

## CROSSROADS

Volume 4, Issue 3

"Where all voices are heard"

April, 2002

# Primary election 'up in smoke'?

BY JULIAN SERENO

EDITOR

We know who the candidates are. We just don't know when we'll have the chance to vote for them. The filing period ended on March 1, as scheduled. But the court challenge to the recently redrawn legislative districts made the original May 7 primary date impossible. No one knows when it will be rescheduled.

"The North Carolina Supreme Court is meeting on April 4," said Dawn Stumpf, director of the Chatham County Board of Elections. "The State Board of Elections is going to meet after the Supreme Court makes a ruling and decide when to hold the election."

"If in fact the lines do not have to be redrawn, we are looking at June. If they do have to be redrawn, the State Board will meet with the General Assembly to see how long that will take."

If the lines are redrawn, there would have to be another filing period for candidates for the General Assembly because some candidates might no longer live in the districts in which they seek election. And the N.C. Supreme Court might not make a ruling when it



## Some candidates introduce themselves ...

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meets on April 4.

Some speculate that the primary might be held some time in September, after the voters are home from summer vacations.

"We are going to have a primary some time before the general election," said Ms. Stumpf with a rueful laugh.

Even though it is the primary and not the general election, make no mistake

about it: It is the most important election this political season for local offices. The election of Republicans locally is still unheard of in Chatham County. Bunkey Morgan failed as a Republican candidate for Chatham County Commissioner in a previous campaign. Now he is running in the primary as a Democrat against Gary Phillips, Chairman of the Chatham County Commissioners. Mr. Morgan's Silk Hope residency has been challenged by one voter, but it seems likely that his candidacy will survive that challenge.

For School Board candidates, the primary is the only election. At a candidate forum at the Central Carolina Community College campus in Pittsboro on March 21, the School Board candidates emphasized planning on their platforms; anticipating growth and having new schools ready when they are needed.

While the primary election itself is up in the air, the race for sheriff — with six candidates — five Democrats and one Republican — brings to mind "Up in Smoke," the Cheech and Chong mari-

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# Polly McLaurin spends life spreading sunshine

BY JUDY HOGAN

To be in 83-year-old Polly Lemons McLaurin's presence is to feel acknowledged for who you are, appreciated, loved. Polly goes with her husband Howard every Sunday afternoon to the Sunbridge Care Nursing Home to present a program. She takes a cake, fried apple pies, or baked potatoes. She tells stories, and they tell her their experiences. Sometimes she'll bring a preacher or a choir to this "Variety" program, which she began 16 years ago.

"They tell me I'm pretty. I don't get that anywhere else." She has to have her hip replaced the end of April, and they tell her, "We'll be praying for you."

Polly admits that not everyone can volunteer in a nursing home. "People are different. They have a right to be the way they are. I'm jolly all the time. I was laughing when my daughter was born. But it wouldn't be good if everyone was like me." I disagreed. We could use more Polly McLaurins. When they asked her to



Eighty-three-year-old Polly McLaurin has organized programs for nursing homes as a volunteer for the past 16 years.

PHOTO BY JOHN SHILLITO

do a program, she didn't think she could. The director begged her to try: "You could make a monkey laugh." "I enjoy living. I love people." She's having the surgery because "I want to keep on pushing wheelchairs." Her husband helps push the chairs, but sometimes her people won't come unless Polly fetches them. "If I wake up from the surgery, I'll keep on."

One time she dropped in as usual to see a woman who couldn't leave her bed. The daughter came to the door and said her mother had had a bad stroke and wasn't speaking, but she spoke to Polly. The daughter was thunderstruck. Polly was born and raised in Pittsboro. At 18 she decided to marry Howard, 21, but she was afraid to tell her mother. She needed a dress, so she talked her mother into buying one, plus shoes and purse. In 1937, her mother sacked up some corn to get the money (\$5). Polly wanted white but didn't explain why.

See McLAURIN, Page 4

# Nothing Can Hurt Her Now

A Short Story  
by Ruth K.  
Landa



To be with Lore was to celebrate life. Not until years after her death did I fully realize how well her magnetic joie de vivre kept her tortured soul from giving voice to untold grief.

A captivating woman and a good storyteller, Lore vividly described a photograph she'd "accidentally" just seen in Europe, from which she had emigrated after the Holocaust ... as a slip of a girl, 18 years old, maybe, by then, 100 pounds. She had just accompanied her husband on an unexpected business trip, which was her first time back since she'd left the displaced persons camps ... her temporary home after Auschwitz.

She hired a cab in Copenhagen to take her to places she'd visited as a youth like Tivoli Gardens, The Glyptotek and Christiansborg Castle. She gave each place the "once over," quickly moving on to the next memory trigger.

I never asked in what language she communicated with the cabbie; she spoke seven, fluently. Spontaneously curious, deliciously spontaneous, she enjoyed new experiences; so at his urging, she added the Danish Resistance Museum, built since the war, to her

itinerary.

Telling me this incident, she mentioned only that the place honors those who died in concentration camps during World War II. "It was late afternoon. I had to hurry. With luck I could squeeze in another 'tourist' spot before dinner. Anxious to waltz through the main displays, I noticed little as I rushed in, but while scurrying out through the same longish hallway, a photograph stopped me in my tracks. A close look really shook me up." She swallowed hard, remaining silent. Then remembering she was in the middle of a story, she explained, "It was a picture of me."

"I don't like to speak about it, and never told you," she continued after a few moments. "But toward the end of the war, I was one of the lucky ones ... one of 'so many Jews exchanged for so many tractors.' We were herded into trains. None of us knew of the arrangement or the destination. Assuming the worst and being locked in boxcars for several days and nights, we weren't thinking positively. We couldn't imagine what horrors

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## CHATHAM CROSSROADS

"Where all voices are heard"

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*Chatham Crossroads* is a volunteer-created community newspaper supporting informed and inclusive dialogue on issues of concern to Chatham County, NC residents. In addition to providing balanced, accurate and thorough spotlights on community issues, we strive to build bridges of understanding among Chatham's diverse residents, promote opportunities for people to come together, and celebrate our many cultural and natural treasures.

*Crossroads* is published ten times a year and is available for free at sites across the county. We are incorporated as a nonprofit in North Carolina and have 501(c)(3) nonprofit status with the IRS, which means all donations are tax deductible.

*Crossroads* is by and for Chatham residents and welcomes input and volunteer contributions of many kinds. Please contact us if you would like to lend your support or place an advertisement.

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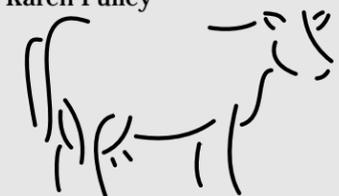
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# briefs & announcements

## DISPATCHES

### Chatham may be home to new state mental hospital

The state Department of Health and Human Services wants to close John Umstead Hospital in Butner and Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh and build a new, \$98 million, 432-bed psychiatric hospital in a central location, possibly Chatham County. The Pittsboro area is considered ideal by state planners because of its location in the state's central service area.

Chatham County Commissioners are placing the state's plan high on the board's agenda. The county board has unanimously approved a motion expressing the county's intent to aggressively research and study the potential positive economic impact such a facility would bring to the county.

### Changing of the guard at the General Store Café

The Pittsboro General Store Café will have a new owner in a few weeks. Roya Monadjemi will be taking the reigns from Richard and Becket McGough officially on April 20, but she is already working there. The food and the music are all going to stay the same, but Ms. Monadjemi will be adding her own personality to the café. Becket considers her "a perfect fit."

## EDITOR'S NOTE

The primary election is still a ways off, so Chatham Crossroads encourages candidates who have not yet written in to let the voters know what they stand for by writing (500 words or so) about their lives and their visions for our May issue. And if candidates send or email a photo, voters can see what they look like, too. And voters, why not continue the discussion by letting the candidates know what you care about by writing to us also?

Since spring is here in all its glory, in addition to our continuing political discussion, we would love to get some features about favorite outdoor and leisure activities in Chatham County. The copy deadline for the May issue is April 22.

## BRIEFS

### LOOM weaves design for 2nd exhibition

Following the LOOM experimental art exhibition at the Chatham Mills factory in December of 2001, a second show will open on Sat. April 27. Organized by a team of UNC undergraduate honors students in Studio Art, LOOM was conceived of as an opportunity to develop works of art within a unique environment. In LOOM, 25 artists collaborated to integrate their creative energy with the overwhelming presence of the building, weaving the Mill's abandoned "artifacts" into their works, and commenting both on the historical significance of the Mill and on the past communities that shared their lives within the factory.

LOOM2 is seeking to open more opportunities for local artists to respond to this project. The second exhibition will feature mixed media work, painting, photography, sculpture, installation pieces and performance art from over 40 artists.

Now a National Historic Site, Chatham Mills opened in the 1920's and reached its heyday in the 1960's and 1970's as the world's largest manufacturer of woven garment labels. No longer able to compete due to outdated equipment, the Mill closed on November 1, 1996, and is now in the process of renewal. Its current owner, Tom Roberts, is seeking to preserve the building and is interested in supporting an emerging art center.



### Bynum Post Office remains open for business

The U.S. Postal Service has granted a reprieve to the Bynum Post Office, which had been slated for closing on May 17. Jerry Partin, who runs the Bynum General Store and the Post Office, got the word on April 2 that plans to close down the post office have been cancelled.

A few weeks earlier, he had received notice from the regional post office in Greensboro that they were planning on closing down the Bynum Post Office on May 17. But Bynum residents and others rallied to save the Post Office by writing letters and circulating petitions to post office officials in Greensboro and Pittsboro and to elected officials such as U.S. Senators Helms and Edwards and Representative Price.



The Bynum Post Office and General Store are housed in the same building, and it is focal point the in the community.

PHOTOS BY JOHN SHILLITO

The Bynum Post Office and General Store are housed in the same building, and it is focal point the in the community, where neighbors meet and talk, in addition to sending and picking up mail and doing some shopping.

### Moncure air to be subject of presentation

A group of N.C. State University students, seniors in the Chemical Engineering Department, will present a short program on air quality to residents of Southeast Chatham on Tues. April 16, at 8 p.m. at Liberty Chapel Church on Old #1 in Moncure. Their presentation, sponsored by the Southeast Chatham Citizens advisory Council, is part of a senior design project and will include both analysis and suggestions for how residents may improve air quality in the area. This program follows the 7 p.m. program, when the candidates for the upcoming primary election have an opportunity to speak to local residents. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call Winnie Smith, 776-2119 or Harold Taylor, 542-4848.

### Jordan Lake site for 4-H Adventure Day Camps



Looking for a fun and educational experience for your children this summer? If so, check out the Chatham County 4-H Adventure Day Camps at Jordan Lake. Each week will be filled with crafts, environmental educational experiences and recreational games. There will be recreational swimming everyday with a camp lifeguard on duty. Campers are grouped by age and rotate to all activities.

