



In Loving Memory of Officer Brent Hall

EOW 4/3/21 #503

Praying for the Family that God gives you Peace and Comfort during this difficult time

SAMPSON COUNTY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

The Sampson Weekly

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 14



www.thesampsonweekly.com

Week of April 9-15, 2021

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WEATHER

Sat Sunny 0%

Hi: 81° Lo: 63°

Sun Sunny 0%

Hi: 81° Lo: 54°

Mon Cloudy 0%

Hi: 81° Lo: 56°

Tues Partly Cloudy 10%

Hi: 82° Lo: 53°

Wed Partly Cloudy 20%

Hi: 72° Lo: 51°

Thur Sunny 10%

Hi: 72° Lo: 51°

SCC Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Mourns Loss of Former Graduate



Hall photographed with his Basic Law Enforcement Training class around 2015.
(Courtesy Photo)

On Saturday night, as news that Newton Grove Police Officer, Brent Hall, had been in a car crash that resulted in his death, Sampson County began to mourn the loss. Included was the Sampson Community College Basic Law Enforcement

HALL, see P. 3

Hwy 421 Rest Area Now Open



At the Sampson County Board of Commissioners meeting that was held Monday night, Chad Kimes, NCDOT Division Engineer, said that the NC Hwy 421 Rest Area located near Taylor's Bridge would be re-opening Tuesday morning. The opening will be seasonal from April-October, 24 hours per day. There will also be staff on grounds 5 days a week, 8 hours a day at a cost annually of \$50,000.

In a press release received on Tuesday, the DOT stated:

"A Sampson County rest area is scheduled to open this week and will remain open through the fall.

The rest area located on the northbound side of U.S. 421, about 10 miles south of

REST, see P. 4

North Carolina's COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Opens for All Adults on April 7



Governor Roy Cooper and North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D. gave an update on the state's current data, trends and vaccination progress as April 7 also marks the opening of vaccine eligibility for Group 5. This means anyone 16 years and older who wants a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccination is eligible to get one.

"We remain focused on getting people vaccinated as quickly and as equitably as possible and continuing to slow the spread of the virus," said Governor Cooper. "The more people we vaccinate, the more we can safely do."

North Carolina continues to focus on distributing vaccines quickly and equitably. To date, the state has administered over 5.2 million doses. 39 percent of those 18 and up is at least partially vaccinated, and 26 percent of those 18 and up have been fully vaccinated.

"These tested, safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines will help us get back in control of our lives and back to the people and places we love – like safely hugging a grandmother, traveling to see vaccinated family or friends, or having a potluck dinner with your vaccinated neighbors," said Secretary Cohen.

State health officials are continuing to monitor the presence of COVID-19 and its more contagious variants in North Carolina, which is why it is important to continue to follow the state's mask mandate and practice safety precautions, including the Three Ws—wear a mask, wait 6 feet apart, and wash hands often.

Dr. Cohen also provided an update on North Carolina's data and trends.

GOVERNOR, see P. 3

WEEKLY VERSE

For what I received
I passed on to you as
of first importance:
that Christ died for
our sins according to
the Scriptures, that
he was buried, that he
was raised on the third
day according to the
Scriptures, and that he
appeared to Peter, and
then to the Twelve.
1 Corinthians 15:3-5

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LOCAL NEWS

From the Desk of Senator Brent Jackson



Dear Friend of Senate District 10,

Yesterday, my office filed the North Carolina Farm Act of 2021 (S.B. 605). The bill has a total of thirteen sections:

Section 1 – Makes technical changes to the state’s Voluntary Ag Districts including local oversight adjustments and minimum requirements

Section 2 – Allows the waiving of a trial requirement for state forest rule violations

Section 3 – Exempts certain fires from existing burning laws

Section 4 – Modifies and clarifies overtime compensation for certain employees of the NC Forest Service

Section 5 – Adjusts punishment for timber larceny and penalties for damaging of timber or other agricultural commodities

Section 6 – Requires wood load tickets to be provided to certain wood product purchases

Section 7 – Technical change to NC Department of Agriculture law enforcement statutes

Section 8 – Requires electronic records for NC Department of Agriculture record audits

Section 9 – Increases allowable administrative expenses of the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission from \$350,000 to \$375,000.

Section 10 – Designates the NC Department of Agriculture as responsible for the design, construction, or renovation of the Department’s buildings and property

Section 11 – Directs the creation of a new General Permit for farms with Anaerobic Digester systems

Section 12 – Clarifies the expiration of driver’s licenses issues to H-2A farmworkers to be three years after issuance

Section 13 – Severability and effective date

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can assist you in any way possible.

Legislative Recap- S.B. 580

Senate Bill 580 was filed yesterday and is quite brief. The bill is primarily technical and changes an effective date for Title V permit fees. While bills like this may be short, the General Assembly passes a number of technical changes that keep the state operating smoothly. Without certain technical changes to adapt to practical circumstances, there may be confusion or conflict in the law. Our office is responsible for helping manage both the budget process and our annual Farm Act which are huge endeavors. In both cases, we have to constantly check up on the language to make sure it is clear and up to date. And we will pass bills often that contain one or many of these technical changes.

From the District- Carr Retires from Sheriff’s Office



Julian Carr retired from the Sampson County Sheriff’s Office at the end of January, and his badge and gun were recently presented to him by Sheriff Jimmy Thornton. It officially brought to a close a more than quarter-century law enforcement career for which Carr attests he is thankful to have worked with his peers and for the citizens.

When anyone retires from the Sheriff’s Office, they decide whether or not to give them their badge and gun. Carr said he feels indebted to the sheriff for making the decision to send him home with his badge and gun.

Carr stated that Thornton has been a guiding light for the Sheriff’s Office over the years and along the way he has brought a passion and humility that inspires everyone.

Carr’s retirement brings to a close a career that began in January 1996. Prior to the Sheriff’s Office, he worked for the Clinton Police Department. Raised in Tomahawk, Carr

graduated from Union High School in 1984, raised in the southern end of Sampson.

Carr pretended he was a cop while in high school and instead went into the Army first. Once he retired from the Army, he still had the desire to serve in a uniform and serve his county — leading him to become a police officer. He joined the BLET program, which he said was a tough one.

The retired officer knows that the laws are constantly changing and after over 25 years, he was just at the age where he could retire.

His favorite part of the job was helping people.

Carr’s only hope is that he never disappointed anyone. There were times where he didn’t always have the answer for people but he said he just hopes that they didn’t take that as a disappointment. He at least tried to help everyone.

Carr admitted that there were some tears on his last day. He stated that people who work together for that long develop familial relationships so it was like he was leaving his family. He took a lot of pride in his job and still looks at what he’s accomplished, but was in no shape or form happy about leaving his family and friends behind at the Sheriff’s Office.

Carr is married to the love of his life, Jeanie Carr. They have two sons, Jeremy and Cameron. They have been together for almost 27 years.

District Spotlight- Powell Named Coach of the Year

Lakewood head basketball coach Brandon Powell was selected as the 2020-2021 Sampson County Sports Club Coach of the Year for Men’s Basketball. The Leopards went 10-4 this season and reached the NCHSAA 1A Playoffs. This is Powell’s third year at the helm of Lakewood and each year since the Leopards have gradually improved.

Powell displayed a great level of gratitude and humility when expressing the honor he felt of accepting this award. First and foremost, Powell made sure to honor his players and their family in thanking them.

Taking a spot on his roster was Sampson County Player of the Year, Kaleb James. Being just a sophomore, James and his contributions return this winter when the Leopards reload and prepare to do it all over again. Just three seniors graduate from the successes of this team, so it goes without saying that the future is bright for Lakewood Basketball.

Did You Know? - NC History and Fun Fact

Did you know that Wendell H. Murphy Football Center at NC State was named after NC State Senator Wendell Murphy of Rose Hill?

Wendell H. Murphy was born in Rose Hill, North Carolina. In 1960, Senator Murphy received a B.S. in agriculture from North Carolina State University. After graduating from college, Senator Murphy became an agriculture teacher, but soon Wendell and his dad, Holmes Murphy, opened a feeding manufacturing operation. The operation started in 1964 with area farmers in open lots. By 1979, Senator and Holmes Murphy had started sow and farrowing operations as well. The business is now known as Murphy Family Ventures and is a contract grower for Smithfield Foods.

In 1983, Senator Murphy was elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives as a Democrat. He represented North Carolina’s tenth district until 1988. He was then elected to the North Carolina Senate where he served until 1992. During this time, Senator Murphy received a lot of attention for his work in politics including the Tar Heel of the Week Award by The News & Observer in May 1987 and the Order of the Long Leaf Pine in 1988.

While in politics, Senator Murphy also helped with North Carolina State University athletics. He was a member of the Centennial Authority, which helped develop the RBC Center, the home for NC State Wolfpack men’s basketball along with the Carolina Hurricanes and Carolina Cobras. In 1987, while serving as senator, Murphy sponsored legislation that gave \$1.5 million for the initial planning of the RBC Center. Senator Murphy then kept working to get funding to the stadium until he eventually got \$22 million donated to the project. For his work with North Carolina State University athletics, the Wendell H. Murphy Football Center was named after Senator Murphy in 2003.



Thank you for allowing me to serve as your representative in the North Carolina Senate. I read every email that comes to my legislative account and I encourage you to reach out to me with your thoughts and concerns. If you would like to stay informed of my actions in the legislature, I encourage you to friend me on Facebook and/or follow me on Twitter.

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GOVERNOR, cont. from P. 1


Trajectory in COVID-Like Illness (CLI) Surveillance Over 14 Days
-North Carolina’s syndromic surveillance trend for COVID-like illness is decreasing.

Trajectory of Confirmed Cases Over 14 Days
-North Carolina’s trajectory of cases is level.

Trajectory in Percent of Tests Returning Positive Over 14 Days
-North Carolina’s trajectory in percent of tests returning positive is level.

Trajectory in Hospitalizations Over 14 Days
-North Carolina’s trajectory of hospitalizations is level.

In addition to these metrics, the state continues building capacity to adequately respond to an increase in virus spread in testing, tracing and prevention.



In Loving Memory of Officer Brent Hall

EOW 4/3/21 #503

Praying for the Family that God gives you Peace and Comfort during this difficult time

On Friday, Newton Grove Police Officer Brent Hall was laid to rest. A Memorial Service was held at 2pm at the Sampson County Agri-Exp Center in Clinton. Thousands of people turned out to show their love and respect for Officer Hall and his family. At 11am Friday morning, a funeral procession led by the NC Trooper’s Association Caisson Unit along with multiple law enforcement and first responder vehicles traveled through downtown Newton Grove, around the traffic circle so citizens could pay their last respects to a fallen hero and public servant. Officer Hall was the real deal and he will be missed.



HALL, cont. from P. 1

Training program and several former recruits and instructors, who remembered Hall. Hall, a graduate of the 2015 Fall Night Academy, has been remembered by instructors and classmates as a smiling face and a ball of energy.

From the moment he stepped on campus to begin the BLET program, instructors and classmates share the same memory — Hall was excited to serve his community. Classmates say he was the type of friend and officer to go out of his way to help.

Detective Cardiellea Barksdale with the Wilmington Police Department, Hall’s BLET classmate, remembered what Hall called “the good ole’ days.”

“It’s crazy to think that it only took eight months for a group of strangers to become brothers and sisters for a lifetime... When I think of the laughs, joking, bickering and stressing we all did, I can’t help but smile,” Barksdale shared.

To his instructors, Hall’s desire to serve the community he loved was evident from day one of his training until well after he graduated from the program. Jennifer Wiley, Former Department Chair of Criminal Justice Technology at SCC, says Hall was a determined student.

Other instructors, like BLET Director Anthony Davis, trained Hall as a BLET recruit, then went on to watch him grow as an officer at the Clinton Police Department. Davis believed Hall would encourage his fellow officers to be selfless and put others first; he says that’s who Hall was.

“Brent touched so many lives in Sampson County and was truly the definition of a public servant. He would go out of his way to serve those within the community because he truly cared about them. Brent simply loved being a police officer,” Davis shared.

Corporal Tyler Williams of the Clinton Police Department worked with Hall at the Clinton Police Department and completed BLET with him before that. Williams not only worked with Williams at Clinton, but they were members of the same squad, meaning they worked together nearly every day.

“Brent was always smiling and full of joy and was always there if you needed anything. He was the type of person that if I called him at any time and needed something, he would drop what he was doing and be on his way to help me,” Williams remembered. “He always made each shift at work fun and if any of us were in a bad mood it wouldn’t take long, and he would have us laughing.”

