

SEE PAGE 3 FOR FULL DETAILS



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SAMPSON COUNTY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

The Sampson Weekly

FREE



VOLUME 8, ISSUE 30

www.thesampsonweekly.com

Week of July 21-27, 2017

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Municipal Election Filing Deadline July 21st at Noon



Donald Comer files to run for office of Salemburg Commissioner. Also pictured is his wife and daughter

(Filing data as of Thursday press time)

Candidates for the 2017 Municipal Elections are making their intent known to run for local political office. The filing period for the Municipal Elections started last Friday July 7th at noon and will end on July 21st at noon.

There are four Mayor seats up for grabs this election cycle: Mayor of Clinton **FILING, see P. 4**

Clinton Native Daniel Ruggles Seeks District 1 Seat



Daniel Ruggles, along with family and friends, as he files for the Clinton City District 1 Council seat

Daniel Ruggles has been a familiar name in politics for a while now.

The 29-year-old (he will turn 30 on August 14) has been the chairman of the Sampson County Young Republicans; was named the first vice-chairman of the North Carolina Young Republican Party; and served as chairman of the Sampson County Republican Party (his term ended in March)- that is in addition to building solid political and business relationships over the **RUGGLES, see P. 4**

Bryant Files for District 5 Council Seat



City Councilman Darue Bryant files for re-election

*Shows pride in family and community

Posing for pictures, it is obvious that Clinton City Councilman Darue Bryant is proud of his family and his children. On Friday, Mr. Bryant filed for re-election to City Council District 5, accompanied by his beautiful family, wife Darlene and his five children: Indyah, Asjah, Nyjah, Judah and Micah.

According to Bryant, the couple have been married for 21 years. "Darlene is also a former social worker and currently a 5th grade teacher within the Clinton City school system," Bryant said proudly speaking of his wife.

Mr. Bryant is the son of Elder Larry Bryant and Demaitresse (Dee) Bryant.

"I was born in the Bronx, NY; however, I was raised in Clinton, NC. It was here, in Clinton, that I first embraced the call to public service and committed myself to the ministry of the Gospel. My ministry first began in the local nursing homes, hospitals and prisons. In 2002, I was privileged to have the opportunity to pastor a congregation in Kinston, North Carolina for twelve years. The Kinston Church was very active within the community providing. We enacted food programs through the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina.

We also networked with ICOR, an organization that helped with utility bills for the disenfranchised, partnered with fellow organizations to provide clothing, formed an alliance with Sessoms Medical Associates to provide free health screening and services, as well as unifying with local shelters and halfway houses in order to rehabilitate those who were addicts, ex-inmates and jobless to accclimate them back into society."

Councilman Bryant attended Sampson Community College and then graduated from the University of Mount Olive in 2007, with a B.S. in Theology and in the same year received an honorary degree, Doctorate of Divinity from the International Institute of Church Management.

Bryant has only been on the job since Tuesday April 4, 2017, when the council ap- **BRYANT, see P. 6**

WEATHER

Fri	Partly Cloudy 10%
Sat	Partly Cloudy 20%
Sun	Partly Cloudy 20%
Mon	PM T-Storms 50%
Tues	Scattered T-Storms 60%
Wed	Scattered T-Storms 60%

WEEKLY VERSE

Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God.

3 John 1:11


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LOCAL NEWS

From the Desk of Senator Brent Jackson



I hope you are having a great week. The past couple of weeks have been very hot, so I want to remind everyone to stay hydrated while you are working or participating in various activities throughout the summer! The interim has started off productively and I am looking forward to things picking up speed in the next couple of weeks and interim committees beginning.

2017 North Carolina Farm Act

I am pleased to report that Governor Cooper signed the North Carolina Farm Act of 2017, Senate Bill 615, last Thursday, July 13th, and now the bill is law. I applaud Governor Cooper for his decision to sign the Farm Act, and believe that this is a bill that will have a positive impact on farmers and allow our state's top industry to grow. Again, I want to thank all of my colleagues for helping me with this legislation, and Senators Sanderson and Brock for sponsoring the bill with me.

Kannapolis Visit

Last Wednesday, July 12th, I had the opportunity to visit the North Carolina Research Campus in Kannapolis. We met there to discuss plans for the new Food Processing Innovation Center and Pilot Plant Initiative Project. This is a joint partnership between NC State University, the Department of Agriculture, and the General Assembly with the goal of making North Carolina a leader in transforming lives and communities through the development and application of food technology.

I hope you are having a great week. The past couple of weeks have been very hot, so I want to remind everyone to stay hydrated while you are working or participating in various activities throughout the summer! The interim has started off productively and I am looking forward to things picking up speed in the next couple of weeks and interim committees beginning.

Legislation Recap

Over the course of the interim, we will be including a Legislative Recap Section in the Newsletter. This section will review meaningful legislation that became law in the 2017 session.

House Bill 7, LRC/Strengthen Savings Reserve

For this newsletter, I would like to go over House Bill 7, LRC/ Strengthen Savings Reserve, which reformed our state's rainy day fund. Before this bill, North Carolina was one of only five states that did not have rules on when, or for what purpose their rainy day funds could be used. HB 7 sets out in statute that the General Assembly shall deposit 15% of revenue growth into the Savings Reserve Account each year. The money can be used by a majority vote for disasters, budget gaps, reductions in revenue, or legal settlements. Any other use of the funds would require a 2/3 vote.

The General Assembly will continue to put 15% of revenue growth into the Saving Reserve annually until it is determined that the funding level is sufficient to cover 9 out of 10 short-falls for 2 years of need. This will make sure that we have the funds necessary to continue to provide key state government services, even during a recession.

This year, we contributed \$363 million to the rainy day fund, which brought our Savings Reserve Account to its highest ever level of funding at over \$1.83 billion. As a result of HB 7, we will automatically contribute a minimum of \$72 million to the Savings Reserve Account next year based on current revenue forecasts. HB 7 will ensure that we always recognize the importance of saving and set a minimum saving threshold.

District Headlines

Second FUMC Abundance Summer Food Program

For the second year, the Faison United Methodist Church is having its Abundance Summer Food program that is aimed at ensuring that children in the area have food for the summer. The program arose from the church wanting to help students who lose ten meals a week, breakfast and lunch, Monday through Friday, over the summer break. When schools are on summer break, the church provides meals for 70 children ages 18 months to 17 years old, for 12 weeks. Each of these children will be identified by the school system, and will receive 17 meals in large plastic totes. These meals are prepared Thursday evenings, with the meals being picked up by families on Fridays and Saturdays, and some meals being delivered. If you are interested in making a donation or volunteering, please call Pastor Jabe Largen of the FUMC at 910-260-2450.

Clinton Community Joins Nation Night Out

For the first time, the Clinton and neighboring communities will join the National Night Out program to battle against crime. The program promotes building relationships between police and local neighbors, with the hopes of creating safer community environments. The event is hosted by the Clinton Police Department and is scheduled for Tuesday, August 1st, from 6pm to 8pm at the James L. Newkirk Memorial Park. The event is free for all attendees, and children and residents of all ages are encouraged to come visit law enforcement, emergency personnel, and other community organizations to learn about their services, equipment, and vehicles. Also, there will be food, a bounce house, K-9 demonstrations, photo opportunities, and much more for entertainment. The community joins millions across the nation, U.S. Territories, Canadian cities, and military bases throughout the world who par-

ticipate in the National Night Out program.

District Spotlight

Recent Clinton High School graduate Sarah Day was awarded the 2017 Lois Weaver Arts Scholarship on behalf of the Sampson Arts Council and Sampson Community Theatre. The \$500 scholarship is awarded to an outstanding student who has made contributions to their community through their involvement in arts, and also plans to major or minor in a field of art. Day has been on stage since the age of five with her local theatre. She has participated in over 30 productions at the Sampson Community Theatre, and also has many significant academic achievements and awards to compliment her club participation and community involvement. Through her commitment to her community and drive and determination in the theatre, Day was selected to receive the local Lois Weaver Arts Scholarship. Day plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in the fall, where she will major in Theatre Arts. Please, join me in congratulating Sarah Day on her great accomplishment of receiving the 2017 Lois Weaver Scholarship, and wishing her the best of luck in her future.

In Closing

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.

Becton Files for Clinton District 3 Seat



**Served District for over 20 years*

On Wednesday at noon, Councilman Rev. Marcus Becton filed for re-election for his District 3 seat. Becton, who has served the City of Clinton for 5 terms, said that he was proud to represent the people of his district and even prouder of the confidence they have placed in him.

Alongside Becton on Wednesday, was his wife Wendy, who works at Tarheel Challenge in Salemburg.

Becton was appointed to the District 3 seat in 1996. He ran in 1997 and was elected. He has run unopposed for the seat since then and has never looked back, now serving District 3 for over 20 years.

Rev. Becton is a 1986 graduate of Union High School. He went on to attend Sampson Community College. He is employed at Worley Funeral Home in Clinton and the senior Pastor, along with his wife, Wendy Becton of Way of the Cross Church in Turkey, NC.

Becton noted that he was proud of the improvements that have been made in his district over the last 20 years, which range from sidewalks to the many improvements in Newkirk Park.

The councilman hopes to focus on drugs, crime and housing in his next term, if re-elected.

He stated that he hoped to be able to address the drug problem in Clinton and continuing to make the city a good place to live. Becton noted, "I would also love to see more affordable housing."

Councilman Becton shows pride in his district when you talk to him and with the voters' blessings, he hopes to continue to make a difference for the people he represents.



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Garland Native Makes a Run For Commissioner

"I'm not a political person at all," says 22-year-old Austin Brown, who officially filed to run for a seat on the Garland Board of Commissioners last week. "I was raised here in Garland and my family has always lived here, so I have a passion for this town and for the people who live here."

Brown, a 2013 graduate of Union High School, says his run for commissioner began a couple of months back.

"Well, it was really during the last election when I thought about running," he admitted. "But I watched - how the races were run; the campaigning ... It gave me an idea of what it would take. Over the past couple of months, I have been really seriously thinking about making a difference in this town."

Brown's run comes at a good time.

Garland Board of Commissioner members S.J. Smith, Carolyn Melvin, Haywood Johnson and Mayor Winifred Murphy will see their terms come to an end this November.

"I just thought the timing is right for me," Brown, who is currently working full-time at Big

Blue in Clinton, admits. "There are a lot of things that I see that we need to bring back to Garland - Parks and Recreation, keep businesses and bring new businesses here. It is all about the people having a voice. I want to be that voice for our citizens. I want to be able for us to work as a group and work together."

Brown continues, "I am very proud of what our current board has done here. But the challenges are still there. We need to keep moving forward and what they have started to keep moving Garland forward and making it a great treasure for the people and visitors here."

When Brown says he knows Garland, he really knows Garland.

From December 2014 - April 2016, he worked on the town's Public Works Department.

"I did just about everything," he says. "I worked with water, sewer, the wells, I did maintenance and checked foundations ... There was a lot of things that I see that needed more attention."

Those 'things' include: the water/sewer infrastructure and improvements; paving dirt roads that still exist in the town; putting budgets in place that limits strain on Garland taxpayers; and most importantly, give people a reason to stay in Garland.

"It is important for me because I want to raise my family here," Brown said. "I want to continue to do what is right for our town. I love it here and I want people to really get involved and all of us work together to give people what they want and, in doing that, give them a reason to stay here."

Brown also worked as a volunteer for the Garland Fire Department.

"I resigned when I decided to run for commissioner," Brown said. "I wanted to make sure everything was in place before I even started my run."

That run has already started, Brown has already been out in the town shaking hands.

"A lot of people know me already and know what I am all about," he admits. "I have been going door-to-door and just talking with folks, letting them know that there is somebody who is here to do what is best for the town."

Just talking with Brown for a few minutes, his passion for Garland is evident.

"This is my first time running for anything," he says with a laugh. "It is a little scary, but it is exciting too. The support and feedback that I have been getting have been really phenomenal. I wasn't expecting so much of it and it feels great, it is encouraging. I have always been the kind of person who wants to do what is right and that is my biggest reason for filing."

Brown is also fully aware that most 22-year-olds do not typically run for office, but he hopes to change those perceptions.

"My age will not be an issue," he promises. "In fact, the feedback that I have been getting, has been we need younger people in office. So far, I am the only one that has filed and I hope that people will look at it like me being a voice for the younger generation. You have to stand up for what you believe in and I believe in Garland and I want to continue moving the town forward as a voice for its citizens."

Brown will find out today if he is running unopposed.

If he's not? "Well, I will just go out and hit it hot and heavy and let people know what my vision for Garland is. Because the town and the people of this town are important to me."

Editor's Note: On Wednesday Garland resident Richard S. Smith filed to run for one of the three Garland commissioner seats that are on the ballot in November.



Austin Brown

The Sampson Weekly

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LOCAL NEWS

FILING, cont. from 1



**Garland Mayor
Winifred Murphy**

ton (currently held by Mayor Lew Starling), Mayor of Autryville (currently held by Rev. Larry Autry), Mayor of Newton Grove (currently held by Gerald Darden), and Mayor of Garland (currently held by Winifred Murphy). Three candidates have stepped forward as of press time to file for re-election, Mayor Lew Starling of Clinton, Mayor Gerald Darden of Newton Grove, Mayor Winifred Murphy of Garland. Mayor Larry Autry of Autryville filed on Thursday afternoon.

A newcomer to the Mayoral scene, Garland Commissioner Haywood Johnson threw his hat into the election arena on Wednesday, filing for the office of Garland Mayor. Commissioner Haywood Johnson has served the Town of Garland as Commissioner for 4 terms. Late on Thursday afternoon, former Garland mayor and commissioner Ralph Smith also filed for the position of mayor, making the Garland mayor election a three-person race.

Clinton Mayor Lew Starling officially threw his name back into the arena last Thursday morning, Newton Grove Mayor Gerald Darden last Tuesday, and Garland Mayor Winifred Murphy on Monday afternoon. Each Mayoral term on the ballot is for a two year term except for Newton Grove which is a four year term.

This year's election could potentially have huge shake ups for local governing boards with numerous commissioner and council seats up for grabs.

Autryville will have 2 commissioner seats on the ballot (currently held by Micky Spell and Ricky Spell). The available commissioner seats are for a 4 year term. As of press time, Micky Spell had filed for re-election to his seat as commissioner. Mayor Larry Autry filed for re-election on Thursday afternoon as well.

RUGGLES, cont. from 1

past decade.

Ruggles, a native of Clinton, recently filed to run to represent District 1 on Clinton's City Council.