The Jordan Lake 4-H Adventure Day Camps are being held at Vista Point again this year. They are for boys and girls ages 6 - 12 and 4-H membership is not required. The camp sessions are held Monday through Friday each week. Early registration fee is \$75 per camper, per week. The Jordan Lake 4-H Adventure Day Camps are being held June 10 - 14, June 17 - 21,

and June 24 - 28. You may register for each week or for all three weeks. Transportation will be provided from specific locations in the county. Contact the 4-H office at 542-8202 for information and registration forms. You can also find this information and forms on the internet located through the Chatham County 4-H web page: [chatham.ces.state.nc.us/4H/index](http://chatham.ces.state.nc.us/4H/index)

### Science Fair winners announced

Chatham County Schools held its annual Science Fair Awards Night Thurs. March 21, in the Chatham Central High School auditorium. Student participants in the Science Fair ranged from elementary through high school ages. Winners in Divisions I-IV will continue on to compete at the regional level. Winners in the various divisions are:

Division I Grades 9-12: Christie Walters (Chatham Central High School), Sarah Haman (Chatham Central High School), Dax Varkey (Chatham Central High School), Katie Caviness (Chatham Central High School).

Division II Grades 6-8: Jamie Wagner (Horton Middle), Morgan Andrews (Bonlee), Jesse White & Clare Curtis (Silk Hope), Ivey Redding (Silk Hope).

Division III Grades 3-5: Holly Thompson (Perry Harrison), Tyler Edwards & Kyle Lopossay (Bonlee).

Division IV Grades K-2: Ellie Roper (North Chatham).

Other: Ms. Lemon & Ms. George's class (Perry Harrison), Ms. Barthof's Basic Life Skills Class (Northwood).

### Writing classes to read Proust; American poets

Judy Hogan, founding editor of Carolina Wren Press and writing consultant, will continue her 10-week courses for writers of all genres beginning April 9.

See BRIEFS, Page 3

# The child's name is 'Today'

By SHAUNDA LEGG  
GUARDIAN AD LITEM

**"We are guilty of many errors and many faults, but our worst crime is abandoning the children, neglecting the fountain of life. Many of the things we need can wait. The child cannot. Right now is the time bones are being formed, blood is being made, senses are being developed. To the child we cannot answer 'tomorrow'. The child's name is 'Today'."**

**- Gabriela Mistral**

If you think child abuse doesn't affect you, you couldn't be more wrong. It may not be in your home or on your block, but it is happening in your community. Seventy-seven Chatham County children were involved in court in the month of February because of abuse or neglect. As if that is not alarming enough, every day an average of three children die in the USA as a result of abuse and neglect. While the thought of harming a child, or anyone for that matter, is incomprehensible, it is important that we not only recognize the pain the children feel, but the long-term effects child abuse has on our commu-

## Neighbor to Neighbor

nity as a whole.

Child abuse is a vicious cycle. No one is safe from the effects of child abuse. Children who are abused or neglected are 53 percent more likely to become juvenile delinquents, 38 percent more likely to be arrested as adults, and 38 percent more likely to become violent criminals, according to a study conducted for the National Institute of Justice.

Eighty-five percent of abused children will grow up to be abusive parents. We have to break the cycle.

These statistics are alarming, but there is a way to give abused and neglected children hope for a positive future. The Chatham County Guardian ad Litem (GAL) program helps to find safe and permanent homes for abused and neglected children who are in the court system through no fault of their own. The GAL program recruits and trains community volunteers to advocate for the best interests of these children in court. Most of the abused and neglected children in our commu-

nity are invisible. Guardian ad Litem volunteers give these children a voice.

The GAL program currently represents almost 16,000 child victims statewide. About 3,000 of these children do not have a GAL volunteer. In February, six Chatham County children went to court without a Guardian ad Litem. Every child deserves a voice.

Guardians ad Litem are truly everyday heroes. Janet Dyer and Blanche Morrison are two heroes for the children of Chatham County. They are tireless advocates who make a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children. These children are living in a world of confusion and chaos. Once a GAL volunteer walks into their life that child knows there will always be someone fighting for their best interest, someone who will go the extra mile to ensure that child is in a safe and loving home.

Janet Dyer says, "all it really takes to be a Guardian ad Litem is a genuine concern for the well-being of kids and a willingness to stand up for that." In just over two years of service she has helped 14 children find safe, permanent homes. This might not seem like a big deal to some people, but it means the world to those 14 children. Blanche

Morrison describes her work with the Guardian ad Litem program as a "rich experience."

"I've met wonderful people who have opened their hearts and homes without question," she said. "I've been able to get to know the community in ways I never would have been able to otherwise."

The following statement wholeheartedly describes the work of Guardian ad Litem volunteers. "This is not about rescue, so as to feel good when the child lights up with a smile. This is not about the comfort of compassion. This is hard work, struggling with ripped families and children in clouds of pain, anger dancing round their heart in the turmoil of a world made crazy. This is caring, yes, but also what is just, what should be demanded. It takes love and a certain measure of courage, and in the simple act of person helping person, it becomes extraordinary." (Mercedes Lawry)

You too can do something extraordinary. A small commitment of 10-15 hours a month can make a difference in the life of a local child.

*For information on how to become a part of this worthwhile program, please call Shaunda Legg at (919) 968-2049.*

## Rocky River Festival looking for volunteers

The Rocky River Festival will be held on Tues. April 16 and Wed. April 17.

It's our 10th anniversary — something to celebrate. The Rocky River Festival is a wonderful learning celebration for 3rd graders in the Rocky River watershed, held on a beautiful spot on the river. It's a good time there every year.

If you can help us this year, call Nancy Tanguay at 542-3016 to volunteer

for a day (from about 8 a.m. to about 1 p.m.). We need guides for groups of children — to take them around to all the fun activities that are available. Tues. April 16 there will be 150 children coming — so we especially need guides for that day. If you are a musician, we'd love help with the kid's concert.

So, come get your face painted, make a feather necklace with White Buffalo Spirit, see Aaron's bone collection, discover the Atamasco lilies, wade in the Rocky River, learn the Rocky River song!

## Briefs

Continued from Page 2

Writers on Tuesday (Durham) and Wednesday evenings (Chatham County) will study Marcel Proust's Remembrance of Things Past, with students working on individual projects. Interested writers should have read about half of book (Tuesday) or all of In a Budding Grove (Wednesday). The Thursday poetry class (Durham) will read Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson.

For more information, call Judy Hogan: 919-545-9932.

### Library friends seek books for sale

The Friends of the Pittsboro Memorial Library request donations of quality books for the annual spring book sale to be held



on May 2, 3 and 4, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Pittsboro Library. Proceeds from the book sale are used for library programs. All subjects and categories of books are welcome — fiction and non-fiction, adult and children.

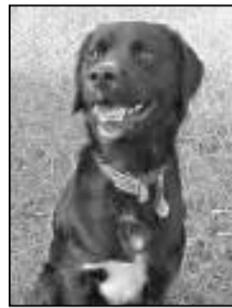
The Friends is an association of people interested in books and the pro-

motion of the full use of the library as a valuable and vital community resource. Call Tom Doyle at 542-0271 or the Pittsboro Library at 542-3524 for information.

Chatham Animal Rescue and Education

Foster Corner

Meet Boscoe



Breed: Border Collie/Labrador Retriever mix  
Sex: Male  
Weight: 33 pounds adult  
Born: July 2000  
Color: Black and White

In addition to his shiny black and white, wavy coat, Boscoe possesses great intelligence and an insatiable thirst for human fellowship. This sweet, lovable guy aims to please and would be a willing participant in agility and obedience training. Boscoe needs a safe, open environment in which to fulfill his high energy requirements, but also enjoys the comfort of lounging in the house with his people. He is a loyal companion who wishes to be included in all of his new guardian's activities. Boscoe is good with older children, loves other dogs and cats, and rides well in the car. Current on vaccinations and is neutered, housebroken and leash-trained.

To Adopt Bliss, call C.A.R.E. at 542-5757 or visit us on the web at [www.chathamanimalrescue.org](http://www.chathamanimalrescue.org)

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# Captive captivated Lt. Commanding James Waddell

A previous column (June-July 2000) had described the exploits of Lt. Commanding James Iredell Waddell, a Pittsboro native, who became master of the confederate raider Shenandoah. He captured 38 ships, burned 32, and ransomed the rest in exchange for their taking off his prisoners, which totaled 1,053. On June 23, 1865 Waddell learned Lee had surrendered, but it was only during August that he received word that the war was definitely over. Most of his captures had taken place after the end of the war.

One of his previous captures, amusing in hindsight, occurred on Dec. 29, 1864, when the storm battered Shenandoah spotted the American bark Delphine and gave chase. Just when it appeared as if the Delphine would outrun its pursuers, she unexpectedly hove to.

Its master, Captain William Nichols, was a cautious man who had married the ship owner's daughter, Lillias, an attractive, determined girl of half his age. Her influence resulted in his rise from second mate on an old vessel of doubtful sea-worthiness, to the Skipper of the sleek Delphine.

One day in early December Nichols opened a Bible at random and started reading aloud to his son Phinneas. The 27th chapter of Acts quoted Paul as saying, "Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives ..." Poor Captain Nichols felt the words were a prophesy of doom, and shut the book in terror.

When ordered to heave to by the Shenandoah, Nichols ignored the heated protest of his wife and said, "Bring her around. It is the will of God." Once aboard the Shenandoah, where his ship's papers were being scruti-

## Chatham's Historical Heritage



FRED VATTER

nized by Waddell, Captain Nichols noted the shortage of crewmen and the storm battered condition of the ship, and realized that his wife had been correct. They could have outrun their pursuer.

Fearing the wrath of his wife, Nichols pleaded that her nerves were bad, she had a fever, and transferring to the Shenandoah in heavy weather would kill her. Waddell sent his ship's surgeon to check on Lillias Nichols condition. Far from being the delicate creature described by her husband, Dr. Lining reported that she was a "woman of some culture, in perfect health, and very decided." That settled the matter - the Delphine would be burned.

Lillias Nichols was far from being a model prisoner, and the crewmen of the Shenandoah soon wondered who was the prisoner and who was the captor. After years of having her own way, she gave orders to her captors in the same manner in which she harassed her husband.

Two trips across the choppy seas were needed to carry Mrs. Nichols, her son, a maid, and her trunks, library and caged canary to the Shenandoah. The seas were heavy enough to crush the whaleboat against the side of the cruiser and therefore a boatswain's chair was rigged to the main yard to

hoist the women aboard. Mrs. Nichols gave instructions on how to lower the chair, who to take first, and when to start hauling. She constantly overruled the officer of the whaleboat.

Upon meeting Waddell, Lillias Nichols asked if he was the "Pirate Chief" and he replied that he had the honor to be captain of the Confederate States' steamer Shenandoah. Later that night he wrote in his journal that "a refractory lady can be controlled by a quiet courtesy, but no flattery."

