Democrats prevail in Chatham County; topping NC with highest voter turnout

by Randy Voller

The votes were spoken with clarity on November 6th. Democrats won up and down the ballot like the star before. By 10:10, the County was the leader in voter turnout across the state with over 46.35 percent of registered voters in Chatham casting their ballots in the 2018 midterm election.

Without U.S. Senate, Presidential, or Governor on the ballot, 2018 was the first “blue moon” election in North Carolina since Chatham County exceeded its turn-out by 2016 from 118,000 registered voters. (In 2006 137,577 Chatham voters cast ballots out of 77,401 registered voters.)

Chatham County — which like Durham, Orange and Wake tilted heavily blue — favored Congressional challenger Ryan Watts. Had he won the district, Watts would have been the youngest new Congressman in the country. Watts received nearly 57 percent of the vote in Chatham County which was nearly a mirror image of the entire sixth congressional district where Congressman Walker was re-elected with almost 57 percent of the vote.

In the statewide Judicial races, Chatham was in line with the rest of the state when Anita Earls was elected to the NC Supreme Court and John Arrowood, Allegra Collins and Tobias Hampson were all elected to the NC Appellate Court.

Chatham County voters also defeated all six proposed amendments. Of note, over 79 percent of the voters opposed the General Assembly’s attempt to monkey with the State Board of Ethics and Elections and pull control of the ability to fill judicial vacancies away from the Governor’s office. Chatham’s outcome on the amendments was different from the rest of the state as voters in NC added four new amendments to state constitution. The final language for the amendments will be written by the General Assembly.

Since the Sheriff race was settled in the Democratic Party’s May primary, the local races receiving the most attention were for seats on the Chatham County Board of Commissioners. Incumbents Diana Hales (D) and Jim Crawford (D) were challenged and passed by a spirited, robust, and well-financed campaign. In the end a strong Democratic turnout in Siler City, Pittsboro, Bynum, Mann’s Chapel, West Williams and North Williams precincts was too much to overcome as the incumbents prevailed in the race by nearly a 56 percent to 44 percent margin.

Upstate election Commissioner Crawford had this to say: “I am proud to serve Chatham County for four more years. My opponent, Neill Lindley, sent me a message of congratulations. I salute him and his supporters on an energetic campaign of which they can be proud.” Commissioner Hales was also pleased to be re-elected after a long campaign and thankful of the support she received, “I appreciate the voters who chose me for a second term and lean forward into 2019 with leadership for 2019.

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The work we have done and the promise to follow through on issues of environmental protection, supporting and funding public education, building the infrastructure that we need, and attracting the businesses that will grow our economy.” Crawford was also eager to begin his second term and lean forward into 2019 with what he referred to on the campaign trail as the “Chatham Promise”. “My political views are founded upon a commitment to solve the people’s problems in as timely fashion as I can manage. Right now I am pushing to get two years of community college for all high school graduates for free. I have bi-partisan support for a constant common sense policy that can reach all families and will provide economic and social benefits to the rising generation.”

When pressed on the idea Crawford continued, “Lee County has started the program. CCC has proposed that we, too, implement the Chatham Promise. I hope that my colleagues on the BOC and the Board of Education can approve it in time to prepare for students in 2019. The clock is running.”

CCC has indeed launched a program in Lee County. With less than six weeks to market the initial program and enroll students, the college still placed 81 students in the program. According to the latest revised projections for the Chatham Promise / KC program, the Community College believes that with a reasonable lead time to promote the program and attract students, the Chatham Promise will exceed the participation in Lee County and ultimately be a prudent investment in its young people and for the community.

Commissioners Crawford and Hales with Republican incumbent Walter PETTY, will be sworn in at the first Board of Commissioners meeting in December and will elect its leadership for 2019. Randy Voller, former mayor of Pittsboro, is the Business Manager of Chatham County Line.

The Monument, Part 2: The Event

by Will Sexton

Editor’s Note: This is the story of the Confederate monument in Pittsboro, the second of three parts.

[The following account is based except where noted on the August 11, 12, and 29 issues of the CHATHAM RECORD, 1907.]

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Update on Moncure Coal Ash

by Judy Hogan

For three years I’ve been the chairperson of the Chatham Citizens Against Coal Ash Dump. We now have about seven million tons of coal ash, at the site in Brickhaven on Moncure-Flatwoods Road. We have fought the permits to dump this much ash from Wilmington and Charlotte areas by truck and train, in court, but we have yet to stop it, even though Judge Carl Fox in Superior Court ruled for us. The N.C. Department of Environmental Quality has defended the permits given under McCrory in court. The Court of Appeals said we had to go back to the first two courts and start all over. Meanwhile the state DEQ is trying to pass a law that would “solve” the coal ash problem by landfills and “cap in place.” These are both bad ideas. I wrote to the head of Waste Management, Ms. Loringscher, to tell her why we opposed landfills. Here’s the gist.