"It is all pretty exciting," said Ruggles Wednesday morning. "I am excited and really looking forward to running a solid race ... I have literally lived in District 1 my entire life. I grew up on Stewart Street and I still live there with my family (wife, Lillian; and children, Mary T, 2, and Silas, 6 months). I just love it here."

Although Ruggles has been involved with politics for the past decade, he has been eyeing the city council seat for a while now.

"Well, it has really been about timing for me," he admits. "With Mr. (Steve) Stefanovich (current District 1 Councilman) not seeking re-election, it piqued my interest. The timing was right for me and my family, so I just decided to throw my hat into the ring early. This way, if people have any questions, they can come up and ask me." Ruggles, who, as of press time, Thursday, is currently running unopposed, said that there were three reasons why he decided to run.

"No. 1, I have lived in this district all my life. I was raised here, I am raising my family here. I want the best for the city and the people here; I am invested. No. 2. I have political experience and I have forged many relationships with congressmen and senators at the state level and I feel like those kinds of relationships are important when you are working in government. And No. 3. It is difficult to be in a position and not know business. You have to look at it like a business because it is crucial to be responsible with tax dollars. There are many things that you have to be able to do and that is working for the people."

Currently, Ruggles works with Safe Data, Inc. Specifically, he works with Triad Farms/Salmon Family, where he assists with feed mill-production data on two sow farms. He also is efficient in many other areas of agriculture.

"I wear a lot of hats," Ruggles admits. "And wearing a lot of hats has helped me to see things that can be beneficial to the city."

Ruggles has a business degree from Sampson Community College; and holds licenses in Animal Waste Operations, as well as a N.C. Real Estate License.

When asked what he plans on working on first if he becomes a member of the city council, Ruggles is honest.

"I want to continue on the expansion and the positive improvements that have already been made in Clinton," he said. "I don't want to come in and change a whole ton of things, because I like where the City is headed."

Ruggles mentions the recent improvements and renovations to the downtown area and the parks as highlights.

"I think it is great and I just want to come in and continue to build on that momentum," he admits. "It is all about the people here in this community. Politics is about relationships - who you know and how you can work together to improve and build your community."

He continues, "I have worked and held different positions (over the years) that have given me an opportunity to forge these personal relationships that can be beneficial to this city."

Ruggles said he is excited to see if he will run unopposed today.

"I have been planning a neighborhood cookout," he says. "But I want to wait to see if I'm going to be unopposed or not."

And if he does have a challenger?

"Well, I guess I will have to go out and get some more yard signs and order some more T-shirts."



Garland Commissioner and Mayor Pro tem Haywood Johnson filed to run for office of Garland Mayor on Wednesday. Also pictured is his wife Iris.

The City of Clinton has 3 council member seats on the ballot: District 1 (currently held by Councilman Steve Stefanovich), District 3 (currently held by Rev. Marcus Becton) and District 5 (currently held by recently appointed Councilman DaRue Bryant). As of press time, all three council seats have a candidate that has filed. Former Sampson County Republican Party Chairman Daniel Ruggles has filed for the District 1 seat that is currently held by Steve Stefanovich. Councilman Steve Stefanovich stated that he would not be filing for re-election this year. Reverend Marcus Becton and Bishop Darue Bryant both have filed to be on the ballot to once again receive the opportunity from the voters to serve. Becton filed on Wednesday and Bryant filed last Friday. The three council seats available are for four-year terms.

The Town of Garland not only has the Mayor seat on the ballot but three commissioner seats as well (four year term). The three seats up for grabs on the ballot are currently held by Commissioners SJ Smith, Carolyn Melvin and Haywood Johnson. Neither of these commissioners has filed for re-election as of press time on Thursday. Two Garland residents have filed for the title of commissioner, Austin Brown and newcomer Richard H Smith. As of press time there was one Garland commissioner seat that had no candidate.

The Town of Harrells has two Board of Alderman positions on the ballot, each for four-year terms. The two seats are currently held by Kimberly P Johnson and Charles (Teddy) S Moore and both have filed for re-election.

Along with the Mayor's seat, there are three commissioner seats on the ballot in November for the Town of Newton Grove. The three seats (which are also 4-year terms) are currently held by Commissioners Gary Mac Herring, Steve Jackson, and Teresa Wilson. Teresa Wilson has filed for re-election and newcomer Jessica Barefoot has filed for the coveted position, leaving one commissioner seat without a candidate.

Roseboro has two commissioner seats (four-year term) up for grabs: One seat currently held by Anthony Bennett and the second seat held by Cyndi Templin who was chosen by the board to replace Alice Butler when she was voted in as the new mayor. Both candidates have filed for re-election.

The Town of Salemburg has three commissioner seats on the ballot (four-year terms), currently held by Richard "Dickie" Walters Jr, Commissioner Arnold Page and Commissioner Tommy Jackson. Four candidates will be battling it out for these three seats. Richard "Dickie" Walters Jr, Thomas "Tommy" Jackson, Arnold Page and Donald Comer have all filed to have their names placed on the ballot in November.

The Town of Turkey has two 4-year commissioner terms on the ballot as well. The two seats are currently held by Commissioners Rudy M Blackburn (has filed for re-election) and Commissioner Tony Moore. There is one seat now without a candidate (as of press time).

There is still time left to file for office, with the deadline being July 21st at noon. Board of Elections Director Ashley Tew stated that they expect to see an influx of candidates as the deadline draws closer.

If interested in serving your community, you can file at the Sampson County Board of Elections office which is located at 120 County Complex Rd., Bldg F, Suite 110 Clinton, NC 28328 (off of Rowan Road) or contact Director Ashley Tew at (910)592-5796 for more information. The cost to file is \$5.00.



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We Should Know . . .



Anna Ellis with JW Simmons, Host of We Should Know

Tuesdays from 2:30 PM until 3:30 PM, J.W. Simmons hosts a radio show on 1170 AM called “We Should Know”, and The Sampson Weekly will feature portions of the transcripts in our continuing efforts to bring you more coverage of what is happening in our community.

The topic for this week’s show is the Sampson County Animal Shelter, and the guest this week is Anna Ellis, Director of the Sampson County Animal Shelter.

Anna Ellis is a 33-year-old single mother of one daughter. She has a four-year business management degree from Mount Olive University. Ellis was born and raised in Clinton with one older brother. Her parents are Mike and Donna Ellis.

JW Simmons begins the show by asking Anna Ellis to discuss how she came to work and manage the animal shelter for Sampson County. Ellis states, “Originally, I got hired at the animal shelter through a temporary agency doing secretarial work. But I’ve always loved animals, even at a young age, and once I got my foot in the door at the shelter I started really enjoying helping the animals and educating citizens on how they should care for animals.”

Ellis says that as director she oversees the efforts of an animal shelter manager and one county employee, as well as 3 temporary employees that work at the shelter.

Ellis explains that she has worked with a number of rescue organizations in an effort to keep animals from being placed at the animal shelter. The Sampson County Animal Shelter houses both dogs and cats. In addition, the animal shelter is not part of the Sampson County Animal Control agency with the Sampson County Sheriff’s Office

Next, Simmons asks Ellis to discuss the relationship between the animal shelter and the Health Department. Ellis begins, “There is a tie-in. Wanda Robinson (Director of the Health Department) handles the dangerous dog ordinance and any rabies ordinance. To be certified to give rabies vaccine she has to sign off on that.”

“But as far as the dangerous dog ordinance, Jessica Cantrell with the animal control unit will take the description and the incident that’s caused them to make it a dangerous dog, and they have to go before a board. And if it is deemed dangerous, if it attacked someone, or killed another dog, that’s when it typically becomes a dangerous dog. And there are limitations for the owner if they do get it back.”

Ellis says that an owner of a dangerous dog would have to provide a pin with a concrete floor, the dog must be muzzled at times and the dog cannot leave the owner’s property.

Ellis goes on to explain that the animal shelter doesn’t deal with dangerous dogs at someone’s property, those issues are handled by the Health Department and Animal Control.

Simmons asks Ellis to discuss the causes that might lead to a dog becoming aggressive and biting; and why anyone would want to own such a dog. Ellis states, “Typically, what we’ve seen is the animal just not being socialized.”

“If you’ve got an animal that is tied up for long periods of time, or has no other people interaction, when someone new comes into their yard or in their presence, typically, if they don’t know them they may lash out. But,” adds Ellis, “not every bite dog is going to be considered a dangerous dog. It depends on the circumstances.”

Ellis goes on to answer the second part of Simmons question stating that she didn’t know why someone would want to own a dog that would be considered a dangerous dog. “Some people attribute dangerous dogs to the breed: Boxers, Pit Bulls, Rottweilers. From my side of the work,” says Ellis, “it’s not the breed. It’s not breed specific.”

“Any dog can be dangerous,” says Ellis. “And that’s one thing that we have tried to let people know at the shelter. Some people come in and say I want to adopt a dog, and if we mention a pit or boxer, they say no. But it’s not breed specific, so that’s something to remember.”

Next, Simmons asks Ellis if she was aware of anywhere were staging dog fights would be legal. Ellis answers, “No. Not that I’m aware of. I would hope that it would not be legal, but you hear through the grapevine that there may be places of dog fighting rings, but to my knowledge we have not found one in Sampson County.”

Simmons says that anyone wanting to report a stray animal would call animal control, but that the animal shelter does take drop offs if a citizen has an animal that needs to be brought in. Ellis explains that the shelter does take drop offs, Monday through Thursday from 1pm to 5pm. The person dropping off a stray animal must have a valid driver’s license or state issued ID, according to state law.

Ellis adds that once the animal is brought in to the shelter, that animal remains at the shelter where it is cleaned, feed and vaccinated. The shelter staff care for the animal while getting it healthy and then look to have the animal adopted or accepted at a rescue facility.

Next, Simmons asks Ellis to discuss the adoption process for animals housed by the shelter. Ellis explains, “Our viewing hours for our animals are Monday through Friday, 1pm to 5pm. People can come in and visit, and we encourage people with other animals to bring them with them on the visit so the animals can have a meet and great with the one you may be looking to adopt. That helps us see the relationship between them and how the first meet is.”

Ellis says that to adopt a male the cost is \$80 and for females the cost is \$105. That includes all shots and having the animal spayed or neutered. Ellis goes on to add that all animals being adopted at the shelter are required to be spayed or neutered prior to adoption.

The Sampson County Animal Shelter is located at 168 Agriculture Place, Clinton, NC and the phone number is (910)-592-8493.

If you see any injured or stranded animal in need of assistance, or if you have any other questions or concerns about animal protection during an emergency situation, contact Sampson County Animal Control. The Sampson County Sheriff Department’s Animal Control Unit responds to complaints regarding animal-related situations in order of priority depending upon public safety concerns and animal cruelty issues.

For non-emergency situations, please contact Communications at (910) 592-1151, from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. The telecommunicator will enter the information into the CAD system, and an Animal Control Officer will return the call as soon as possible. After-hours emergency response is limited to dog bites, potential rabies exposure situations, injured or sick animals where no owner is present, or when law enforcement assistance is warranted. After-hours animal emergency calls can be made to (910) 592-1151 or 911 (if law enforcement services are warranted).

To view the entire broadcast of We Should Know please visit their YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/WeShouldKnowEDU.

The next “We Should Know” hosted by J.W. Simmons will air next Tuesday from 2:30 to 3:30 PM on our local radio station WCLN 1170 AM. If you would like to reach “We Should Know” you may call them at 910-592-8947 or email them with show ideas at weshouldknowedu@gmail.com or you can find them on Facebook.

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LOCAL NEWS

A Dream Becomes A Reality

*Garland Opens Public Park

There was giggling in the air and nothing but smiles on the faces of the children who played in the Garland Park on Saturday. Saturday marked the official opening of the Curtis D Cain Memorial Park in Garland after two years of hard work, all done with love for the children.

Garland Commissioner Judy Smith, who is over Parks and Recreation stated, "I feel that the Curtis D Cain Memorial Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony went very well! The attendance was very good in spite of the extremely hot weather. Mayor Murphy worked very hard planning the event, including the "bounce house" and "ice cream truck," which provided a free ice cream cone to the children who attended."

The Curtis D Cain family was in attendance and EL Rackley spoke on behalf of the family. He noted that the family was honored to have the park finally open and that Mr. Cain (who is now deceased) would have been elated to have been bestowed such an honor. Mr. Cain's only daughter, Connie, was on the verge of tears during the ceremony. It was obvious that the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony meant a great deal to her and her family, who donated the land that the park is located on. Curtis Cain was a lifelong resident of Garland and owned and operated several businesses within the town.

Commissioner Smith commented, "I am very glad to have the park "officially" opened to the public ... although it was being used regularly already by area families; it was very hard to keep such a good thing "off-limits," but we wanted to make sure it was as safe as possible for our citizens. I look forward to making it more "family friendly" with additional seating in the shade trees that border the property, and with the addition of a picnic area, including a water fountain, behind the Post Office among the beautiful old oak trees that are well established there."

Even though the town held the park's official Ribbon Cutting Celebration on Saturday, there are big plans in the works for the park.

"The next step in development of the park is to obtain estimates for a permanent maker that will officially name the park in honor of Curtis D. Cain," noted Commissioner Judy Smith. "Additionally, monies have been secured to begin construction of the asphalt basketball court



Curtis D Cain Memorial Park in Garland Ribbon Cutting. Large crowd of children and adults joined in on the fun.

to run horizontally across the back end of the park, across the street from the Medical Center. Personally, I look forward to an asphalt walking track at this location. My wish is that enough community support would come forth, by those who can, to move forward with our plans."

The Garland Board of Commissioners and Mayor Winifred Murphy hope that the park will be a place of joy and laughter for not only children but all citizens of all ages.

All private and business contributions are received through the Town of Garland, earmarked "Friends of the Park," and will be restricted to ongoing park projects only. Furthermore, one may name a specific area in which to apply their contribution. A letter of receipt will be given for all donations for tax credit purposes.

BRYANT, cont. from 1

pointed him to fill the vacated seat of Ms. Maxine Harris, who had passed away.

In such a short time, Bryant has hit the ground running. Bryant noted, "One of my first priorities was to hold my annual district meeting which was held on April 27th at the Sampson Recreation Center. This was a priority because it was expedient for me to have known the concerns of my constituents and not be an opportunist readily eager to use this political platform to exploit a personal agenda. Throughout the meeting, the concern for public safety seemed to have resonated the loudest. It is no secret that criminal activity is problematic within my district."