Mrs. Nichols then demanded that they be put ashore immediately, and Waddell said they were near St. Paul's Island and asked if she'd like to be landed there. She knew it was a deserted island about 4,000 miles from a major port and with an abrupt "No!" she retired to her cabin. When Waddell approached St. Paul's to check his chronometer against a known landmark, Mrs. Nichols shed a few tears before being assured they would not put her ashore.

Subsequently, Waddell noted in his journal that "she had toned down somewhat and I rather admire the discipline she has her husband under." Lillias had begun to flirt with her captors which aroused jealousy and torment in her husband. Noting this, the Shenandoah's officers increased their conversations with her just to torment poor Captain Nichols.

The ship's Doctor Lining wrote in his journal: "A finer-looking woman I have seldom seen physically.... She is a much better woman than I thought she was at first." Another young officer, Mason, wrote, "I have now come to the conclusion that she is not such a Tartar as I thought. She has a delightfully clean look and is always dressed neatly, even very well dressed and what is

more important, dresses in good taste; in appearance she is quite queen-like...."

Lillias Nichols soon frequently began dropping into the ward room to play checkers and backgammon with the officers.

When the Shenandoah reached Melbourne, Australia, to put in for repairs, the prisoners were requested to sign parole papers promising not to bear arms or do any acts harmful to the Confederacy. Mrs. Nichols protested: "I am not a prisoner of war. Captain Waddell says the Confederates do not take women prisoners." When told that it was a formality and that they could not release anyone who did not sign, she did so, but announced that she did not consider it binding. Lillias Nichols said the first thing she would do when arriving on shore would be go straight to the American Consul. Then she sarcastically asked if there was anything they wanted her little son to sign and was told, "No, madam. We are much more afraid of you than we are of him."

After retiring to her cabin to pack, Lillias was heard berating her husband for not demanding the return of his chronometers and sextants.

The next morning, ever the boss, Mrs. Nichols hailed a passing launch, without permission, and asked to be taken ashore. Her last words, as the launch carried her away were, "I wish that steamer may be burned."

Waddell wearily said, "Let them go, as long as it is not the ship's boat they use."

*Fred J. Vatter is past president of the Chatham County Historical Association, an organization for which he is also a board member and museum curator.*

# Chatham man digs deep in county's prehistoric past

BY JULIAN SERENO  
EDITOR

"It's a mystery told in stone," said Christ Holden, amateur archaeologist extraordinaire, as he held up a case of arrowheads, spearheads and other stone tools in a glass covered display case on a recent morning at Carrboro's Open Eye Café.

Holden removed a stone spearhead from the center of his display case and held it next to a National Geographic map with illustrations. The spearhead in his hand was a perfect match of a spearhead on the illustrated map, next to which was printed, Clovis, 13,500 BC to 12,900 BC.

Holden's own past has been consumed by his love of archaeology.

"I found my first artifact when I was about 8," he said. "Ever since then I

got the fever." A native and life-long resident of Chatham County, Holden lives near Moncure. And it was near Moncure, on family property, where he found that first artifact.

Since then, he has explored across Chatham County, and elsewhere in North Carolina and the beyond. That includes participating at a major dig at Topper, South Carolina.

"Topper site is considered Clovis," he said. "We dug deeper and found Pre-clovis."

"I was fortunate enough to be invited to attend that in May 2000." He gets out on a dig at least once a year.

Among the prehistoric treasures in his case are a number of arrowheads from across Chatham County.

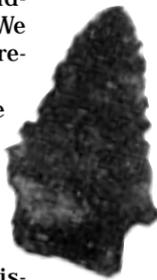
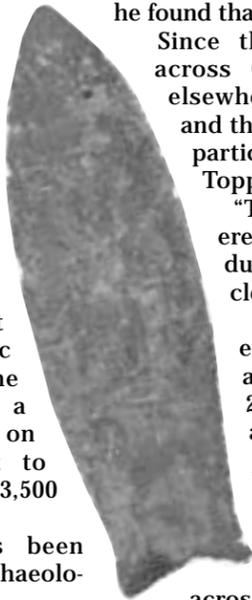
He and a few select friends explore riverbanks, construction

sites, agricultural land. Holden finds them fertile with prehistoric relics. He believes that Chatham County has been inhabited since at least 17,000 years ago.

"I go out and I talk to people who say, 'I don't think you can find it here,'" he said. "I tell them that I can go out and find what's left of an archaeological site in less than 15 minutes."

Development is creating untold havoc on potential archaeological sites, according to Holden. "There's so much development going on and they are just destroying sites," he said. "They are just being destroyed left and right, at an alarming rate." State parkland preserves some sites.

Holden believes that Chatham's many prehistoric sites are too important to be ignored. "To understand the future, you've got to understand the past," he said.



Christ Holden

PHOTO BY JULIAN SERENO

## McLaurin

Continued from Page 1

They were married in Asheboro by a Justice of the Peace, both of them scared, so much so that Howard said he was 22, causing Polly and his sister-in-law to giggle. They went back home, and Polly told her mother straight out, but her mother didn't believe her until Polly sat down on Howard's lap. Then she knew and began crying "because we didn't do stuff like that unless we were married." Her mother got over it. "We took a chance and made it." They've been happy together for 64

years.

They moved to where they live now on Silk Hope Road in 1947. She has worked in her husband's fish market ("I could filet flounder in my dreams") and in a florist shop. The McLaurins have three sons, a daughter, 11 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren, and all but one granddaughter live nearby. They all know not to come over on Sunday, because that's their day at Sunbridge.

What does she talk about at her weekly program? "Oh, like going to the creek, swinging on the grape vine, the highlight of our day then. We didn't know what a bathing suit was. We

wore our overalls. Our dresses were made out of feed sacks, and our underwear out of flour sacks."

Every Friday she goes to her beautician to get her hair fixed so it will look good on Sunday. The beautician tells her, "You're young in your heart." Most of the people who attend her programs are younger than she is.

Her advice is to be happy and go to church. I listened carefully when she talked about how she gets along with her grown children, their wives and husbands. She thinks that when there are problems, it's usually because the parents want to get in their business.

How does she feel about Chatham County's growth? "There's room for some more." She'd welcome the proposed new mental hospital. "It'd be handy to have it so close in case I ever have to go there." We laughed. She gave me a plate of persimmon pudding as I left.

Thank you, Polly!

*Judy Hogan, founding editor of Carolina Wren Press (1976-91), has published five poetry and two prose books. She teaches creative writing in Durham and Chatham and freelances as a writer and editor. She lives in Moncure with her cat Achilles.*

# How I got published

## Writers Corner

WITH MARJORIE HUDSON

This spring I publish my first book. It has been a long road to this day. Writing a book, for me, is a little like taking a commission to sculpt a large, multi-figure work in marble—only nobody is paying for the marble. It takes time. It takes money. But getting published is something I learned how to do a long time ago. How did I get published? I just kept writing. The North Carolina Writers Network has been a key part of that.

In 1989, I published my first poem, and won my first award—from the Sand Paper in Sanford, NC. Life never quite lives up to its first promises of success, and the gods of writing have a sense of humor, after all. It took a little while to get the check, because it turned out the little literary paper of Sanford was going under.

After that, I joined the Network. I had been a feature writer for a while, so a byline was nothing new. But joining the network was my first public affirmation that I was a creative writer. Not a hack.

Or for hire. I started reading the contest listings in NCWN. I started writing to the deadlines. The hardest thing about being a creative writer, for me, is not having any deadlines. I have a million ideas, eighty stories, five novels, and several books of nonfiction that want to be written — some of which actually are written — but most of which are scraps of paper. I even have libretto for a historical fiction operetta in a file somewhere. Which, of the written pieces, do I call finished? Which, of the scraps, do I work on next? When, if ever, do I submit? And where?

I imagine somewhere in the world there is a writer who keeps charts and graphs of submissions and successes and prints them out in annual progress reports in Excel. I am not that writer. I do better with a little notebook, kept in a special place, and a nagging deadline or two in the back of my mind. So that is what I began to do. When the Network had a contest, I would vow to find something I wanted to work on that fit the guidelines. I would hone it and polish it. I would “finish” it. I would submit!

At this tender time in my creative writing career, NCWN provided me with astonishing success. I submitted to the

Marjorie Hudson will be reading from her newly published book at the following locations:

■ Debut public reading. North Carolina Literary Festival, Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina campus. Sat. April 6, 4 p.m.

■ The Regulator Bookshop, 720 Ninth Street, Durham. Wed. April 17, 7 p.m. For more information call: 919-286-2700

■ McIntyre's Fine Books, Fearington Village, Pittsboro. Sat. April 27, 11 a.m. Publisher's Party follows!

NCWN fiction contest in 1990; I was one of the winners. I entered the 1991 Chapbook contest; I was first runner up. (Lest you accuse me of bragging, I confess that I entered again, several times, with no success at all.) In 1992, I sent in an essay for the NCWN/Independent Weekly-sponsored contest; got an honorable mention. These successes and others helped me keep the faith during a time when I was beginning to

imagine I could write a whole book, a novel. Now I know I can write more than one of them.

For a time I proudly imagined that I was the only NCWN member who had won or placed in each Network-sponsored contest. I have since found out that lots of North Carolina writers have done just what I did. They entered the NCWN contests because they needed structure, and affirmation, when other work came back rejected. They came, as I did, to cut their teeth on being a writer who does not give up. And a writer who does not give up is a writer who gets published. Ten years after I published an essay in an obscure journal—the writing and research of which nearly bankrupted me for two years — I got a letter from an editor who liked that essay. Who thought I should write a book.

That, in 650 words or less, is all you need to know.

*Marjorie Hudson is author of Searching For Virginia Dare: A Fool's Errand, released by Coastal Carolina Press in April 2002. See [www.searchingforvirginiadare.com](http://www.searchingforvirginiadare.com) for more details. Contact the North Carolina Writers Network at [www.ncwriters.org](http://www.ncwriters.org).*

## Story

Continued from Page 1

awaited — if we survived — when the train got where it was headed. We'd all made unspeakable journeys before.

“I was near the doors when the train stopped. Dark and awful as it was inside, no one was anxious to leave its shelter. When the doors opened, the daylight hurt. It took awhile until our eyes adjusted. Anxiety spread. People began pushing. I was among the first few stumbling out, blinking and terrified.

“That was what I saw in the picture. Me. Straggling hesitantly. The open train doors in the background. It was taken even before we realized that at the end of the short angled wooden plank, a makeshift walkway from the railroad siding up to the boxcar doors, the Red Cross was waiting with hot coffee and food. In the lower left side of the picture, there's the corner of a food cart and a woman with a Red Cross cap — her arm outstretched, with a cup in her right hand.”

Spellbound, I listened to her highly detailed description of the photograph and the event it captured. Engrossed, I imagined I could smell and taste that food and coffee!

But I was puzzled. “Lore,” I interrupted, “You've said you were 70 pounds when you were freed, so you were 70 pounds when you got off that train. You'd probably not looked in a mirror for the three years you were in the camps. How could you recognize yourself in the picture?”