It is obvious that to the friends, instructors, and classmates that he encountered during his time as a Basic Law Enforcement recruit at Sampson Community College, Officer Brent Hall lit up any room he entered. He will be remembered as a willing servant and an energetic companion.

“Words simply can’t describe the pain, anger, and frustration as we all search for understanding of such a tragic loss. As we move forward, I believe that Brent would tell us the following: put others before yourself, have a big heart, extend kindness to everyone you encounter, and love unconditionally. Because that is who Brent was and will continue to be for so many that he touched throughout his life and career as a law enforcement officer”, BLET Director Anthony Davis.





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LOCAL

REST, cont from Pg 1

Clinton, will reopen this afternoon. It has been closed since Jan. 31, 2020.

The rest area will be open to travelers April through October, staffed 8 hours a day and open to the public 24 hours a day. This will be the first time this rest area operates seasonally, accommodating peak travel season.

Rest areas give motorists the opportunity to take a convenient, brief stop and provide easy roadside access to public restrooms.

For real-time travel information, visit DriveNC.gov or follow NCDOT on social media.”



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UPCOMING COVID-19 VACCINATION LOCATIONS

COVID-19 TESTING REPORT FOR APRIL 8, 2021

Total Number of Tests Reported to Date: 20,193

Positive Test Results: 7,658 (44 additional from 4/6 report)

Negative Test Results: 12,535

COVID Reported Deaths to Date: 103 (no additional from 4/6 report)

The Sampson County Health Department has several vaccination opportunities already scheduled for April. For each event, first dose vaccinations are available for those 18 and older who have not had any vaccine within 14 days of the event.

Wednesday, April 14 – Drive Thru Event (8 am – 12 pm) First and Second Doses
Union High School, 1189 Kader Merritt Road, Rose Hill, NC

Saturday, April 17 – Drive Thru Event (8 am – 12 pm)
Royal Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, 7660 Ivanhoe Road, Ivanhoe NC

Wednesday, April 21 – Drive Thru Event (9am – 4 pm) First and Second Doses
Sampson County Expo Center, 414 Warsaw Road, Clinton

Vaccinations may also be available by appointment at the Sampson County Health Department. To make an appointment, please call (910) 490-1056 or (910) 592-1131 ext. 4001. Appointment times are limited and are subject to vaccine availability.

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ASSISTANT JUDICIAL DIVISION
ADMINISTRATOR
COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Women's History Month

Assistant Administrator Murphy has been employed with the agency for over 26 years and is the consummate professional and a tribute to Community Corrections.

Throughout the course of her career she has broken down barriers by being named the first African American female to serve as manager in Judicial District 27 and the first African American female to serve as either Division Administrator or Assistant Division Administrator within Community Corrections. In her spare time Jackie leads the outreach ministry at her church, where she has worked with homeless women in Charlotte.

#WeAreNC  DPS

Jacqueline is the the daughter of Barbara Murphy of Harrells NC and the late Henry Lee Murphy and the Grandaughter of the late Queen Murphy Fennell of Harrells, NC



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CRIME REPORT

CRIME REPORTS

04-01 Donzel Decil Crawford, 29, Goldsboro. Possess Marijuana, Possess Drug Paraphernalia. Bond \$500. Trial Date 05-18-21

04-01 Jayden Edenfield, 20, Goldsboro. Possess Marijuana. Bond \$250. Trial Date 05-18-21

04-02 Joshua William Corbett, 22, Clinton. Possess Marijuana. Trial Date 04-02-21

04-02 Dustin OBryan Edwards, 25, Clinton. Flee/Elude Arrest, DWLR, Reckless Driving to Endanger, Speeding, Hit/Run Fail to Stop Property Damage, Resist Obstruct Delay, Fictitious Registration Plate,

Operate Vehicle Without Insurance, Possess Marijuana, Fail to Stop Sign. Bond \$175000. Trial Date 09-03-21

04-02 Taliyah Monique Owens, 19, Fayetteville. Possess Marijuana, Possess Drug Paraphernalia, No Operators License. Trial Date 06-07-21

04-04 Marcus Darrell Underwood, 46, Clinton. Domestic Assault. Trial Date 06-07-21

04-05 Jessica Renae Nicholson, 36, Spring Lake. Att Obtain Property by False Pretense, Uttering Forged Endorsement. Bond \$4500. Trial Date 04-16-21

04-05 Nygil Elimin Watkins, 21, Clinton. Possession With Intent to Sell and Deliver Marijuana, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

Bond \$5000. Trial Date 04-16-21

04-05 Julisa Rene Williams, 30, Roseboro. CS-Fail to Return Rental Property. Trial Date 06-15-21

04-07 Earl Henry Stokes, 37, Fayetteville. Domestic Trespass. Trial Date 06-28-21

INCIDENT REPORTS

04-01 James Register reported Shooting into an Occupied Dwelling- damage to windows and walls \$300.

04-04 Friendship Used Clothing reported Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property- pad lock \$10.

04-05 Allan Young reported Larceny of bicycles \$250.

04-05 Faith Howell reported Larceny of Xbox \$400, Xbox games \$170, controllers \$90, charging station \$65.

04-06 Regina Sessoms reported Larceny of bicycles \$69, \$75.

** The Crime Report is provided by the Sampson County Sheriff's Office and the Clinton City Police Department.*

Strawberry Season Begins



April signals the start of strawberry season in North Carolina, and local growers are optimistic about the 2021 season and anticipate a crop that should last through Memorial Day.

“The recent hard frost kept strawberry growers busy protecting the plants’ tender blooms, but farmers have reported that those efforts seem to have been successful and consumers will be able to find local berries,” said Agriculture Commissioner

Steve Troxler. “I enjoy seeing fresh North Carolina strawberries at pick-your-own farms, roadside stands, farmers markets and grocery stores. I know they will be the freshest and best tasting berries available.”

The N.C. Strawberry Association provides a listing of you-pick strawberry farms with contact information at www.ncstrawberry.com/farm-locator.

North Carolina ranks fourth nationally in strawberry production, growing 1,100 acres of strawberries annually.

Last year, the strawberry season began around the time the first COVID-19 case was diagnosed in North Carolina. Growers responded by taking additional measures to protect employees and consumers, including installing additional hand washing stations; providing hand sanitizers for employees and customers; requiring employees to wear disposable gloves while handling produce; and ensuring sick employees stay home.

In addition, several pick-your-own farms encouraged social distancing by limiting the number of rows that could be picked and limiting groups to 10 people or less. Many strawberry farms are continuing the practices started last year for this season.

The N.C. Strawberry Association will host two contests on its Facebook page, @NCStrawberry. A recipe contest and a strawberry photo contest will be held during the strawberry season, and winners will receive a prize. Visit the association’s Facebook page to enter the contests, beginning April 15.



USDA Announces Funding Available to Organizations to Assist Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers under Pandemic Assistance for Producers Initiative

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) today announced the availability of \$2 million to establish partnerships with organizations to provide outreach and technical assistance to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. The funding was made possible by USDA’s new Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative, an effort to distribute resources more broadly and to put greater emphasis on outreach to small and socially disadvantaged producers impacted by the pandemic. Today also marks the reopening of FSA’s Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2) signup as part of the Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative. Farmers and ranchers will have at least 60 days to apply or make modifications to existing CFAP 2 applications.

Cooperative Agreements

The cooperative agreements will support participation in programs offered by FSA, including those that are part of USDA’s Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative. Interested organizations must submit proposals by May 5, 2021.

“USDA is committed to making financial assistance available to a broader set of producers, including to socially disadvantaged communities, and we know that we need partners to help make that happen,” said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. “This funding will support grassroots organizations and public institutions as we support their producers. I am excited to see their innovative, results-driven proposals to help us reach our producers, especially those who have not taken full advantage of the available assistance.”

Outreach and technical assistance cooperative agreements support projects that:

- Increase access and participation of socially disadvantaged applicants in FSA programs and services.
- Improve technical assistance for socially disadvantaged applicants related to county committees focused on urban agriculture as well as FSA programs, including loan, disaster assistance, conservation and safety-net programs.

FSA will prioritize review of proposals that support outreach on CFAP 2. To ensure effective outreach during the signup period for CFAP 2, these applications will be reviewed immediately following the submission deadline for prioritized approval and project initiation.

This funding opportunity is available to non-profits having a 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service (other than institutions of higher education), Federally recognized Native American tribal governments, Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments), and public and state-controlled institutions of higher education, including 1890 land grant institutions and 1994 tribal land-grant colleges and universities.

Awards will range from \$20,000 to \$99,999 for a duration between six months and one year. Applications focusing primarily on CFAP 2 will be expedited. For other proposals, FSA anticipates announcing or notifying successful and unsuccessful applicants by June 20, 2021 and expects to have Federal awards in place by September 1, 2021.

For more information, view the cooperative agreement opportunity on grants.gov (No. USDA-FSA-MULTI-21-NOFO0001104) or visit fsa.usda.gov/cooperativeagreements.

Reopening of CFAP 2

CFAP 2 provides financial assistance that gives producers the ability to absorb increased marketing costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible commodities include specialty crops, livestock, dairy, row crops, aquaculture, floriculture and nursery crops.

FSA Accepting CFAP 2 Applications Beginning April 5

The initial CFAP 2 signup ended on Dec. 11, 2020, but USDA will reopen sign-up for CFAP 2 for at least 60 days beginning today. Visit farmers.gov/cfap for details on all eligible commodities, producer eligibility, payment limitations and structure and additional program resources.

Producers have multiple options to apply for CFAP 2, including through an online application portal and by working directly with the FSA office at their local USDA Service Center. Customers seeking one-on-one support with the CFAP 2 application process can call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance. This is a recommended first step before a producer engages with the team at the FSA county office.

Additional CFAP Actions

USDA will also finalize routine decisions and minor formula adjustments on applications and begin processing payments for certain applications filed as part of the CFAP Additional Assistance. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, enacted December 2020 requires FSA to make certain payments to producers according to a mandated formula.

While USDA offices are currently closed to visitors because of the pandemic, Service Center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. To conduct business, please contact your local USDA Service Center. Additionally, more information related to USDA’s response and relief for producers can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

About Pandemic Assistance for Producers

Today’s announcement supports USDA’s efforts to bring financial assistance to farmers, ranchers and producers who felt the impact of COVID-19 market disruptions. The new initiative—USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers—will reach a broader set of producers than in previous COVID-19 aid programs. USDA is dedicating at least \$6 billion toward the new programs. The Department will also develop rules for new programs that will put a greater emphasis on outreach to small and socially disadvantaged producers, specialty crop and organic producers, and timber harvesters, as well as provide support for the food supply chain and producers of renewable fuel, among others. For more information, visit farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America’s food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.



HEALTH WATCH



CONDITIONS 101
What is keratoconus?

Keratoconus is an eye disorder where the cornea — the clear surface on the front of the eye — thins and gradually bulges out into a cone shape, which can cause blurred vision and light sensitivity. Though keratoconus often affects both eyes, it usually affects one worse than the other. The condition generally starts to affect people between the ages of 10 and 25, and may continue to slowly progress for another 10 years or longer.

According to the Mayo Clinic: “In the early stages of keratoconus, you might be able to correct vision problems with glasses or soft contact lenses. Later, you may have to be fitted with rigid, gas permeable contact lenses or other types of lenses, such as scleral lenses. If your condition progresses to an advanced stage, you may need a cornea transplant. A new treatment called corneal collagen cross-linking may help to slow or stop keratoconus from progressing, possibly preventing the need for a future cornea transplant. This treatment may be offered in addition to the vision correction options above.”

The Mayo Clinic recommends seeing an ophthalmologist or optometrist if you notice your eyesight rapidly worsening, which can be caused by astigmatism — an irregular curvature of the eye. Your eye doctor may look for signs of keratoconus during routine exams.

The following factors may increase your risk of developing keratoconus:

- Having a family history of keratoconus.
- Rubbing your eyes vigorously.
- Having certain conditions, such as retinitis pigmentosa, Down syndrome, Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, hay fever and asthma.

HEALTH STAT
7.7

According to the CDC, 7.7% of adults 18 and over currently have asthma.