As we know bitterly here in Moncure, the creating of landfills to dispose of coal ash is not a solution. It means spreading the pollution around. The Brickhaven coal ash landfill was forced upon us, as our Chatham County Commissioners voted against it, and then learned they had no power to stop it. They ended up dumping it from Duke – $10 million in exchange for 12 million tons of coal ash, not only that but they made a mine reclamation—actually a landfill—as designated by EPA, but with all the evidences given in the open hearing already that it was a bad idea. Landfills always leak; the liners could be torn by EPA, but with all the evidence given in the reclamation—actually a landfill—as designated by EPA, but with all the evidence given in the open hearing already that it was a bad idea. Landfills always leak; the liners could be torn by EPA, but with all the evidence given in the

They should never have called Brickhaven’s coal ash dump a mine reclamation. Nothing is reclamation. It’s ruined. Nothing could be built on top of such a mess. How about a little honesty in government? When I met staff at the DEQ building last year, I was hopeful that they would listen to those of us trying to take care of our communities. But apparently that was just talk and meant nothing. We thought, if we had Cooper for governor and got rid of McCrory, that the DEQ would actually look after environmental quality. No such luck. They have disillusioned us, as even the new governor, which is apparently shutting down its operation at Brickhaven at the end of 2018, at about seven million tons. No explanation, but we wonder if it’s because they knew they’ve messed it up. And what are they leaving us to deal with for years into the future?

Landfills don’t work, and they do pollute the air, the water, and the groundwater. They are not a solution, so why is the DEQ calling them a solution? It must be because they would rather sacrifice a few poor and/or black, Hispanic, Indian poor in order not to offend Duke, the big polluter. Let Duke store its coal ash on its own property. I also don’t understand why the state is putting in polluting Star facilities to re-burn the coal ash near the very places where we’ve already suffered too much pollution. Those plants pollute the air every time they are turned on or off. The scientists at NC A&T in Greensboro have discovered a way to make materials which could be used in building and without having to reburn the coal ash. Why not let them set up processing plants?

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Tree bark

by Lou Lipstick

Long ago, before I knew very much around the time my parents had forgotten me I wondered about talking to the trees especially the ones with rough bark. I imagined they were listening— their leaves were like many attentive ears and somehow the bark expressed their feelings. I talked to an apple tree for about two years I think it said: “Don’t wither.”

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We need articles and press releases in Spanish and English. Photos are welcome also, with caption information in both languages. Email them to editor@chathamcountyline.org

Mandarlos por correo a
editor@chathamcountyline.org

CHATHAM COUNTY LINE

necesita noticias bilingües de la comunidad Hispano de Chatham

Buscamos artículos y noticias de acontecimientos en español e inglés. Fotos son bienvenidas también, con información en ambas lenguas.

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CHATHAM COUNTY LINE

necesita bilingual news from Chatham’s Hispanic community

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We want to make insurance as easy as possible for you. So now you have two locations to choose from: Stop in and chat — you’ll soon see why your neighbors choose to do business with Pam and her team.

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In 2017, women were informed that we didn’t have to get mammograms as early or as often as we had always been told. This went against the grain of the breast cancer community’s “early detection saves lives” mantra and caused a small uproar. Meanwhile, on the male side of the health care world, the same thing was happening. In 2008, men aged 75 and older were told that having a PSA test to screen for prostate cancer was unnecessary; in 2012, that roll-back was extended to men of any age.

The same kind of reversal was happening with regard to treating early cancer. “Less is more” became the new slogan as women with ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) and men with low-grade prostate cancers were told that immediate treatment wasn’t necessarily best. Rather, we were told to just watch and wait—keep an eye on things and see what happens.

Most of us grew up with the idea that cancer was the enemy and the only way to defeat it was to catch it early, before it had a chance to spread. It’s hard to adjust to the idea that early detection isn’t always beneficial, much less the idea that not treating some cancers may be better than doing everything in your power to get it out of your body.

John and Jane Q. Public aren’t the only ones having trouble with this. Doctors who regularly treat breast cancer still have PSA tests, themselves, and recommend them to their immediate family (according to a presentation at the 2017 American Urological Association meeting). Similarly, in 2017 JAMA Online reported that doctors who have had a patient, family member or friend who didn’t have screening mammograms and then developed advanced, life-threatening breast cancer are more likely to advise ignoring the new BC screening guidelines.

The problem is that “low-risk” is not “no-risk.” Though the number of tiny, slow-growing breast and prostate cancers that go on to become invasive and life-threatening may be small, it still means that for some people a small, supposedly indolent cancer is going to wind up trying to kill them.

It would be easier if we could be pretty sure that the new guidelines wouldn’t cost us our lives by causing us to miss more easily-treated, early-stage cancers—or if we could tell the difference between early-stage disease that was going to progress and kill us, versus early-stage disease that’s so slow-growing it will never become a problem. But we can’t.

So here we are, 10 years out from the first change to the prostate cancer screening guidelines for older men, and six years out from when the changes were suggested for all men. The “less is more” approach to (non-) treatment for early-stage prostate cancer has also had a chance to bear some fruit. What are the results?

