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May 2019

## 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 method of sampling and/or methodology.

Once the presentations were over, Chairman Dasher called for a beginning of the public expression period.

More than fifty speakers signed up to discuss the historic Confederate monument, with a majority leaning toward its removal and relocation by the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) to another site in Chatham County.

Barbara Pugh, who represented the Winnie Davis #239 chapter of the Chatham County

UDC, thanked the BOC for inviting Gene Brooks to speak and favored the monument remaining 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 descendent of several confederate army veterans, stated that the members of the Confederate Army that we have been asked to honor 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 had to be reminded by chairman Dasher 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.



PHOTOS BY CHRIS TELESKA

See comments and more photos, pages 8, 9.

## Courage and vision from those who see the world differently

by Joe Jacob

I have known for a very long time that I do not see or understand the world as everyone else does. Until recently, I assumed it was because we are all unique, which we are, but that is not the reason we see and understand the world differently. You may have noticed that I included both the words "see" and "understand" in the previous two sentences. Why do you think that is? You know the ole saying, "seeing is believing" or understanding. Well it is and it is not. I both see and understand that in my lifetime we have been making the only home we all share, the Earth, less hospitable for all life forms. It matters to me, but others live their lives seemingly unaware and couldn't care less. Let me try to explain why that is and perhaps how we could, as the saying goes, all get on the same page.

Last year, I had the wonderful opportunity to hear Temple Grandin speak at Elon University. At the time, I knew very little about her except that she had worked with the cattle industry to make the slaughter of cows a little more humane. She understood that cows are very visual creatures and freak out at flashes of light which used to be typical in the stalls that lead them to slaughter. By simply softening the light and eliminating sudden reflections from metal objects, cows become less anxious.

What did Temple Grandin see that helped her come to this understanding about cows? At age three, she could not speak. When eventually she could speak, she had trouble putting words together. Back in those days she was labelled "retarded". Today, we would say she is autistic. During her presentation she explained that she sees and understands in shapes, pictures and colors and does not understand by analyzing. When pictures in her mind match up with what she sees around her, she comes to an understanding of what is. She saw and understood what the cows were experiencing not because she "figured out" what they were experiencing. Because of her love for and observation of cows, the pictures in her mind

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## 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 with two of the CCGOP's two largest donors in the last election cycle.

At the Chatham County Board of Commissioners meeting on April 15th, 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

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