NUTRITION STATION
These things can make your green tea even healthier

Green tea can provide a gentle boost of energy in the morning without the jitters of coffee. Here’s how Eat This, Not That suggests adding to your daily cup to make it even healthier and tastier:

“Try adding a little fresh ginger, a drizzle of honey, a lemon wedge, and maybe even a sprinkle of turmeric to your piping hot cup of tea. Not only will these ingredients liven up your cup of green tea, but they may also help improve your digestion. Ginger, like turmeric, has anti-inflammatory properties, which can have medicinal effects on the body. It also can help reduce feelings of nausea and even help with treating chronic indigestion. Not to mention, ginger can help reduce the frequency of acid reflux, as it helps to prevent stomach acid from flowing back up into your esophagus.”

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Old habits die hard

The secret to good health is no secret, so why is it so hard to achieve?

Laura Williamson
American Heart Association News

It ought to be a no-brainer, so to speak: Research has pinpointed seven ways people can achieve ideal heart and brain health. And — bonus — if Americans did those things, they also could help prevent many other chronic illnesses.

But most people don’t, at least not consistently. What’s stopping them?

“Most of these steps require a great deal of self-regulation and self-control,” said Dolores Albarracín, a professor of psychology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. “It’s not just getting one thing done, like going to get a vaccine, where you can do it and forget about it for a year.”

Volumes of research point to at least seven behaviors, called Life’s Simple 7, that can dramatically lower the burden of heart disease, stroke and dementia. Not smoking, eating a healthy diet, exercising regularly, maintaining a healthy weight, and keeping blood glucose, blood pressure and cholesterol levels in a healthy range have the potential to collectively wipe out a vast majority of heart disease and stroke and prevent or delay a significant number of dementias.

“If it were simple, heart disease event rates would be down by 80% since roughly 80% of heart disease is preventable,” as are 80% of strokes, said Dr. Roger Blumenthal, director of the Johns Hopkins Ciccarone Center for the Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease in Baltimore.

Part of the problem, he said, is the pace of modern life and the number of responsibilities people already are juggling.

“It’s hard for people to stay motivated in the society in which we live and to make time for things like exercise,” he said. “We have to repackage all the knowledge we have and put it into actionable, shorter messages and provide resources that motivate people.”



MCN/FREEPIK

“

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Dr. Roger Blumenthal, director of the Johns Hopkins Ciccarone Center for the Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease in Baltimore

”

about healthy behavior change. It found people were more likely to succeed in making changes if they stuck to one of two similar actions — focusing on things they needed to do or things they needed to stop doing — but not both.

“The way our psychological makeup works is we tend to be in action mode or inaction mode,” she said. “Exercising more and eating more vegetables are both actions moving in the same direction, versus exercising more and eating less fat, which is one positive thing and one negative thing.”

Changing behavior can require reframing thinking and goals, Albarracín said.

“There are ways to use questions to stop yourself. If you’re at a restaurant and the server brings a tray of desserts and asks you which one you want, ask yourself instead if you should be eating dessert at all. Introduce the idea of ‘no’ being an answer.”

TODAY’S WORKOUT

Lunging triceps kickback targets back of arms

Marlo Alleva
Lakeland Ledger
USA TODAY NETWORK

Our move today is a lunging triceps kickback. This exercise combines a stationary forward lunge, and simultaneous tricep kickbacks.

The focus of this move is the back of your arms, but by holding your stationary lunge you will be toning your lower body and tightening your core.

You will need a set of light to medium hand weights for this exercise.

Begin by splitting your stance for a forward lunge. Place one foot in front of you with the weight on your heel and the opposite leg behind you, with your weight on your toe. Grabbing the hand weights in each hand, proceed to



Marlo Alleva demonstrates a lunging triceps kickback.
[ERNST PETERS]

bend in your front knee, and slightly leaning forward, hold your chest up and engage your core.

Be mindful of keeping your front knee behind your toe and squaring your shoulders straight forward.

Continue by tucking both arms into your side and then bending

in the elbows. Once you feel sturdy, you can move on to your kickback movement.

Staying in your stationary lunge, start to lift and extend both arms straight back behind you, focusing on the squeeze on the backside of your upper arm. Once you reach your

fullest extension with both arms, proceed to bend back in the elbows, tucking the arms into your sides.

Continue this kickback motion for at least 10 repetitions. Release the lunge, and take a small break. Then switch legs, and move onto your second set with the opposite leg forward in your lunge.

Continue on to your next set of kickbacks, shooting for at least four sets, giving you equal amounts on each leg.

If at any time you feel your balance is contradicted, or your weight becomes too much, simply alternate your kickbacks or lighten your hand weights.

This combination exercise is great to add into any upper- or total-body routine.

HOME HELP

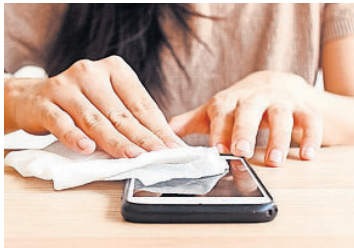
TIP OF THE WEEK

How to remove super glue

Incredibly strong and fast-drying, super glue can be super helpful around the house for fixes, woodworking and crafts. Unfortunately, its durability makes it tricky to remove from surfaces and fabrics. Here a guide to removing super glue from BobVila.com:

- **Surfaces.** Super glue does not hold up well against friction and is vulnerable to acetone. If you need to remove unwanted glue from hard surfaces, like countertops, apply acetone then try to peel it off. If the glue doesn't come off right away, use a putty knife or sandpaper to gently try to scrape it away. You might need to reapply the acetone a few times before your surface is free of glue.

- **Fabrics.** If you get unwanted super glue on fabric, don't throw it out just yet! Start by applying acetone (are you starting to see a pattern here?) to a paper towel or cotton swab. Then, test the nail polish remover on a section of the fabric that is not visible to make sure it won't cause discoloration or damage. Press and hold the acetone against the dried glue for a few minutes. Scrub the glue with a scrub brush until it flakes off. Again, you might have to reapply and work in stages. Lastly, rub a dollop of laundry detergent into the spot and wash the fabric in the laundry.



FREEPIK

CLEANING

Don't use spray cleaners on electronics

If your computer screen, smartphone or tablet is dirty or covered in smudges, resist the urge to clean it like other surfaces. Here's what BobVila.com has to say:

“Never use sprays like window cleaners on electronics like your TV, cell-phones, or LCD screens. They can do damage, as can the wood fibers from paper towels and tissues. Use a microfiber cloth instead, or in the absence of that a coffee filter. If you need the extra umpf of a cleaner, use rubbing alcohol. And always spray onto your cloth, not onto the screen.”

GARDENING

Inspect your garden when spring arrives

Before planning or planting your springtime garden, you should inspect what you're working with. Go out with a pen and notepad and take note of what happened during winter. Here are four key things Proven Winners recommends looking for when inspecting your garden:

- Cold, ice or snow damage on plants.
- Beds that will need to be cleaned out.
- Hardscaping elements — walls, fences, benches, sheds, trellises — that have shifted, bowed or rotted.
- Evidence of new animal burrows from skunks, chipmunks, moles and voles, groundhogs or rabbits. Also, note any deer or rodent damage on woody plants.

More Content Now



A colorful bench adds drama to a garden. I love the unique design of this bench. [BETTY MONTGOMERY PHOTOS]

Elevate *the* outdoors

Add benches in the garden for contemplation or meditation

Betty Montgomery

More Content Now
USA TODAY NETWORK

Seating areas in a garden serve many purposes. They can be focal points, decorative objects or places where people are meant to stop and take in the sights of your garden. Gardeners rarely stop to relax and take in their handy-work, seldom stopping to reflect on what they have accomplished. Because of this, many private gardens do not have seating areas.

Benches or chairs are a welcoming site for visitors. It shows that you want a visitor to come in and enjoy your garden and to see what you have created. It makes one feel that you really want them to visit and enjoy the day.

In deciding to add some place to sit and rest, you need to think about some mechanical issues. You need to make sure your benches and chairs are comfortable, a pleasant height for the average-size person.

A seat that is too high or too low can make your visitor not want to linger. It is important to make sure it is sturdy, because you would not want your visitor to feel uneasy sitting.

Benches also can be used as an import feature or focal point. You can create a garden around the seating area, making it a destination for a visitor as well as a decorative



A resting place can be as simple as wooden boards on a post.

object. I have visited many gardens that have benches for this purpose. They need focal points and decide to use a bench rather than a tree or particular bush.

One of my very favorite things to do is to get my husband to come sit with me on a certain bench by a little creek in our garden. At this particular place, the stream makes a soothing sound as the water passes over rocks, making a very relaxing and calming sound. He gets my undivided attention when he visits with me there.

Many things can make a lovely place to linger. You can locate a sitting area where you can enjoy a beautiful sunset or the reflection of a tranquil pond or where you can admire particular plantings.

You might want a bench near an old tree that has some interesting feature. With the thoughtful placement of a bench, you

can create a memorable place to relax and reflect on the day.

I have several benches placed in our garden because I want people to stop and take in the different views and sites. In deciding where to put seating areas, I had to try benches in several places and sit and look at the placement over several weeks before deciding on an exact spot. I have also found that I move benches or chairs at different times of the year because of the sun.

After placing a seat, consider what you plant close by. Can you add a shrub or vine that adds fragrance to the garden? Think about what joy you would get as you sit by an oriental lily with its wonderful fragrance, a fragrance that will perfume the air. Or if it is in a sunny place, you might want to plant some old-timey petunias that are quite aromatic or a fragrant David Austin rose bush. They will add a pleasing aroma in the night air.

A place to sit does not have to be fancy. However, if you want someone to join you, you need to make sure that two can sit comfortably together. It might be fine for two young lovers to sit in a small space but you might want more room if you are seated with someone else, and this has been so true this past year with the pandemic present.

There are many innovative garden benches to tempt you. Garden benches come in stone, metal and wood, and all have their pros. A slab of stone that is set between two stone blocks is a permanent seating area and can be lovely when it is cloaked in moss. Metal or wrought iron is a great choice if you are looking for something functional and decorative. Wood benches can be comfortable and attractive and possibly less expensive.

I hope you will create a place to relax and enjoy your garden with a friend, or just sit and meditate. Make it an important part of your garden.

DEAR MONTY

Should I sell my home to an iBuyer?



Richard Montgomery

Reader question: I own my current home. I am having trouble selling it. iBuyers say that they will pay fair market value for a home and take care of all the issues that give me problems. Should I consider selling my house to an iBuyer?

Monty's answer: Whether or not it is feasible or a good idea is a matter of your financial situation, your time constraints and

your circumstances.

What is an iBuyer?

An iBuyer buys your home for cash so that you can minimize the real estate process. The significant inducement is convenience; they pay cash and close quickly. Some of the prominent national players are Knock, Opendoor, Offerpad, Orchard, Redfin Now and Zillow Offers.

Some iBuyer details

Your home must qualify by meeting specific values, a certain age, type of sanitary system and be a single-family (some

may consider a duplex or a condo). If your home requires repairs, you must fix them, or they may require you to allow them to perform the repairs. The large, national iBuyers work primarily in large, active markets but are slowly expanding.

Cost of convenience

The seller must also agree to a service charge that is akin to a commission, but like the guaranteed sale, is at a premium. The cost for an iBuyer is 10-12% of the value of your home. By calculating the costs as a percentage of your equity, the actual cost percentage will be

significantly higher. The money you borrowed was never yours, but the service charge comes out of your equity. According to Inman News (<http://bit.ly/2OzOwXc>), very few home sellers that inquire will take the iBuyer up on their offer. A seller who uses an iBuyer is often in a distressed situation or must move quickly.

It is unclear why you are “having trouble selling.” It is pretty feasible that correcting the issues preventing your home from selling can be rectified for far less money than using an iBuyer. Try to understand better why your home is not selling and check out all options.

FOOD



Simple *Holiday* Hams

Ideas for an easy Easter menu

FAMILY FEATURES

Whether you’re new to hosting or simply looking for ideas to make Easter entertaining easier than ever, there are plenty of ways to save time and stress in the kitchen.

Go with what you know. Trying out new recipes is fun, but it can also add stress when they don’t turn out like you expected. Stick to tried and true dishes you can prepare and serve with confidence and save the experimenting for another time.

Take shortcuts. At the center of many Easter feasts is a ham that has been expertly cured and cooked to perfection. Even so, starting with a full-cooked ham is a shortcut that no one is likely to

notice, especially if you heat it properly. For exceptional quality and a variety of flavor profile options to choose from, turn to America’s Original Butcher, Omaha Steaks. The meats are fully cooked then frozen before being delivered to your door for maximum convenience.

Work ahead. Plan your menu to incorporate items you can make ahead of time so you’re under less pressure the day of your dinner. Even handling the prep work like slicing veggies the night before can buy back precious minutes, that way when guests begin arriving, you can step out of the kitchen and enjoy the day right along with them.