"This is not simply a District 5 issue, but a community issue...a city issue...a Clinton issue. It's one that cannot be ignored but must be dealt with fairly, strategically and aggressively. I have spoken with families who dwell in government housing who are afraid for their children to play outside due to the violence of drug driven addicts, recklessness of so-called gangsters trying to make a reputation for themselves and the threatening of bullets that are being shot too frequently."

"This will not be a swift resolve," added Bryant, "however, with the assistance of local residents who are willing to identify these perpetrators, our local ministries becoming more community conscious and a renewed eagerness for justice from our law enforcement we'll see a vast improvement. I'm glad to see the recent collective efforts of our police and sheriff's departments for applying the necessary pressures to clean the streets of our community."

"Although I'm familiar with public service," stated Bryant, "the office of Councilman was very new to me, so quite naturally there were challenges. However, I've been faced with challenges before and found my resolution through studying and prayer. I am a firm believer that if I put God first and foremost, that he will make me equal for the task, by providing the wisdom and knowledge necessary to complete any opposition. Also, I have been very fortunate to be encompassed by a great team: the mayor, fellow council members, the department heads and city staff."

In the five months since being appointed to fill the District 5 seat, Bryant says that he has learned many things, that it has definitely been a learning process. "I've learned that nothing happens overnight and there is a required diligence and integrity that comes with this office. I refuse to be the politician that continues to make empty promises, selling false hope and propagating immediate change just to get a vote."

"I understand that there are processes and protocol; furthermore, when a budget is being considered the council must also weigh in the priority of the project. This is not an excuse for someone to sit on their hands and be that "do nothing candidate" but rather learn the operations of local government and how to motivate community, because community involvement plays a huge role."

Along with the negative, there is always positive and Bryant is quick to point out the greatness within District 5 and the growth that is happening. "I'm really excited, because we are experiencing a shift in District 5. In addition to the more notable businesses from Grid Iron Gym to Clinton Drugs or Burney's Bakery, new economic opportunities are developing on McKoy street. Thanks to Clifford Faison, now there is a new laundromat that recently opened and a convenience store opening soon."

"Furthermore, this same developer has been approved to build affordable homes on Bunting Street, providing a means for low income families to transition from renters to become homeowners. Also, the Fayetteville Area Habitat for Humanity has also expressed an interest in Clinton and District 5. They recently purchased land on the corner of Williams and Johnson Street where four homes will be constructed and sold at cost, according to Habitat these houses often have 20 to 25-year interest-free mortgages."

"I have a great deal of pride for my city and passion for the community, but most importantly, I want the people's voice heard. As I stated once before, I understand moral obligation and social responsibility; therefore, I believe in taking a stand against social injustice and promoting community involvement. It is imperative that we invest in our community by being responsive to the needs of our neighbors in spite of their district, opening more doors for jobs and economic development, providing safe recreation and educational opportunities for our youth, assisting and formulating programs for our elderly and adorning ourselves with a Christ-like character and by taking this holistic approach we will begin to experience a better quality of life and embrace the American dream."

As of Thursday at press time, Councilman Bryant will be on the November ballot running unopposed, with no one else filing for the District 5 seat.

Editor's Note: Councilman Bryant wanted to make sure to invite the whole community to a Back to School event which will be held on August 18th at Sampson Park 6pm - 9pm.

Sampson County VITAL STATS

Marriage Certificates

- Travis Wayne Wallace to Felicia Paige Reese
- Kenneth Earl Chambers to Carol Ann Hobbs McLamb
- D'Shawn Quantrell Oates to Kristen Nicole Colville

Births

- Erykah Lashae Renee' Hobbs born on July 4, 2017 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Cassandra Elizabeth Harding
- Elisa Avila-Zarate born on July 5, 2017 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Ignacio Avila Orozco and Elizabeth Zarate Rodriguez
- Sherlyn Flores Navarro born on July 5, 2017 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Joel David Flores Garcia and Ma Concepcion Navarro Martinez
- Jazlynn Alexandria Williams born on July 5, 2017 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Joshua Alexander Williams and Bobbie Jo Leigh Taylor
- Logan Gage Kittrell born on July 6, 2017 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Jesse Adam Kittrell and Brittney Christina Pope
- Abraham Isaish Hernandez born on July 7, 2017 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Abraham Hernandez Jr and Zipporah Martinez

Deaths

- Gail Paulette Blackburn
- Ariah Brielle Best
- Gene Douglas Freeman
- Verna Louise Gardner
- Teodora Leiva
- Sherill Melvin
- Raymond David Millet
- Helen Ruth Royal
- Wanda Gail Smith
- Billy Kenneth Tyndall
- Rebecca Ann Williams

Land Transfers

- Larry Devon Horne II, Vanessa Hope Horne to Brandon Lee Walker, Rene Candice Walker- Lot 9 Warrick Plantation Section one
- Owen Dudley Jones Tr, The Elizabeth S Dubose Trust, Charles H Dubose Jr, Helen W Dubose, Beverly Dubose Monsky, Deborah Dubose, Leslie Dubose, Elizabeth S Dubose to MacRae Farms LLC- Franklin and South River Township 122.48 Acres
- Deborah Ann Averitt to Robert M Citro and Susan C Citro- Plainview Lot 21 Barefoot Acres
- Alan Gregory Herring to Carla Williams Herring- 7.67 Acres Newton Grove
- William Donald Parker Tr, William D Parker, Sylvester Robinson Tr, Smith Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church/AKA, Smith Chapel AME Zion Church/AKA to William Donald Parker Tr, Sylvester Robinson TR, Thomas E Parker Tr, Millard Philmore Boykin Tr, Albert Johnson Tr, Amos Parker Tr, Smith Chapel Church Garland Inc- 1.0 Acre McDaniels
- Brittany L Matthis, George Matthis, Sandra L Matthis to Brittany Matthis, George Matthis- Lot 1 1.09 Acres
- The Quest Development Company of Dunn Inc, Howell L Edwards Jr to James Norman McNamara, Kaitlin Marie McNamara- Lot 8 Bridgepoint Subdivision 1.47 Acres
- Bessy Paola Rodriguez Zelaya to Cathy McGee Honrine- 2 Tracts Honeycuts
- Richard Graham Elmore II to Jorge Alberto Rivera Rivera and Sandra J Rodriguez Martinez- 3 Tracts North Clinton
- Ronald E Brown to Larie E Culbreth- Little Coharie Lot 2
- Larry N Tart, Connie Tart to Faye Tart Johnson and Durwood Johnson- 10 Acres Westbrook
- The Bank of New York Mellon/By AIF, The Bank of New York as Trustee By AIF, Nationstar Home Equity Loan Trust 2007-A By AIF, Nationstar Mortgage LLC By AIF to Adriese Williams- 0.57 Acres
- Joey Allen Blackburn, Joseph Allen Blackburn AKA to Matthew Blackburn- Lisbon 6.32 Acres Lot 1
- Matthew Blackburn to Joseph Allen Blackburn- Lot Lisbon
- Maggie W Williams to Jaime Alexis Bonilla- Lots 13 & 14 Hollingsworth Heights South Clinton
- Thomas H Jones Jr/Admin, Thomas Henry Jones Sr Estate to Thomas H Jones Jr- Little Coharie Lot 3
- Frances Gardner to Roland G Hall- 0.95 Acres Little Coharie
- Raymond Edwin Bray to Terra Cottage Farms LLC- 74 Acres
- Carlton B Barefoot, Edith T Barefoot to Carlton Dewain Sinclair and Karen B Sinclair- Halls 4.82 Acres and Halls Three Tracts
- Wells Fargo Bank NA/By AFI, Orange Coast Title Company AIF to The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development- 1.05 Acres
- Tonya T Rodgers, Kenneth Rodgers to Amari Johnson- 2 Tracts Franklin
- Ralph Harvey Hamilton, RH Hamilton to Chasie Shane Jacobs- 2 Tracts South Clinton
- Franklin Kyle Parrish, Autri Kay Ivey Parrish, Autri Kay Ivey/WATA to Kenneth W Hogue Jr- 1.68 Acres Plainview
- William M Goodman to Avon Jones- Lot 4 Serenity Lake Belvoir
- Bobby Wayne Jackson to Bobby Wayne Jackson, Judy P Jackson- 0.68 Acres Little Coharie
- Henry Jason Griffin, Kimberly R Griffin to Henry Jason Griffin, Kimberly R Griffin- Lot 3 1.70 Acres Plainview
- Linda Knowles Harris, Joey Mitchell Hairr to Henry E Ward, Ellen R Ward- 2.88 Acres Newton Grove
- Essie F Howard to Akisha Michele Howard and Essie F Howard- Belvoir 1.0 Acre
- Avon Jones to Avon Jones- Lots 4 and Lot 3 Serenity Lake Belvoir
- Joe Mark Rose, Luanne J Rose to Stephen Paul Rose- 1.53 Acres Lot B Newton Grove
- Stephen Paul Rose, Tammy Sutton Blackman to Joe Mark Rose- 7 Tracts w/exceptions Newton Grove
- Joe Mark Rose Tr, Luanne Jones Rose Tr, Joe Dan Rose Tr, Vivian G Rose Tr, Rose Swine Revocable Trust, Joe Dan Rose, Vivan G Rose to Rose Swine Farms LLC-8 Tracts w/exceptions Newton Grove
- Sampson Regional Medical Center to DOT- Lot Sampson
- Tommy Borders to Sharon L Borders- Lots 4, 5, 6, 7 The Oaks Section 1 Plainview
- Germaine Devane, Bahati Devane, Pearlie R Devane to Warren Devane- Lot 2 Franklin
- Carrington Mortgage Services LLC to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development- Lot 37 1.0 Acre Pine Lake Estates Section Six
- Beverly Joan Sferruzzo, Martha Ann Carrara, Shirley Stearns Smith, David L Sferruzzo, Joseph E Carrara III, Andre Smith to Deborah Gregory Tart, Dwight David Tart- Newton Grove 0.6 Acres
- Wanda Pope Edwards, James Martin Edwards Jr, Shannon Martie Edwards, Kristy Alesha Jackson, Tommy Calvin Jackson to James Martin Edwards Jr, Shannon Martie Edwards- Little Coharie
- Billy C Lockamy to Billie Jean Lockamy and Ronnie Bass- 1.05 Acres Halls
- Tina T Torres to Douglas Wayne Tart and Alma Marle Tart- 1.01 Acres Plainview

5 Tips for Active Summer Families

Summer is perfect for staying active and spending time outdoors with loved ones, but the frantic pace of the season and overload of activities can take a toll on the entire family.

With a little care and pampering, you can enjoy summer to the fullest while still keeping your family rejuvenated.

Eat Well. Food is fuel, and it's necessary to keep the entire family energized. During warmer weather, cravings often lean toward lighter foods, making it the perfect time to add extra servings of seasonal fruits or vegetables to the family table each night. Also remember to ensure family members are drinking plenty of water as extended time in the sun can lead to dehydration and dry skin if fluids aren't frequently replenished.

Make Sleep A Priority. Sleep is as important to your body as nutrition and exercise, and making it a priority can be beneficial, especially when your family's calendar is packed with events. Sufficient, high-quality sleep contributes to a healthy immune system and helps repair damage done throughout the day. It also positively impacts metabolism and overall function while contributing to emotional and mental well-being. Most doctors recommend 6-8 hours per night for adults, and kids of all ages typically require even more, so work on getting into a nightly routine to ensure all members of the family are getting the rest they need.

Pamper Yourself at Home. Once you've completed chores in the heat or spent time enjoying family activities in the sun, some simple pampering can be done at home to rejuvenate skin. Start with your hands, which are at the center of everything you do and often the first point of contact with an activity, whether it's cooking, gardening, crafting or aiding friends and family. The unique formula of Softsoap Hand Wash Plus Lotion liquid hand soap is made with a touch of lotion to lock in moisture for clean, soft hands. Available in Shea & Cocoa Butter, Aloe Water & Lime and Orchid & Coconut Milk fragrances, this innovative formula can make your hands irresistibly smooth, so your touch is always a soft touch.

Take Time to Exercise. Even a little activity can have a huge impact. The American Heart Association recommends at least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity activity at least five days a week. Taking time out of your family's busy summer schedule to go for a walk, ride bikes around the park or neighborhood, or play a game outside together can contribute to maintaining a healthy weight and feeling more energized.

Slow Down. It's easy to spread yourself too thin, especially in the summer when there are often more activities requiring your attention and attendance. When you get caught up in trying to make the most out of every second of



every day, it can take a toll on both your family's physical and emotional well-being. Slow down and take that well-deserved personal time – even just an hour a day – to do something you enjoy with the ones you love. Remember to take small breaks during activities to stretch or take a short walk to help relieve potential stress on your body.

Find more tips to make your family's summer a happy, healthy and stress-free one at softsoap.com.

Winkin', Blinkin' and Nod



by R. Thomas Barowsky, MD



It is not unusual for people to complain of fine twitching of the eyelid at times. This twitch or tic in the eyelid may occur in the lids of one or both eyes. They may last for a few minutes or hours. We are not sure why the twitches appear but they may be related to stress, fatigue, caffeine, nicotine or even dry eyes. By using artificial tears, reducing stress, cutting down on caffeine and nicotine and getting more sleep (wouldn't all that be nice) the twitching will, in most cases, get better or disappear.

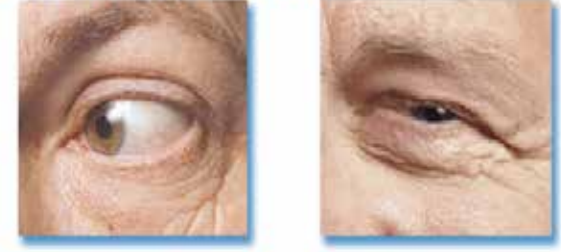
If you develop more severe twitching that causes the eyes to close or as the twitching becomes more severe you develop other facial muscle twitches, this could be the beginning of a condition called benign essential blepharospasm (BEB). BEB is forceful, uncontrollable closing of the eyelids. Often it affects both eyes, but it may affect just one eye. As

this condition gets worse, the blinking and winking occurs more often and the patient may nod their head in an effort to improve vision through the spasms.

The exact cause of BEB is not known. Most experts believe there is a problem in a part of the brain called the basal ganglion. This problem may be hereditary. In addition, certain medicines such as those used to treat Parkinson's Disease may cause the problem or make it worse. Other factors such as stress, fatigue and dry eyes may play a role. Bright lights may also make spasms worse and the wearing of dark glasses may reduce some of the spasm. In addition, the dark glasses will make the winking less noticeable to others and possibly avoid an embarrassing social situation with large jealous boyfriends.

