, while also realizing the health benefits.

Two years ago I said goodbye to all animal-derived products. That was less of a leap as I learned about egg substitutes in cooking — ground flax, chia seeds, or silken tofu. Dairy was easily replaced with plant milks.

And there’s cashew cheese, a fantastic alternative to dairy cheese. Karen Pullen is a mystery writer and the former owner of a vegetarian B&B. Certified in plant-based nutrition from Cornell, she is studying to be a plant-based chef. Contact her karen@everydayplant-based.com

CASHEW CHEESE

• 1 cup raw cashews, soaked in water 2 hours or more. Drain and rinse.
• ½ cup nutritional yeast
• Juice of one lemon

DIRECTIONS: Place everything in a food processor and turn on. You’ll have to turn it off every 20-30 seconds to scrape down the sides. Process about 3 minutes. Herbs like dill, basil, parsley, chives, or mint can be added to mix it special.

Serve as a dip, spread on sandwiches, dollop on steamed vegetables and baked potatoes. It’ll keep for seven days in the fridge, but it will be long gone before that!

Get your summer glow on
by Robin Thomas

Summer is right around the corner and at a time. Maybe it’s replacing your soda with fresh water or a 15 minute walk at lunch. Just make it attainable and easy — even healthier twist, add some lemon to your water.

Eat real food, including greens. Summer is the perfect time to explore the fresh offerings at your local farmers’ market, on the perimeter of your grocery, or even grown in your own garden. Focus on local fresh veggies and fruits in season — they will be less expensive, more nutritious, and tastier! Up your intake of dark leafy greens, in particular spinach, parsley, and kale. Add these greens to a daily salad, a smoothie, or juice them with other veggies for a refreshing green drink.

1. Have a meal plan. I take a few minutes each week to plan meals around the fresh foods I have available. This simple task will help you stay on track with your goals, and eliminate the last minute “I’m too hungry to think” meals.

2. Walk at least a mile a day. In other words, get up and move. Walking is a great go-to exercise that almost anyone can do. Walking with a friend, outside if possible. Walking over uneven terrain provides more work and increased flexibility for your muscles, practice with balance, and overall health benefits including improving your mood — especially if the conversation is good! If you want more intensity, incorporate some interval training. It is a great way to rev up your metabolism and your body will continue to burn more calories for the rest of the day. Simply increase the intensity of your exercise for 1 or 2 minutes at a time with short rest in between.

3. Start every day with a large glass of water. I leave a water bottle on my bedside table for this very reason. For a refreshing twist, add some lemon to your water.

4. Take a few minutes each day to rev up your metabolism and your body will continue to burn more calories for the rest of the day. Simply increase the intensity of your exercise for 1 or 2 minutes at a time with short rest in between.

5. Make changes one step at a time. Make one goal for yourself a month, for example, and once you achieve that, work on the next.

Robin Thomas worked for 25 years in Medical Research at UNC studying inflammation in chronic and autoimmune diseases. She left UNC to start her own wellness business in 2004 and founded Living Well Connections, a community for people whose passion is healthy living, in 2015. You can reach Robin at robin@robinthomas.biz
**Can you change your brain?**

by Tim Keim

**SARA LAZAR** of Harvard University has proven that you can. Lazar has spent over a decade using Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) to examine the brains of those who have been able to increase brain gray matter and maintain these gains with age. Generally, gray matter, the part of the brain that does the thinking, shrinks with age. Lazar’s work demonstrates that those 50 and above are able to maintain the same amount of gray matter as youngsters half their age.

Lazar’s studies repeatedly show growth of gray matter in crucial parts of the brains of her subjects. These include the prefrontal cortex, parietal lobes, insula, posterior cingulate, hippocampus and cerebellum. Because of their regular practices, Lazar’s subjects not only grew their brains but shrank one important part as well. The amygdala is involved in our response to stressors like fear, anxiety and aggression. The implication of a smaller amygdala is that these subjects are better suited to handle stress and suffer less emotional disturbance and aggressive behavior. (See Lazar’s TED Talk on YouTube.)