“You amaze me,” she said, “questioning things other people wouldn't think of. Quite right. At first glance, I did not know it was me. But I recognized the others around me ... their familiar rags ... their unforgettable faces ... the surroundings that framed my first taste of freedom ... the astonishing, noticeable absence of guns! I recognized and remembered ... and then I realized the one I couldn't quite get in memory's focus was me, and then ... then I started to cry. I cried and cried ...”

“And then?” I whispered.

“Well, several people came over to me. And someone, naturally I guess, asked me what was wrong. All I could do was sob. More people came over. It seemed impossible to stop sobbing, to answer. I couldn't get any words out, but I did point, and I made some gesture like ‘that's me.’ Understanding, a few of them started to cry! Would you believe it? Total strangers. Strangers. Crying with me, for me, about me ...”

I visualized the whole experience, the location of the picture, its proximity to the entryway, the crowd gathering. I knew had I been there to witness her spontaneous, poignant grief, I would have dissolved in tears.

“Imagine that scene?” she said, shifting to a shrug and a laugh in an inimitable manner of hers. “All of them crying around me brought me back to now, and I realized that now I have nothing to cry about. It's all over. A different part of me looked at the scene I'd just created, and I looked down at myself — standing there in my favorite pink suit, all spiffed up, chi-chi, a married woman, a mother, a free American tourist ... and I thought, ‘Isn't this silly?’ Why am I standing here amidst this lamenting crew crying over yesterdays when a cab driver is waiting for me outside and I've

things to do before the day is over!” Well, I pulled myself up tall, left them behind — still crying. Imagine it! — I went out the door, into the cab and saw Town Hall Square before meeting Al at our hotel.”

I never referenced the story again, nor the “blank years” we avoided mention of. She knew how sensitive I am. However third person my information was garnered, she appreciated that I chose not to ignore ignoble history. “You're not like most Americans I know,” she'd sometimes say, seemingly out of nowhere, and going nowhere further with the conversation once she'd state the few observations that just came out sometimes, for her own reasons. “Americans weren't touched by the war. They don't want to know how it brutalized those of us foolish enough to have been born on the wrong side of the Atlantic. Americans want sitcoms. You have an understanding dark side. It bonds me to you. I know you care what I went through, that you suffer in a private place because I went through it.” I'd nod acquiescence. We didn't pursue the subject.

I'll never forget her demeanor while she relived the ending of her unendurable ordeal. I resolved to someday visit that museum, find that picture and bond with her while I experienced it alone. She died a few years later, which strengthened my resolve anew.

That afternoon and a decade passed before I was able to get to Copenhagen. My first stop was The Museum. It is small, but it has great impact. Understated atrocity. All the more powerful, for its lack of “overkill.” Its warm wooden walls provide an indescribably incongruous contrast to the museum's artifacts. Also housed here are renderings created by artists with compelling memories to express. One small windowed cabinet holds several glass shelves. In it, carefully laid-out, are but a few items, identified simply on a small card, “German Instruments of Torture.” Three walls of window surround a garden in the center of the building. Outside of each window — barbed wire! The grass is green, but there are no flowers, no trees. The fourth wall is solid wood. In front of it are low shrubs and a statue of a crouched human being (or, the shell of what had been one). Centered on the wall above the statue are eight rows of black lettering; translated the words mean:

Quietly he slips away,  
Nothing can hurt him now.  
His group is not betrayed.  
He is beyond beating.  
The stormy hour of harvest passes,  
Dwindling as even fighting must.  
His friends are here tonight.  
His dreams are ours forever.

Caught up in this internecine memorial, I studied every pictorialized face, studied every object. Focusing through the pens and eyes and expressions of those who lived the microcosms, I still found the macrocosm incomprehensible.

I often go to other museums alone. When I am moved by something I see, I turn to complete strangers and mutter, sharing reflections I need to share, if only for a split second. But here I spoke to no one, nor nodded. I could not have responded, had anyone spoken to me. This was private, beyond description, beyond understanding, beyond reason, beyond my capacity to absorb — the intertwining of human agony and the life force. The Museum is one floor, one room, one “go around,” and lost in philosophical musings, I was surprised to find myself back where I started, in the large foyer before the longish hall to the front door ... my mission as yet unrealized.

I walked slowly on the right side of the hall toward the front door, looking up (the photographs were hung above my eye level). I didn't find THE picture; I walked on the other side of the hall, back toward the museum

proper, looking carefully at each print hanging there. I didn't find the picture.

I walked all through the exhibits again, thinking perhaps I had missed it, having gotten perhaps too involved in another one near it. I knew what I was looking for, but I couldn't locate it. Again I retraced my steps.

Going in circles, in great frustration, again returning to the foyer. I noticed an official-looking gentleman behind a small closed cabinet. It separated an employee alcove from the public area. I put my stuffed tourist bag down on the countertop created by the cabinet, and I explained to him that I had come a long way (over the globe, over time) to see a certain picture and it wasn't on display. I'd waited years to see it. If it was stored, please would it be possible for me to be allowed to see it? For surely, such a picture is catalogued.

He'd seen me going round a few times, and wondered why. He wished he could accommodate me, but said he was too new. The exhibit had not changed since he'd been on the job, a few years; but I was fortunate. One of the founders was here now. He'd ask the older man about the photograph.

The founder came to speak with me. I repeated the story as Lore had told it to me. “Can't be,” he said gently. “That was a fabrication. A popular story that never happened.” Compassionately aware of the effect of his words on me, he continued softly, knowl-

See NOTHING CAN HURT, Page 12



# Celebrate Spring in Chatham

April is a month to get out and enjoy the mild weather, the soft blossoms and the sweet smells. Here are some activities that will let you do just that.

## Ferrington

Ferrington Farmers' Market is held every Tuesday from 4 to 6 p.m. starting April 2. The market is located next to the Administration Building.

Art in The Garden Artists Reception, Fri. April 5, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. Join the local artists participating in the Ferrington Art in the Garden Show for an opening reception. The reception is open to the public and will be held in the White Garden from 6:30 - 8:00pm. A cash bar will be available at this event.

Third Annual Art in the Garden Show, April 6 through April 28. Local artists exhibit art for gardens. Woodwork by Zen Palkoski, Metal Sculptures by Ruffin Hobbs and Ceramic Art by Kerry Clement are just some of the artists to be featured in this exhibition. Call The Potting Shed at 919-542-1239.

The Ferrington Spring Art & Crafts Show, Sat. April 13, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Ferrington residents will show their work under the Pine Trees by the Potting Shed. This event is free and open to the public.

Gardening Demonstration, Sun, April 14, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. The Ferrington Gardeners will demonstrate the art of creating Trough Containers. This event is free and open to the public.

Music in the Air, Thurs. April 25, 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Chatham County's own Trilogy, three singer-songwriters will perform a mix of originals, old jazz standards and country swing. Bring your lawn chair to the picnic-table area by the Market Café and, there, indulge your musical sensibilities for an hour. There is no admission charged, but a hat will be passed. Suggested donation is \$5.

## Agricultural Center

Annuals, Perennials, and Herbs! Oh, My! Can you combine a blast of color with kitchen herbs or fragrance? Did your begonias never seem to get started last year? Perennial flowers fail to be perennial? A series of three early evening classes will be conducted at the Agriculture Center in Pittsboro on Wednesday evenings, April 17, April 24, and May 1. Registration begins at 5:45 p.m. with class beginning at 6 and ending at 7:30. There will be a charge of \$15 to cover the cost of materials; couples who share a notebook may register for \$20.00 per couple. Agricultural Extension Agent Al Cooke will be the teacher. For information, call 542-8202.



PHOTOS BY JOHN SHILLITO



Things are happening in Moncure. If you want to meander down old highway #1, which in the late '40s was the main road between New York and Florida, and onto some of the other byroads down here where the Cape Fear begins, as the Haw, Rocky, and Deep pour into its headwaters, try these stops. Many of these roads are bicycle routes, too. Call first to be sure they're open.

- 1) Elaine Hooks, 148 New Elam Church Rd. Moncure (387-8614): Raku, functional, and decorative stoneware;
- 2) Positively Perennials, 274 Woodhaven Dr., New Hill (542-6053). Assorted shade, sun, and native plants;
- 3) Holly Hill Daylily Farm, 150 River Point Rd., Moncure (542-4919): Registered and named hybrid daylilies, open weekends June, July;
- 4) Moncure Chessworks, 739 Old U.S. 1 (542-0516): Whimsical garden art, metal sculpture, life size chess sets.
- 5) Pittsboro Penguins, 48 Post Office Rd., Moncure (545-0799): Penguin decoys and other ornithologically accurate penguin art;
- 6) Pottery-N-The Barn, 151 Wombles Creek Rd., Sanford (718-0686): Pottery with southwestern themes, angels, luminaries and table top fountains;
- 7) Days Gone By Country Store, 4238 Deep River Rd., Sanford (718-0408): A unique gift shop specializing in handcrafted gifts. Ice cream!
- 8) Phyllis Burns Old Kitchen Studio, 2388 Chatham Church Rd., Moncure (542-3633). Watercolor and oil paintings of animals, plants, scenes of Chatham;
- 9) Maggie Wilson, 3306 Chatham Church Rd., Moncure (542-0138): Mixed media fiber art, including pedestal and wall pieces, needlework, basketry;
- 10) Beth Goldston, 4115 Chatham Church Rd., Sanford (708-5153) Watercolor, pastel and oil paintings, prints, cards.

For information, call Lyle Estill: 542-0516

**CROSSROADS READERS,  
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Chatham Crossroads needs to raise \$5000 by June. In hand so far, \$1500.

**THIS PAPER IS YOUR PAPER. Together, we stand strong.**

Enclosed is my tax-deductible payment to Crossroads, PO Box 1685, Pittsboro, NC,

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## Elections

Continued from Page 1

juana comedy from more than 20 years ago that is still broadcast regularly on cable television. That, of course, is because of the marijuana scandal, which has made the Sheriff's Department the subject of ridicule.

The facts of the scandal are well known: In February 2000, the Sheriff's Department seized 5,000 pounds of marijuana near Siler City, one of the biggest busts in the state. The following September, more than 3,000 pounds of

the pot was purloined from an armored truck behind the Sheriff's office. Although the FBI was called in immediately, neither the public nor anyone else, including the Chatham County Commissioners, were informed of the theft until the following February. Then, barely a month later, the remaining 2,000 pounds of marijuana was also found missing, dug up from the landfill where it had been buried. To date, only three men have been indicted and they face charges for only for a tiny fraction of the missing marijuana.

But there is nothing funny about their situations. The men who have been

charged, including the man who operated the backhoe at the landfill, all face five-year prison sentences. All have wives and children and none had been in trouble with the law before. Marijuana offenses are no laughing matter these days - there are something like 750,000 people in prison for marijuana infractions nationwide - more than one-third of the total prison population. Marijuana offenders serve longer sentences than murderers nowadays.