Treatment of blepharospasm has changed dramatically over the years. Early on the treatment of choice was a special cushioned wire attached to the eyeglasses that would force the eyelid to stay open. Called a ptosis crutch this treatment was poorly effective and caused more problems than it corrected. Several surgical procedures were tried with varying amounts of success. The use of oral medication may help relieve the spasms but what worked for one patient might not work for another. Also, the benefits of the medicine often did not last long. Researchers continue to evaluate a number of medicines that may help relieve the spasm. Discontinuing

Symptoms of blepharospasm



medications that are known to cause spasm also has been of benefit.

Today the use of Botox in BEB has dramatically improved the lifestyle and reduced the disability caused by this condition in many patients. The injections are given into the effected muscle and must be repeated every three to six months to maintain control of the spasm. In the most severe cases a combination of oral medications, Botox and surgery may be required to bring an adequate level of relief for these patients.

Fortunately, blepharospasm is a rare condition affecting only a very small segment of the population. By using artificial tears, reducing your nicotine, caffeine, stress and fatigue factors your twitch should get better. This will help you feel better and enjoy life more.

If you have questions about your eye health e-mail Dr. Barowsky at doctom@tdkj.com and we'll try to answer your questions here at Eye-Q.

Natural Sleep Solutions to Dream About

It's no secret: Americans are desperate for sleep. In fact, the U.S. sleep aid market is expected to grow to \$44 billion by 2020, according to data from Persistence Market Research. However, achieving better sleep may be as easy as changing what you eat.

A survey commissioned by the Cherry Marketing Institute and conducted online by Harris Poll in January 2017 among more than 2,000 adults suggests that Americans may be open to alternate sleep solutions. An overwhelming 83 percent of Americans would prefer to improve their sleep through diet rather than using over-the-counter sleep aids.

One promising solution that doesn't require a trip down the pharmaceutical aisle: Montmorency tart cherry juice, which has been scientifically studied for its ability to help improve sleep quality and duration. Montmorency tart cherries are one of the few food sources of melatonin, a sleep-regulating hormone.

"Melatonin plays a big role in the sleep equation," said Dr. Michael Breus, a nationally renowned sleep expert. "Without it, our bodies aren't triggered to regulate the sleep cycle and therefore, we can't get the rest we need. One simple, delicious and natural way to incorporate melatonin into your sleep routine is with Montmorency tart cherry juice. Research has shown adding two glasses of Montmorency tart cherry juice to your daily routine can improve your sleep quality and duration."

A growing body of research suggests Montmorency tart cherry juice may help with sleep-related concerns, such as:

- Improving sleep efficiency
- Reducing the severity of insomnia and sleep disturbances
- Increasing sleep time

Tart cherries are available year-round in dried, frozen and juice forms at retailers across the country and online. For additional information, including more recipes like this soothing bedtime tea, visit choosecherries.com.

Tart Cherry Turmeric Bedtime Tea
 Recipe courtesy of Kristina LaRue of LoveandZest.com
 Prep time: 2 minutes
 Cook time: 7 minutes
 Yield: 2 cups

- 1 cup Montmorency tart cherry juice
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 teaspoon ground turmeric
- 1/8 teaspoon freshly grated ginger
- 2 bags chamomile tea
- 1/4 cup frozen Montmorency tart cherries

In small pot or tea kettle, bring tart cherry juice and water to boil. Stir in turmeric and ginger, and pour over tea bags and frozen Montmorency tart cherries. Steep 5 minutes. Remove tea bags and drink warm, at room temperature or chilled.



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FAITH

“Mama, I’ve Just Seen God!”

Baptist Women, Rolos, Bicycles, and little Michael....
“What in the world,” you might ask, “does that combination have to do with seeing God?” I’m so glad you asked!

You see, the Gleaners Sunday School Class I am privileged to lead at Immanuel Baptist Church in Clinton, is engaged in a very exciting ministry to the North Carolina Baptist *Children’s Home in Pembroke. We really look forward to going there for ministry on special occasions. Odom Home provides a very loving facility for older children and teens, maintaining a wonderful place for them to call home. Kathy and all of the staff are so dedicated, devoting their lives to the welfare of those precious youth. We always eagerly look forward to making that last turn on the campus to their recreational facility, and watching them descend on us to help unload the treats and surprises we always bring, along with a Wal-Mart gift card for each one so very graciously donated by a lady in our community. They always are very excited to receive this gift card and a chance to go shopping at Wal-Mart. This particular time I was especially intrigued by a fine looking older teen, whom I will call John, he was so helpful and courteous, all the while sporting his orange Mohawk haircut. Somehow I sensed something special about John.

As we prepared for our visit, several of us made what we came to simply call “Rolos”. Actually it is a piece of Rolo candy placed on a mini-pretzel, warmed in the oven just enough to enable us to press down a toasted pecan half. The end result, our version of “Rolos”, is one delightful surprise, a real treat to the taste buds. As I said, the youth were so excited to discover their many gifts, we visited, shared, had a devotional period and then we invited them to help themselves from a bountiful table laden with our homemade goodies. I watched John as he was gathering his portion, he ever-so-carefully eyed those “Rolos”, looking at them from all perspectives and finally, at my encouragement, popped one in his mouth. Well, that did it! He jumped up and down, did a little happy dance, and said, “WOW, I wasn’t prepared for that particular combination when I bit down on it, that is some kinda good candy!” From that moment on “Rolos” became standard fare for our BCH visits.

We learned that John was a very fine young man, about to graduate from high school, looking forward to furthering his education, and ultimately his goal was to become a North Carolina Highway Patrolman. However, he had one pressing need – a Laptop Computer, a necessity for his curriculum at the Community College. Our ladies made his need a matter of prayer, and after diligent inquiry, we were not at all surprised when God provided the computer John needed through a generous gift from one of our ladies. John was absolutely thrilled when we presented it to him, he was so very appreciative. We noticed a change already taking place in his life, the orange Mohawk haircut was now a neat, crew - cut suitable for any candidate for the Patrol.

Now about the bicycles: I became aware that Clinton has

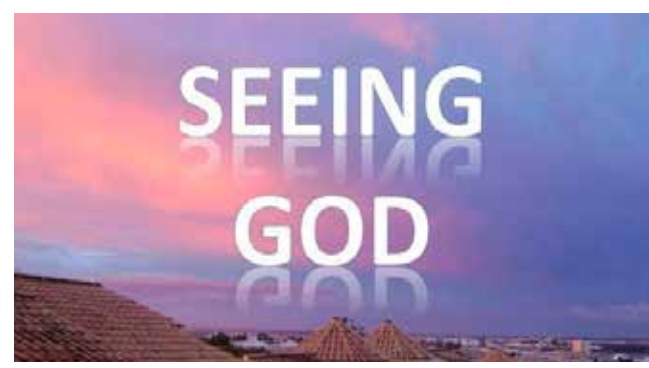
our own “Bicycle Man”, much like his counterpart in Fayetteville. Charles Pearson has quite a ministry with repairing bicycles and then passing them on as he feels led, very quietly going about doing good for others. Within just a few days I was talking with Kathy at BCH, and I asked her if they had any particular need that we might help with on our next visit. Before I could mention the possibility of bicycles for the youth, Kathy tearfully gave me my answer.

“Miss Martha,” she replied, “Some of the girls and I were out walking around campus just this week, and they showed me a storage room with thirteen bicycles in it, but not one of them was usable, every one has a problem and cannot be ridden. I hate it so badly, because they would really enjoy riding them during this cool fall weather. I led the girls to make this need a matter of prayer, and assured them that God would provide.”

Well, that was certainly God’s signal to the Gleaners Sunday School Class, clearly bicycles were our next order of business. Charles graciously worked with us and, we chose fifteen bicycles of all different sizes, Fletcher Holland loaded them on his trailer, ready for our Saturday visit. Once again, our Baptist women headed off to Pembroke on the bus, and oh yes, we didn’t fail to take a plenty of “Rolos”.

Kathy was in on our plan, we wanted to surprise the youth with bicycles, they had no idea at all that we were about to bring them delightful surprises. Fletcher parked his truck and trailer just off campus, the bus once again pulled up at the recreation building and we were met, as always, with excitement and hugs and a great deal of anticipation. We had a treasure trove of supplies, surprises, our usual homemade goodies, and of course Rolos. In due time Fletcher slipped out to bring the trailer on campus, and we got their attention with the announcement that we had a newly refurbished bicycle for each and every one of them. Well, words are completely inadequate here to describe the bedlam that ensued!! One young girl was so very excited that she made a run for the door, completely ran out of her shoes, they were left in the middle of the gym floor. We were unprepared for the affect the announcement of receiving personal bicycles would have on them. They could not jump up on the trailer, so they would grab ahold of their chosen prize and keep their hands on it until it could be unloaded.

* Enter little Michael: He and his mother were on the campus when we arrived, and she so graciously introduced themselves to me. I noticed then that little Michael was very polite and courteous, but seemed a bit withdrawn. He stayed close to his mother, but when the exciting announcement was made for them to go outside for their bicycles, I could not help but observe that he was among the very first outside, promptly claiming one of the bicycles as his very own. There was a lot of commotion and excitement and we all enjoyed watching the youth ride their “new” bicycles. After some time I went back in the rec center and little Michael’s mother came up to me with tears in her eyes. I won’t go into detail here, but she told me the sad story of how she and her son ended up on the BCH Campus living



in one of the Family Care Apartments. They had sought refuge in that Christian environment with very few earthly belonging to their name. Thankfully there was such a wonderful Christian environment where they could live for a time.

She continued very tearfully to share with me how for the past two weeks Michael had become very depressed and was questioning her as to how they could have ended up like this, “Doesn’t this God I have always heard about care about us?” he would ask through his tears and anguish. To further compound things for his mother, little Michael had been begging for a bicycle, any bicycle that would be his very own and he could ride it around campus. He finally told his Mother that he just could not see God anymore, and if there was a God that cared about them, he just could not see Him.

As she continued to share with me, her countenance and tears turned to joy and she said, “Miss Martha, just a little while ago when little Michael got on that bicycle that was his very own, he excitedly rode around and around the campus. I watched him ride and after about fifteen minutes he skidded in the rocks up to me and loudly proclaimed, “Mama, I’ve just seen God!” Needless to say, we had a time of praising God and rejoicing, and giving Him all glory and honor. I prayed with her, and as we prepared to leave, I seemed to feel the nudging of the Holy Spirit, and in a very real way spoke to me, “Martha, give that sixty six dollars you have in your pants pocket to little Michael’s mother.”

I had tucked away the sixty six dollars to discretely pay for the gas for our trip, but thankfully I was obedient. I walked back to her, quietly picked up her hands and pressed the folded bills into them. At that point, she completely broke down saying, “Oh, thank you, thank you, I cannot tell you what this means to me, especially that someone cares. I don’t know how much you just gave me but God does, and I’ve been praying all week. You see, if I don’t have sixty dollars by Monday morning we are going to lose all of the few earthly goods we have, the storage unit will be closed because I cannot pay the rent.”

Oh yes, Baptist Women, Rolos, Bicycles and little Michael, that combination does come together, and as a result we can prayerfully and thankfully proclaim: “We’ve just seen God!”



Martha M. Pierce

Childhood Fears



“Be strong and courageous do not be afraid or terrified, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.” (Deuteronomy 31:6)

Everyone experiences fears in life from time to time. Most often, as adults, we are able to put things into perspective, allowing ourselves to continue moving forward in whatever situation we may find ourselves. Our ability to think logically, to form a plan and to call upon the necessary resources gives us the upper hand on most things that cause us fear or stress.

If you have ever had a conversation about fear with a child, it does not take long to realize that their limited life experiences often fuel the imagined dangers that may come to them. It is not uncommon for children to fear the dark, spiders and snakes, wild or

large animals, encountering strangers, or being lost in a crowd. As parents we often seek to comfort our children by reminding them that we are there to protect them. When the power is out due to a storm, we are prepared with flashlights and candles. We can do away with a tiny spider or lift them to the safety of our arms when approached by strange animals or people. It seems when Daddy is there, everything just feels less frightening.

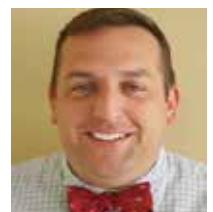
It is also important to prepare children for those times when a parent may not be right there to physically or emotionally ease the fears they are facing. While they may call on Daddy when they are awoken in the night afraid of the perceived dangers of a nightmare, there are times when we will not be available to assist; such as when the school yard bully approaches or they find themselves faced with peer pressure. No matter what

we are afraid of, the bible says in 1 Peter 5:7, “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” Many will love you when you seem to have no problems, but God will always love you regardless of the amount of complications in your life. He wants you to toss to Him daily your problems, pain and panic.

The truth is adults often face frightening realities for which there are few ways to prepare in advance. Threats of disease and terror are part of our daily existence. Difficulties at work, with our families or with our finances can add to our struggles in ways that can seem overwhelming at times. How easy it would be to want to hide ourselves away, being afraid to live and enjoy life as we should; concerned that we will not make sound decisions. As Christians, we need to call on our Heavenly Father to comfort us through our troubled times; those times when our fears, real or perceived, seem to take us by surprise. We can be assured by the word of God that He is always beside us. Psalm 56:3-4 says, “When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise – in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”

This week, let us be challenged to call on our Abba Father when we find ourselves faced with fear. Prayerfully seek His guidance in knowing how to better equip our children for the fears they will face as well. Let us arm ourselves with God’s blessed promises; knowing that He will never abandon His children. “For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, “Do not fear, I will help you.” (Isaiah 41:13)

Rev. Ken Smith
Pastor, Atkinson Baptist Church
You can view Ken’s weekly devotional videos at <https://www.youtube.com/user/lbcministry>



What's Happening

at **SCT**

By Angela Martin



A Triple Cast of Seussical is Set to Delight Audiences

With 115 people showing up for our auditions, I have decided to triple cast our next production, Seussical. The casts are filled with lots of young people and older adults. The three unique casts will be fun and exciting to see and we hope that you can come to see one (or all) of the three distinct productions.