Briefly, the prefrontal cortex is in charge of executive decision making and IQ, the hippocampus regulates learning and memory and the parietal lobes are the home of empathy. Tangible benefits of increased gray matter are more acute cognitive function, better memory, and a more cheerful disposition. Her participants also outperformed control subjects on Graduate Record Examinations (GRE).

What are these people doing to initiate neuroplastic responses in the brain?

Lazar’s subjects practiced yoga and meditation to build better brains in just eight weeks. If you’re doubtful, you might be surprised to find that Dr. Lazar beat you to the eye-rolling disbelief stage a long time ago. When she began to experience these brain changes herself, Lazar had to get to the bottom of the question.

Now that we know what happens to the brain, we want to know why. That is not altogether certain, but here are a few tantalizing possibilities. Deep, conscious relaxation may have an effect on the production of neurotransmitters like serotonin and dopamine which are produced not only in the brain but the gut as well. Regular, sustained, focused attention seems to change the way neurons communicate with each other. Meditation is also well known as a great stress reliever. Simply relaxing stress seems to set the stage for this cascade of beneficial gray matter increases.

Meditation is being studied, focused on your breath, perhaps using a mantra (mind tool) and suspending judgment as you synchronize mind and breath. Jesus gives a good example of meditation and its benefits. “The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light.” Mathew 6:22

Join a group, read some books about meditation or contact me directly. Most importantly, create your own meditation practice and rebuild your brain. Successful brain aging is a technique that can be mastered by anyone. What will you do with your fantastic, neuroplastic brain?

Tim Keim, EYT200, IAYT Certified Yoga Therapist, is Ayurvedic Health Counselor Intern

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**TINKER FARM POWERS UP CHATHAM PARK**

New Solar Farm supplies energy to 750 homes

On your scenic drives through the winding lanes in Chatham Park, you won’t see it past the forest. But beyond the edges of Moncure Pittsboro Road, sits Tinker Farm, the first of Chatham Park’s solar farms.

The 44.89-acre farm, completed in late 2018 by Strata Solar, already supplies energy to about 750 homes. This means more energy efficiency and cost savings for Chatham residents.

When the sun is at its brightest and its heat barreling down, Tinker Farm can generate 5-megawatts of power. That energy is then sent straight to Duke Energy’s power grid - meaning less electricity is needed from non-renewable sources.

**North Carolina has the second largest installed solar base in the United States, behind California!**

**Did you know?**

- North Carolina has the second largest installed solar base in the US, behind California!
- Yet, only 0.19% of cropland (9,000 acres) in North Carolina has been repurposed from agriculture to utility-scale solar installations.
- Tinker Farm is the second solar farm in Chatham County.
- It took three years to build the 44.89-acre farm. It opened in late 2018.
- Tinker Farm’s solar panels do not mix water or vaporize into the air, so no harmful substances are released into the environment.
- The panels at Tinker Farm are made to endure all weather conditions and all of the electrical equipment is sealed to ensure public safety.

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Visit us at ChathamPark.com
Pittsboro resident Will Sexton addresses County Commissioners regarding local history of courageous dissent

May 6, 2019

Take the west exit out of the circle here and drive for 15 miles. When you reach US 421, drive north on that road for, I don’t know, 600 miles or so, and you’ll clear the north side of Indianapolis. Hang a left there, drive another 15 miles or so west, and you’ll arrive in the town of Pittsboro.

Pittsboro, Indiana was co-founded by a Chatham-born Quaker named Simon T. Hadley in 1804. He followed members of his family and his faith to the so-called “free states” north of the Ohio River. Many went before him, from Chatham, Guilford, and Randolph. They were motivated by, among other things, their opposition to slavery.

They were joined by a Chatham-born Quaker named Simon T. Hadley in 1804. He followed members of his family and his faith to the so-called “free states” north of the Ohio River. Many went before him, from Chatham, Guilford, and Randolph. They were motivated by, among other things, their opposition to slavery.