In the 1990s, after the PSA test was introduced and screening became the norm, there was a 50 percent decline in deaths from prostate cancer and 70 percent fewer cases of men presenting with metastases at the time of diagnosis, according to a May 2017 article in JAMA Oncology. However, in the wake of the new, minimalist screening guidelines, the way prostate cancer shows up in patients has changed “significantly.” Today, men are once again being diagnosed with more advanced stages of cancer that are harder to cure, and more older men receive a false-time diagnosis of cancer that includes metastases—-a terminal diagnosis.

And that’s watchful waiting, this approach has resulted in a higher rate of disease progression, according to an October 2016 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine. We know that about 1/3 of early-stage prostate cancer cases will become more invasive and threatening, and so it’s no surprise that active surveillance as an initial approach has resulted in a higher rate of disease progression.

What’s more concerning is that those who watched and waited had twice the risk of developing not just localized progression, which could still be curable, but metastatic disease, which is not. The treatments for metastatic prostate cancer can be unpleasant to endure as the treatments for early-stage cancer... but they don’t include the hope for a cure. One standard treatment is androgen deprivation therapy, otherwise known as “chemical castration.” That name right there says a lot about what the side effects are. As the article says with masterful understatement, they are “not inconsequential.”

But what about death? All this talk about progression and metastases and treatment or no treatment or when to treat—so what? The bottom line is, has less frequent PSA screening caused a rise in the death rate from prostate cancer? It depends on whom you ask.

A 2017 article in the Annals of Internal Medicine said that the new recommendations in the U.S. for less PSA screening were based on one European study that showed no benefit in terms of survival. However, another major European study showed exactly the opposite. A new examination of the issue using data from both of these studies found that there is indeed a survival advantage to PSA screening. In fact, it can “significantly reduce” the chances of prostate cancer death.

On the other hand, this year the British Medical Journal reported that PSA screening either “may” or “probably” has no effect on prostate cancer death rates, depending on which article you’re reading. This, despite the fact that they also report the “European Randomized Study of Screening for Prostate Cancer…suggests that screening may reduce the long-term risk of prostate cancer-specific mortality by at least 25 percent (relative reduction).” This means that men’s risk of dying from prostate cancer in their lifetime (2.45 percent according to the American Cancer Society) is reduced by 9 percent if they do PSA screening—leaving them with a lifetime risk of 2.26 percent instead. These are awfully small numbers. I’ll admit. Unless you or someone you care about is one of that tiny percentage.

As far as I can tell, what it all really boils down to is not just human suffering and death—referred to in research quarters as “morbidity” and “mortality.” It’s money. No surprise there, eh?

This same BMJ article winds up with a cost-effect analysis of PSA screening in the U.S. They conclude, using a $100,000 cut-off, that it’s not worth it to screen more often than every four years. After all, too, three of men who have an elevated PSA and get a biopsy will have normal results. We’ve already seen what this means for the 1/3 who do not get normal results. Meanwhile, those with “normal” PSA tests aren’t really at risk. Fifteen percent of them will go on to develop prostate cancer anyway. The PSA test, in short, is not foolproof.

Nor is it worth it, the article says, to offer immediate treatment to men who test positive for early-stage prostate cancer, because only 2 percent of them will die of the disease within the next decade of their lives. Of course, once you join the ranks of those who have metastatic disease, you have a 70 percent chance of dying within five years.

So if I had a prostate, would I get a PSA test? Yeah. I probably would, just like I got occasional mammograms before my IBC diagnosis. Nearly 1,000 men in NC died of prostate cancer in 2017. I’d want to know if I was likely to join their ranks, because for no knowledge is power. But in today’s world, knowledge also demands a certain amount of responsibility—-the subject of next month’s rumination.

Brenda Donzler was diagnosed with inflammatory breast cancer in 2009. She became a cancer survivor on the very day she was diagnosed.
Resilience: How Stress Interferes in Dogs and Humans

Resilience is defined as the ability to return to being healthy and hopeful after a hurtful bad thing happens. In the movie Hope Floats there is a line Sandra Bullock’s character’s mother, played by Gena Rowlands, says that really resonated with me. It goes something like, “Children are not resilient. They just grow up to be adults with issues.”

This is one of the things humans and dogs have in common. Puppies who have experienced trauma are likely to grow up to be dogs with behavioral issues. Trauma changes the way the brain functions by shutting down certain regions of the brain and over-stimulating other areas. Bout time high levels of stress cause repeated jolts of adrenaline to be pumped throughout the body. This results in a fight, flight, or freeze response.

Dog training cannot happen while dogs are in any of these states. The fight or flight response is recognizable to most people. However, the freeze response can sometimes be confusing. Often, it seems like dogs are just not paying attention or are not able to focus on what is happening. They are in a stressful situation but not aware of it. They feel like they have no support or protection around stressful situations. Living in a stressful environment can harm a child’s brain.