Find more ideas to make hosting this year’s Easter meal easy at OmahaSteaks.com/buy/meals/easter.

How to Heat a Frozen Ham

Many frozen hams are fully cooked and can be served as soon as they’re properly thawed, which is an ideal solution for a casual brunch with mini sandwiches on the menu. However, if you’re serving an elegant holiday dinner, you’re more likely to prefer a warm centerpiece dish. A fully cooked ham is still a time-saving option; you’ll just need to allot time to heat it in the oven once it’s thawed.

Start by thawing a fully cooked ham in the refrigerator for 24-48 hours. To keep your ham extra moist, always put the cut-side down. You might also consider placing a baking rack in the pan and adding a quarter-inch of water before placing the ham on the rack.

For a spiral-cut, bone-in ham, heat the oven to 325 F. Remove ham from film and foil. Place ham cut-side down on a raised edge baking pan lined with foil. Heat uncovered 60-75 minutes for the entire ham or 10 minutes per pound for smaller portions.

For a boneless ham, heat the oven to 350 F. Place the ham, cut-side down, on a raised edge baking pan lined with foil. Cover the ham tightly with foil and heat 35-40 minutes.

Another option for adding extra juicy flavor is a glaze, which can be as simple as dissolving three parts brown sugar into one part honey in a small saucepan. Or for a more elegant affair, consider a fruit-infused glaze to complement the savory pork.

A Host of Hams

If you always thought a ham is a ham is a ham, it’s time to think again. From the type of meat to the smoking preparation to specialized slicing that makes serving easy, there are plenty of options to consider from a supplier like Omaha Steaks when choosing the right ham.



Savory

For an elegant gathering that demands premium ingredients, an all-natural Duroc Boneless Country Ham may be the answer. These hams tend to feature more marbling for an exceptionally rich flavor and texture, making for a tender, savory and juicy main course with no basting or injection needed.



Smoky

Put a little flair in your Easter meal with a uniquely flavored ham like the Pecanwood Smoked Flank Ham, smoked with real pecan wood for 8 hours to add a rich yet mellow smoky flavor. This tender, juicy uncured whole-muscle ham earns its place of distinction on your holiday table. Complementary sides with subtle nutty notes, such as a sweet potato casserole, can enhance the menu even more.



Sweet

Each Spiral-Sliced Ham is slowly smoked with real wood up to 24 hours to infuse flavor and maximize juiciness then generously brushed with a sweet and sticky brown-sugar crust that is torch-glazed to create a flavorful, crunchy crust. It’s spiral-sliced before delivery, so once it’s thawed and heated, it’s ready for quick service to your guests.

EASY FRUIT-INFUSED GLAZES

Apricot Glaze

- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon cornstarch
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 cup apricot nectar, canned

In saucepan, mix brown sugar, cornstarch and ginger. Stir in apricot nectar. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture thickens and boils.

Cranberry Orange Glaze

- 1 can (16 ounces) cranberry sauce
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- 1/2 teaspoon cloves, ground
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon, ground
- 1/4 teaspoon allspice

In small saucepan over low heat, combine cranberry sauce, brown sugar, orange juice, cloves, cinnamon and allspice; simmer 5 minutes, before serving.

SCC Career and College Promise Program Continues to Help Students Thrive



Third Row (Left to Right): Olivia Gillespie, CHS, AA/AS, UNC CH or University of South Carolina Capstone Scholars Program, Political Science; Maegan Byrd, CHS, AA, Florida State or ECU, Meteorology; Kaci Hudson, MHS, AA, Sampson Community College, Veterinarian Technician; Isaac Rivera, CHS, AA, ECU, Engineering; Joshua Lamb, CHS, AA, UNCW, Biology; Alexander Czarkowski, CHS, AA/AS, NC State/Furman University, Finance or Computer Science; Dr. William Starling, President of Sampson Community College; Noah Jackson, CHS, AA, University of South Carolina or Wake Forest, Sports Management or Business; Cullen Faircloth, MHS, AA/AS, UNC CH, Business Administration; Heather Norland, MHS, AA/AS, UNC CH, Pre-Medicine; Makenzi Hudson, MHS, AA, NC State, Animal Science; Robert Baggett, MHS, AA, UNCW, Accounting

Second Row (Left to Right): Justin Ruiz, CHS, AA/AS, Western Carolina, Psychology; Stephanie Lizardo, CHS, AA, NC State, ECU, or UNCW, Marketing; Madelyn Hobbs, HHS, AA, NC State, History; Samantha Britt, HHS, AA, NC State, Biology; Bailey Spell, CHS, AA/AS, ECU Honors College or UNC CH or NCSU Scholars Program, Biochemistry; Amanda Silvey, MHS, AA, Campbell University, Business; Olivia Hall, MHS, AA, UNC CH, Nursing; Julianna Raynor, MHS, AA, Central Carolina Community College, Nail Technician; Angelica Coria, MHS, AA/AS, NC State, Zoology; Sara Sills, MHS, AA, Meredith College or ECU, Exercise Science; Allison Belflowers, MHS, AA/AS, UNCW, Exercise Science; Trent Williams, MHS (Early Graduate), AA, Campbell University, Accounting

First Row (Left to Right): Birzayit Sanchez-Olvera, HHS, AA, Western Carolina, Business Administration; Jocelyn Espino, MHS, AA, ECU, Construction Management; Jhelen Medina Aguilar, MHS, AA/AS, High Point University, Exercise Science; Amy Carcamo-Matute, CHS, AA, ECU/UNCS, Music Composition; Cristal Ortiz, CHS, AA, Duke University, Neuroscience; Mrs. Blair Hairr, Vice-President of Academic and Student Affairs; Akiya Stywall, CHS, AA/AS, NC A&T, Animal Science; Madelyn Tew, MHS, AA, UNCW, Exercise Science; Alyssa James, CHS, AA/AS, ECU Honors College, Biology; Savannah Westbrook, UHS, AA, UNCW, Accounting; Jonathan Cooper, MHS, AA, Campbell University, Electrical Engineering

In two weeks, around 400 students will graduate from Sampson Community College. Included in that group will be 54 Career and College Promise (CCP) graduates, and 936 certificate completers. For the third year in a row, the program has seen a record number of graduates. CCP gives local high schoolers the opportunity to graduate from SCC with an associate degree.

The dual enrollment program allows local high schools students to get ahead on their post-high school studies, whether they plan to attend a 2-year or 4-year institution. Students receive diplomas, certificates, degrees, and college transfer credit. Students even receive entry-level job training.

Perry Gillespie, Director of Career and College Promise, says student participation is inspiring and demonstrates the impact that the program is having.

“CCP does so many great things. But in my opinion, the greatest thing it does is it keeps our students in the city and county schools competitive against students from larger counties with vast more opportunities,” Gillespie commented.

Year after year, the program has continued to grow. In the Fall of 2020, 454 CCP students enrolled at SCC, and 426 students enrolled for the Spring of 2021. Already, there are over 200 students enrolled for the Summer of 2021. Increased student enrollment is not where the growth of the program ends. In the fall, four new career coaches joined the program at each area high school, making CCP more accessible to students.

The 2020-2021 CCP Outstanding Graduates are Olivia Gillespie (AA) & Alexander Czarkowski (AS).

The low-cost CCP program will offer students an even better deal for the remainder of



CHS Grads: William Byrd, AA, App State, Business, Marketing, or Entrepreneurship Education; Halin Pearson, AA, UNC CH, Psychology; Ethan Herring, AA, UNC Charlotte, Computer Science

the year. Federal funds (HEERF II) are available to CCP students to assist with the cost of fees for the summer and fall terms. Interested students should reach out to the Career Coach at their high schools for more details!

Gillespie, whose own daughter will receiver her associate degree through the program this year, has truly seen the benefits of the program firsthand.

“This year’s graduates are special because they include my own daughter and many of her friends who I have watched grow from small children to hardworking and capable adults. They are going to go to college and will one day change the world. Congratulations to every graduate and I pray nothing but the best for you all,” Gillespie remarked.

Any high school student can participate in the program if they meet the program requirements. Interested students can access more information on the Sampson Community College website homepage or contact Perry Gillespie at pgillespie@sampsoncc.edu or (910) 900-4084.



(Left to Right) Reagan Holmes, AA, Campbell University, Nursing; Madelyn Ammons, AA/AS, Sampson/Fayetteville Technical Community College, Cosmetology; LaWanda Sessoms, AA/AS, TBD, TBD



Alexa Rios, AA, Wayne Community College, Dental Hygiene



Brinkley Spearman, Home, AA, UMO, Vet-Bioscience



(Left to Right) Karen Jimenez, AA, Wayne Community College or UNCP, Dental Hygiene; Aaron Carter, AA/S, UNC CH, Pre-Pharmacy; Jada Zaragoza, AA/AS, Meredith College, Psychology

NOT PICTURED

UHS

Britton Burley, AA/AS, Campbell University, Psychology; McKenzie Taylor, AA/AS, Campbell University, Health Care Management; Litzy Velazquez, AA, TBD, TBD; Kelly Williams, AA/AS, UNCW, Biology

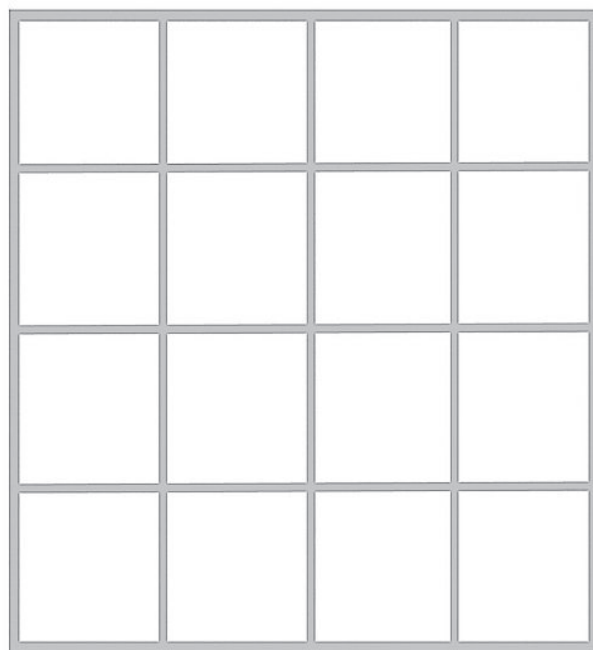
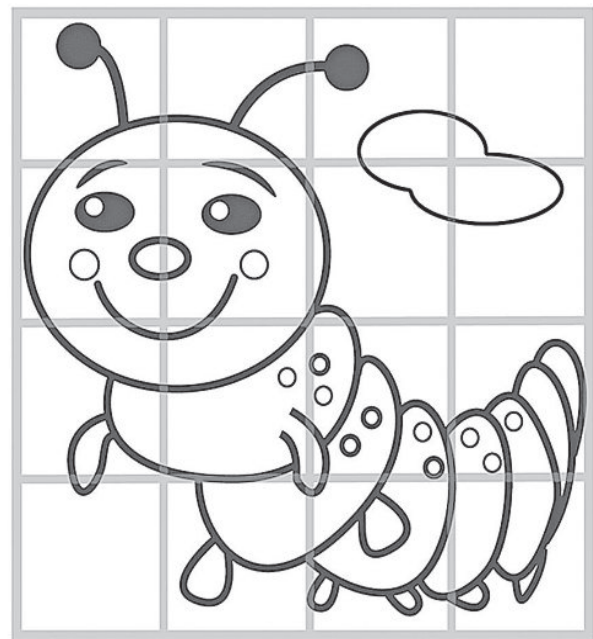
MHS

Erin Beasley, AA, ECU, Nursing; Emma Clark, AA, UNC CH, Biology; Jega Dapuyen, AA/AS, UNCW, Nursing; Leticia Mejia, AA, ECU or Meredith College, Education; Matteo Rojas, AA, UNCP, Pre-Nursing



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WORD FIND

John
Tyler
President
Vice
Harrison

Children
Slavery
Lyon
Politics
Legacy

H P R E L Y T S B P
P O H S U N T L V G
W L Z V W W P A U Q
V I O N W G F V W O
I T N E D I S E R P
C I O R J G P R V C
E C S D Y X W Y O C
W S I L C U T S U N
F U R I A K U B N O
L V R H G Z K H T Y
D P A C E J O H Z L
M U H Y L J N Z K O

Who was John Tyler?