This struggle has been part of Chatham’s story for centuries. It has inspired and provoked real and courageous acts of dissent, and it has literally moved people.

This past January marked 115 years since the Daughters announced their intention to place a monument in our town. But they were only continuing another story, one that many in the South began to tell themselves on April 9, 1865, about that war, how it began, and how it was lost. Woven into every page of that story was courageous dissent, but the enduring myth of white supremacy.

In symbolic terms, it was on a pedestal of white supremacy that the Daughters stood up their monument. With it, they enshrined in our public square, in the shadow of our county’s seat of law and justice, the Lost Cause narrative of that war.

The story of the Lost Cause is what you heard this evening during the presentation, and continue to hear from those who speak in support of the statue. That narrative has not changed in 115 years.

But there are some things that have changed since then.

Decisions about the town’s public space in 1914 excluded the voices of the victims of the system of bondage that led to that war. It excluded the victims of the brutal Jim Crow regime that replaced it. But today we can include and hold up the voices of those who have inherited and still bear the weight of that brutality. We can honor those who never had the opportunity to speak against these abominations, and who never even thought it possible just to remove the hateful and one-sided symbols from our public spaces.

The Daughters and those who supported them had a vision for the center of our town, and they saw it through in 1907. We can have our own vision for this space. We don’t have to travel a different route through town to avoid it, as some have suggested. We don’t have to move away and establish an entirely new Pittsboro to start shaking off that old story. Let the historians study and teach the Lost Cause. Let’s write a new story.

Reflections from an evening of listening

Board of Commissioners Meeting Presentation to Remove the Monument, April 15, 2019

NOTES:
Commissioner Walter Petty asked for a win/win. There could be a win/win... Here is a possibility... A reconciliation group could be formed.

In general it is improbable that strongly held emotions will become modified in the short-term so let’s leave them out of the discussion for now.

WIN — supporters of the monument accept that the petition was not asking for the destruction of the monument but its return to the owners and its relocation to a place of their choice.

WIN — supporters for removing the monument understand that the monument is not to be destroyed but they will see its return to the owners and its removal from public property.

The core issue is PLACE not emotions, beliefs, or facts.

A caring reconciliation group could be formed by the WHOLIC Community with representation from at least three groups.

■ UDC owners of the monument
■ Supporters for removal of the monument from public property
■ Supporters for keeping the monument on public property

The reconciliation group would have two tasks:

■ Respectful removal of the monument to private property and the creation of a memory garden
■ Initiate an open competition for submission of proposals for an inclusive display in celebration of ALL peoples where the divisive monument once stood

This community effort could support the underlying interest to continue our long journey toward generational healing in our Chatham County.

— Bruce and Kathryn Davis, Pittsboro
I am Bruce Davis and I have been a citizen of Chatham County for 26 years. My North Carolina genetic roots go back centuries through the Coreys, Tuckers, Taylors, Andersons and my unnamed African ancestors. However, all current Chatham County residents have an equal right to a say in this matter.

The core issue that we are debating is “Place”. Where is the proper “Place” for a monument to treason, sedition and insurrection?

It is a fact of history that the members of the Confederate Army that we have been asked to honor since 1907 all committed treason against our United States of America. And, I say this as the descendant of several confederate army veterans.

The act of treason by my ancestors is not included in the storylines of the revisionist history that has evolved into present day “History Lore” about the Civil War.

Each person participating in an army is individually responsible for their own actions and, for me, nobody who participated in the Confederate Army gets a free pass from having been a person who tried to break apart Our United States of America. In reconciliation the Blessing of forgiveness can be extended to our confederate ancestors, but not honor.

The Monument is not a memorial to any Veterans of any United States of America Military Service. It is a monument to members of a Treasonous Confederate Army.

In America groups can honor whomever they want. But, I do not think we should continue to honor that act of Treason, that act that attempted to make permanent the enslavement of one people to the benefit of another through the monument’s continued presence in its current location.