There are actions that can be taken in order to help the brain to reset and heal. Some of the techniques to create less stressful living conditions for both humans and canines are:

- Creating a safe living environment
- Meeting basic needs
- Teaching social and emotional coping skills
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- Immunizations (shingles, pneumonia, influenza, etc.)
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- Grief Counseling

The ACEs questionnaire contains 10 statements that require “yes” or “no” answers about traumatic events that may or may not have occurred during childhood. The study found if the participants had answered yes to at least four of these statements they were much more likely to have had behavioral, physical, and mental health issues in their lifetime.

Two thirds of adults score at least one on the ACEs questionnaire. Dr. Robert Anda, co-investigator of the ACEs Study said, “Without a doubt, childhood trauma is the nation’s No. 1 public health problem.” The quality of life for persons with a score of four or more was usually poor. In the long term, those with high ACEs scores were found to have a reduced lifespan by as much as 20 years when compared to those with lower scores.

The earlier the intervention the better. There are actions that can be taken in order to help the brain to reset and heal. Some of the things involved in helping both children and canines with recovery from adverse experiences are:

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Daughters themselves, and the children who were awake in the early morning hours in the sky a little north of east.” In fact, Daniel’s comet was as much master now as ever. Its story on this bucolic scene. First, one fact covered the corpse of some loved one long since buried and, after the unveiling. And second, the RECORD of the veterans. The agenda included elevations and the presentation by the Daughters of “crosses of honor” to selected veterans. Reading of verses, short speeches and then singing wrapped it all up, with the final number, “crosses of honor” to selected veterans. Readers that “state’s rights died at Appomattox.” Nothing is farther from the truth. [...]

It is true that there is the fourteenth amendment which passed solely (if indeed legally adopted at all) to secure the rights of the newly emancipated colored people. The monopolies and even the acts of Congress would be set aside, and all questions concerning them from the state courts, whose judges are mostly elected by the people, and responsible to them, into the subordinate federal courts whose judges are in most instances selected by the great capitations: combinations and hold for life. “Like sappers and miners,” to quote the words of Mr. A. Hanner, a veteran of the 26th Regiment, made “an appropriate response” on behalf of the Confederate veterans. The RECORD therefore deprecated it, and there the matter ends. It is not a matter of debate, but is settled and not a cause for protest. But let’s make it clear — the featured orator on the day of the monument’s dedication was one of the most successful affairs of the kind that has taken place here in several years. The music was furnished by the Chapel Hill string band.

No doubt some of the visitors left Pittsboro immediately following the ceremonies, but it’s not true that the first white canoe to be launched in town at least an evening, visiting old friends, spending time together perhaps one last time before returning home. Many of these echoes have been rolling down the years ever since.

Clark went on to speak in some detail, discussing the history of the monument and the epic of the Civil War and the restoration of the elected federal government and the maintenance of our liberties as a free people depend upon upholding this guarantee of the rights of each state, in its integrity. The hopes of our perpetuity as a govern ment and the maintenance of our liberties as a free people depend upon upholding this guarantee of the rights of each state, in its integrity. No one can deny that “state’s rights died at Appomattox.” Nothing is farther from the truth. [...]

Clark’s reputation as a liberal and forward thinker on social and economic issues reso nated eternally. Yet he confirmed to the damming social conven tions of the time in his recognition of the color line. In 1920, Clark would deliver the oration on the day of the monument’s dedication was one of the most successful affairs of the kind that has taken place here in several years. The music was furnished by the Chapel Hill string band.

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Clark went on to speak in some detail, discussing the history of the monument and the epic of the Civil War and the restoration of the elected federal government and the maintenance of our liberties as a free people depend upon upholding this guarantee of the rights of each state, in its integrity. No one can deny that “state’s rights died at Appomattox.” Nothing is farther from the truth. [...]

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Hackberry Trees and Butterflies
by Michael Pollock

There aren’t often thought of as butterfly-attracting plants, but a few butterflies feed on hackberries as caterpillars and could hang around as adults, in addition to the trees’ other wildlife benefits. Hackberries are in the elm family, and show some resemblance, with alternating, ovate leaves, sometimes with serrated edges, and having asymmetrical bases. There are three prominent leaf veins. Hackberries can have very rough, warty bark when large. There are three species, though maybe they should be lumped together. Sugarberry, also known as Southern or Shortleaf hackberry (Celtis laevigata) has elongated, mostly toothless leaves and is a tall tree that grows along waterways. Desert hackberry (Celtis occidentalis) has found on hills, and has small, usually toothless leaves without many veins. Celtis pallida has been called Northern or American hackberry, nettletree, and sugarberry, and has toothed leaves. All three grow in North Carolina, but only Southern and Shortleaf hackberries are supposed to grow here. The common name probably comes from Scottish hagberry, or marsh berry, which refers to a cherive. Hackberries don’t have striking foliage or flowers, or an elegant shape, but are nonetheless picturesque. Spreading hackberry trees shaded a long abandoned small white farmhouse near Highway 54 at Meadowood in eastern Chapel Hill. There used to be a Meadowood dairy farm, since replaced by an subdivision. I found a mummified cat placed on the housewife’s porch as construction was beginning. A more recently extinct humpback whale now shared the hackberries. They have interest-winter silhouettes, and are one of the first trees to bud with leaves and flowers in spring. Large hackberries surround the clubhouse at UNC’s Finley Golf Course. Hackberries are uncommon in southern Durham, but a large one borders Durham’s Central Park and they grow along the Eno. In Chatham County hackberries can be found at White Rock Natural Preserve and Jordan Lake’s Seaforth Beach. Hackberries produce inconspicuous wind-pollinated flowers with long stems while their leaves are small. The flowers hang from the leaf bases, male flowers in clusters low on a branch, while female or hermaphroditic flowers are near the tips and single or paired. The flowers give way to small, edible drupes that turn to purplish, reddish-orange, or brown around now and are supposed to taste like dates. The style, part of female flowers, lingers on young and sometimes ripe North- ern hackberry fruit. They attract many bird species and various squirrels.