By Erika Enigk
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USA TODAY NETWORK

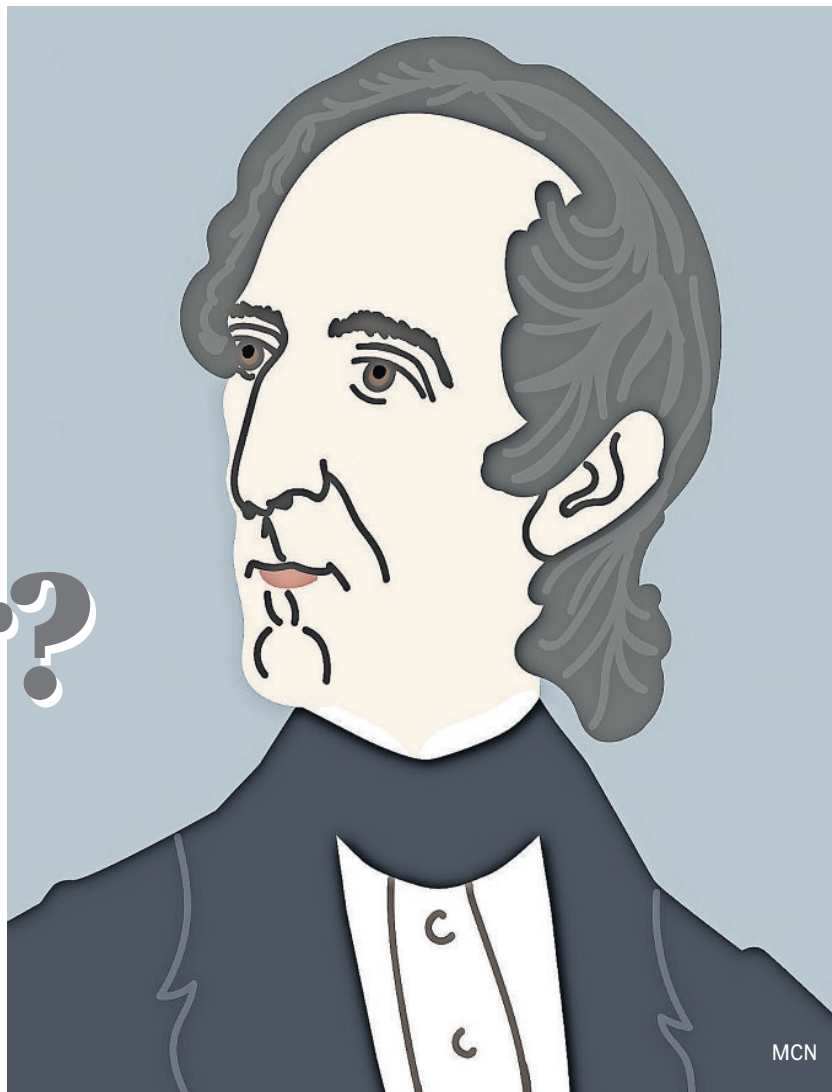
John Tyler isn’t remembered as a great president. In fact, some people don’t even remember he was president! But he has some family members who are still around and are working to make sure his legacy is a good one.

Tyler’s life

John Tyler was born in 1790, just a few years after the United States became a country. Tyler was elected vice president in 1840 with President William Henry Harrison, but Harrison had a very short presidency. He died just a month after he took office, so Tyler became president then. Other vice presidents have become president when presidents have died, but John Tyler served longer than any other person to do so, serving from 1841 to 1845. Tyler set another presidential record, too: He had more children than any other president. He had eight children with his first wife, Letitia, and when she died, he married a woman named Julia and had seven more. When his youngest child was born, he was 70 years old, a year before he died. This became really important to his legacy.

Tyler’s legacy

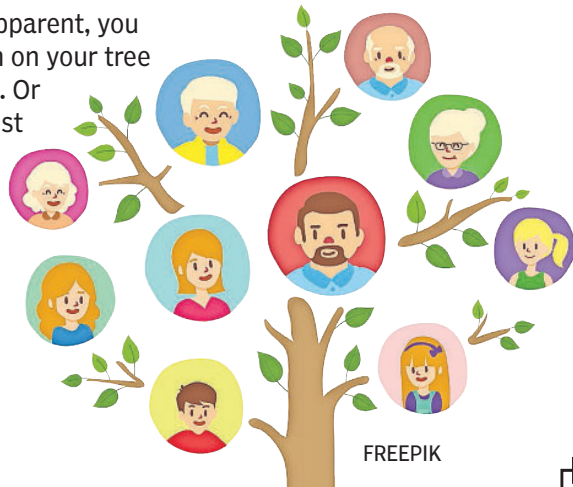
Tyler was not a popular president. He was a



Activity: Make your own family tree

Put your name at the bottom of a piece of paper. Just above your name, put your parents’ names, one on each side. Above your mother’s name, put her parents’ names. Above your father’s name, put his parents’ names. Do the same for each of your grandparents, and if you know the names of your great-grandparents, keep going up the chart.

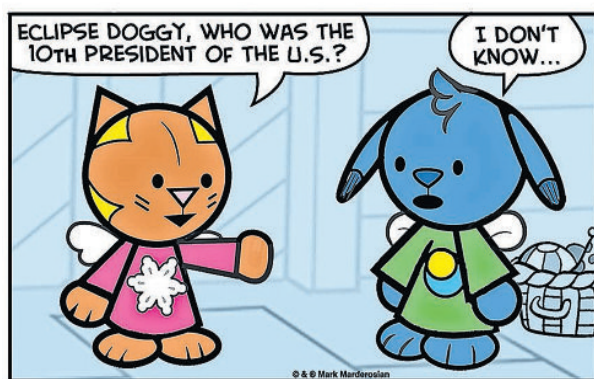
If you have a stepparent, you can include them on your tree however you like. Or if you live with just one parent, two moms, two dads, a grandparent or someone else, you can adjust your tree however you want. Be creative!



slave owner and fought against things his political party wanted. Some people actually tried to get him impeached, which is a process that can possibly get somebody kicked out of office. But because of his children, he has an interesting legacy. Even though he was born more than 200 years ago, he has a grandchild still alive today. John Tyler’s

son Lyon was born in 1853 and also had children late in life. His son, Harrison, is in his 90s and still alive today. And some of his other family members are working to educate the people of today about things their ancestor didn’t know or didn’t agree with. They maintain the plantation house where Tyler lived and are working to use it to educate people about why slavery was a bad idea.

ANGELS FROM THE ATTIC By Mark Marderosian



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PUZZLES

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 Second to none

5 Hurling weapon

10 Like some testimony

14 Fond of

15 Caddie offering

16 Firefighting need

17 Film based on a novel, e.g.

19 Teaspoonful, maybe

20 U-boat, briefly

21 Send out

22 Weight watcher

24 ___ of passage

26 Black gold

28 Foul

29 Beauty parlor

30 Hang around

32 The "U" in I.C.U.

33 Trusted teacher

34 De Niro's, "City By The ___"

37 Dermal affliction

39 Part of PTSD

41 Kicker's aid

42 Fasten (to)

46 Mark of a ruler

47 Take the pulpit

48 Evaluate, as ore

49 Cartoon hedgehog

52 Fish delicacy

53 Wedding wear

54 Throat soother

56 Back of the neck

58 "The Hundred Secret Senses" author

60 Farm cry

61 Type of pact

64 Backbone of a ship

65 Supply party food

66 State with conviction

67 "What ___?"

68 Four-legged laughter

69 Smart-alecky

DOWN

1 Skewed view

2 Marathoner's trait

3 Hold firm

4 Lonely place?

5 Emulated Spitz

6 Leafstalk

7 Book version

8 Long ___

9 Tear to bits

10 Cry of dismay

11 Alex Haley classic

12 Strong suit

13 Distrustful

18 Prom attendee

23 Like some gases

25 Shopper's aid

27 Blitzed

29 Feeder filler

31 Reggae great Peter

33 Pal, in Perth

34 Easily offended

35 Moving stairway

36 Grayish

38 Month for some Pisces

40 Bailiff's request

43 Old salt

44 Monkshood

45 Lessen the value of

47 Predicament

48 State categorically

49 Feed, as a fire

50 Large bay window

51 Canonical hour

55 Carve in stone

57 Medic or legal starter

59 Small salamander

62 Beam of light

63 Keg opening

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4 6 7 9 8 3 2 1 5

5 4 8 6 7 1 2 3

2 3 8 9 7 4

3 2 4 5 9 7 8 6

9 1 2 5 8 6 7

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

7 8 3 1 2 6 4 5 9

6 7 4 5 3 9 8

How to beat **Str8ts** – Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into **compartments**. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A **straight** is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, eg [4,2,3,5]. Clues in black cells remove that number as an option in that row and column, and are not part of any straight. Glance at the solution to see how 'straights' are formed.

SUDOKU

No. 395 Easy

6

1 9

8

5 3

2

3

5 8

3

6

2

7

7

3 2

8

7

1 5

2

4 9

6

Previous solution - Very Hard

6 2 3 7 1 5 8 9 4

4 1 5 9 3 8 2 7 6

8 9 7 2 4 6 3 5 1

9 4 1 5 6 3 7 8 2

5 7 8 4 9 2 6 1 3

3 6 2 8 7 1 9 4 5

1 5 6 3 8 7 4 2 9

2 8 9 6 5 4 1 3 7

7 3 4 1 2 9 5 6 8

To complete Sudoku, fill the board by entering numbers 1 to 9 such that each row, column and 3x3 box contains every number uniquely.

For many strategies, hints and tips, visit www.sudokuwiki.org

If you like Str8ts check out our books, iPhone/iPad Apps and much more on our store.

T R E P V A N E Y H E S T E L E

W O A V R E T V C L E E K

E I T R V P I R T K N I O

N V T E P V N E H C O R T

L I E V E O R C I N O S

A V S S A H C V E P R

H C N I H C V T V A E E T E

S S E R T S A M E Z C E

V A S R O T N E M T I N U

R E T I O T N O T V S

Y T S V N L I O E T I E R

R E T E I D I T I W E B U S

E S O D O N O I V A P D V

E S O H E G D G E W E O T O

A L O R A R S P E A R S T B E

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The Call of Abraham Genesis 12:1-3

R L E A V E H U K S O

E C O N T E M P T H C

L O F A T H E R ' S '

A U A F A M O U S V S

T N M H N A T I V E A

I T I Y A B H H G K S

V R L H T R E A R T H

E Y Y M I A R B E R O

S A I D O M S L A E W

K C L A N D B E T A R

M A K E R L P S R T B

L O R D C U R S E I O

ABRAM

COUNTRY

FAMILY

GREAT

LORD

NATIVE

SAID

BLESS

CURSE

FAMOUS

LAND

MAKE

OTHERS

SHOW

CONTEMPT

EARTH

FATHER'S

LEAVE

NATION

RELATIVES

TREAT

The Call of Abraham Genesis 12:1-3

C O U N T R Y

U N C F F I B

R T I A A B E

S E M M M L A

E M A I O E R

L P K L U S T

N T E Y S S H

ABRAM

COUNTRY

FAMILY

BLESS

CURSE

FAMOUS

CONTEMPT

EARTH

MAKE

FAITH

The Chief End of Man

MAN'S CHIEF END
IS TO GLORIFY GOD
and to enjoy him forever.



The core of Westminster Shorter Catechism's defining statement is: "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever."

My sister, Mary Brown, and I were taught this as young children at our Mama's side while she would be cooking meals on the old wood stove, 'down on the farm'. She was raised in Antioch Presbyterian Church, was taught the Shorter Catechism as a child, and definitely wanted to impart it to her children. We all served faithfully in our beloved Wells Chapel Baptist Church, but Daddy certainly did not object to her teachings. In fact, he was the one who instilled in us the desire to 'read' and 'recite' at a young age.

With that thought in mind, I would like to go back to the year 2005 and share a most memorable experience. A cousin, who lived in Raleigh, had invited me to be the Family Night Speaker at her church. Now it just so happened to be a Presbyterian Church, and needless-to-say, I was excited! Our group met in a small foyer because the fellowship hall was being remodeled, but that worked well for me. I could enjoy the close

contact, and was delighted that the pastor took a front-row seat.

I expressed joy and gratitude to them, and immediately began sharing my story about being the child of a faithful Baptist Father and an equally faithful Presbyterian Mother. I was well into details about having been taught The Westminster Shorter Catechism some sixty years ago, when the pastor interrupted me and said with a twinkle in his eye, "Martha, what is The Chief End of Man?"