Thank you for your consideration with regard to the issue of “Place”.

Barbara Pugh, Representative for the Winnie Davis Chapter #259 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy addresses County Commissioners regarding Confederate Monument

Chatham resident Bruce Davis addresses County Commissioners regarding Confederate Monument
P eople sometimes express their preference for either male or female dogs, while some say they see nothing between the two sexes that would cause the dog to conflict with the other. For the most part, beyond the obvious physical anatomy, there aren’t big differences between the males and females. Both can be sweet, devoted, and fun-loving pets. However, there are some behavioral issues that may be important to know.

Let’s start with females. Dogs are pack animals, and they need to live in a group or in a hierarchy. The most important person in a home with a female dog is the top female human. The dog needs to understand there is already a female at the top. If there are multiple dogs in a pack, a female dog may be the top dog, but she must understand humans are above the dogs, and they make and enforce the rules.

If there is uncertainty in the home about the pack order, or the dog is in conflict with another human, the dog will routinely not follow the human’s instructions. There are big differences between the males and females, or in some cases giving the middle finger. Sometimes the female dog will urinate on things one could roughly as “mark” on top of the other’s urine on the ground. Dogs will sometimes greet, play, and be smooth in the hierarchy. They are giving a friendly reminder of the dog’s opinion of the pack status. Female dogs will tend to do this more to the member of the home who they feel is their potential rival for the top position. They always assessing their when the female human enters the house.

The dog is saying, “You’ve been gone for a while. Now that you’re back, don’t forget I rank higher than you.”

Most of the time pack order conflicts create jealousy and the dogs are able to work things out peacefully. On rare occasion it goes to an extreme level, such as severe aggression. Typically, when two female dogs both want the top spot and they are evenly matched physically, the winner will be the one in which they are trying to kill one another. Immediately upon the firing of another dog in the area, they want until they get home to realize themselves. This is the dog stating playfully, or outright roughly, that they want to be in the top position. It’s rare for a female to be at the top of the hierarchy in the group; be it a group of multiple dogs in a pack, a female dog may be the top dog, but she must understand humans are above the dogs, and they make and enforce the rules.

In general, the things that make a male dog different don’t make one preferable over the other as far as their ability to be a good pet. There are just differences to be aware of, but in the end each individual dog is a unique being. I’ve lived with and trained many dogs of both sexes and cannot recommend one over the other. Understanding what they are and how they think is the key to living a peaceful coexistence with a human dog pack.

Ollie is a snarly black and white Shih Tzu rescue dog that turned his passion for helping other pets into a popular advice column. Now, as he is retiring but still passionate about helping other pets, he has launched his own YouTube channel where he hopes pets and pet owners will subscribe and “like” his advice. Straight from a dog’s mouth. In addition, this is his inaugural column for Chatham County Line.

DEAR OLLIE,

I have been trying to train my high energy dog for a while. I respond to the commands “stay” and “come.” Last week, I thought I was experiencing great success when my dog, Bob, stayed across the street while I was chasing him down. Before you think that I am an irresponsible owner, let me add that when I call the leash and pulled him self out of my hand. He is a very strong dog and just crazy around people. Well, Bob stayed across the street and did nothing. I was relieved that he had made so much progress in his training that he did not dash into the street to chase a car. Even the neighbors came outside to witness this spectacular show. There was well behaved Bob quietly sitting on his haunches and the wire was doing absolutely nothing. Of course, this behavior was a special treat from me. So I ran across the street to get Bob and reward him. Bob was relieved that he was made a treat from me. So I ran across the street to get Bob and reward him. Bob was relieved that he had made so much progress in his training that he did not dash into the street to chase a car. Even the neighbors came outside to witness this spectacular show. There was well behaved Bob quietly sitting on his haunches and the wire was doing absolutely nothing. Of course, this behavior was a special treat from me. So I ran across the street to get Bob and reward him. Bob was relieved that he had made so much progress in his training that he did not dash into the street to chase a car. Even the neighbors came outside to witness this spectacular show. There was well behaved Bob quietly sitting on his haunches and the wire was doing absolutely nothing.
THE BREACH: Behold the eerie remains of what was once a decades old beaver pond on Robeson Creek. In the wake of a series of spring rains with flooding of biblical proportions the dam was breached again and again. Ultimately, the family of beleaguered beavers chose to leave their lodge behind in search of safer habitat. Across not only Chatham County, but also the entire planet, a similar scenario is being played out as both wildlife and human climate refugees are forced to seek shelter from the storms that are becoming the new normal in a rapidly warming world. Abandoned beaver lodges are an unnatural sign of the times that are a’changin.