There are two characters that you will see throughout the three weeks of shows in both casts. Coleman Simpson, the son of Telfair and Rosemary Simpson will be The Cat in the Hat through our entire run. Coleman is a graduate of Lakewood High School and is a student at North Carolina State University where he is majoring in Agricultural Education. He has been in several productions at SCT including, Oklahoma and Hairspray and also portrayed Shrek in Shrek in Sampson County's All County Musical. Coleman also is reprising his role of the Cat, which he also performed in the All County Musical in 2014. Another cast member who will be starring in the show's entirety is Simon Ussery. Simon is starring as JoJo in our production. Simon is the son of Scott and Vanessa Ussery. He is a 10-year-old, homeschooled student who resides in Bladen County. He is a member and featured soloist of the Heart of Christmas Show in Fayetteville and has recently appeared in SCT's Les Miserables as Gavroche and also portrayed Simba in The Lion King, Jr. last summer.

Our production dates are August 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27 and September 1, 2 and 3 with Friday and Saturday performances beginning at 7:30 pm and Saturday and Sunday matinees beginning at 2:30 pm. This production is directed by Angela Martin and is proudly sponsored by Performance Dodge and Performance Ford of Clinton.

The Sampson Weekly

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Friday-Thursday
1:30p 3:45p 6:00p 8:15p



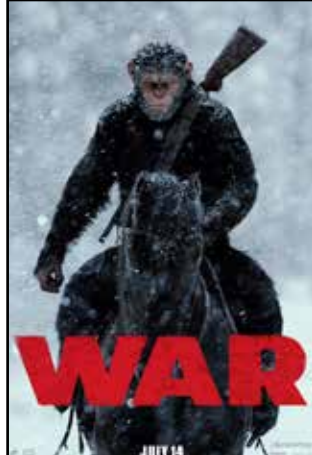
DESPICABLE ME 3

NOW SHOWING

Rated: PG for action and rude humor

The team who brought you Despicable Me and the biggest animated hits of 2013 and 2015, Despicable Me 2 and Minions, returns to continue the adventures of Gru, Lucy, their adorable daughters—Margo, Edith and Agnes—and the Minions. Trey Parker voices the role of villain Balthazar Bratt, a former child star who's grown up to become obsessed with the character he played in the '80s, and proves to be Gru's most formidable nemesis to date.

Friday-Thursday
1:30p 3:30p 5:30p 7:30p



WAR PLANET OF APES

NOW SHOWING

Rated: PG-13 for sequences of sci-fi violence and action, thematic elements, and some disturbing images

The third chapter of the critically acclaimed blockbuster franchise, Caesar and his apes are forced into a deadly conflict with an army of humans led by a ruthless Colonel. After the apes suffer unimaginable losses, Caesar wrestles with his darker instincts and begins his own mythic quest to avenge his kind. As the journey finally brings them face to face, Caesar and the Colonel are pitted against each other in an epic battle that will determine the fate of both their species and the future of the planet.

Friday-Thursday
12:15p 3:00p 5:45p 8:30p



GIRLS TRIP

NOW SHOWING

Rated: Rated R for crude and sexual content throughout, pervasive language, brief graphic nudity, and drug material

When four lifelong friends travel to New Orleans for the annual Essence Festival, sisterhoods are rekindled, wild sides are rediscovered, and there's enough dancing, drinking, brawling and romancing to make the Big Easy blush.

Friday-Thursday
12:15p 3:45p 6:00p 8:15p



SPIDER-MAN

NOW SHOWING

Rated: PG-13 for sci-fi action violence, some language and brief suggestive comments

Peter tries to fall back into his normal daily routine - distracted by thoughts of proving himself to be more than just your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man - but when the Vulture emerges as a new villain, everything that Peter holds most important will be threatened.

Friday-Thursday
12:15p 2:45p 5:15p 8:00p

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Simply Timeless MEALS

FAMILY FEATURES

Italian cuisine has influenced food culture around the world, and is often viewed as an art form that includes the freshest, most authentic ingredients, prepared with passion and served with love to family and friends. Mealtimes are a celebration, captured by the classic Italian proverb, "You never grow old at the table."

Americans have celebrated Italian food for decades. Classic Italian dishes have been joined by refreshing, modern twists on tradition that help keep the love affair alive and well with this simple, colorful, flavorful, healthy cuisine.

Born in Lucca, Italy, in 1867, Filippo Berio Olive Oil celebrates 150 years of culinary passion and artistry by combining traditional ingredients in contemporary, unexpected recipes that can help you savor the moment.

For more recipe creations, visit FilippoBerio.com/recipes.



Cast-Iron Skillet Pizza

Recipe courtesy of
Chef Mary Ann Esposito

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes

Makes: Two 9-to-10-inch pizzas

- 1 pound store-bought pizza dough, at room temperature
- 1 ripe tomato, thinly sliced
- 1/4 pound fresh mozzarella cheese, diced
- coarse sea salt
- 2 tablespoons Filippo Berio Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- 1/2 cup shredded fresh basil

Heat well-oiled cast-iron or nonstick 10- or 12-inch frying pan over medium heat 5 minutes.

Divide dough in half; roll one half into round 1 inch smaller than diameter of pan. Cook dough in hot pan until dough begins to rise and bottom starts to brown. Using metal spatula, turn carefully. Layer half the tomato slices over dough; scatter half the mozzarella over top. Lower heat to medium-low; cook until mozzarella melts.

Using metal spatula, transfer pizza to cutting board. Sprinkle with salt; drizzle with half the olive oil. Cut into wedges; sprinkle half the basil over top. Repeat with remaining ingredients.

Chicken Cutlet Broccoli Rabe Sandwich

Recipe courtesy of
Chef Mary Ann Esposito

Prep time: 17 minutes
Cook time: 13 minutes

Servings: 4

- 4 tablespoons Filippo Berio Olive Oil, divided
- 1 small onion, diced
- 1 pound broccoli rabe, stems removed and leaves cut into 2-inch pieces
- 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1/2 teaspoon fine sea salt, divided
- freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 6 oil-cured black olives, pitted and diced (optional)
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 4 chicken cutlets (about 1 pound total)
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/2 cup bread crumbs, toasted
- 8 slices bread, toasted
- 4 slices provolone cheese (optional)

In 10-inch saute pan, heat 2 tablespoons olive oil over medium heat; saute onion 3 minutes, or until translucent. Stir in broccoli rabe and red pepper flakes; cover and cook over medium heat 2-3 minutes, or until broccoli rabe is wilted. Sprinkle with 1/4 teaspoon salt and pepper, to taste; stir in olives, if desired. Transfer mixture to bowl; cover and keep warm.

In small paper or plastic bag, combine flour and remaining salt. One at a time, add chicken cutlets; shake to coat each cutlet in flour then transfer to plate. Dip cutlets in egg then bread crumbs and return to plate. Set aside.

In skillet over medium-high heat, heat remaining olive oil. Working in batches, brown chicken, cooking 2-3 minutes, or until golden on each side and no longer pink inside.

To serve: Top each bread slice with one chicken cutlet; spread with broccoli rabe mixture. Top with slices of provolone, if desired. Top with remaining bread.



A Culinary Journey

As part of its 150th anniversary celebration this summer, a Filippo Berio Food Truck will make a culinary journey from coast to coast. Guests at the truck can sample delicious olive oils, and consumers nationwide are invited to enter a sweepstakes to win a week-long culinary experience at Toscana Saporita, a premier Italian cooking school in Tuscany, Italy.

For every sweepstakes entry, Filippo Berio will donate \$1 to the Careers Through Culinary Arts Program (C-CAP), an organization supported by Filippo Berio since its foundation in 1990 that helps prepare disadvantaged youth for jobs in the restaurant and hospitality industry.

For additional details, including tour cities and dates, and how to enter the sweepstakes, visit FollowingFilippo.com.



Caprese Zucchini Noodle Bowl

Prep time: 15 minutes
Total time: 25 minutes

Servings: 4

- 4 medium zucchini, spiralized (instructions at right)
- 1/4 cup Filippo Berio Delicato Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- 2 tablespoons white balsamic vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper

- 1 1/2 cups heirloom cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1/4 cup packed chopped fresh basil
- 1 ball (8 ounces) burrata cheese, torn

Toss together zucchini, oil, vinegar, salt and pepper; let stand 10 minutes, or until zucchini starts to soften.

Gently stir in tomatoes and basil. Divide salad among four bowls. Top with cheese.

How to Spiralize Zucchini

- Use zucchini at least 2 inches in diameter for best results. Trim ends of zucchini.
- Place spiralizer on smooth surface, such as a countertop, pushing down to adhere suction cups onto surface and secure machine for spiralizing.
- Place desired blade into spiralizer. Turn zucchini into long strands, trimming with clean kitchen shears as needed.

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Hobbton Hurler Brayden Herring Set for Sophomore Year



Fifteen-year-old hurler Brayden Herring is having a busy summer.

Last weekend (July 14), the 6-foot right-hander pitched in the 2017 WWBA All-Tournament Game in Cartersville, GA. "The week before last we were playing in a tournament in New Jersey," stated Herring.

"Well, this is my first summer playing travel ball with the East Coast Clippers [out of Cary]," he explained, "I am really enjoying it."

Herring explained that facing the elite prospects from around the country helps him gain more experience in the game.

"You just never know who you are going to play against, so you really have to be at your best," he said. "It is the top players ... that helps you as a player; it helps you get better."

The standout athlete was impressive from the hill when he pitched with the Wildcats in his freshman season. In addition to pitching, Herring also played outfield for Hobbton.

"I prefer pitching," Herring, whose fastball clocks in around 77 mph (his fastest was clocked at 83 mph), said. "I started out on junior varsity and I really wanted to be on the varsity

team. I worked hard and moved up by the end of the season."

According to MaxPreps, Herring threw eight innings for the varsity team, facing 42 batters. He gave up 14 hits, struck out 6 and finishes with a 2.52 ERA.

At bat for the varsity Wildcats, Herring made it to the plate 36 times, had 6 hits and 4 RBIs.

This week, Herring has been named the Performance Auto/Sampson Weekly Star Athlete of the Week.

"I didn't know anything about it," Herring said with surprise when told of the honor. "I didn't even know I was nominated. But I really appreciate it."

Although head coach Chris Carroll's team finished the season at 3-16 overall, it by no means defined the team's talent.

"We have a very young team," Herring said. "We lost a lot of seniors and were playing with mostly freshman last season. We are still going to have a young team again this upcoming year, made up of sophomores and freshman, but we will have the experience too. I think that we will hit and defend better this season."

Born and raised in Sampson County, Herring has spent his entire educational career in the Hobbton District.

"My brother (Gage) always played sports for as long as I can remember," Herring says. "So, I always remember being around sports when I was little."

Gage, who is now playing for UNC-W Baseball, was an early inspiration for Brayden. "Oh yeah, he would always work out with me, tossing the ball around and we would be really competitive with each other."

Herring played recreation baseball, basketball and football. In middle school, he played all three sports.

"When I was in middle school, I realized that I was better playing baseball, so when I got to high school, I really just wanted to focus on baseball."

It worked.

"To be honest, I grew up with a lot of the players on the team now," Herring admits, "and I think that really helps us as a team unit. We are all really close and have bonded. So, it helps us as a team."

Although Herring has another three years in high school the straight 'A' student [with a staggering 4.25 GPA], he is already planning his future.

"I want to go to college for sure and I would like to play baseball," he said. "I was thinking about somewhere close -

like N.C. State or UNC-W ..."

He wants to major in Marine Biology.

"The ultimate goal, of course, would be to play professionally," Herring admits. "That is the ultimate dream. But it is going to take a lot of work and a lot of focus to get better."

When asked if he thinks he will miss Hobbton High, Herring is honest.

"I haven't really thought about it to tell you the truth," he said. "But, you know, I think it will be pretty hard to say goodbye. I mean, it will be good and bad, because you will miss everyone, but it will be exciting to move on. I will be close to home, so, hopefully, it won't be too bad."

He continues, "There is a family atmosphere here at Hobbton. I have formed strong bonds and I know that I can count on these people, my teammates and coaches. It really does help to be surrounded by really good people who care. That is what I want to do. I want to be the type of person who helps other people and gives back."

Herring said he feels blessed to be surrounded by his teammates, coaches and teachers, but most importantly, the support he has received from his family (mother, Lori; father, Charlie and, older brother, Gage).

"My parents have always helped me to be the best that I can be," Herring said. "They always told me to do the best that I can. They have always been there for me, as well as my brother, and I just can't tell you how much that means to me."

On the field, Herring said his parents always told him to never let his opponents see his sweat.

"They told me that is I made a mistake it was OK," he explained. "But you can't let the other team see it. Just keep your head up and roll on. That has helped me in a lot of situations."

When asked what advice he would have for an upcoming freshman in the fall, Herring says, "I would tell them that high school baseball is a lot faster and more complicated than middle school ball. It is a big adjustment. But once you get yourself adjusted you are going to be OK. You just have to be prepared coming in. Summer ball helps."

Herring said that when he does get free time, he likes to go to the beach or the mountains and hang out with his friends.

In addition to his family, Herring said he would like to thank his teachers, coaches, friends and teammates for all of their support.

"I would also like to thank, Michael Marshall, Jonathan Morris, Mr. Verrier and Daniel Caldwell," he said.

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EDUCATION

Boy Scouts Earn Communication Badge



Boy Scout Troop 27 sits in on Sampson Community College's Board of Trustees meeting. Surrounded by SCC board members, the troop was working to earn their merit badge for communication.

SCC Trustees Take Oath of Office



Sampson County Assistant Clerk of Court, Ms. Tammy Cashwell, administers the Sampson Community College Oath of Office to newly-appointed and reappointed trustees, Ms. Larinda Haight, Mr. Michael Chestnutt and Dr. Ted Thomas, during the SCC Board of Trustees monthly meeting.