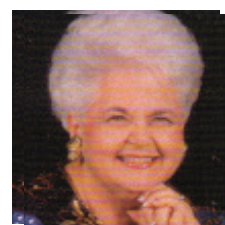
There are some moments in time that we just do not forget and believe me, that was certainly one of mine! To this day I thank our Heavenly Father that He enabled my mind to do a flash-back and immediately I answered: "The Chief End of Man is to Glorify God and Enjoy Him Forever!"

Everyone in the room seemed caught up in the moment with me. The pastor was so delighted to affirm my answer, they all took a deep breath and relaxed, and I was almost brought to tears. Imagine, sixty years later, and God allowed me to faithfully recall my 'by the wood stove' Presbyterian Catechism teachings! What a cause for rejoicing and praising our God.... my soul truly was refreshed.

We all are so very blessed with those Christian values instilled in our young lives, ones that live on in our souls to this day. However, I firmly believe that with our many blessings come responsibilities. We are being reminded during this Covid-19 Pandemic that we took our daily privileges, and the life we knew as normal, so very much for granted.

Now we as Christians are given new opportunities, and we are finding new ways to minister and comfort and care for those within our reach. Even a small deed of kindness can make a big difference in the life of someone. We will glorify God and find joy in Him as we do that for which He made us: LOVE HIM...and through His great Love we are to SERVE OTHERS!

Yes my friends, we are "Saved to Serve", and in so doing we are "Glorifying God". Remember, we will have all of eternity to celebrate the victories, and only a few hours before sunset to claim them. And indeed, in the noble words of the Westminster Shorter Catechism, then we will "...Glorify God and Enjoy Him Forever."



Martha M. Pierce

Assuredly, that is The Chief End of Man!

The Loaded Goat



Season 3 episode 18 of, The Andy Griffith Show, that aired January 28th 1963 was titled, "The Loaded Goat." In this hilarious episode the town of Mayberry is having an underpass put in and this is requiring some blasting out at the construction site. Local farmer, Mr. Hudgins brings his pet goat into town for the day and while running errands the goat gets loose and eats some dynamite. Everyone becomes afraid of the potential explosion the goat possesses. In order to protect the town from a possible explosion, Andy and Barney decide to lead the goat out of town. The Mayor and Mr. Hudgins hear an explosion from the construction site and think Andy and Barney were blown up leading the goat away. Mayor Stoner delivers a eulogy for Andy and Barney, while Mr. Hudgins mourns the loss of his pet goat, not knowing Andy and Barney had returned and were listening in the other room. When Andy gets the Mayor's attention, letting him know they are both fine, the embarrassed Mayor storms out of the courthouse.

Very rarely could someone say they had the chance to hear their own eulogy. If you were able to hear what your family, friends or pastor would say about your life what would be the theme of their speech? Maybe you would want it to say, "You were a hard worker, you were a loving parent, you showed compassion to those in need." However, even though those statements are positive, if at your funeral no one could say you had accepted Jesus Christ as Savior, then none of those accolades matter.

Jesus promised in John 3:36, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him." Salvation has been offered to the entire world through God's son. The price of salvation was paid on the cross by Jesus over two thousand years. Regardless of your skin color, economic standing or political affiliation you can be forgiven of your sins and be assured a home in Heaven. When we take our last breath on this side of eternity all that matters will be if our name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Being a person of faith in Christ we will produce love, joy, peace and hope in our actions towards others. Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 4:7-8, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." The apostle Paul did not fear the departing from this world because he had precious assurance of where he was going.

Proverbs 22:1, "A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold."

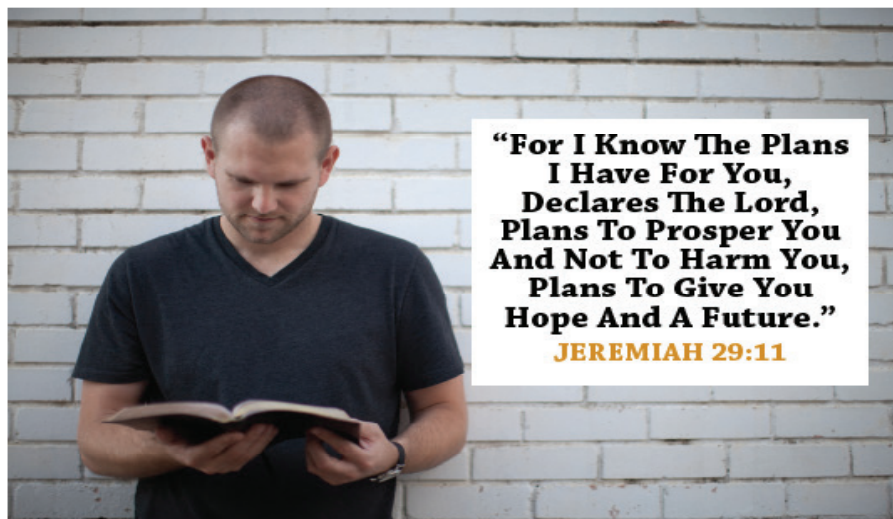
If you get a chance to watch the Loaded Goat episode from the The Andy Griffith Show, keep in mind about the inventor of dynamite, Alfred Nobel. In 1888 Alfred's brother, Ludvig died in France from a heart attack. One French newspaper believed that it was Alfred who had perished, and it proceeded to write a scathing obituary that branded him a "merchant of death" who had grown rich by developing new ways to "mutilate and kill." The error was later corrected but not before Alfred had the unpleasant experience of reading his own death notice. Many believed that Alfred didn't want to be remembered in his eulogy this way and started what is known today as the Nobel Prize. December 1901 the first Nobel Prizes were awarded, in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and peace. Nobel's name now is recognized with life and peace instead of being a merchant of death.



Rev. Ken Smith
Atkinson Baptist Church

I encourage you this week to live a life that is pleasing to God. Never forget that one day everyone will die, and people will remember the life you lived. The most important thing that could be said at your grave side is that you were a child of God. Live every day in such a way that your neighbors, friends and family don't have to guess where you are spending eternity.

OPEN DOOR MINISTRY



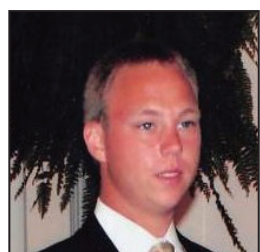
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Office: 910-532-2175 Email: opendooraddictioncenter@gmail.com
Website: opendooraddictioncenter.org

OBITUARIES



CLINTON

David Van Alphin, 35, of 2043 Parker Memorial Rd., passed away in Sampson County. A memorial service to celebrate Van's life will be held at 4:00 P.M. Sunday, April 11th, on the front lawn of Sharon Pentecostal Holiness Church, 2137 Odom Rd. Clinton, with the Rev. Chris Butler officiating. The family will receive

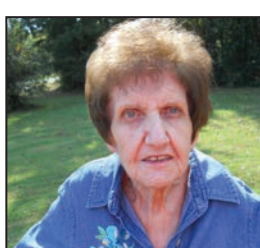
friends following the service and other times at the home. Van, born October 20, 1985 in Sampson Co., was the son of David Wayne Alphin and Debbie Vann Alphin. Van was a graduate of Midway High School and had a passion for farming. Van had a big heart and would help anyone in need. He was known for his good manners and always being polite to others. He had a great love for his niece, Zaylin. Van was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather Coonie Vann. Van is survived by: his parents, David and Debbie Alphin, brothers: Kane Alphin and wife Santana, Jacob Alphin, niece, Zaylin Rose Alphin, maternal grandmother, Hattie Jane Vann, paternal grandparents, Forest and Janice Alphin, Aunts and Uncles: Cynthia and Bill Brinkley, Amy and James Fields, Frank Alphin, and Barbara and Shane Butts. The family would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support during this most difficult time. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Sharon Pentecostal Holiness Church, c/o R.F. Fann, 1575 High House Rd., Clinton. Attendees of the Memorial service for Van are asked to please wear facemask and practice social distancing. Condolences can be made to the family online at www.crumpler-honeycutt.com. Crumpler-Honeycutt Funeral Home of Clinton, is in charge of arrangements.



ELIZABETHTOWN

Ms. Tammy Rice Andrews, 55, of 2498 NC Hwy 53 W., Elizabethtown passed away Monday April 05, 2021. Tammy was born July 01, 1965 in Cumberland County to Edwin & Laura Rice. She is preceded in death by her maternal grandparents: Ralph & Zelma Walters and paternal grandparents: Abner & Ellen Rice. A graveside service will be held at 11:00 AM Saturday, April 10,

2021 at Bethlehem United Methodist Church Cemetery, Hwy 1326 & Hwy 1326/72 Bethlehem Methodist Church Road, White Oak. Pastor Darin Andrews will be officiating the service. Tammy leaves to cherish her memory her father: Edwin G. Rice of the home, mother: Laura Rice of the home, son: Justin Andrews of the home, sister: Lisa Rice of Elizabethtown, two brothers: Mike Rice of Elizabethtown, Mark Cain and wife Abby of Harrells, two grandsons: Walter (JuJu) & Maddox Andrews, niece: Tabi Cain and nephews: Cody & Colt Cain. Services provided by Carter Funeral Home, Garland. www.carterfh.com.



AUTRYVILLE

Mrs. Louise Mary (Nortz) Autry, 88 passed away on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at Mary Gran Nursing Center. A graveside service will be held at 11:00 AM on Monday, April 12, 2021 at Hall Cemetery, South River Rd, Autryville with the Reverend Andy Wood officiating. Mrs. Autry was a native of New York, NY, the daughter

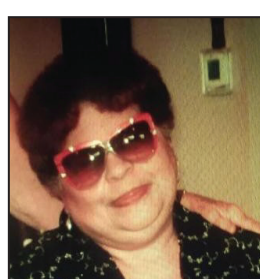
of Louise Nortz. She is preceded in death by her mother and husband, Dock Hubert Autry. She is survived by her son, Dock Hubert Autry, Jr. and two grandchildren, Jillian Patrice Sommer and Jeremy Patrick Borden. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC.



DUNN

On April 1, 2021, Margaret Maidell Beasley passed away peacefully at the age of 90 years old. She was born in Sampson County on May 19, 1930 to the late Sandy and Fannie Page Matthews A long-time Dunn native, Margaret was married to Eldridge Beasley for 59 years and was the proud mother of three children,

Linwood Beasley, Douglas Beasley and Anne Beasley Johnson. She was also a loving mother-in-law, grandmother of seven and great grandmother of ten. Her proudest accomplishment in life was her family and she taught each of us to love as fiercely as she did. She also taught us that love comes in many forms and sometimes that love was in the form of pound cake, dressing, chicken salad or peanut butter, marshmallow and saltine crackers. These recipes and her love will live with each one of us. Because Margaret loved the NC State Wolfpack and feeding people, in lieu of flowers please donate to the NC State Feed the Pack food pantry. There was a graveside service at Devotional Gardens on Saturday, April 3 at 11am. Arrangements are by Skinner & Smith Funeral Home in Dunn.



CLINTON

Mary Francis Maynor Bradford, 74, of 508 Herring St., passed away Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at Wayne Memorial Hospital. A memorial service was held at 11 AM, Saturday, April 10th at Crumpler-Honeycutt Funeral Home with Rev. Randy Simmons officiating. The family received friends immediately after the service at the funeral home. Mary,

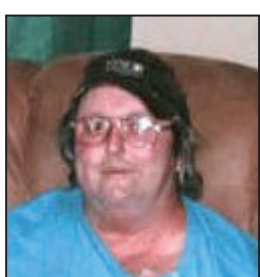
born July 24, 1946 in Ohio, was the daughter of the late Leo Maynor and Mary Delessie Wilkins. She worked as a childcare provider. In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by siblings, Gracie Lee Byrd and Tony Maynor. Survivors include: husband of 36 years, Tony Bradford; son, Ira Eugene Faircloth; sister, Tammy Dale Parranto; and grandchild, Darian Nichole Faircloth. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.crumpler-honeycutt.com. Donations may be made to Crumpler-Honeycutt Funeral Home, 118 Fayetteville St., Clinton, NC 28328 to defray the cost of funeral expenses.



CLINTON

P.A. Bradshaw 80 of 117 Doris Ave died Thursday April 8, 2021 at Liberty Commons Nursing Center in Benson. A Graveside Service will be held at 11:00 am on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at Grandview Memorial Park, 2809 US-421, Clinton. The Family will receive friends following the service at the cemetery. The family will also receive friends beginning on

Monday, April 19, 2021 at his home at 117 Doris Ave, Clinton.