PHOTO BY GARY SIMPSON

recommended candidate.

The Chatham Republican Party found a candidate. CCGOP chairman, Terry Schmidt, respectfully urged the Commissioners to appoint Ernie “Andy” Wilkie to replace Commissioner Petty.

On May 6th the County Commissioners voted 4-0 to welcome Ernie “Andy” Wilkie to the vacant seat on the board. “Andy” Wilkie will be sworn in at the next County Board of Commissioner’s meeting.

According to the CCGOP press release, Mr. Wilkie is a Chatham County native and a graduate of Chatham Central High School. He served six years as a paratrooper in the Army Reserve at Fort Bragg before earning a Social Science degree from Appalachian State University. After college graduation, Mr. Wilkie was a Head Start health coordinator for several counties in North Carolina.

While the owner and operator of a Sanford business for 34 years, he created Project Help, a non-profit serving the homeless in Sanford. To honor a classmate killed in war, Mr. Wilkie created a scholarship fund for high school seniors that annually awards funds to four Chatham Central graduates.

A member of the American Legion, Mr. Wilkie has also been a member of the Lions Club, the Chatham County Historical Association, and the Chatham Arts Council.

Mr. Wilkie has court records in Chatham and Lee counties. Wilkie has been charged multiple times with driving while impaired. According to records, his license has been revoked in the past for driving while impaired. In addition, Wilkie was convicted for misdemeanors regarding drug possession and drug paraphernalia.

Chatham County Line has reached out to County Commissioners Dasher and Hales for comment as well as the Chatham County Republican Party.

No comments have been forthcoming from either Commissioners Dasher and Hales nor the Chatham County Republican Party.

Mr. Wilkie’s information is also not yet available for public use by the county. A member of the Chatham County Democratic Party’s executive committee had this to say:

“The local Democratic Party has gone through the process of replacing Democratic officials numerous times over the past ten years, including replacing Commissioner Sally Kost of District 1 with Jim Elza. Although it is not a disqualifier, Mr. Wilkie’s personal history of DWIs and other misdemeanor convictions would have certainly given pause to our executive committee. I would imagine that committee members would want to hear a full explanation from the candidate regarding such issues before making an official endorsement. I certainly hope that happened in this case, although it is possible that the local GOP simply ran out of options. My guess is that it is difficult to recruit candidates to serve on a board when you will be out numbered 4 to 1. I wish Mr. Wilkie the best.”

Mr. Wilkie’s information is also not available for public use by the county. A member of the Chatham County Democratic Party’s executive committee had this to say:

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Underground

BY LOU LISITZ

Lot’s wife, surely you’ve heard of her; the one who became a symbol because, they said, she turned to look back. She became a pillar of salt, they said, because she dared to be a witness; to look upon the devastation as the divine fireball melted a world and everyone in it; punished for her curiosity it seemed as she glanced back at God’s uncreation, or could it have been for her sympathy? And what exactly do we know about her? Her name? Was her hair tinged with silver? Did she wear blue earrings every day? Her voice silent — or was she shouting at the horror to come? We will never know. But some say she was named Edith and that she never looked back, but hurried away even before God got his thunder rolling. She and her small group knew He would fail (again). His usual methods — fire bombing, mass slaughter, would lead where language, telling a different story of salt, a compelling symbol. Pleasure made its own rules; convictions throughout the South. Logically, they say the Pittsboro veterans memorial railed was erected during the Jim Crow era in order to intimidate African-Americans, but it is also true. Confederate Veterans and their fraternal organizations were very active between 1886 and 1959. This is the same time period in which memorials were built. As the population of veterans dwindled, there was a drive to commemorate and preserve their stories so that future generations would not forget their struggle for independence. Thus, statues and plaques were placed at prominent locations throughout the South. Logically, they were often situated on government property where everybody could see them. These memorials represent all Confederate soldiers from that conflict: black, white and Native American. Most of them were volunteers, many of them lost everything. There are people who will read this article who have already made up their minds; they will not be persuaded by my reasoning, and I will gain no ground with them. However, I know that there are many open-minded people of Chatham County who understand that history is complicated, truth is often obscured by politics, and that the history books are written by the victors. If you agree with me on this issue, write me a letter (I’d love to get in touch) and tell the Chatham county commissioners.

Concerned for all of our neighbors, Irene Wells, Pittsboro

April 2019 issue, page 10: If you are from Rhode Island it’s hysterical. I am from The First State, Home of the Fighting Blue Hens, and DuPont. On behalf of my tiny state, I am outraged by the egregious omission. Even DC got a spot on the map. We only have 3 counties but we are mighty. We will not be overlooked! The few, the proud, the Delawarians. Patty Neff, Mann’s Chapel

Editors Note: We humbly apologize for the error — it was certainly not an intentional omission.

I n its most recent report, the Annenberg Inclusion Initiative reveals that “the film industry has yet to achieve parity, especially for people of color, whose representation is 11 percent lower than their share of the general population.” (https://why.org/articles/oscars-2019-beyond-the-stats-why-diversity-matters/). The report shows that while there has been an uptick in the number of underrepresented minorities and women portrayed in major films, “the overall percentage is still below the U.S. Census (39.3%) by 11.3 percentage points.” In addition, the report notes that “sample wide, only 15.5% of all 1,200 movies [released in 2018] featured an underrepresented lead or co lead.” There are enough false claims in the national media, let’s at least try to keep local media free of lies that promote racist, homophobic, and misogynist views.

Joanne Hersfield, Pittsboro

To the Editor:

N C House Assembly Representatives Donny Lambeth and Greg Murphy have introduced HB 655 that would expand health insurance coverage to adults aged 19 to 64 earning 133 percent or less of the federal poverty level. Using a private insurance plan managed by Medicaid providers, the program would include a work requirement for able-bodied adults without dependents and would require beneficiaries to pay a premium equal to 2 percent of their income and co-pays for services. The bill’s supporters predict that the plan would cover approximately 283,900 people in NC.

As I first read this, my initial thought was that this could be a step in the right direction for low-wage earners. I followed up with some research and calculations.

Per https://aspe.hhs.gov. the Federal Poverty Level guidelines for 2019 indicate the following: For a single person $12,490; for a two-person household $16,910; for a three-person $21,330.

As an example, for that $12,500 a year income worker, after contributions to Social Security and Medicare alone (no tax withholding included) take-home pay would be in the area of $960 a month. I myself am a retired senior living on a fixed income within that same range. I am grateful to be living in low-income housing. Were that not the case, I could not afford to live independently even in small-town Pittsboro.

That working person has to have a vehicle to maintain employment, with insurance and maintenance costs. Rent, utilities, groceries and other necessities add up quickly, and heaven forbid any emergency expenses come up. When I myself hit Food Lion for staples and then watch the prices on nearly all items creep up, I seriously worry for people with families to feed. And some of those families are living with that $960 a month to work with!

For the life of me, I don’t see how single people are going to be able to pay premiums or co-pays to get health insurance coverage; and I know for a fact that families could not sustain that cost.