Late summer is a good-time to look for most of the butterflies associated with hackberries, but this article was delayed until fall. First there are the hackberry’s bee, or wasps. Two species live in North Carolina, the hackberry butterfly or emperor (Asterocampa claudia) and the tawny emperor (A. clyton), both of which feed only on hackberry as caterpil-lars and rarely if ever visit flowers as adults, instead sucking on rotting fruit, sap, dung, and human sweat. I often see them sitting on trees near water, buildings, and cars. One stayed on my shoulder for a long time at the beginning of September. According to the But- terfly Sightings Database, there are about a dozen hackberry emperors and two of tawny emperors, but their flying season is about done.

These are medium-sized, light brown butterflies with dark brown and white spots. Hackberry emperors are supposed to be much more common. Both caterpillars are green with two tails, ‘nocks,’ and ‘ants.’ Tawny emperor caterpillars live in groups when young and rest in a zigzag shape more often than their relative. Older caterpillars roll up leaves for their winter quarters. Another butterfly whose only larval food is hackberry is the yellow-skipper. They have unusual angular wings, usually hack-colored and appearing mouse-colored, but opening to reveal shimmering red or fudging to sooty black with brilliant starry white spots at the tips. Fossilized yellow-skipper butterflies have been found in shale 30 million years old, mingled with impressions of hackberry leaves that fall on that mud long ago. There are a handful of species in the smut family, and our smut was once thought to be two species. Lake some other butterflies, millions fly north every year from Texas, Arizona, and Mexico. But don’t retreat back south. They apparently survive winter here as adults, but I only see them in summer. Smut butterfly sometimes visit flowers, but are more often seen puddling, etc. Late last summer I was shellshocked and out of a shower dress. A tawny Emperor caterpillar sat on my gloves, full of sweat and other things, and refused to move. Some anglewing or tortoiseshell butterflies include hackberries among their larval foodplants. Around now question marks (its intuitive scientific name is Polyommatus inter- rogationis) are common. Their forewings are fiery orange with dark spots. The wings of individuals hatched in the summer are outlined in neon purple. They often perch with their jagged wings closed, revealing a tiny silverly ‘question mark’ on each hindwing. These flighty butterflies rarely visit flowers, and are more often seen puddling on mud, on wounded trees, or sipping at fermenting fruit under persimmons around now, sometimes becoming inebriated. Their spiny caterpillars can be found on hackberries, elms, nettles, and hops. Question marks are usually the last butterfly I see, and hibernate as adults, waking up on warm days. They sometimes aestivate around mid-June to mid-July, between their two broods.

Early spring is the best time to see a mourning cloak (Nymphalis antiopa), also on anglow- ing. These unmistakable and magnificient large butterflies have irregular blackish wings sur-rounded by a yellow outline and blue spots. Lake wasp moth butterflies are two broods, with a summer aestration period. Adults in the last breed hibernate and can live an exceptional 11 months. Some adults fly south in the fall. I can’t remember ever seeing one at this time of year. I usually see mourning cloaks puddling along isolated gravel roads through leafless for- ests or mashes patrolling forest glade territories during leks. This is another butterfly that does not visit flowers. There is supposed to be a clicking noise, possibly to confuse predators, when they open their wings to fly, and they are wary. Their black and crimson spiny elm caterpillars eat hackberry, elm, willow, birch, and boxwood leaves in groups and have high mortality. When alarmed, the entire group thrashes about. In many European languages this butterfly is called mourning cloak, while in the UK, where it only occasionally wanders, it has been called the Grand Surprise or Cam- berwell Beauty.