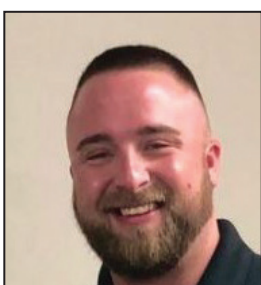
ROSEBORO

Danny Ray Byrd 69 of 279 Effie Peterson Lane died Friday April 2, 2021 at New Hanover Medical Center in Wilmington. Graveside Service was held 2:00pm Wednesday April 7, 2021 at the Peterson Family Cemetery 279 Effie Peterson Lane Roseboro NC. Visitation was held on Tuesday April 6, 2021, 2021 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Hope Valley Hawkins Funeral Service,

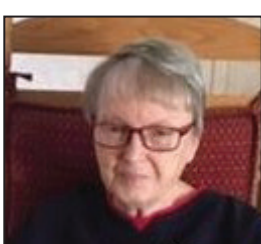
1246 Hobbton Hwy.

CLINTON

Brent Nelson Hall, 26, passed away on Saturday evening, April



3, 2021, just ten days shy of his 27th birthday. Brent was born on April 13, 1994 in Sampson County and grew up in Clinton, graduating from Clinton High School and was a football player (#66) and continued to be a diehard "Dark Horse" fan. He was also an avid Pittsburgh Steelers fan and continued helping his beloved Dark Horse football team over the years. He made many friends over the years - in school, through sports and at his jobs. He never met a stranger and his smile would light up a room. Brent was the type of guy that once you talked to him for just a few minutes, you were drawn to him and were his friend for life. He loved his family more than anything, especially his niece, Chloe, who was the apple of his eye. He loved to serve others, had a tender heart and loved anything dealing with the youth and had a soft spot for animals. He worked with NAPA of Clinton, and was also a Newton Grove Police Officer, starting that career in 2015. He was well liked in the community where he served and loved his brothers and sisters in blue. Brent will live on through so many who loved him - he will never be forgotten, because a love like his won't ever leave us. Brent is survived by his parents: his Dad, Mark Hall (Joan Carr) of Clinton; mother, Theresa Goordman (Anthony) of Dublin; his sister, Amanda Brewington (Frankie) of Clinton; niece, Chloe Brewington; best friend and special "brother", Jason Brewer; maternal grandparents: Garry and Julia Freeman of Dublin and several loving aunts, uncles and cousins who will all miss him terribly. He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Ronnie Hall and Carolyn Patricia Thornton. The family is accepting donations on Brent's obituary page on the funeral home's website. If you would like to help the family, you may do so on the website, or call the funeral home directly at 910-592-4127. A Memorial Service to celebrate Brent's life and the impact he had on so many people in the community, will be held on Friday, April 9th at 2:00 pm at the Sampson County Agri-Expo Center with Rev. Mitchell Brewington officiating. A visitation will be held two hours prior to the service beginning at 12:00 Noon. Visitation will be held in Prestage Hall of the Expo Center, and the service will be held in both the Prestage Hall and Heritage Hall (via video feed). There will be limited seating for the service due to Covid-restrictions, so please follow guidelines. The Newton Grove Police Department will be holding a law enforcement procession on Friday morning at 11:00am, beginning at the park, going around the "Circle" and returning back to the police station. This will be led by The North Carolina Troopers Association Caisson Unit and the Newton Grove Police Chief, Greg Warren. The family asks that anyone that would like to visit the family prior to Friday's service, be limited to only Thursday evening from 5-8 pm at Brent's Dad's home (Mark Hall), 630 Rowan Rd, Clinton. The family will not be accepting visitors at the home on Tuesday or Wednesday and asks that you please wait until Thursday evening, or Friday afternoon at the scheduled visitation and memorial service. The outpouring of love that everyone has shown to the family is greatly appreciated. Your calls and messages and posts on social media, as well as the financial gifts/donations - it is beyond what they could have ever imagined and they are beyond grateful to all of you. Please continue to keep them in your prayers, as this is a tremendous loss. Royal-Hall Funeral Home is honored to serve the Hall family.



CLINTON

Carol Sue (Rackley) Jackson, 77, of 370 Pee Wee Road, passed away Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at Sampson Regional Medical Center. A funeral service was held at 10:00 AM on Friday, April 9, 2021 at Grandview Memorial Garden with Pastor Robert Holland officiating. The family received friends following the service

at the graveside. Mrs. Jackson, born October 16, 1943 in Clinton, was the daughter of the late Norman "Pee Wee" Vann Rackley and Thelma Rivers (Gaine) Rackley. She was a loving, nurturing and supportive daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother and aunt. She spent her life doing what she loved - being a homemaker, adoring her many pets, tending her various flower and vegetable gardens, cheering on the Tar Heels and Carolina Panthers, shopping and maintaining her extensive pocketbook, pen and jewelry collection. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, David Norman Rackley, and brother-in-law, Ernest Marion Odum. She is survived by her loving husband of 56 years, Charles Atlas Jackson; children, Charles Anthony Jackson and his wife (Jo) and Wendy Sue (Jackson) Jordan and her husband (Wesley); sister, Grace (Rackley) Odum; brother, John Wayne "J.W." Rackley and his wife (Linda); four grandchildren, Ashley Nicole (Jackson) Bolduc and her husband (Jeremy), Megan Ann (Jackson) Benson and her husband (Wesley), Travis Bryan Jordan, and Heather Paige Jordan; six great-grandchildren, Brayden Alexander Jackson, Zackary Atlas James Benson, Kayleigh Ann Benson, Brinly Gabrielle Bolduc, Maddilyn Elise Benson, and Jackson David Bolduc; and numerous nephews and nieces. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Breast Cancer Foundation, 10400 Little Paxtuxent Parkway, Suite 480, Columbia, MD 21044 or to the Alzheimer's Association, 3739 National Drive, Raleigh, NC 27612.



ROSEBORO

Mr. Elbert Mercer Jones, 93 passed away on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at Sampson Regional Medical Center. A funeral service will be held at 3:00 PM on Sunday, April 11, 2021 at Pleasant Union Baptist Church with the Reverend Joey Dockery officiating. The burial will follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends from 2:00 PM to 2:50 PM at the

church prior to the service. Mr. Jones was a native of Sampson County, the son of Vernon Claude and Lemmie Emory Jones. He was a retired Automotive Inspector with the Army Civil Service. He was a member of Pleasant Union Baptist Church, a past Master of the Roseboro Masonic Lodge #585. He also, was a Veteran of the U.S. Army. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Lucy Smith Jones and brother, Billy Jones. He is survived by two sons, Craig Jones and wife, Debbie of Huddleston, VA; and Bobby Jones and wife, Peggy of Hope Mills; daughter, Sherry Coulter of Durham; brother, Vernon Jones, Jr. and wife, Shirley of Clinton; two grandchildren, Amanda Coulter and Ashley Dellis; three great grandchildren and nephew, John Jones and wife Emma and daughter, Kiley of Clinton, who were very special to their uncle Elbert. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC.

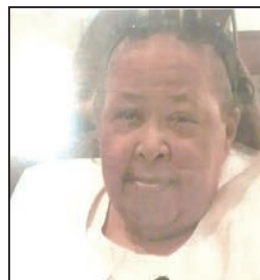


CLINTON

Steven Charles Masset, 56, of Clinton, passed away. A memorial service will be held at 8 PM, Monday, April 12, 2021 at Crumpler-Honeycutt Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 6:30 PM - 8 PM just before the service at the funeral home. Steven, born January 23, 1965 in North Dakota, was the son of Charles Masset and the late Georgine McCay Harrington. He

was a salesman for Ellis Lewis Car Sales. In addition to his mother he was preceded in death by his brother Charles Masset, Jr., and stepfather Bill Harrington. Survivors include: wife, Deanna Ruth Hollingsworth; father, Charles Masset (Lynne); daughter, Mia Vaca; step-son, Waylon Hollingsworth and wife Maria; grandchildren, Olivia and Alaina Hollingsworth; sisters, DeeAnn of Austin, Texas, Laura Masset of Novato, CA, Trisha Masset of Stuart, FL, and Kathleen Masset, Pasadena, CA; step-sister, Kimber Grooms of Terra Haute, Indiana; sister-in-law, Karen Masset of Monroe, Washington; nieces and nephews, Jessica Murray (Joel), Dallas, TX, Samantha Chidley, Rohnert Park, CA, Jaylee Wilson, Mike Grooms, Austin Grooms and Nicholas Masset of Monroe, Washington; and special friends, Jason

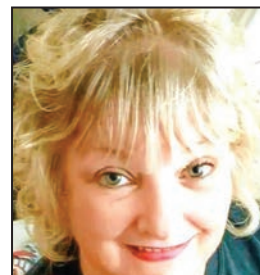
Mason, Eric Kelly, Riley Pippin, Lyn Modglin, Lori Bishop, and Kimberly Willis. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.crumpler-honeycutt.com.



ROCKWELL SC

Mrs. Jessie McLaughlin, 75, of Rockwell, NC formerly of Sampson County, passed away Sunday, April 4, 2021 at home. The funeral service (social distancing observed) will be held 2pm, Saturday, April 10 at New Born Church of God of the Apostles Doctrine, Roseboro, NC with Elder Rupert Brackett officiating. Burial will take place in Hicksville, NY.

Mrs. McLaughlin is survived by husband Thomas McLaughlin of the home; daughters, Allison Edmonds of Spartansburg, SC, Denine Eddington Dumpson of Warsaw, NC, Tashamba Morgan of Willow Springs, NC; sons, James Eddington, Jr. of Clinton, NC, Lemont Eddington of Freemont, NC, Thomas McLaughlin, III of Eastwood NC, Alexander McLaughlin of Spring Lake, NC; 26 grandchildren; 45 great grandchildren. Walk-thru Viewing was held at the Worley Funeral Home Friday, April 9 from 1pm - 6pm. Online condolences may be sent to worleyfuneralhomeinc.com.



CLINTON

Cheryl Ann Sutton New, 58, passed away on Saturday, April 3, 2021 at Sampson Regional Medical Center, with her family by her side. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, April 10th at 11:00 am at the Royal-Hall Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Lynn Blackburn officiating. A visitation for family and friends will be held immediately

following the service at the funeral home. Born in 1962 in Sampson County, Cheryl was the daughter of Linda Parsons Hyatt and the late Curtis Joel Sutton and a member of Clinton Family Worship Center. She was a CNA with Mary-Gran Nursing Center and an employee with the Sampson County Department of Aging. She loved helping others and had many friends in the community. She is survived by her mother, Linda Hyatt of Clinton; her two daughters: Kristin Jade New and Diane Paige New, both of Clinton; brother, Woody Sutton of Houston, Texas; and her six grandchildren: Samuel, Zoey, Ricky, Gabriel, Ava and Kayla. In addition to her father, she was preceded in death by her son, Curtis Harold New, sister, Carol Sutton and a brother, Chris Sutton. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Royal-Hall Funeral Home to help with her funeral expenses. There is a "donation" link on her obituary page on the funeral home's website, or you can mail donations to PO Box 815, Clinton, NC 28329. Any amount will be greatly appreciated. Royal-Hall is honored to serve the New family.



CLINTON

Virginia Sanchez Reyes, 22 and "Princess" Anna Marie Smith Reyes, 2 months old of 41 Francis Lane died Friday April 2, 2021 in Johnston County. Funeral Mass was held 4:00 pm Wednesday April 7, 2021 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church by Father Joseph Dionne officiating. Burial was held 4:00 pm Thursday April 8, 2021 at the Clinton

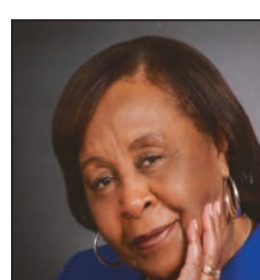
City Cemetery. Visitation was held on Wednesday April 7, 2021, 2021 from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at Hope Valley Hawkins Funeral Service, 1246 Hobbton Hwy Clinton.