If, like myself, you find these realities heartbreaking and deeply concerning, please write your representatives in Raleigh to express your concern and encourage them not to support this bill. It might be good to send copies to Representatives Lambeth and Murphy as well. Their backgrounds suggest that they are caring individuals; they will not be persuaded by my reasoning, and I will gain no ground with them. However, I know that there are many open-minded people of Chatham County who understand that history is complicated, truth is often obscured by politics, and that the history books are written by the victors. If you agree with me on this issue, write me a letter (I’d love to get in touch) and tell the Chatham county commissioners.

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A circular firing squad
by Don Lein

I was reviewing some old files I ran across a document from when I was working on the Board of Directors for the Chatham County First Responder Memorial. It was from Patrick J. Foley, Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer of the Board, dated May 21, 2019, and was dated August 31, 2015. The letter recounting the efforts of the Port Authority to honor those who were killed in the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center has circular firing squads...the number was 566 – it does this old conservative’s heart to see the numbers grow!!

In the face of all this discord it is somewhat heart-warming to see near unanimity on one issue - the “equality act” which would make it a federal crime for schools to refuse males who wish to compete in women’s sports. Sarah Warbelow of the Human Rights Campaign testified before a House of Representatives subcommittee that the idea of “biological advantage” over women is not “rooted in fact”. House Judiciary Chairman Jerry Nadler stated that the idea that transgender athletes having a competitive advantage over females has not had factual evidence turned on its head.

With respect to the fairness of transgender athletes there are problems. We have representative Sarah Warbelow of the Human Rights Campaign who opined on the Congress that the idea of men having an “athletic advantage” over biological females, is a bit sad to ponder the fate of some young lady who is a bit more...than biological females. Sarah Warbelow of the Human Rights Campaign who opined on the Congress that the idea of men having an “athletic advantage” over biological females, is a bit sad to ponder the fate of some young lady who is a bit more...than biological females. Sarah Warbelow of the Human Rights Campaign who...
Marchando hacia una Siler City unificada

por Nora Haenn, traducido por Luis Meléndez

S

on las cosas que al final... Así, para tener una comunidad integrada racialmente y culturalmente se necesita del aporte de mucha gente. Este trabajo fue hecho por el Instituto de Inmigración de Migración Latina (BIC) en inglés) presentado al Concejo de Siler City, en su reunión de abril. La presentación fue el solo uno de los pasos que, para mejorar el bienestar en Siler City, están tomando las autoridades, organizaciones comunitarias y comunidades locales bajo el liderazgo del Hispánico y el LMP. Aquí les contaremos el logro alcanzado por el multifacético grupo de padres inmigrantes que han sido el aporte a la salud mental de la juventud de Siler City. Artículos posteriores describirán otros de sus alcances.

La avalancha diaria de noticias sobre inmigración tiende a oscurecer la reali- dad en Siler City, el fenómeno es asunto de discusión en todo el país. M tattoosamente, el espacio de trabajo del LMP. Su programa “Creando Comunidades Inte- grales” (BIC) busca reunir y reunir a ayudar a los gobiernos locales, y otros interesados, a generar estrategias para promover el desarrollo económico y la salud pública. Las estrategias incluyen las relaciones y de consenso. Las autoridades piden participar con BIC, y si las ellas se comprometieron a alentar la participación en el proceso, BIC apuesta la alianza. Desde el 2010 BIC ha trabajado con San- for, Lee County, High Point, entre otras. Hace dos años comenzaron a traba- jar Siler City y BIC – representado por 32 representantes de 15 organizaciones locales, gubernamentales y privadas. Además de los grupos arriba menciona- dos figuran, por el condado, la admin- istraciur escolar, la agencia de salud, y la corporación de desarrollo económico. También participan Partnership for Chil- dren y Habitat for Humanity.