Stinging flannel moths, pepper- and salt moths (inchworms famous for microevolution and industrial melanism), large tomothes, and white-marked tussock moths are among the moth caterpillars that feed on hackberries. Other animals also visit hackberries. Hackberry mites and a powdery mildew cause witches brooms, dense clusters of twigs. There are spring insects, such as hackberry lace bugs and hackberry plant bugs, while hackberry pollards cause small galls or bumps on leaves. Several beetles tunnel through the wood, including hackberry beetles and hack- berry engraver beetles. Mammals don’t favor hackberry, though an aquatic yellow-bellied slider turtle was once seen eating fallen leaves. At least in the case of some hackberries, the fallen leaves release acids that hinder competi-tors, though they are planted ornamentally. Hackberry has been used for furniture, plywood, athletic and farm equipment, cruts, barns, fences, and firewood. Plants for a Future Date only walking sticks as a use for hackberry. Dye can be made with North- ern hackberry roots. There are herbal uses, Michael Pollack is a freelance writer living in southern Durham and founded Northeast Carolina.org. He studied biology and anthropology at UNC.
In a Manner of Speaking...

by Gaines Steer

Congratulations to Julian and Randy! The evident new venue (of Chatham County Line) is simply wonderful. I read every word in a diverse edition that was entertaining and educational. The content and presentation elicited a sense of pride and appreciation for our Chatham County and surrounds. Count me in.

What I offer to bring to the table is a light and breezy pen that highlights some of our less well-known “treasures.” Venues and assets known to many residents, yet a bit off the beaten path, so to speak.

For example, have you discovered the Antique Tool Store, just around the corner from Bilbohoof Street on Salisbury? Upstairs, a gift shop, and downstairs a virtual museum for sale. Very special! Our Kiwanis Park on Fayetteville Street is world class. Just watch young children and their parents or grandparents at play… kudos to the Kiwanis Club and sponsors, named some of our less well known “treasures.”

Admission: $5; includes breakfast!

Did you notice the free Library Book Box on the front deck of the Small Cafe? You might have missed it, overwhelmed by great food and ambiance among the displays of folk art. Meet the owners, I suggest. Activist Cynthia Crossen and local musician friends offer four free CDs to visitors and participants at the magical Joy of Movement studio in Chatham Mills. Featuring dance, yoga, music and meditation. Wow!

You must experience the masterful art work of our own artist, ONICUS, currently on display at the Blue Dot Coffee downtown Pittsboro. When he becomes famous (soon enough), we will know him when…

Two weekly Farmers Markets must not be taken for granted. Fresh vegetables, entertainment and rural ambiance Chatham style. Guaranteed! Saturday mornings at Chatham Mills; Thursdays 2-6 p.m. on East Street.

A bevy of creative downtown store owners (Pittsboro Business Assn.) who “walk the talk,” including legends Tommy Edwards and Mariah Wheeler. Others will be noted when recommended by readers…

Honorable mention to Ron Tuttle, our man downtown who knows everybody and hangs out near the Pittsboro Roadhouse. Ron’s advice is free. He is an authentic icon and one of us to be proud of. You! Gaines Steer, a Chatham resident, is a Community Organizer, creative writer and former Outreach Editor, CCL.

A Marriage of Nature and Technology

Chatham Park’s State-of-the-Art Water Treatment Facility

In the Summer of 2018 Chatham Park broke ground on a water treatment facility that is unlike any other in the Triangle region. While water treatment may not sound like an exciting endeavor, this facility will likely change your mind – you may even want to take a tour (yes, that will be possible)! In a recent interview with Tim Baldwin of McKim+Creed, who is overseeing the project, Tim explains why this facility is so impressive:

A Partnership with Microbiology

At its heart, wastewater treatment is harnessing nature’s organisms and processes for the bulk of the treatment. Just as one man’s trash is another’s treasure, our waste is food for other organisms. We provide comfortable quarters for diverse microorganisms to live happy and productive lives – consuming our waste for their own metabolism and reproduction. This is a partnership with microbiology – the optimal fusion of technology and nature.

By intelligently leveraging this partnership with nature, we’re using fewer chemicals, less energy and generating a smaller carbon footprint.

An Educational Resource for the Region

This facility will also offer a strong educational component: from grade-schoolers who may wonder what happens to poopy water when it disappears, to researchers who want to learn more about advanced treatment technologies or advance their development and application. We are building something for everyone, from the users of the system to users of concepts and technologies to come.

The Benefits of Recycling and Reclaiming Water

We are in an area that is stressed by finite water resources and absorption capacity. This facility will save water at both ends of the recycling system: reclaiming the water for non-potable uses saves raw water sources, and reusing the water (for toilet flushing and irrigation), keeps groundwater and aquifers recharged and minimizes impurities making it to our surface waters.

And let’s not forget the economic benefits. Over time it becomes more cost-effective to reuse something, rather than manufacture something new. It has and will become increasingly more expensive to treat raw water for potable uses, so it will be economically beneficial to use reclaimed water for non-potable purposes.

Finally, there’s the satisfaction of doing the right thing. Chatham Park is a technologically advanced community that values and promotes sustainability, stewardship and collective identity. By protecting and reclaiming resources, the Chatham Park water reclamation facility reflects and aligns with those values.