No one in the Sheriff's department has been implicated in the marijuana theft, but it has already figured in a

lawsuit against the department filed by a former deputy, and morale among the deputies is abysmal. Most significant for voters, perhaps, is that the department has a poor rate of solving crimes.

Many of the candidates for elective office in Chatham County shared with Chatham Crossroads, along with biographical information, their reasons for running and even their thoughts about the marijuana scandal. These profiles can be found starting on the following pages.

And for the candidates who haven't yet shared their visions - please send them in to us. It appears that there is still plenty of time.

# Candidates for Chatham County School Board

## Doug Burke

I am Chatham County School Board candidate Doug Burke. My wife, Lynda, and I are the parents of a 2-year-old son, Shelton. I am employed with the North Carolina Department of Transportation. I decided to run for school board because I believe I can bring new ideas and a new perspective to the school board. Also in a few years my son will be a student and decisions made now by the school board will affect the kind of school he attends.

Chatham County has some good schools but I believe they can be better. As a school board member, I want to make certain our students have the best resources and technology available.

I shall also strive to make sure our schools are as safe as possible. The security measures that are now in place need to be utilized and working. If these measures are not being used or are not working, we need to come up with new ones. When parents drop their children off at school or watch them board the bus, they should know everything is being done for their children's safety. A student's biggest worry at school should be the grade he/she is making, not whether he/she is going to be assaulted or attacked.

Discipline needs to be a top priority. The students need to know that if they break the rules they are going to be

punished. We need to make sure that anyone who buys, sells, uses or distributes drugs on our school campuses will be dealt with and the punishment needs to be severe.

In addition, I would like to see a countywide dress code. I know each individual school has its own dress code, but I believe a countywide code would eliminate confusion and would put everyone on the same page.

Some of our schools already have established a partnership with local businesses. This practice should be a priority, because all our schools should participate in this endeavor.

We need to make sure all the schools receive equal funding for resources and new equipment. All of our schools are important and should be treated equally.

The school board must be accountable to the students and voters of Chatham County. Therefore, the school board must wisely spend every dollar. In times of a slow economy, or really any time, we need to look at areas where we can cut unnecessary waste and put the money to good use. If elected to the school board, I will listen to both sides of every issue and then, vote my conviction.

I would appreciate your vote.

**District 4**

## T.C. Yarborough

I was born and raised in Sanford N.C. and graduated from Sanford Central High, I have been a resident of Chatham County for the past 14 years, and currently reside on West 3rd Street in Siler City. I have been a law enforcement officer for the past 25 years and am employed by the Chatham



County Sheriff Department as a detective.

My wife, Kim, is a teacher assistant at Siler City Elementary and has lived in Chatham County for 25 years. We have two children in the Chatham County School system one in the 1st grade at Siler City Elementary and the other in the 9th grade at Jordan Matthews High School.

### Personal Accomplishments:

- Advanced Law Enforcement Certification from the State of North Carolina.
- Secretary and Treasurer of the Chatham County Law Enforcement Officers Association.
- Served as Chairman of the Board for the Family Support Network of Orange Durham and Chatham counties for children with special needs.
- Served a 3-year term as advisor board member for the State Employee's Credit Union
- PTA President for Siler City Elementary School for five years, during which time the PTA built a picnic shelter for the school, completely reworked both playgrounds and were able to have a video camera system installed in the school for child safety with funds raised by the parents.
- Currently serving as Vice-President of the Chatham County PTA Thrift Shop.
- Went to Raleigh and met with Senator Howard Lee to request more state funding for Chatham County Schools from state legislators.
- Substitute bus driver for the schools.
- Requested that current school board fund a Newcomers program for influx of Latino children.

An open message to the parents and teachers, staff members, citizens of Chatham County, as a school board member I will:

- Listen, be accessible and be a diplomatic liaison that will be open to any

views expressed by the community.

- Make teacher retention a number one priority.
- See that taxpayer money is spent in the classroom and not in administration.
- Work closely with the Chatham County Commissioners on funding for the

school system.

- Form a partnership between parents, teachers and school board members.
- Support the exceptional children program.
- Seek to have video cameras installed in all of the elementary and middle schools to enhance school safety.

With two children in the Chatham County school system I feel that I have a vested interest in what is happening to and in our schools today. If elected I promise to do what is right for the children and will listen to others about new ideas.

We have some of the best teachers and staff members in Chatham County of any school system.

I will work to keep them so that our children can have the best education possible.

**District 4**

## also running

### DISTRICT 3

**ALLAN (ZIGGY) ZIMMERMAN**  
1281 WILSON RD  
GOLDSTON, NC 27252  
919-837-6527

### JACK WILKIE

3078 ROBERTS CHAPEL RD  
GOLDSTON, NC 27252  
919-837-2288

### DISTRICT 4 (2 SEATS)

**RONALD P. (RONNIE) COLLINS**  
908 N. GARDEN AVE  
SILER CITY, NC 27344  
919-663-3762

### WAYNE WHITE

5014 SILK HOPE GUM SPRINGS RD  
PITTSBORO, NC 27312  
919-742-7491

### DEB McMANUS

11 PINE FOREST DR.  
SILER CITY, NC 27344  
919-663-2261

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# Candidates for sheriff

## James Bowden

I am seeking election to become the next Sheriff of Chatham County in 2002. Like many, I am extremely concerned with the increase in criminal activity within Chatham County. Our communities are suffering from crimes like, Breaking and Entering, Larceny, Assault, Murder, Domestic Violence, Child Abuse and Vehicle Theft. Why do crimes occur? During my experience as a law enforcement officer, I have found that the leading precursor to crime is the influx of substance abuse. As citizens of Chatham County, we can solve these problems if we unite as one, no matter our race, nationality, gender, political affiliation or religious belief.

With support and votes in November of 2002, I will lead the citizens of Chatham County in a "War against Drugs" and a "Reduction in Crime." When law enforcement and citizens unite, we are able to interfere with the drug trade, therefore reducing other crimes that stem from substance abuse. I plan to implement programs and form a professional staff of officers who will enforce "Zero Tolerance" for crime in our communities. Furthermore, I will employ a "Prisoner Work Program." Why should we work every day while prisoners sit in the Chatham County jail, are provided three meals a day, clothing, television and housing without having to perform any labor? By implementing this program, I will be able to save the taxpayers of Chatham County several thousands of dollars a year. For example, Chatham County pays individual's salaries and hourly wages to maintain properties and construct new properties at taxpayer expense. While in the custody of the Sheriff, he or she is not required to pay prisoners to work. It is their duty as convicted criminals to pay their debt to society.

Again, I ask for the support of the Chatham County citizens in electing me, James "Jimmy" Bowden, as your new Sheriff of Chatham County in November 2002. Remember, let's make this campaign experience positive and end the negativity in our county.

### Marijuana scandal

It is difficult to comment on the missing marijuana case due to the fact of attempting to aid the FBI with the investigation. I also don't want to criticize anyone during this campaign. It is important for me as a candidate to remain positive and tell the community what I hope to do for them if elected as sheriff. A person that starts negative



remains negative. The only thing I can comment on about the case is the following:

The marijuana should not have been stored in a truck outside of the sheriff's department.

Measures should have been taken to find a location that was capable of storing the amount of the marijuana. Other agencies, I believe, with evidence facilities large enough, would have stored it until it could be destroyed.

The marijuana should have been destroyed in accordance with departmental procedures and in accordance with the law. If the agency is not capable of properly destroying the evidence there are other resources available. For example, companies that incinerate medical supplies also incinerate for law enforcement free or at a low cost.

Then I have a few questions, just like everyone else:

Did a court order exist to destroy the evidence?

Why was there no investigation conducted on the crime scene (truck), or was there?

How much evidence was actually stolen from the truck and how much was actually buried at the landfill?

Why was there no disciplinary action taken against anyone who didn't follow the departmental procedures for destroying evidence, or what are their procedures for destroying evidence?

It may be hard for the current administration to answer these questions that the public wants to know because of the FBI investigation but I do believe that something should have been done with any individuals who didn't follow the procedures.

Because of their mistakes, marijuana is back on the streets with our families, children, and friends. I can't make assumptions that someone at the sheriff's office had anything to do with the missing marijuana without facts, but it is evident that someone didn't follow the guidelines set forth by both federal and state laws on evidence control.

I appreciate how much all the citizens are becoming involved and hope the majority will choose the best suitable candidate that meets the needs of every citizen in Chatham County from the East to the West and from the North to the South because we are all equal.

For more information on my objectives please review my web page, [www.bowden4sheriff.com](http://www.bowden4sheriff.com)

## Rick Givens

Ladies and Gentlemen of Chatham, I embark on one of the most challenging moves of my life. Let's call it a new beginning for Chatham County. Elect Rick Givens Sheriff.

My name is Rick Givens. I live in Bear Creek with my son Dustin. I was widowed in 1999 after 29 years of marriage. I do know the challenges of being a single parent. I took early retirement after 20 years with the airlines to be home for my son. I am chief bottle washer, cook, maid, and transportation expert. Dustin is still in school so I am very interested in what is happening with our county and schools.

I am a leader and have the experience to lead this county. I believe in fair treatment for all. I was the one that told the school board that we could not tolerate a principal that thought it was OK to use racial name-calling when talking to our black youth. I am the one that told David Duke to go somewhere else with his message of hatred. I have been a County Commissioner for three years, two as Chair. I am very proud of the job I have done, especially as Chair. Anyone that knows me will tell you I don't like to mix words.

I had rather deal with the truth. I like to look at the issues and weigh the good and the bad before acting. I went in office as Commissioner clean and will stay clean and haven't and won't buckle to ones that enjoy the luxuries of calling and suggesting the way someone should vote or act.

We need someone that is not a member of the Good Old Boy network and that is me.

Please help me be your next Sheriff of Chatham County. I think that a lot of good officers have been tarnished by the careless acts of a few. I can fix this by providing leadership and a direction that will restore honor, integrity and respect to our Sheriff's department again. (A new beginning.)

I am educated from the book side doing undergraduate and masters work at Western Kentucky University. I also taught school. I got a lot of my experience from Uncle Sam completing seven years in the US Air Force. I then flew 20 years as an airline pilot for Piedmont, and then US Airways. Am I qualified for Sheriff? You bet I am.

I am a leader and got it the old fashion way — I earned it on the job. From the rice patties of Vietnam to the jungles of Cambodia, to the classroom studying Terrorism and Chemical and Biological Warfare then traveling to Saudi Arabia, and Iran. I have training in Survival and Evasion skills, Interrogation, and Hostage Negotiations from the US Government and FBI. I have nuclear training complement of good old Uncle Sam.