SCC Graduates New Crop of LPNs



Sampson Community College's Licensed Practical Nurses graduated with a pinning ceremony this week. Back Row Left to Right are: Tyqiésha McNeil, Keyrstan Ferguson, Kaitlyne Hobbs, Courtney Bryant, Carmen Cerda Middle Row Left to Right: Amanda James, Taylor Parker, Samantha Cukrowicz, Cynthia Stokes, Sherrie Edwards, Ivy Weber Front Row Left to Right: Sarah Tate, Lauren Edwards, Hannah Shipp, Juana Hernandez

Union Elementary School Second Fourth Weeks Grading Period

Grade 3

Superintendent's List

April Rapalo

Principal's List

Landyn Carter, Karisma Fryar, Jezer Hernandez Miranda, Hollis Horrell, Lizeth Lopez, Stephine Macedo-Serrano, Ariana Maldonado Bojorquez, Daniella Martinez-Perez, Cole McMillian, Luiza Montalban Meza, Anayah Newkirk, Jasmine Newkirk, Isaac Pryor, David Roblero, Adolfo Sanchez, Sonjayah Scott, Jasmine Serrano, Leslie Solorzano-Benitez, Josiah Spearman Ashline, Antonio Spearman, Tapanga Spell, Angel Tamayo-Fryar, Gabriel Underwood, Theodore Vaught, Andy Vazquez-Aragon

Honor Roll

Brock Arce, Juan Barbosa Velazquez, Nicholas Bellamy, Iaan Brice, Aliviah Carter, Caden Carter, Emanuel Casimiro Palacios, Derrick Chamakoon, Jr., Clemente Chavez, Noelia Cortes, Katherinw Cruz Cedillos, Leodanny Cruz, Yara Cruz-Morales, Angie Del Cid Guzman, Mireya Escamilla, Kayden Futrell, Abigail Garica, Dalila Gonzalez, Celeste Guerrero-Sandoval, Alaysha Harrison, Haily Hazelwood, Esther Hidalgo Cantarero, Jenny Hobbs, Bayola Jimenez, Raul Laguna-Medina, Erick Lara-Sanchez, Ricardo Leyva, Chamani Newton, Daniya Newton, Robert Pierson, Ketedel Pineda, Aiden Pitstick, Jayden Pope, David Ramirez, Audrey Rich, Ahleeyah Richardson, Armando Rivera-Trejo, Caleb Robinson, Aaron Romero-Zuniga, Nevin Ruiz Meza, Marlene Sanchez, Fernando Sanchez-Zabala, Aileen Serrano, James Smith, Dayancy Sorto Savedra, Carina Soto-Flores, Natalie Spell, Reid Strickland, Joseph Suarez, Savannah Suggs, Daniela Tiscareno-Barba, Stephanie Ventura, Gabriel Underwood, Bladen Whaley, Keyvon Woods, Andrea Zuniga-Moya

Tidy Back-to-School Transitioning



With shopping that needs to be done and supplies that need to be gathered for busy days ahead, preparing for the back-to-school season can descend into near chaos for many parents. When long school days leave little time for organization and decluttering, any home can quickly become a mess.

According to a survey conducted by ClosetMaid, 92 percent of parents describe their kids as messy. Among those same parents, 80 percent give their kids chores and about half of them end up doing the work themselves to ensure it's done properly. Two out of three of the parents surveyed said their children's messiness often leaves them in bad moods. Considering one of the hardest things about back-to-school season is creating an organized routine, the time to start is now.

When every room in the home can use some reorganization, decluttering in preparation for busy school days can be over-

whelming. A smart place to start is in the room you and your kids waste the most time looking for things. These other useful tips can help you take it from there:

- Tackle your child's closet and take inventory of what's in it. Before you buy anything new, go through and get rid of torn clothes and items that no longer fit. It can help you see what is needed and ultimately make it easier for them to get dressed in the morning.
- Get your command center in tip top shape. Set up a system for storing important paperwork and create a centralized family calendar to help coordinate everyone's schedules.
- Create a drop zone. Contain clutter before it spreads too far around the house with ClosetMaid's KidSpace, a line of juvenile storage furniture featuring a storage locker that is perfect for backpacks, coats, sports equipment and supplies. Since it's kid-sized, children can be responsible for making

sure their belongings are put neatly away.

- Create a comfy homework station. Designate a special space, perhaps under a lofted bed, that can keep kids organized, productive and focused on work while helping inspire creativity.
- Download productivity apps on your phone. Help make your life easier as you get into the swing of the school year with apps that assist in organization and time management to help reduce day-to-day family stresses associated with hectic school days.

One thing is certain every school year: having an organized home and systems in place can keep parents happier and the household running smoothly. Find more home organization ideas and tips at ClosetMaid.com.

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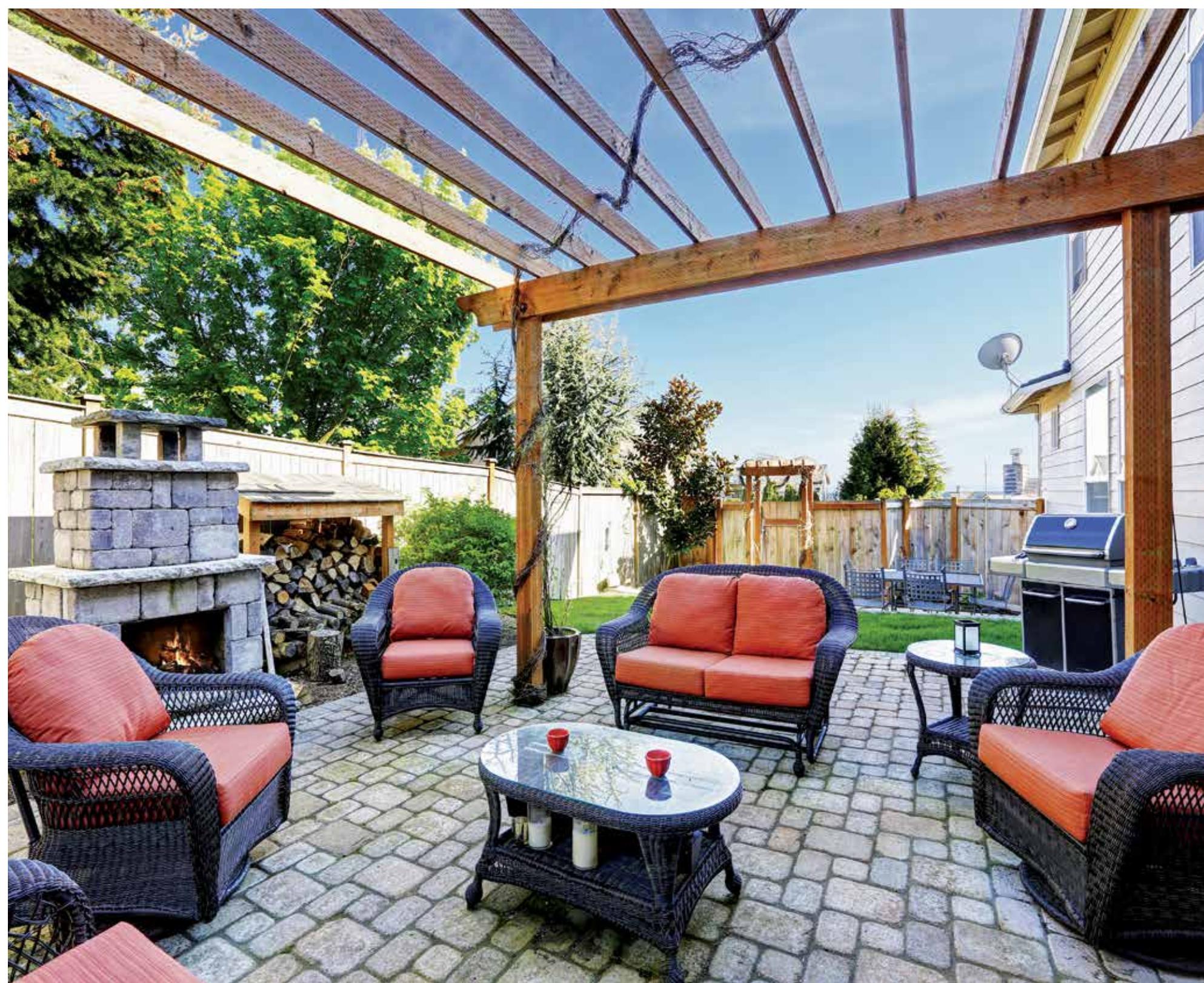


Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Add Life to **Outdoor Spaces**

FAMILY FEATURES

Once the structural elements and hardscape features of your outdoor living space are in place, it's time to turn attention to the details that really bring the area to life.

Vibrant textiles like cushions, pillows and rugs can all soften the look of a space while adding colorful charm, but another effective place where you can introduce plenty of character is the landscaping.

Often, homeowners treat the landscape and the architectural components of an outdoor living space as distinct design elements. Making the landscape seamlessly integrate into the area not only transforms the way the space looks, it enhances the outdoor ambiance.

Create Climate Control

One of the first considerations is the functional benefits landscaping can bring for needs such as shade. Quaking aspens and birch trees are beautiful and fast-growing options, or for a more traditional look, some maple trees grow quickly and certain varieties create a dazzling display of color. Another popular option is the Bradford pear, but this tree can be brittle and is prone to splitting so choose it with care. Flowering trees such as the tulip tree or dogwood are other fast-growing options. If a tree is impractical for your space or simply not your style, you might instead consider large flowering bushes, such as the lilac or Rose of Sharon.

Keep Prying Eyes Out

When it comes to privacy, there is also a multitude of options. Ornamental grasses come in a surprising array of colors and looks, and many grow high enough to shield a private lounge or eating area. Alternatively, you could consider a lush climbing vine paired with a trellis. Dwarf trees and shrubs also lend privacy when planted in close proximity. Another stylish option is to put oversized planters into play. Fill them with the vegetation of your choice for an instant eye block topped with live plants. For an outdoor kitchen, make these vessels do double-duty by making them the basis for your herb garden.

Set Boundaries

If your outdoor space doesn't have a clearly defined perimeter, you can easily introduce borders using a line of shrubbery or bushes. Low-growing options can help maintain an open feel while adding some definition to the area. Creating specific boundaries not only lends an aesthetic touch, it can help guide traffic patterns; for example, encouraging visitors to keep to a stone path.

Go Low Maintenance

If you're leery of adding too much work with plants that need frequent care and attention, there are several options that require little effort. Succulents are a great way to add texture, interest and color to a planter or table-top pot. For more color, opt for low-maintenance perennials that require little water. After your initial planting and fertilizing, you'll need to water during dry spells in the summer, but for the most part, they'll require little extra attention through the year until it's time to trim them back for winter.

Consult with experts at your local nursery or garden center for advice on the trees and plants that work best in your climate zone, and find more tips for creating your ideal outdoor living space at eLivingToday.com.



Enhance Your Outdoor Living Space

No matter the season or the region, outdoor living is more popular than ever, as homeowners look to “bring the indoors out” and create spaces that are true extensions of the home. The newest designs in outdoor living spaces do not simply feature the look of the indoors, but the functionality as well.

Regardless of the size of your deck – or budget – these simple tips from the experts at Trex can add interior function to your outdoor oasis:

Absolute Al Fresco

While grilling and al fresco dining are longtime hallmarks of backyard entertaining, outdoor kitchens are now finally living up to their name. From storing seat cushions to keeping drinks cold, today's outdoor kitchen accessories can make outdoor spaces look as put-together as the rest of the home. Among the newest advancements is the Trex Outdoor Kitchens collection, which features outdoor cabinetry and functional elements such as trash bins, ice chests and storage drawers that eliminate the need for back-and-forth trips inside the home.

Railing Redefined

Even railings have taken on a more functional role in today's backyards. One of the most popular trends is “cocktail railing,” which provides a flat surface for drinks and plates. By using a matching deck board to create a shelf for the top rail, you

can achieve a look that complements your home's deck while making great use of space.

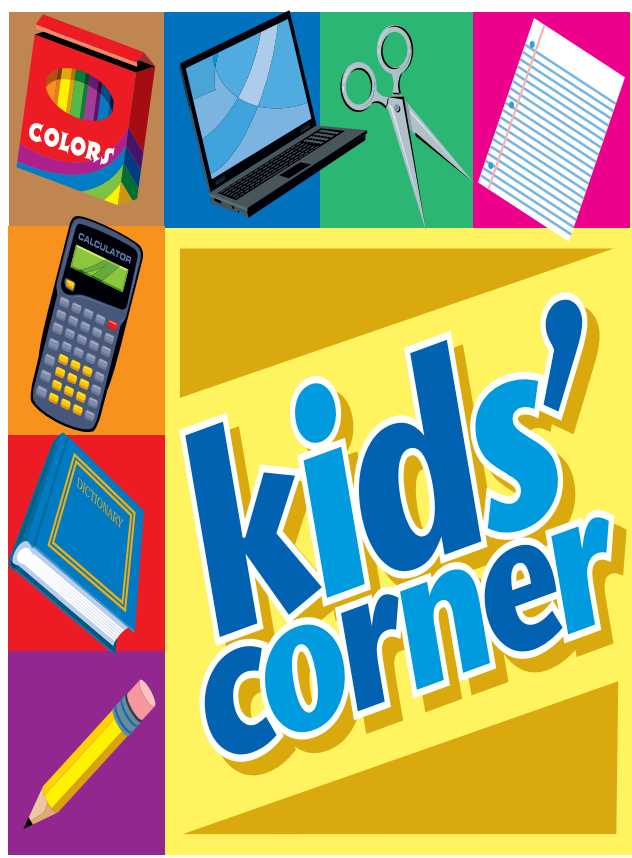
Lights, Please

Lighting is another “bright” idea for adding versatility to the outdoors. Lighting systems that incorporate deck lighting and other exterior lighting work together to create ambiance that can be adjusted for any setting. By choosing which outdoor elements to highlight, it's easy to change the look of an outdoor living space without moving any furniture.

Material Matters

Just because people are spending more time on their decks doesn't mean they're willing to put in extra hours for maintenance. Wood alternatives, particularly wood-plastic composites, are especially popular due to their low-maintenance features. Unlike wood, composite decking such as Trex Transcend resists fading, staining, scratching and mold – and won't rot, warp, crack or splinter. No sanding, staining or painting is required, and food and drink spills wash off easily with soap and water. The latest generation of composite decking also features wood-grain patterns and rich, saturated colors that look and feel more natural than ever before.

For more information and outdoor living inspiration, visit trex.com.



What's the Difference?

There are five things different between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?



Answers: 1. Fork is turned the other way. 2. Chef hat is bigger. 3. Background square missing. 4. Not wearing apron. 5. Larger flame

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1946: THE U.S. TESTS THE FIRST UNDERWATER ATOMIC BOMB. THE TEST TAKES PLACE AT BIKINI ATOLL.
- 1978: LOUISE BROWN, THE WORLD'S FIRST "TEST TUBE BABY," IS BORN.
- 2000: AIR FRANCE FLIGHT 4590, A CONCORDE PASSENGER JET, CRASHES AFTER TAKEOFF NEAR PARIS.



IT IS BELIEVED THAT THIS TYPE OF COOKING — OVER AN OPEN FLAME — ORIGINATED IN THE CARRIBBEAN.