BIC en Siler City comenzó evaluando las calificaciones de más de 1000 inmi- grantes. El estudio produjo un informe de 40 páginas (enlaces a documentos en inglés). El informe estaba orientado a ayudar a los profesionales de la salud mental, servicio estatal, y personal de la salud, a entender los problemas. El informe se centra en el estudio de padres, madres, estudiantes, de la comunidad hispánica en Siler City. El estudio utilizó la investigación de otras investigaciones estresantes. Las conclusiones se tomaron como la base para el informe de BIC que se presenta al Concejo de abril. El documento resultó de foros públicos, grupos de trabajo, ent- revistas a líderes civicos, y el estudio de documentos oficiales del condado local. Fueron también entrevistados 66 residen- tes inmigrantes; o nacidos en los EE.UU. y de padres inmigrantes. El equipo hizo 15 grupos de discusión, entrevistas, un grupo de trabajo y la presentación de un informe, los estudiantes de la salud mental, y a educadores de Siler City. Típicamente BIC analiza los factores de vivienda, seguridad pública, comer- cio, transporte público y recreación. En Siler City se incluyó el tema de la salud mental, en especial para los jóvenes y problemas de comportamiento. El informe de BIC denunció, en esencia, la falta de servicios de salud mental, la falta de profesional, y la falta de acceso a la comunidad hispánica.

Como respuesta a la alta tensi- dad, deberán expandirse los servicios de salud mental y física de los inmigrantes; o nacidos en los EEUU. Igualmente, el estudio sugiere que los profesionales de la salud mental deben ser personas bilingües, entrenadas para entender las diferencias culturales. BIC propone como modelo a la organización privada El Futuro. Tami- lobe hace notar que los jóvenes responden positivamente a grupos de apoyo emocio- nal organizados alrededor del tema de la identidad. Para la muestra: el grupo de estudiantes de High School Pride.

Las escuelas son, en verdad, la primera línea de respuesta. El informe comenta que “en los salones de aula, muchos estudiantes reportaron que ellos no se sienten bien, se sienten excluidos, y tienen menos oportunidades para sociales. El informe también menciona que las actitudes de los profesionales de la salud mental pueden ser particularmente efec- tivas, los estudiantes rechazan utilizarla. Mejorar este servicio implicaría dar a los profesionales la formación necesaria para entender los estilos de vida, y para ganarse la confianza estudiantil. También requiriendo de profesionales que entienden los recursos lingüísticos y de fluidez cul- tural. Profesionales estos, que pudiendo eventualmente liderar grupos estudi- antes organizados por la herencia cul- tural. Los jóvenes, por su parte, tienen mayores problemas de comportamiento que su colegio; colegios que, de otra manera, sufran bajo las mismas condi- ciones estresantes. El informe enfatiza que “educadores en la necesidad de consejeros adultos, profesionales y genuinamente preocupados. Nora Haenn vive en Pittsboro y es estudiante de la Universidad de Carolina del Norte. Toda opinión que expresa aquí pertenece a ella. Luis Meléndez trabajó en BIC Pittsboro. Su tiempo durante el cual escribió esta columna se puede comprar en español, por el profecio y el personal de la salud mental, servicio estatal, y personal de la salud, a entender los problemas. El informe se centra en el estudio de padres, madres, estudiantes, de la comunidad hispánica en Siler City. El estudio utilizó la investigación de otras investigaciones estresantes. Las conclusiones se tomaron como la base para el informe de BIC que se presenta al Concejo de abril. El documento resultó de foros públicos, grupos de trabajo, ent- revistas a líderes civicos, y el estudio de documentos oficiales del condado local. Fueron también entrevistados 66 residen- res inmigrantes; o nacidos en los EE.UU. y de padres inmigrantes. El equipo hizo 15 grupos de discusión, entrevistas, un grupo de trabajo y la presentación de un informe, los estudiantes de la salud mental, y a educadores de Siler City. Típicamente BIC analiza los factores de vivienda, seguridad pública, comer- cio, transporte público y recreación. En Siler City se incluyó el tema de la salud mental, en especial para los jóvenes y problemas de comportamiento. El informe de BIC denunció, en esencia, la falta de servicios de salud mental, la falta de profesional, y la falta de acceso a la comunidad hispánica.

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