My military job required travel worldwide working closely with the CIA, FBI, Secret Service, and Special Forces. Each concerned the National Security of the United States. As you can see I am ready to go to War against drugs and breaking and entering. I can and will reestablish a working relationship with surrounding local and state law enforcement

leaders. I am a policy maker, leader, and organizer. I can make policies and procedures and can make sure they are followed. I am also familiar with the Sheriff's budget because as a Commissioner I have approved it for the last three years

After three years as a County Commissioner and two as Chair, I know a lot about our county and think knowledge gained and friends made in Raleigh will also help. I also know with the help of all the good people in the Sheriff's Department that I can restore the integrity and honor that it once had. We can be the best in the state.

My philosophy is fundamental — to protect and serve.

My objective is to offer a more accessible department and ensure fair and equitable treatment for everyone. My areas of focus will be adding more deputies in your neighborhood; drug education and awareness in our schools; D.A.R.E. (drug abuse resistance education), increased narcotics enforcement, activating Neighborhood Watch and Crime Stoppers programs to work in a collaborative effort with law enforcement to assist in criminal investigations. Using state-of-the-art technology to improve communication efficiency and provide more expedient service, I propose a new beginning for Chatham County. Please help me be your next Sheriff of Chatham County. Visit my website at [www.rickgivens.com](http://www.rickgivens.com).

### The Marijuana Scandal

The missing marijuana, it was seized on the morning of Feb. 8 between 2:23 a.m. and 7:57 a.m. It was placed in the custody of the Chatham County Sheriff Dept. It should have been disposed of in a timely manor. BFI Corporation in Burlington will destroy illegal confiscated narcotics for free and provides certification that the drugs have been destroyed. It was September before any action was taken to destroy the drugs, and you want us the public to believe that from February to September no one had checked the contents of the truck they were stored in? They said they only knew they were missing at the dump on Sept. 28, 2000. What was left in the truck was put in a shallow hole and not burned. They even said there was about 1700 lbs. when it was closer to 960 lbs. and another 800 lbs. gone.

The SBI should have been called to start an investigation in September. They were not. The FBI was only brought in on the case when an informant told them that it had been dug up in November 2000. The FBI talked to the Sheriff in December and only started an investigation in January when they informed the Sheriff that the drugs at the dump that had been dug up had been recovered.

These are facts based on affidavit from Robert Lefler DMV officer, and James Bowden police officer, and my personal contact with the FBI's Stan Story.

You tell me does something not smell right!

## Paul Tierney, M.ed.

### National Certified Counselor

Offices in Durham & Pittsboro

919.244.7755

[paultierney@mindspring.com](mailto:paultierney@mindspring.com)



# Candidates for sheriff

## Isaac (Ike) Gray



I am Isaac (Ike) Gray, a candidate for Sheriff of Chatham County. I was born in Chatham County, one of seven children. My parents were the late Isaac and Evie Gray. I am married to Jane Culberson Gray and we have one son, David W. Gray.

I am a member of Piney Grove United Methodist Church, Silk Hope Ruritan Club, Master Mason with the Siler City Masonic Lodge #403, and a member of Tri-County Cruisers Car Club.

I began my career in law enforcement about 24 years ago. I have worked with the Siler City and Pittsboro Police Departments. I started with the Chatham County Sheriff's Office in 1983 as a Patrol Deputy. I was promoted to Investigations Sergeant, Chief Deputy and appointed Sheriff in December 2000.

I have completed numerous schools for law enforcement including Death Investigation, Legal Issues, Media Relations, Police Executive Development, Arrest, Search and Seizure, Arrest Warrants, etc., and I hold an Advanced Training Certificate from the Sheriff's Standards. This is the highest training certificate available through Sheriff's Standards.

As Sheriff, I am committed to reducing domestic violence, keeping the D.A.R.E. Program in our schools, keeping the C.A.R.E. (Child Abuse Reduction Effort) in our Elementary Schools. I will be tough on drug dealers and I will work hard to reduce drug

sales by adding more Narcotics Officers. I want to create a Breaking and Entering Task Force to reduce property crimes in our County. I want to enhance our Crime Prevention Program to help stop our Senior Citizens from becoming targets of con artists, violence and anyone who would prey on our Seniors. I want more visibility of Patrol Cars

through out our County to deter crime.

To protect our children in our school system, we currently have School Resource Officers in all our High Schools. I have placed S.R.O.'s in Horton Middle School, and plan to have one in Chatham Middle School soon.

In September of 2000, our Office suffered a larceny of Marijuana. Although I was not in command, I have worked closely with the F.B.I. to try to resolve this issue, and I believe we will see closure to this in the near future. Our Department and the Citizens of Chatham County deserve to see and know how this could have happened. Since I became Sheriff, I have even changed the policy for destruction of evidence so that the only allowed disposal is burning.

I believe I am the best candidate for your Sheriff because of my experience, knowledge of the job, and ability to carry out the duties as your Sheriff. Chatham County deserves a Sheriff with the ability and practical experience to handle the job.

## Richard Webster



My name is Richard Webster and I'm running for the office of Sheriff. My quest for Sheriff began about three-and-a-half years ago when I knew there needed to be a change in direction in the Sheriff's Department, long before the recent negative publicity that has surrounded it. I'm a life long resident of Chatham County. I believe in family, morals, and ethics. I have a strong faith in God and attend church regularly. I have 18 years of public service to its citizens, 12 years of which are in law enforcement, and 10 of those years were with the Chatham County Sheriff's Department. I know firsthand the issues of this department that need to be resolved.

There are many more issues that need to be addressed than the marijuana scandal or the discrimination lawsuit. Leadership failures and lack of accountability have been a problem for years and the citizens deserve a change. Early in my campaign, I made public the objectives I have and I want you to hold me accountable for them. I feel the citizens need to know what the Sheriff plans to do and how he plans to do it. I am excited for the opportunity to run for this office and when elected I pledge to all the people of this county that I will do my very best to provide you with professional and well-trained deputies that you can be proud of. For more information about my ideas and experience, please visit my website at [www.electwebster.com](http://www.electwebster.com).

Many years as a supervisor and a field-training officer of law enforcement personnel, coupled with a college degree in business administration, have given me great experience in management skills. It will take good leadership to turn the corner and to restore integrity and confidence in the department. I have always been very active in community programs and services. I am in touch with local issues and feel that law enforcement should mirror their community. I feel so strongly about this that I will implement a policy that before an officer can be promoted they will have to participate in community programs. I have a tremendous amount of training in various aspects of law enforcement and have received the highest award given to North Carolina law officers for extensive training in the field. With the exception of the incumbent, I am the only candidate who is currently a full time law enforcement officer.

Restoring integrity and trustworthiness in the Sheriff's Department will be my top priority. How do we do that? I believe that community involvement is the key. We as law enforcement officers must understand what our job is. The Sheriff's Department has forgotten that they work for and with the citizens. There are numerous opportunities with our youth, our elderly and local communities to keep officers informed of the particular needs of the citizens. Therefore, together, law enforcement and community will bridge the gap between us and we can begin to understand the different issues we all face. I believe very strongly that if we communicate with one another, we will have a better understanding of each other. There is no better way to mend the wounds of scandal than to prepare for a new beginning by fellowship with one another.

I believe that the Sheriff's Department needs to take a more proactive approach in dealing with crime, espe-

cially drugs and property crimes. Because of the county's financial shortfall we must utilize our existing personnel and all available funds to be more productive. We must reduce response time to calls by keeping officers in designated districts. We must improve on one of the lowest property crime clearance rates in the

entire state by using all available technology to obtain the evidence we need to catch the criminals and successfully prosecute them. We must eliminate expensive seminars and implement an interdepartmental training program. This will eliminate the need to have other agencies train us with excessive costs. We must restructure the department to get more productivity out of the deputies by getting more officers on the road and out of the office. We must make ourselves more visible by having more marked patrol vehicles to be seen throughout the entire county. Our Community Police Program must spearhead an effort to reduce crime in their assigned areas by informing the citizens of wanted persons, suspicious activities in the area, and crime prevention tips. By working together, the crime prevention program will provide essential aid to law enforcement and therefore, keep your community safer. How can we help you, the citizen, if we don't listen and take a more aggressive approach in making your community crime-free. I will have a representative at your community meetings who will listen to you and I will listen to you.

Unfortunately, there are some officers who have taken advantage of the existing system and have not given their best efforts. This lack of motivation is partially due to the absence of strong and confident leadership. There have been no incentive programs to help build and maintain good morale in the ranks. We need to be more innovative and creative in solving problems. Chatham County has some good officers that have been overshadowed by a certain few. I will give them every opportunity to shine and prove to the citizens that the Chatham County Sheriff's Department is not a breeding ground for ignorance and corruption.

The Sheriff needs to be extremely organized and a good communicator to those he manages as well as the people he works for. The Sheriff needs to be responsible and accountable for his actions at work and at home. He needs to be an active law enforcement officer with the experience to know, first hand, the issues that officers and citizens face everyday. But above all, high morals and a strong belief in God are a must because he should want to be the example for others to follow. I believe that all these characteristics are my best attributes and because of this, I am running for Sheriff and wish to offer the citizens the person for the job. For more details about my objectives, please visit my website at [www.electwebster.com](http://www.electwebster.com).

Finally, Law Enforcement is so much more than just fighting crime. It is about making our communities safer for everyone. This is a responsibility that together we all must share. When we work together, good things will happen. My name is Richard Webster and I need your vote. Please support me and my efforts to accomplish these and many other objectives to make Chatham County the place we all hoped it would be, a safe and secure place for all people.

## also running

**DARDEN JARMAN - DEMOCRAT**

3165 WEST 3RD STREET

SILER CITY, NC 27344

919-742-5001

3114 SILER CITY SNOW CAMP RD.

SILER CITY, NC 27344

919-663-2538

**RANDY L. KNIGHT - DEMOCRAT**

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*New 8 week Gentle/Beginners class starts Wednesday, April 17th, 6:00 pm - 7:15 pm.*

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*For more information: 542-2611  
or [www.windsongretreat.org](http://www.windsongretreat.org)*

# Candidates for county commissioner

## Thomas Emerson

I am 62 years of age, married to my high school sweetheart for the past 41 years, and the father of four children. I graduated from Jordan-Matthews High School in 1957 (the first year it was established) and N.C. State University in 1961. My major was agricultural education.

My work experience is as follows: three years as a teacher in the Chatham County school system; five years as salesman and junior managerial position with C.C. Routh Mills of Bonlee. At that time C.C. Routh Mills was a part of Carolina Poultry, Inc.; 32 years with the Farm Credit System, the last 19 as president and CEO of North Central Farm Credit Association. I retired from Farm Credit in 1999.

I am a native of Chatham County and live near Siler City on the family farm where I was born. I have farmed part-time all of my life and have a deep concern for the continual viability of agriculture in Chatham County.

I am an active member of the First Baptist Church in Siler City and also in the Sandy Creek Baptist Association.

Currently, I serve in the following: Chatham Hospital Board of Trustees, Chatham County Agricultural Advisory Committee, Chatham County Agri-Business Council, Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors Board, Farm Credit Bank of Columbia Employees Benefit Committee, and an officer of Siler City Lodge #403.