ANSWER: BARBECUE



char

partially burn to blacken the surface

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Cook

SPANISH: Cocinero

ITALIAN: Cuoco

FRENCH: Cuisinier

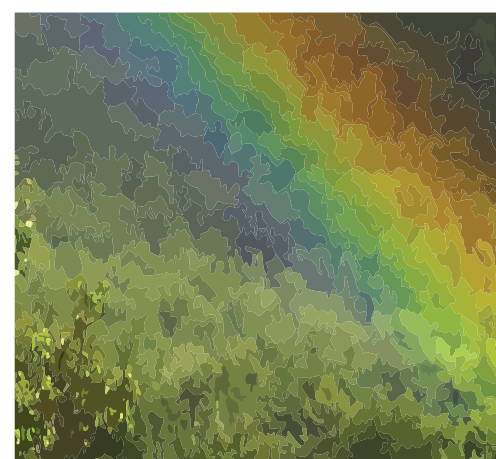
GERMAN: Koch

Did You Know?

BARBECUE GRILLS SHOULD BE KEPT AT A SAFE DISTANCE FROM THE HOME AND SHOULD NEVER BE USED INDOORS.



GET THE PICTURE?

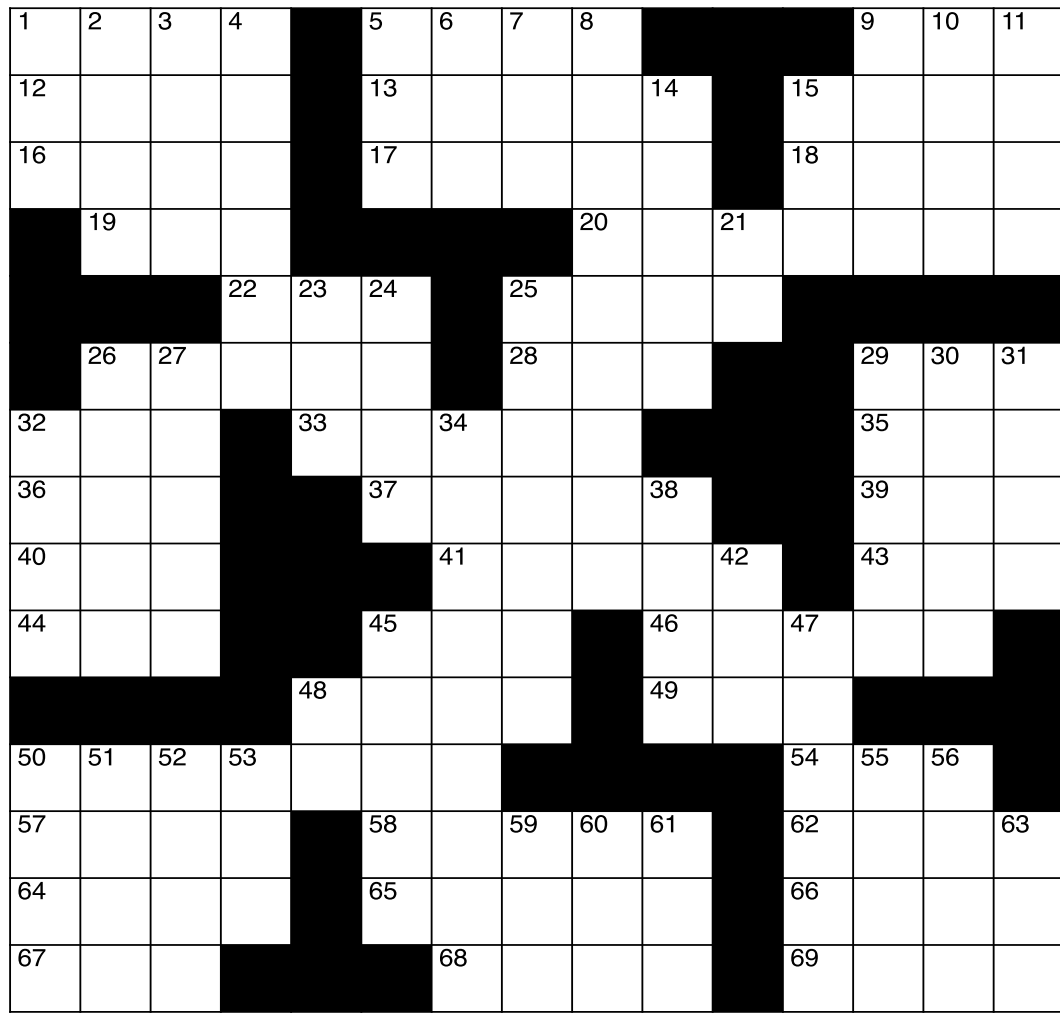


Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: RAINBOW

PUZZLES & GAMES

Crossword Puzzle

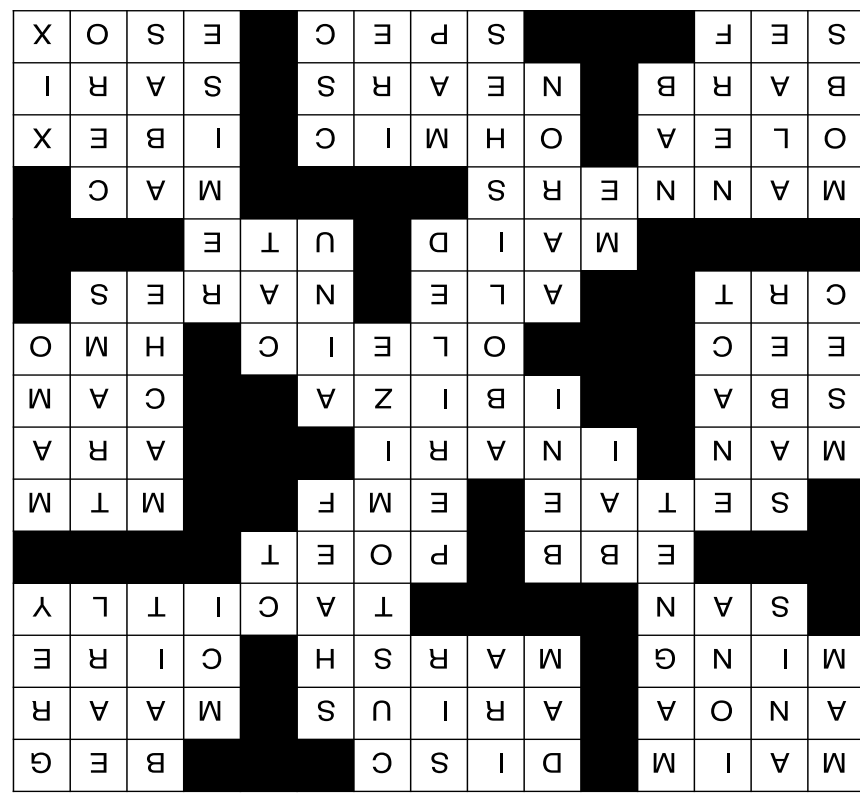


CLUES ACROSS

1. Derived from senses
10. Extemporaneous
12. Japanese religion
13. Body louse (slang)
15. Most adroit
16. Formatted electronic data
18. An alternative
19. 3rd largest whale
20. 6th tone
21. Gentlemen
24. Car mechanics group
27. Breakfast pastry
30. Where one sits
31. Oh, God!
33. Scientific workplace
34. No seats available
35. MN 55120
37. Assistance
39. Environmental Protection Agency
41. Reconstruct
42. Russian ruler
44. Female Muslim quarters
47. Radioactivity unit
48. Window glass
49. Atomic #18
50. Consume
52. The golden state
53. Mosquito disease
56. Authoritatively ordered
61. Yielding
62. On all sides
63. Br. romantic poet
65. Cruel vocal quality

CLUES DOWN

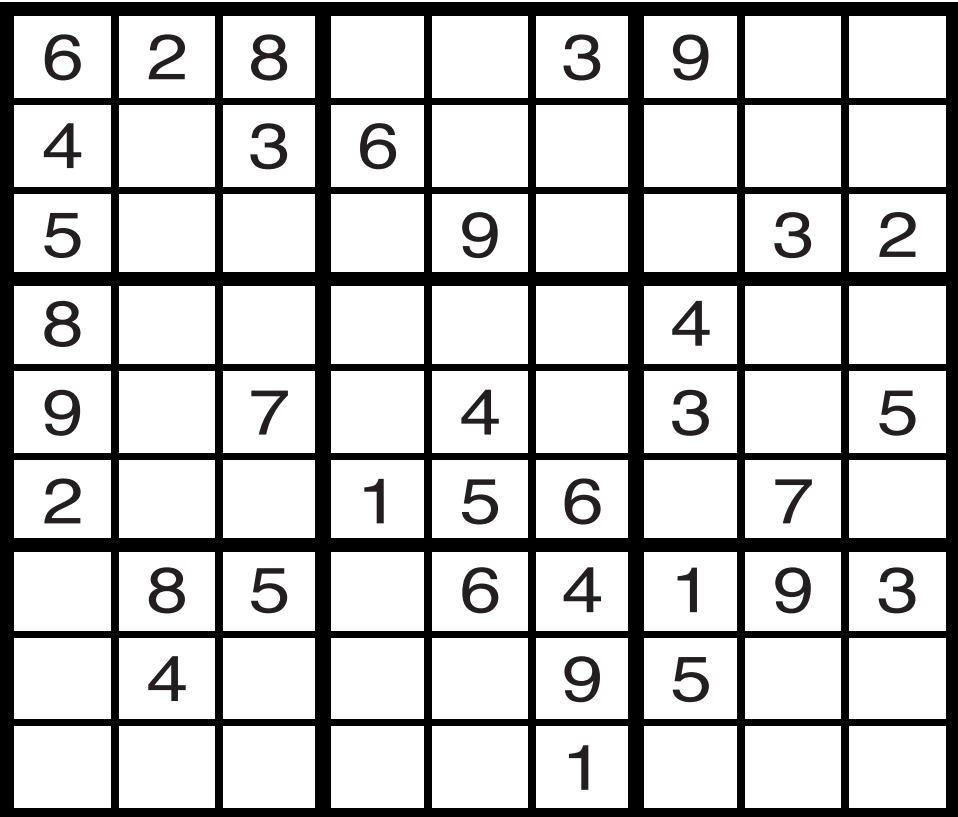
1. Irritated state
2. Sea eagle
3. Fish capturing devices
4. An informal photograph
5. Old English
6. Competes
7. Pressed a shirt
8. Averse to others
9. Mother of Apollo
10. Radio frequency
11. Have already done
12. Baseball championship playoffs
- World __
14. Snakelike fishes
15. Br. slang for sleep
17. Telegraphic signal
22. More scarce
23. Step excavation of ore
24. Envision
25. A gelling agent in foods
26. Impatient expectancy
28. Civil Rights group
29. 3rd largest Balearic island
32. Mama's partner
36. Head gesture
38. Moved to music
40. N. & S. of the new world
43. Discern the written word
44. Thigh of a hog
45. Mures river city
46. Crew member
51. Liang weight units
54. __ Angeles
55. Adrenocorticotropin
56. Mend a sock
57. Shallowest Great lake
58. Gadidae fish
59. Area floor coverings
60. Point midway between NE and E
64. "You know" in Canada



SUDOKU

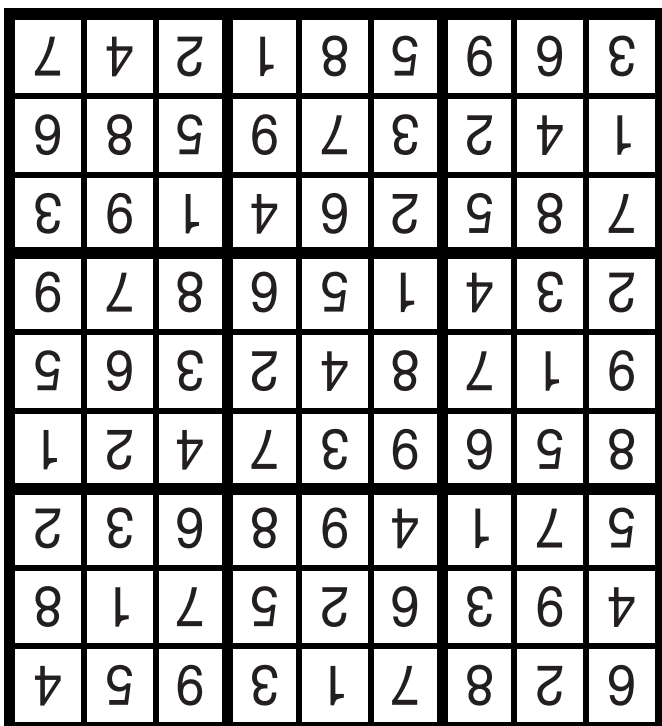
Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test.



Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

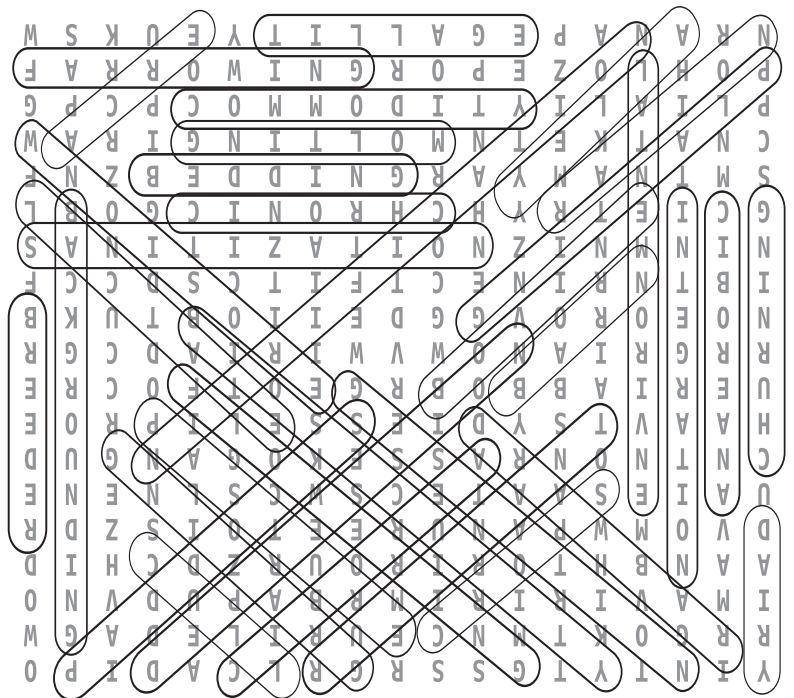


AGRICULTURE WORD SEARCH

WORDS

- | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Y I N T Y T G S S R G R L C A D I P O | ACRE | ENVIRONMENT |
| R R G O K T M N C E U R I L E D A G W | AEROBIC | EROSION |
| I M A V I R I R I M R B A P U D V N O | ALLEY | FARROWING |
| A A N B H T O R I R O U R Z D C H I D | ANAEROBIC | FLOWERING |
| D V O M W P A N U R E S E T O I S Z D R | BACKGROUNDING | GESTATION |
| U A I E S A A T U R C S L N E N E | BARN | GRAZING |
| C N T N O N R A S S E K O G A N G U D | BEDDING | INTEGRATION |
| H A A V T S Y D I E S S E L I P R O E | BIOSECURITY | LACTATE |
| U E R I A B B O B R G E O T F O C R E | BOVINE | MOLTING |
| R R G R I A N O W V W I R I A D C G R | BREEDER | NITRIFICATION |
| N O E O R O V G G D E I I O B T U K B | CHRONIC | PADDOCKS |
| I B T N R I N E C T F I T C S D C C F | CHURNING | PASTURE |
| N I N M N I Z N O I T A Z I T I N A S | COMMODITY | PLANTING |
| G C I E T R Y H C H R O N I C G O B L | CROPS | RATION |
| S M T N A M Y A R G N I D D E B Z N F | CULL | RUMINANT |
| C N A T K E T N M O L T I N G I R A W | DATRY | SANITIZATION |
| P L I A L I Y T I D O M M O C P C P G | DEPRESSION | TILLAGE |
| P O H L O Z E P O R G N I W O R R A F | DRAWBAR | |
| N R A N A P E G A L L I T Y E U K S W | | |

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.