Above: Chatham Park Water Treatment Facility Site Plan off Tower Road.
| ABE | BEN | BON | BTN | GOL | BLT | RDM | HAD | HRC | NH | NK | OAK | ESC | WSC | PIT | MCH | EW | NWM | WW | Absentee | One % Voter Turnout on Election Day |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 25 | 50 | 21 | 23 | 11 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 19 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 |
| 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 |
| 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 |

**CHATHAM COUNTY UNOFFICIAL RESULTS**

_Editor's Note: Below are the unofficial results for Chatham County. The one stop early voting numbers have not yet been disaggregated into individual precincts._
Mike Causey (R) handed over $240,000 to the North Carolina Insurance Commissioner federal investigators. The first resolution respectfully requests that the Chatham County Republican Party (CCGOP) immediately remove any funds in their treasuries and suggests they send the funds to one or more Chatham County non-profits benefiting affordable housing, education, charities, or water quality.

When asked how the CCGOP would handle a contribution of such significant proportions, its chair Jan Nichols said, “I would want to know why an outside donor would be interested in our county and the party especially given the size of this particular contribution. What, if any, expectations, implied or otherwise would be attached to a gift of $140,000? Our executive team would vet that donor, and naturally when we accepted it, we’d publicize such a large gift to our community.” Nichols continued “I find it odd that the CCGOP never trumpeted the success of securing such a sizable donation. And while large gifts are welcomed, the financial strength of the local Democratic party is based on the consistent and significant contributions we receive from donors ranging from $5 to $500.”

The second resolution passed by the CCGOP respectfully requests that the North Carolina Democratic Party (NCDP) and the North Carolina Republican Party (NCGOP) immediately remove any funds in their treasuries from mega donor Greg Lindberg and/or his companies and send such funds to non-profit groups based in North Carolina that assist the victims of hurricanes Florence and Michael.

“We are well aware that fundraising for the state parties is challenging and that it takes a consistent level of funding to effectively run a state party,” said former NC Democratic Party Chair Randolph Voller, who was the author of both resolutions. “This has especially been the case since the extreme GOP-led general assembly decided in 2013 to eliminate tax check off funding for all political parties in North Carolina. This cynical decision has forced state parties in North Carolina to seek more significant financial support from very wealthy individuals in order to keep the organizations on solid financial footing. This would be a good opportunity for bipartisan policy making in order to reimpact tax check off funding for North Carolina.”

— CCGOP Executive Committee
Where do we go from here? There is only one way: beneath the thickening fog we will follow the path of good public policy. It will not be by some forced or faked unity, but by a cautious and probably tortuous process of argument and counter argument under heavy deadline pressure.

Dear local electoral endorser Plan Chatham, a commitment to green energy, increased restoration, and incentives for hotels and transformational manufacturing projects.

In 2014 the incumbents predicted that a return to progressive leadership would ruin the county’s credit rating, push taxes through the roof, scare off businesses and investment. Quite the opposite has happened in all counties.

The board of commissioners will continue for the next four years as it has in the last four years. Solving problems as best it can, ignoring the clamor and criticisms of partisans, seeking a way forward for our blessed little community of 50,000.

The state electorates rejected the worst of the constitutional amendments and put a brake on the worst indulgences of the Republican legislature. The governor and the courts will operate on checks, as they should. Compromise and moderation will be the only way forward for doing the people’s business.

Much of the bombast that has dominated the airwaves leading up to the election will persist, but North Carolina’s political leaders will have to achieve the goals on which all agree, and yell about, but ultimately put aside, the more partisan targets.

Robert Joyce, the Charles Edwin Hindalde Professor of Public Law and Government at the UNC School of Government, informed the task force at its first meeting that since Chatham County elects all of its commissioners at large, it is not necessary to wait for a US Census to redraw districts nor is it even required that all commission districts need to have an equal population.

The reason Joyce offered was that since all voters in the county can vote for all five commissioners and the districts are only used for a residency requirement, there is no legal mandate to ensure that each district is equal in population for the system that we use in Chatham County.

This fact is important since it means that the districts can be redrawn at anytime by the Board of Commissioners to reflect demographic changes and they can be drawn more sensibly with a better connection of the elected official to the district they hail from.

Such an application of the law would create compact districts that are more easily understood by the voter and elected officials alike.

Finally, the input from Professor Joyce opens the possibility of simply expanding the board under our current system with seven or nine districts of varying population size that have a mandate to ensure that each district is equal in population for the system that we use in Chatham County.

If the County chose this route, it could simply be put on the ballot and voted up or down by the electorate to obtain a clear and coherent outcome.

The Chatham County Line does not and has never supported Confederate Monuments remaining in front of Courthouses. The offensive words serve us well more than 100 years ago, they are part of history and necessary for an accurate historical account.
Midterms 2018 — the Bad, the Worst, and (mostly) the Ugly

by Julian Sereno

Hail, hail! The mid-term elections are finally over. They were brutal, shrill and hideously expensive. They largely went as the polls predicted. So let’s consider:

THE GOOD

Voter turnout smashed all kinds of records. Nationally, 49 percent of eligible voters turned out, with more than 100 million ballots cast. It was the first time ever in a midterm election. In North Carolina, more than 52 percent of eligible voters voted, higher than the national average. That’s up 8 points since 2014 when the number was 44 percent. Chatham County, once again, topped NC in voter turnout with more than 66 percent — 3/5 of eligible voters casting ballots.