Chatham County has faced and will continue to face many challenges resulting from the growth of our population. To maintain the rural character and life style we love will require careful planning and sound management decisions by our leadership.

There are many economic problems to be overcome, particularly in western Chatham County. Often circumstances force our brightest and most talented youth to leave the county for job opportunities elsewhere. We educate them, and then they are gone.

We are now in the twenty-first century; yet in some respects, we remain in the past. Poverty continues to thrive in our county. Rural poverty is often not as visible as urban poverty, but it is just as cruel. I hate poverty and have spent 32 years of my life working for a cooperative financial institution dedicated to improving the financial well being of its members.

As a county commissioner, I believe my business, agricultural, and man-

agerial experiences could be useful in improving the economic opportunities of my fellow Chatham County citizens.

I favor both an effective and an efficient government. County government is a business. Its stakeholders are the citizens it serves. It must be run in a sound business-like manner. I see a commissioner's job similar to a director's job on a corporate board. The director's responsibility is to the stockholders. The commissioner's responsibility is to the stakeholders ... the citizens.

### The Marijuana Scandal

My father was sheriff of Chatham County longer than any other person in its history. My brother Robert is a retired law enforcement officer with 30-plus years. I am proud of both of them. In the environment in which I was raised, respect for all authorities (law enforcement, teachers, parents) was mandatory. It is both disturbing and embarrassing for our current sheriff's department to be the subject of public ridicule. My sympathy is with the many honest, hard-working members of the department who must face the public criticism on a daily basis.

I remain optimistic that all those responsible for this "mess" will ultimately be held accountable and justice will prevail.

Accountability is an integral part of the democratic process whether it be for law enforcement officers or county commissioners.

Now, as to the three young men currently facing court charges for retrieving and selling the marijuana which was buried in the landfill, right is right and wrong is wrong! If found guilty, they must face the consequences of their actions which, of course, cannot be condoned. Yet it is unfortunate that the temptation was placed before these young men by the improper disposal of the marijuana in the first place. If the drugs had been destroyed by the Sheriff's department, these three young men would not be in the situation they now face. While I do not personally know these men, I do know and respect family members close to them. When one fails to do a job properly, it adversely affects many others. The whole thing is sad!

Any consideration your readers will give to my candidacy will be appreciated. If anyone has any question, I can be reached at 919 742-3401 or temerson@pinehurst.net.

## David LeGrys

I have been a resident of Chatham County for 19 years. I hold degrees from Virginia Tech and N.C. State University. I grew up on a working farm. My 4-H projects included raising chickens and keeping honeybees. My dad retired from the US Navy and then worked for the Federal Government. He was a volunteer fireman. My mother was a teacher's aide and secretary at a school for troubled children. Chatham County is my home and I am seeking the office of Chatham County Commissioner because I care deeply about the future of our county.



need to cut up the credit cards and evaluate the financial aspects of all new development as part of the approval process. The financial analysis for a current 2,500-home proposal is critically flawed, and underestimates the number of school children by at least a factor of three, if not more. Tragic errors like this illustrate why we have had "temporary"

trailers at our schools for years. Other communities approve projects where the developer provides required facilities like schools, and other improvements. Chatham must get the same consideration.

### Qualifications

- I have served six years on the Chatham County Planning Board.
- I served two terms on the Planning Board.
- During my tenure as Chairman, we prepared the new Land Conservation and Development Plan.
- I was the author of our Telecommunications Tower Ordinance, which includes an innovative process for evaluation of tower requests. We have 50 percent fewer towers in Chatham County because of this ordinance.
- I served on the group that developed the Chatham Recreation Master Plan.

### Schools

I want all Chatham County children to have educational opportunities that allow them to reach their potential. I also believe that good schools are important assets for attracting good businesses to Chatham. As a planner, I clearly see that we must plan for new schools before we are substantially over capacity. As a commissioner, I will be an advocate for the parents, teachers and children of Chatham.

### Taxes

We need to establish the Chatham County Family Budget. Our budget problems are most directly related to the way in which we handle residential development in the County. Currently when we approve new developments, we get out Chatham County's credit card and say "charge it" and later determine how to pay the bill for required services. I believe that we

### Agriculture and the Family Farm

Farming is an essential part of the economy of Chatham County. People that move to Chatham County for its rural appeal need to understand that "rural character" means farming and forestry. This is why I support right-to-farm laws that protect farming. I support Voluntary Agricultural Districts to protect farming communities. I support the Land Use Value Assessment Program.

### Planning for the Future

We are experiencing unprecedented growth demands, and I want us to grow well. I will work to implement the new Land Conservation and Development Plan.

### Environmental Protection

I am devoted to protecting our environment. There can be no compromise on the issues of clean water, toxic waste dumps, asphalt plants, and the health of the people of Chatham County.

### County Employees

I have worked closely with many of our dedicated county employees over the last six years. I acknowledge our employees for their service. Some departments are critically understaffed; I will address these shortages.

Affordable Housing: I want Chatham to remain a place that welcomes people of all cultures and economic status.

I am well prepared, capable, and eager to serve as your commissioner. I respectfully ask for your vote.

## also running

### DISTRICT 3

**CARL H. OUTZ - DEMOCRAT**  
2715 ALSTON CHAPEL RD  
PITTSBORO, NC 27312  
P. O. Box 583  
919-542-2685

**MARK TEAGUE - REPUBLICAN**  
170 COW PATH CROSSING  
SILER CITY, NC 27344  
919-742-1314

### DISTRICT 4

**GARY PHILLIPS - DEMOCRAT**  
5334 CASTLE ROCK FARM RD.

PITTSBORO, NC 27312  
P. O. Box 1310  
919-542-8149

**BUNKEY MORGAN - DEMOCRAT**  
2134 SILK HOPE LINDLEY MILL RD  
PITTSBORO, NC 27312  
P. O. Box 726, SILER CITY, NC  
27344  
919-548-5566

**BLAKE LINDLEY ANDREW, JR. (LIN) - REPUBLICAN**  
343 MOON LINDLEY RD.  
SNOW CAMP, NC 27349  
919-548-1212

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o p i n i o n

# For some, drugs are like training wheels

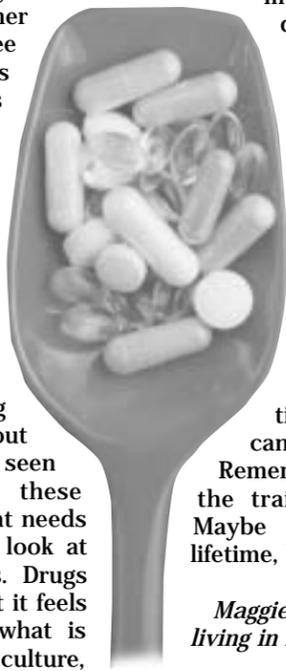
By MAGGIE WILSON

Marijuana. Depending on which side of the issue you're standing on, it's a recreational, fun, light-hearted drug; it's a scourge that will lead to shooting heroin; it's a natural medicinal that provides relief for other wise unrelievable pain. Actually, a lot of drugs look that way depending on your angle.

Me, I'm pretty much anti-drug, partly, I admit, because I've been there, done that, and partly because I'm frightened by the health care industry, lots of people making and spending lots of money to put expensive band aids on symptoms that are far more than skin deep.

I've known all my life that I'm different from other people. At the same time, I also knew that everyone else is different from other people, too. And now I see that what's good for me is not necessarily what's good for someone else. Though I personally don't want to take drugs, I see that they can be helpful for others.

Take depression, for instance. I know several people who suffer from depression to the point of being unable to get off the couch to do anything other than eat ice cream out of the carton. And I've seen anti-depressants help these people get up and do what needs to be done. So, I now look at drugs as training wheels. Drugs can help people see what it feels like to be "normal" or what is defined as normal in our culture,



what one needs to be like to function, to fit, in society. And for one who suffers depression sometimes he or she really does need to be shown what it feels like to be among the living.

There's a philosophy that says we have four bodies: a physical body, a mental body, an emotional or soul body and a spiritual body. And if you're only doing things to take care of your physical body you're missing out on three-quarters of yourself. Contrariwise, things you are doing to or with your physical body also affect your other bodies.

These bodies are all connected. If you're depressed, you don't eat right, you sleep a lot. If you're under a lot of pressure at work, you get angry at home a lot, you don't laugh as much as you used to. If you don't laugh as much as you used to, you don't go out as much with your friends and discuss philosophy and exercise your brain. If you work 80 hours a week, you don't have time for spirituality in your life, you feel depressed. Full circle.

Any action you take affects all of you — body, mind, soul, spirit. Consider that, always. Pay attention. Use what's available to you wisely. If you don't know what wisely is, ask questions. At the same time remember that only you can know what's best for you. Remember that the goal is to take the training wheels off someday. Maybe that someday is in another lifetime, but still it's the goal.

*Maggie Wilson is an artist and writer living in her dream home in the woods of Chatham.*

# You are a part of this story

The time is approaching again for one of Screech Owl's favorite offerings: Farm Ecology Summer Camp. The process this year is leaving a lasting impression.

Each year, a handful of Chatham County farmers open their homes and hearts to young learners, offering memories to last a lifetime. They provide learning spaces where students can contribute, doing meaningful work on a real farm. Cathy Jones has a whole bed of potatoes ready for picking this June. Screech Owl campers, many of whom are returning for another year, will head out there on Mondays for the great potato hunt. Our Tuesday farmer, Cherie Pappas of Blue Chip Miniatures, believes that last year's batch of baby miniature horses are more gentle due to the loving hands of the campers, and we happily will return to help gentle this year's foals. Laura Young of Dew Dance Wool at Ewe Dance Farm will surely want us to scrub the angora rabbit cages each Wednesday that we visit, collect eggs and give our usual careful attention to bucket scrubbing for the llamas, sheep and horses. She will guide us through carding, spinning and felting of wool, and in between studio visits, students will run to the pond for fishing, take turns swinging on the great swing or return to the barn to visit the animals. Thursdays we plan to paint stepping stones for Tammy Biandi's garden at Happy Hill Farm, and Fridays we learn from Michelle Yarborough of Eagle Springs Farm about recycling water from fish tank to garden and back. That is not all; these are only our mornings! Afternoons are filled with hiking, swimming, farmer's market, games, river walks, wading, exploring, stories, painting, drawing, plaster casts, making ice-cream and whatever else moves the small, close-knit team



NOTES FROM SCREECH OWL FARM SCHOOL  
Cecelia Carver

of 10 eager learners who apply to spend a week at Farm Ecology Camp.

Each year as we sign up folks, I am filled with profound joy. The campers call and ask for dates so they can plan their summer. Applications arrive like gifts in my mailbox beginning in

January, continuing through April. The students share why they want to spend a week working and learning alongside Chatham farmers; their enthusiasm is contagious and the excitement mounts.