CLINTON

Richard Donald Summerlin, Sr. "Don", 85 of 600 Allen Street, passed away Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at Sampson Regional Medical Center. A graveside service will be held at 2 PM, Saturday, April 10th at Clinton City Cemetery with Rev. Mike Shook and Rev. Cameron Dunn officiating. There will be a walk-through viewing from 1 PM - 5 PM, Friday,

April 9th at Crumpler-Honeycutt Funeral Home. Don, born March 20, 1936 in Duplin County, was the son of Zeb Summerlin and Carrie Kornegay Summerlin. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his wife, Patsy Kelly Summerlin and brother Harold Summerlin. He worked at Hamilton Beach for over fifteen years and retired from Pine State Distributing in Clinton. Don was a long time member of Grove Park Baptist Church where he served faithfully as a deacon. He was a long-time community leader serving with the Lions Club and on the City Planning Board and enjoyed salt water fishing, gardening, yardwork and following the UNC Tarheels. Don cherished his children and grandchildren and was very proud of each of them. He was eager and loved to tell of each of their accomplishments. Survivors include; children, Debbie S. West and husband Joe, Rick Summerlin and wife Dana, and Kathy S. Foster and husband Bret; grandsons, Jody West, Michael Summerlin, Stephen Summerlin, Grayson Foster and Garrett Foster; granddaughter, Jennifer W. Roach; seven great-grandchildren; and sister, Louise Quinn of VA. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.crumpler-honeycutt.com. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made the American Cancer Society, 2202 Wrightsville Ave., Suite 111, Wilmington, NC 28403 or to Grove Park Baptist Church, 609 Northeast Blvd, Clinton, NC 28328.



CLINTON

Mrs. Joan M. Warren, 73, of 3020 Big Piney Grove Road, Clinton, NC passed away Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at Sampson Regional Medical Center, Clinton, NC. The graveside service will be held at 1 p.m., Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at The Warren Family Cemetery with Rev. Leonard Henry officiating. The burial will follow after the service. Mrs.

Warren is survived by her HUSBAND-William Lawrence Warren of the home; SISTERS-Doris McCullough of Fayetteville, NC and Faye Herring of Atlanta, GA; BROTHER-Ray Murphy of Garland, NC. The live-stream will be available AT THE SERVICE TIME. NOTE: To access the service via Facebook, log on to your Facebook account and type in Worley Funeral Home. Viewing at the Funeral Home (Mask are required) Tuesday, April 13, 2021 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

CHEROKEE

Lona "Jeannette" Fox, 66, formerly of Clinton, passed away on April 4, 2021 at Care Partners Solace Center in Asheville, NC with her family by her side. Born on December 30, 1954 in Sampson County, Jeannette was the daughter of the late Floyd and Ethel Matthis Japarks. She grew up in Clinton and lived in the area with her husband, Durwood, until 1974 when they moved to Alabama, eventually returning to her hometown in 2002, staying in the area until the Fall of last year, when they moved to the mountains. She was a homemaker and also owned a daycare for the majority of her life. Jeannette loved children and her family more than anything. She will be greatly missed. She is survived by her husband of almost 49 years, Durwood Fox; daughter, Nikki Fox of Clinton; brothers: Bobby Dill of Herring and Anthony Japarks of Randleman; four grandchildren: Chase Fox, Brooklyn Morin, Cameron Morin and Jaqueline Journey; and also her fur-baby - her dog, "Levi". In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, Peggy Faircloth and a brother, Buddy Japarks. A Graveside Service for Jeannette was held on Thursday, April 8th at 11:00 am at the Springvale Section of Clinton Cemetery with Rev. Byron Murray officiating. Royal-Hall is honored to serve the Fox family.

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NASCAR THIS WEEK

SPEED FREAKS

Have you ever bought a new ride because it was “The Official Pace Car” of any race anywhere?

KEN’S CALL: No but I absolutely would, of course. Well, as long as it fit my needs, desires and price range. Oh, and as long as it was an official pace *truck*.

DEAN’S DIRT: I drive a Kia Optima. What do you think?

Our first Saturday night race of 2021 is here; do you prefer Sunday afternoons?

KEN’S CALL: I like the current mix, though once football starts I’d move everything up and run on Friday nights and Saturday mornings. Yes, I’m kidding (maybe).

DEAN’S DIRT: I used to love Sunday afternoons. But now it’s Sundays at nearly 4 p.m. most weeks, so no. Give me primetime all the time.

ZACH’S MARTINSVILLE PICKS

Winner: Denny Hamlin

Rest of top 5: William Byron, Martin Truex Jr., Chase Elliott, Ryan Blaney

First one out: Kyle Larson

Dark horse: Matt DiBenedetto

Don’t be surprised if ...: Hamlin returns to Victory Lane at one of his favorite tracks.

BY THE NUMBERS

5 Career wins at Martinsville for Denny Hamlin.

19 Races left in the regular season.

236 Laps led by Chase Elliott at Martinsville last November.

2003 Last time the Cup Series had eight different winners to start the year.

10,089 Career laps led by Martin Truex Jr.

DAYTONA MOTOR MOUTHS

Zach Dean and Ken Willis cover NASCAR and other forms of motorsports for the Daytona Beach News-Journal. Reach them at zach.dean@news-jrnl.com and ken.willis@news-jrnl.com.



THROUGH THE GEARS



After the annual Easter off-week, the NASCAR Cup Series resumes its marathon season this weekend under the Martinsville lights — the second of three straight short track races on the schedule. STEVE HELBER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASCAR restarts engines in Martinsville showdown

Zach Dean
Daytona Beach News-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Gentleman, restart those engines!

After the annual Easter off-week, the NASCAR Cup Series resumes its marathon season this weekend under the Martinsville lights — the second of three straight short-track races on the schedule.

Before heading into our first *scheduled* primetime race of 2021 (is the Daytona 500 still going?), let’s catch everyone up with the regular season a little over a quarter of the way through.

First gear

Last time we spoke, Joey Logano became the first Cup Series driver to win a race on the dirt since King Richard Petty back in 1970.

Logano joins a diverse group of winners so far this season, including Michael McDowell, Christopher Bell, William Byron, Kyle Larson, Martin Truex Jr. and Ryan Blaney.

The Hendrick and Penske stables have been the most consistent on a weekly basis, but the Joe Gibbs Racing Toyotas appear to be gaining ground.

Guys like McDowell, Daniel Suarez and Chris Buescher have all shown far more speed than anyone expected through the first two months, while usual suspects like Kevin Harvick, Kyle Busch, Denny Hamlin and Chase Elliott have all been inconsistent.

Second gear

So that’s seven different winners to start the season, the most since 2014. Anyone wanna guess the last time we had eight?

Yes, 2003. Correct!

Actually, we had *nine* different winners to start the 2003 season, which was obviously not run under this current format. And yes, of course we’re going to tell you who those winners were!

Michael Waltrip (Daytona 500), Dale Jarrett, Matt Kenseth, Bobby Labonte, Ricky Craven, Kurt Busch, Ryan Newman, Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Jeff Gordon.

Kurt Busch became the first repeat winner in race No. 10 at Fontana, while Mild Matt Kenseth won the championship despite winning just one race.

Third gear

So, who thinks we can surpass that 2003 total?

To do so, we’d need another new face in Victory Lane this weekend at Martinsville and then again next week at Richmond. After that, the series heads to Talladega, where, of course, nothing weird ever happens.

So, is it possible? Shoot, I’d say it’s closer to probable!

When guys like Elliott, Harvick, Hamlin, Kyle Busch and Brad Keselowski haven’t won yet, don’t be surprised if the madness extends well past March.

Fourth gear

While most drivers had the entire week off, Larson and Chris Buescher spent last Thursday testing a ... rain tire ... at Martinsville.

Yep, you read that right.

NASCAR last week said it wanted to do a “feasibility test” for wet-weather tires in a short-track setting. So, during a chilly Martinsville morning on Thursday, Buescher’s Roush Fenway Racing No. 17 and Larson’s No. 5 Hendrick Chevy tried out a number of different tire setups on damp pavement.

NASCAR’s Senior Vice President of Racing Innovation John Probst said it was a “promising” morning.

“Today could have ended it, but it certainly didn’t do that,” he added. “I feel like everyone involved felt like it was a very positive test, but it’s still fresh and certainly a very, very good first step.”

Hey, if it gets us out of further rain delays, count this guy in.

Q&A

A Carl Edwards sighting?

Yes, “Cousin Carl” made an appearance on Fox Sports 1’s Race Hub late last week and said his post-NASCAR life includes a lot of traveling and some farming at his Missouri home. Edwards shocked the NASCAR world just over four years ago when he announced his immediate retirement from racing, at age 37. Now, he suggests he might — might — be interested in a one-time return on a road course. The timing is quite interesting, if you ask me.



Edwards

Ahhh, ulterior motives?

Carl Edwards’ name has been mentioned in Missouri political circles, and we’re not talking about his hometown Columbia city council. Upon his 2017 retirement, some speculated he might be a good U.S. Senate candidate for the 2018 election cycle. It didn’t happen and Edwards remained way out of the spotlight, but now his name has resurfaced regarding the 2022 election for a Senate seat that’s coming open. Name recognition and visibility gives any candidate a big head start, and while Edwards was looking to escape that in 2017, it would surely serve him well if there’s anything to the Senate speculation. Has anyone ever back-flipped after a stump speech?

— Ken Willis

CUP STANDINGS

1. Denny Hamlin	327
2. Joey Logano	269
3. Martin Truex Jr.	247
4. Kyle Larson	242
5. Brad Keselowski	232
6. William Byron	228
7. Ryan Blaney	226
8. Kevin Harvick	225
9. Chase Elliott	211
10. Christopher Bell	186
11. Austin Dillon	186
12. Michael McDowell	183
13. Kyle Busch	183
14. Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	180
15. Kurt Busch	173
16. Alex Bowman	172
17. Chris Buescher	168
18. Ryan Preece	154
19. Ryan Newman	149
20. Daniel Suarez	144

WHAT’S ON TAP?

APRIL 9 (FRIDAY): Xfinity Series at Martinsville (8 p.m., Fox Sports 1)

APRIL 10 (SATURDAY): Cup Series at Martinsville (7:30, FS1)

KEN WILLIS’ TOP 10 DRIVER RANKINGS

DENNY HAMLIN No changes here after an off-week	KYLE LARSON Martinsville avg. finish: 22.4 — yuck!	JOEY LOGANO Thinks Martinsville is named for Mark	MARTIN TRUEX JR. Won 2 of last 3 at Martinsville	WILLIAM BYRON Unsure about the Martinsville hot dog	RYAN BLANEY Four straight Martinsville top-5s	KEVIN HARVICK Must be getting itchy by now, right?	BRAD KESELOWSKI Consistently strong on the paperclip	CHASE ELLIOTT Needed that off-week to regroup	KYLE BUSCH Can’t put 2 good weeks together

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Best Milkshake: _____	Best Hunting Supplies: _____	Best Salad Bar: _____
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Best Sheriff Deputy: _____	Best Hushpuppies: _____	Best Jewelry Repair: _____
Best Principal: _____	Best Iced Tea: _____	Best Child Care Center: _____
Best Teacher: _____	Best Coffee: _____	Best Place for Wings: _____
Best Grocery Store: _____	Best Meat Department: _____	Best Place to Buy Office Supplies: _____
Best Place To Buy Appliances: _____	Best Place to Buy Shoes: _____	Best Desserts: _____
Best Place To To Buy Furniture: _____	Best Place to Buy Women's Clothes: _____	Best Chiropractor: _____
Best Place To Buy A Cell Phone: _____	Best Place to Buy Men's Clothes: _____	Best Dry Cleaner: _____
Best Place To Buy Gas: _____	Best Place to Buy Children's Clothes: _____	Best Computer Repair: _____
Best Place To Go on a Date: _____	Best Place to Buy Antiques: _____	Best Place to Buy Flooring: _____
Best Place to Celebrate a Child's B-Day: _____	Best Roofer: _____	Best Place to Buy A Mattress: _____
Best Veterinarian: _____	Best Pharmacy: _____	Best Pest Control Service: _____
Best Mechanic: _____	Best Real Estate Agency _____	Best Photographer: _____
Best DJ: _____	Best Hairstylist: _____	Best Surgeon: _____
Best Place to Get Your Oil Changed: _____	Best Florist: _____	Best Plumber: _____
Best Place to Buy a Gift: _____	Best Landscaper: _____	Best Place to Buy Vacuum Cleaner: _____
Best Jewelry Store: _____	Best Tanning Salon: _____	Best Fire Department: _____
Best Eye Doctor: _____	Best Elected Official: _____	Best Rescue Squad: _____
Best Dentist: _____	Best Convenience Store: _____	Best Pet Groomer: _____
Best Attorney: _____	Best Mexican Food: _____	Best Insurance Agent: _____
Best Manicure/Pedicure: _____	Best Chinese Food: _____	You Write In Your Favorite Category/Winner _____

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The Sampson Weekly



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