Mind-blowing the turnout. While we may have bought any number of individual politicians, those with the most money did not necessarily win. They sure spent a lot of it: more than $5 billion.

Some excellent, highly qualified candidates won election.

THE BAD

Rate was the big money maker this election, crossing party lines. Here’s how it works. Political operatives find opponents’ actions and words — truthfully, taken out of context, or bald-faced lies — and bombard voters with them via emails, robocalls, Facebook posts, TV, radio, and print ads. News sites, many increasingly partisan, carry and amplify them. The messages are well engineered to enrage or terrify audiences into kicking the opponent out of office or, regularly, the party is routed.

Polls are deciding but campaigns are year-round and never-ending. Hate brought in more than $5 billion this past election.

Rate and fear, its running mate, have led to the polarization of the electorate. Individuals with diverse political beliefs cannot discuss differences because there is no longer a vocabulary to do so. It has all become personal. People live in echo chambers, associating only with those with shared beliefs. Political affiliation is now more important than religion, life-style or sex. It was in Europe after the Reformation: religious wars, communal violence, pogroms, the Inquisition.

The last relevant point is that among the elected officials themselves. Our country has been built on political compromise, but that has become all but impossible.

The hateful atmosphere and the mountains of filthy money it generates has led to the election of crooked soulmates. The UGLY

Where to begin?

Let’s start with President Trump. Presiding over the most robust economy in nearly a generation, he barely mentioned it.

Instead of pitching that to the country to help elect Republicans, he stoked fears over a caravan of Central American refugees. These are people driven from home by violence, begging for help, walking thousands of miles to get a chance for a hearing and a safe harbor.

President Trump presented them as a revolutionary mob, infiltrated with members of ISIS, marching on and preparing to attack our Southern Border. He deployed the military to face Force Protection. This was one of the most expensive warships in the world. The base price of this car—

Global Defense Spending

Many years ago members of congress and Pentagon leaders declared the United States should become the world’s police force. Today the United States maintains nearly 800 military bases in 109 countries and territories abroad. By contrast Britain, China, Russia, France and Canada have 160. The United States spends more on defense than the next seven countries (China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, India, France, United Kingdom and Japan) combined. The 2018 defense budget is $716 billion.

The U.S. military is outrageously expensive and yet it poorly tailored to some actual threats. Former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates presided over one example. He states that the U.S. operates 11 aircraft carriers, all nuclear powered. Some nations have one carrier, but many others have none. The newest US carrier, USS Gerald R. Ford, is the most expensive warship in U.S. history. The base price of this carrier is $12.9 billion. Add the cost of the air-wing (75 aircraft), a crew complement of 3,500, ships’ combatants and enough to carry the ship and the carrier for operating the carrier is about $5.2 million a day.

Stopping the Opioid Crisis Starting at Home

The national opioid epidemic could hit much closer to home than you might think. Countless families have the problem in their medical history, from a long-ago dental surgery or a pesky knee injury. While you might not think twice about that half-emptied vial of painkillers or the expired bottle of codeine cough syrup sitting on the bathroom shelf, those medications are the gateway drugs for the young.

Studies consistently demonstrate that a majority of abused prescription drugs are not obtained from dealers on the streets, but rather from family and friends — often without their knowledge. The research has shown that a majority of children aged 12 to 17 who illegally obtain prescription drugs do so from a parent, friend, or relative’s medicine cabinet.

As REALTOR®, I am constantly reminding my clients to secure or dispose of their prescription medications prior to opening their homes for public showings. It’s a small step — but an important step, nonetheless — in helping curb the abuse of prescription drugs in the Triangle.

In 2016, 56 million opioid pills were prescribed in North Carolina — and many of these pills haven’t been taken. Not that we rely on local Realtors. In fact, Realtors have partnered with the DEA and the local law enforcement agencies to host National Prescription Takeback Day. No one is going to call the police if you bring in your excess medications or leave the gateways to the opioids.

But a funny thing happened. Both the North Carolina Senate and House of Representatives lost their Republican supermajority. Governor Cooper regained his power to veto Republicans who no longer have absolute power in North Carolina. Absolute power corrupts absolutely, according to Lord Acton.

The exception was when someone on an opposing team was wearing a shirt that offended the fan. The North Carolina Senate and House of Representatives lost their Republican supermajority. Governor Cooper regained his power to veto Republicans who no longer have absolute power in North Carolina. Absolute power corrupts absolutely, according to Lord Acton.

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naturally chatham
exploring the beauty and diversity of Chatham’s natural and cultural abundance

Welcome to Naturally Chatham. Starting this issue, Chatham County Line will feature a photo by Gary Simpson inviting our readers to experience a slice of the beauty and diversity that is Chatham County’s natural and cultural abundance.

A thick November carpet of leaves laid down by Mother Nature on a tributary leading into the Haw River above Bynum makes one imagine that she may actually be able to walk on water. Nature is full of miracles waiting to be seen and experienced by all who will make the time to step out and immerse themselves in the beauty and diversity that is Naturally Chatham.

PHOTO BY GARY SIMPSON