This year, a new energy added to these preparations. At a time of transition for Screech Owl, people emerged who have witnessed the unfolding story. They offered to add their efforts as volunteers or returning staff. They believe in Screech Owl; they believe children (and perhaps all of us) love to learn and make meaningful contributions; and, they believe in Chatham farmers. They came forward without being asked to add the gifts of their hands and hearts so that this offering could continue. Combined with the enthusiasm of the campers and farmers, this is enough to fill a soul to over-flowing!

This is where we live, where you live. These volunteers and these farmers are our neighbors. The families who return to Screech Owl year-after-year want their children to know rural life as it can still be known here in Chatham. The children who come, who love working on the farms, call this place home — just as I do, just as you do. You are a part of this story, and because it is a happy one, I thought you might enjoy knowing.

*Cecelia Carver is Director of Screech Owl Farm School. Screech Owl be contacted at 542-0333, or on-line at [www.screechowl.com](http://www.screechowl.com)*

## Educators shorted by North Carolina

To the editor:

Student tuition at our local community college totaled \$1 million-plus going to state coffers, yet we may be returning four to 10 percent of our budget to the state — so North Carolina may be hitting us up for \$2 million-plus.

We've worked hard to serve the communities we help educate. As an instructor full time, I just found out what my salary would buy me on a 30-year loan: \$107,000.

Do you know what kind of house you could buy in northern Chatham or Pittsboro with that? My realtor showed me pictures of the properties under \$110,000 and

it's a sad story for someone who worked hard for a master's degree while working a job as a "part-time temporary" instructor with no benefits from the state.

For eight years of service to the Community College in Wilmington, I got no retirement, no health care, and very low wages. Now I have a full time job with benefits, thank

goodness, but the kind of home I could afford on my salary is less than what my single working mother had for us when I was a girl! Our government needs to do more at the state and federal level to support education and educators!!!

Joy Hewitt

### Chatham Crossroads Rack Locations

- PITTSBORO: Senior Center, CCCC, Ronnie's Quick Stop, Pittsboro Memorial Library, Pittsboro General Store, Cane Creek Video, Lowe's Foods, Thrift Store, Food Lion, Cooper Gas Station (15-501), Frosty's
- SILER CITY: Chatham County Chamber of Commerce, Food Lion, BP Gas Station, Wren Library, Tienda Romero, Best Foods, Chatham Pharmacy, Servco Gas Station, PTA Thrift Shop, MovieMax Video, CCCC, Pantry, Helping Hands Center, Hispanic Liaison, Tienda Diana, Tienda Gabriel, Tienda Guerrero
- BYNUM: Tuck's Country Store
- CARRBORO: Weaver Street Grocery
- CHAPEL HILL: Chapel Hill Library, Wellspring Grocery, Davis Library, Student Union, Undergrad Library, Chapel Hill Senior Center, Weaver Street Grocery
- COLE PARK PLAZA: Lowe's Foods, thrift Store
- FEARRINGTON: Market Café and McIntyre's
- GOLDSTON: Goldston Library
- JORDAN LAKE AREA: Amoco, (Hwy 64), Topp's Station (64/Mt. Gilead), BP (Wilsonville), Phillips 66 (Wilsonville), Carolina Meadows Center
- MONCURE: Fast Serve Market and Mini Mart (by US1)

### VOICE YOUR OPINION!

Send your letters to: Editor, PO Box 1685 Pittsboro, NC 27312. Must include name, address, phone number. Or email them to [editors@chathamcrossroads.org](mailto:editors@chathamcrossroads.org)

# Festival Multicultural en Siler City invita totos

POR CHATHAM COMMUNITIES IN ACTION

La organizacion Chatham Communities in Action (las Comunidades de Chatham en Accion) esta organizando un Festival Multicultural para unir las diversas comunidades, el sabado, 13 de Abril, desde las 10 a.m. hasta las 5 p.m. en el Parque Bray (en frente del Armory) en Siler City.

Todo el mundo esta invitado - ninos, adolescentes, adultos - para divertirse! La entrada es GRATIS; el parqueo es GRATIS. Tendran premios y rifas. Se recomienda traer sus propias sillas.

Habra musica de todos tipos - bandas latinas, karaoke, gospel, blue grass, etc. y tambien bailadores de salsa, grupos de danza incluyendo al grupo de Northwood High School, los Archanettes.

Desde el mediodia hasta las 5 de la tarde habran juegos de Pre-Temorada de softball de la Liga de Iglesias Tri-

El sabado, 13 de Abril, desde las 10 a.m. hasta las 5 p.m. en el Parque Bray (en frente del Armory) en Siler City

County y otros juegos de futbol y volibol. Nos acompanara un jugador de basketbol profesional de sorpresa. Otros eventos seran proyectos de arte, presentaciones dramaticas, pinatas, pintura facial y muchas otras diversiones. Y por supuesto habran todo tipo de comida, refrescos y helados y otras dulces.

Muchas agencias del Condado de Chatham estaran representados en mesas con informacion. Estes incluyen el departamento de salud que avisa de asma y diabetes, Smart Start, Chatham Homeless Outreach, las escuelas del Condado de Chatham, Coalicion para Paz en la Familia, Chatham Social Health Council, Muchachas Guias, el

Vinculo Hispano, Chatham County Together, y muchos mas.

Ademas de Chatham Communities in Action, algunos de los patrocinadores son Townsends, Inc., la Ciudad de Siler City, Domino's Pizza, McDonalds, Hart's Furniture, Spence Servistat Home Center, Chatham Portables, Mastercraft Fabrics, First Missionary Baptist Church, B'Hai Faith, Jordan Grove AME Zion Church and Solid Rock Baptist Church.

En caso de lluvia, el Festival Multicultural se mudara al gimnasio Ernest Ramsey en la Academia Sage en el Bulevard Martin Luther King (el lado del Teen Center). Solamente se cancelarian los juegos deportivos.

Nunca vamos a llegar a conocernos si no tenemos la oportunidad de compartir unos ratos juntos. Acompañenos en este dia de alegria y diversion y ayudenos a unir nuestras comunidades.

## Multicultural Festival in Siler City to bridge communities

BY CHATHAM COMMUNITIES IN ACTION

Chatham Communities in Action (CCIA) is "Bridging Communities" with A Multicultural Festival on Sat. April 13 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Bray Park in Siler City. Everyone is invited - kids, adults and all those in between - to have fun! Entrance to the festival is free with free parking. There will be door prizes and raffles. There is some bleacher seating, but you can bring your own chairs.

Gospel music, latino bands, karaoke and blue grass, will be part of the entertainment during the Festival and there will be dance teams, including the Northwood High School Archanettes, salsa dancers, and more.

The Pre Season Church League Tri-County Softball Games will be played

Sat. April 13 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Bray Park in Siler City

from noon to 5 p.m. and other volleyball and soccer games will go on. There will even be a professional basketball player as a surprise guest. Other events will include art projects, teen skits, pinata fun and face painting. And what would a multicultural fair be without varied refreshments, food and snacks, including ice cream and other sweets.

Many Chatham County agencies will be represented with information booths. Some of these include the Health Department advising about asthma and diabetes, Smart Start, Chatham Homeless Outreach, etc. The Chatham County Schools, Coalition for Family Peace, Chatham Social Health, Girl Scouts, Hispanic Liaison, Chatham

County Together, and many, many more will offer descriptions of their services and offer services.

Besides Chatham Communities in Action, other sponsors include Townsends, Inc., the Town of Siler City, Domino's Pizza, McDonald's, Hart's Furniture, Spence Servistat Home Center, Chatham Portables, Mastercraft Fabrics, First Missionary Baptist Church, B'Hai Faith, Jordan Grove AME Zion Church and Solid Rock Baptist Church.

In case of rain, activities (with the exception of sports events), will be held at the Ernest Ramsey Gym at Sage Academy on Martin Luther King St..

We can never get to know about one another unless we all meet one another. Join us for fun and entertainment and help us bridge our communities.

## Nothing Can Hurt

Continued from Page 5

edgeably, and directly. "There was talk of it, of course. But no Jews were ever exchanged for any tractors. The incident never happened." Seeing my disbelief, sensing I needed persuading, he added more to my astonishment... "And, since the day this place opened, everything here is just as it was. Nothing has ever been moved, nor replaced." I didn't want to believe his authoritative revelation, however kindly. But, eventually, I had to.

She had lied to me. I was forced to admit that it wasn't the first lie she told me convincingly. There had been others I discovered after her death. Like, she told me how bitterly she hated the Germans, particularly German Jews; and told me all about her happy life before the war as a little Dutch girl. Only later, I found out she'd been born in Germany (which fact better explained why a German soldier had moved her off the line that led to gas chambers; I learned later that he'd been a childhood friend). Recognizing danger in their homeland, her family resettled in Holland when she was of school age.

Why did she invent what I later learned were tales? Were her stories of her school-mate friendship with Anne Frank's sister also prevarications? For whom, and why did she fashion her

history falsely?

I was angry when first I realized how much she had made up that I "bought" as truth. We had been so close; it never occurred to me to doubt her. I had trouble grappling with her now-exposed deceptions, particularly as they made no sense. But a cousin of hers, visiting from Australia, after her death, told me some horrendous things that had happened to her during her incarceration. So horrendous, I've since blocked them from my mind, because I don't choose to remember her as a victim. She was so full of life, so refined and cultured, so much fun to be with ... (so "there" for me when I was needy); so ready to participate in the positives, to make them happen.

The picture had been just another lie she told me. Or had it been? What picture did she see there that was her, that she couldn't share with me, an American who knew nothing of the merciless barbarities through which she had lived? Was the whole episode she described to me totally in her mind? Did she stand in the hallway of The Danish Resistance Museum and cry? Did the crowd empathetically gather 'round her that day, and share her tears? Did she feed me false pap about the photograph when I questioned her, to protect me? Was her reality too private, non-essential to the story she wanted to tell? Did she appreciate the impact her story had on me? Did she even imagine that then and there I vowed to myself that someday

I'd see it?

This new puzzlement, like many others that surfaced about her after her death, could never be clarified; if indeed clarity were possible if she had yet been alive. Would I have confronted her with the falsehood if she were still alive?

Did she invent a history for herself in order to create one with which she could live, so as not to be forced to remember a history with which she would not want to live?

I exited ever so slowly through the longish hallway. Stepping outside, I was blinded by the brilliant sunshine. Stuck in my tracks a few feet beyond the entryway, I stood and wept. I was not the only one. Though it took me awhile to notice. An old German tank was off to the side of the entrance, an outside exhibit. Around it a variety of men and women were weeping openly. Some quietly. Some not. Some privately. Some jointly. No one left that museum dry-eyed.

Calmer, I hailed a cab. After giving the driver my destination, all I could say was, "Amen." The driver didn't think that was strange at all. He knew where I'd just been. He understood my language.

*Ruth Landa teaches computer science at Central Carolina Community College Continuing Education. She has also published two books: "Dad Is A Drinking Man" and "Creating Courseware: A Beginners Guide."*

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