OBITUARIES

STEDMAN

Mr. Daniel Melvin Abner, 60 passed away Sunday, July 16, 2017. A memorial service was held at Noon Thursday, July 20, 2017 at Temple Baptist Church, officiating will be Rev. Kelly Bullard. The family received friends from 11:00am to 11:45am Thursday before the service at the church. He is preceded in death by his parents, Robert Abner, Sr. and Eunice Abner; and sisters, Janice Powell and Barbara Walker. Daniel was a former Cumberland County deputy, park ranger, city of Fayetteville police officer and a Head End Tech with Time Warner Cable Company. He loved cars, motorcycles, the beach, his dog, Duke, but most of all he dearly loved all of his family. He is survived by his wife, Jeanie Abner; daughter, Danielle "Boo Boo Marie" Jenkins, married to Joe Jenkins, grandchildren, Trey Jenkins, Daniel Jenkins & Hailey Jenkins; daughter, Rae Abner Moss "Raggamuffin", married to Jimmie Moss, grandchildren, Skylar Gatten, Regan Gatten and Gavin Moss; brothers, Robert Abner, Jr. & wife, Cindy and Ronnie Abner & wife, Sharon; and sisters, Patty Parker & husband, Frankie and Lila Maxwell & husband, Mac. He is also survived by numerous brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. In lieu of flowers, memorial may be made in his memory to Myover Reese for addiction recovery, 613 Quality Road, Fayetteville, NC 28306. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 6535 Clinton Road, Stedman.



CLINTON

Mr. Ardell Jackson, 77, of 580 Wiggins Rd., passed away peacefully at his home on Monday, July 17, 2017 with his family by his side. Funeral Services will be held on Thursday afternoon, July 20, 2017 at 3pm, at Plainview PFW Baptist Church, 5105 Hobbton Hwy, Clinton, with Rev. Chubby Reiber and Rev. Ralph Parker officiating. Burial will follow in the Daughtry Family Cemetery located on Lockamy Rd., Clinton. Born on March 30, 1940 in Sampson County, Ardell was the son of the late Zebbie A. and Lou Etta Daughtry Jackson. He was a member of Plainview PFW Baptist Church and the owner of Jackson Auto Sales & Parts. He had a passion for antiques and loved going to flea markets. To all his friends and family he was known to be a prankster and jokester. He will definitely be missed by everyone who knew him. Ardell is survived by his wife of 19 years, Elizabeth H. Jackson of the home; two daughters: Regina Hunt (Christopher) of Ft. Myers, Florida and Barbara Morrison of Clinton; his son, Donald Ardell Jackson of Clinton; four stepdaughters: Cathy Allen (Ronnie) of Newton Grove, Sandra Stewart (Curtis) of Four Oaks, Lisa Pope (Tim Duke) of Four Oaks, Angela Lee of Warsaw; and one sister, Joyce Daw (J.T.) of Clinton. He was also blessed with twenty-one grandchildren and twenty-two great-grandchildren. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by a sister, Thelma Lou Hawley; and five brothers: Lewis Robert Jackson, Dewey C. Jackson, Zebbie Small Jackson, Norwood Jackson and Jadeen Jackson. The family will receive friends two hours prior to the funeral, beginning at 1pm at the church; and other times at their home. Condolences may be sent by visiting www.royalhallowfuneralhome.com. Royal-Hall is honored to serve the Jackson Family.



EASTOVER

Emmett Wayne Beard Sr., 70 went to be with his Lord and Savior on Wednesday, July 12, 2017. Mr. Beard lived his entire life in Eastover, North Carolina on the family farm that he dearly loved. He graduated from Central High School in 1964 and Methodist University in 1968. Mr. Beard taught for 30 years in the Cumberland County School system with a majority of those years at Armstrong Junior High School in Eastover. He had a passion for being outdoors whether farming or hunting and loved spending time with his family, especially his granddaughter Reagan. Mr. Beard was preceded in death by his father William Carroll Beard, Sr. and his mother Margaret Taylor Beard. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Mrs. Wanda Dawson Beard; his son, Emmett Wayne Beard, Jr.; daughter, Wanda Jenae Beard Notto and her husband, Thomas Notto and granddaughter, Reagan Aulbria Beard. He is also survived by his brother, Mr. William Carroll Beard, Jr.; his sister, Mrs. Margaret Ann Buffaloe and numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. Wayne was a lifelong member, deacon and Sunday school teacher of Lebanon Baptist Church and was currently a member of Salem United Methodist Church. Wayne was very active in the community including the Cumberland County Crown Board, Cumberland County Livestock Association, and the Cumberland County Farm Advisory Board. Funeral services were held at 3:00pm Saturday, July 15, 2017 at Salem United Methodist Church, officiating was Rev. David Beck. Burial followed in the church cemetery. The family received friends from 1:00pm to 2:45pm Saturday at the church before the service. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Salem United Methodist Church, 2165 Middle Road, Eastover, NC 28312 or the charity of your choice. Mr. Beard will be greatly missed by the Eastover community, many longtime friends and especially by his family. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 6535 Clinton Road, Stedman.



CLINTON

Mr. Carl Vander Brock, 77 of 312 A. Sampson Street, passed away Saturday, July 15, 2017 at his home. The funeral was held at 3:00 pm Thursday, July 20, at Butler Funeral Home in Roseboro, with Reverend Charles Ray Jernigan officiating. Burial followed at Roseboro Cemetery. Born December 5, 1939 in Sampson County, he was the son of the late Vander and Lacy Faircloth Brock. He was preceded in death by his parents; and two brothers, Charles "Jimmy" Brock, and Elmer "Tennie" Brock. He retired from Civil Service and then worked for Atlantic Coil Processing of Clinton. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Peggy Boyette Brock; daughter, Kim Baker and husband John of Autryville; sister, Virginia Watson and husband Edward of Roseboro; brother, Ralph Brock of the Beaver Dam Community, Roseboro; grandchildren, John "J" Baker, III of Autryville, Jordyn Baker of Portland, Oregon; great grandchild, Sofia Gracely; and several nieces and nephews. The family received friends from 1:45 to 2:45 pm Thursday prior to the service, and other times at the home. Services are by Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to 3HC, 1023 Beaman Street, Clinton, NC 28328; or to Bethany P.F.W.B. Church, 1068



Rackley Road, Clinton, NC 28328.

CLINTON

Mr. Thomas "Carroll" Hobbs, 84, of 509 Allen Street, passed away on July 16, 2017 at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill with his family by his side. Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at 3pm at Grove Park Baptist Church, 609 Northeast Blvd., Clinton with Dr. Gary Threatt and Rev. Michael Shook officiating. Burial will follow in the Piney Grove Baptist Church Cemetery. Born on May 26, 1933 in Sampson County, he was a son to the late Mossette Lee and Nettie Boyette Hobbs. He was a Veteran of the U.S. Army and served during the Korean War and a graduate of Atlantic Christian College. He was Branch Manager with First Citizens Bank and after retirement, he had a car business and always helped his customers - no matter their situation. He was a successful and hardworking man, with a big heart, compassion and was always willing to help others. He was loved by all who knew him and will be greatly missed. Carroll was survived by his wife Harriette T. Hobbs; her son, Thomas Hobbs of Raleigh; three sisters: Jane Herring & husband, David of Newton Grove, Lynette Harrell & husband, Robert of Winston Salem and Mildred Rice of Clinton; and many loving nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his brother, Leslie Hobbs. Condolences may be sent by visiting www.royalhallowfuneralhome.com. Royal-Hall is honored to serve the Hobbs Family.



AUTRYVILLE

Mrs. Mildred Elizabeth Ballance Matthews, 89 passed away Friday, July 14, 2017 at Highland House Rehabilitation and Healthcare in Fayetteville. Funeral services were held at 3:00pm Sunday, July 16, 2017 at Clement Baptist Church, officiating will be Dr. James Dees, Jr. Burial followed at Maxwell Cemetery in Autryville. The family received friends from 2:00pm to 2:45pm at the church Sunday before the service. She is preceded in death by her parents, Archie Franklin Ballance and Mamie Pittman Ballance and brothers, Kermit, Edward and Albert Ballance. She was a manager with the Fayetteville Observer Times Credit Union for 25 years. She is survived by her son, Ark Matthews & wife, Beth; and grandchildren, Katherine Vugrinec & husband, Micah and Alex Matthews; and several nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Clement Baptist Church for the choir, 6020 Maxwell Road, Autryville, NC 28318. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 6535 Clinton Road, Stedman.



HOPE MILLS

Barbara Jean Newkirk, Age-64, 1927 Sunshine Ct., Hope Mills, NC died Friday, July 14, 2017 at Highsmith Rainey Hospital. Funeral services were Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at 2 pm-Butler & Son Funeral Home Chapel Roseboro, NC. Interment was in the Roseboro Cemetery. Visitation Tuesday, July 18, 2017 from 1 to 6 pm. Family present 5 to 6 pm. Butler & Son Funeral Home, Inc. Roseboro, NC.



IVANHOE

Louise Smith Pate, 85, formerly of Ivanhoe, loving wife of the late Harold McConnell Pate and beloved mother and grandmother, died peacefully and surrounded by her family on July 11, 2017 at home. Born in in Garland, NC, she was the daughter of the late James and Burdette Smith. She also was preceded in death by her son, Harold McConnell Pate, Jr., brother James Buddy Smith and sister Linda Carroll King. A longtime resident of Wilmington, NC, Louise retired as an accomplished seamstress and manager from France Neckwear where she also created men's formal evening wear accessories for top New York designer brands. Following her retirement, she continued to sew for family and friends. She was a member of Harmony Presbyterian Church. Louise's greatest joy was being a Mother to Ann, Loretta and Bill and Nanny to Lauren, Jake, Parker, and Lillie but her heart opened to countless friends who adopted her as Mama Pate. She was always ready with an easy smile and a kiss, a listening ear and an open heart. She is survived by daughters Loretta Dodgen and husband Bill of Gastonia, NC and Ann Pate of Kernersville, NC.; her granddaughter Lauren Wells and husband Jake of Blythewood, SC and great-grandchildren Parker and Lillie Wells; brothers Glenn Smith and wife Mel, Larry Smith and wife Janice; sisters Pearl Meshaw and husband Howard, Dorothy Strickland, and Ann Johnson; sisters-in law Doris Smith and Janice Register; Sister-In-Law Wanda Anders and two brothers-in-law Donald Pate and Victor Pate numerous nephews and nieces; and special friend Eury Dyson. A celebration of her life was held at 2 p.m. Friday, July 14, 2017 at Harmony Presbyterian Church, Harrells, NC with the Reverend Tim Evans officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery. The family received friends at the church beginning at 1:00 P.M.-1:45 P.M. before the service.



CLINTON

Carol Janine Raynor, 53, of Ridgeway Street, died on Friday morning, July 14, 2017 at Wayne Memorial Hospital in Goldsboro. Funeral Services were held Wednesday, July 19th, at 11:00AM at Royal-Hall Funeral Home Chapel, 301 McKoy St., Clinton, with Dr. Ray Ammons officiating. Burial followed in the Clinton Cemetery. Born on March 14, 1964 in Sampson County, Carol was the daughter of the late James Arnold Raynor. She was a member of Rowan Baptist Church and a diehard UNC Tarheels and Carolina Panthers fan. Carol is survived by her mother, Edith B. Raynor of Clinton; a brother, Robbie Raynor of Clinton; nieces: Ashland Raynor of Clinton and Nichole Mesimer (Ryan) of Greenville; a great-niece, Adalynn Mesimer of Greenville; a special cousin, Lynn R. Daughtry (Johnny Ray) of Clinton; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins; and a special buddy - her dog, Harley. The family received friends one hour prior to the service beginning at 10:00AM at Royal-Hall Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association, PO Box 15829, Arlington, VA 22215. Royal-Hall is honored to serve the Raynor Family.



CLINTON

Howard "Ricky" Dixon, 61, of 170 Lorraine Rd., died peacefully at his home on Tuesday, July 18th 2017 with his loving family by his side. A Memorial Service for Ricky will be held on Saturday, July 22nd 2017 at 11am at the Royal-Hall Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. E.C. Mattocks officiating. Born on November 12, 1955 in Athens, Georgia, Ricky was the son to the late Deloris Duffel and Phillip Dixon, and his "daddy", Red Gautier. He was a truck driver for Prestage Farms and a member of Mill Creek Baptist Church. He also was an umpire/referee for many years all over Sampson County. He loved motorcycles and fishing and enjoyed being surrounded by family and friends. He is survived by his wife, Joyce Goodman of the home; his son, Ross Dixon of Clinton; his five daughters: Dana Dixon of Wilmington, Madison Dixon of Clinton, Ashton Goodman Harroll (Justin) of Dunn, Naomi Goodman of Clinton, Aron Goodman of Dunn; four sisters: Teresa Brown and Tammy Odum both of Clinton; Missy Dixon and April Dixon both of Anderson, South Carolina; and a brother, Junior Spell of Clinton. He was also blessed with five grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. Family will receive friends immediately following the service and other times at his home or at 1002 Bradshaw Street, Clinton. Flowers are welcome, or if you would like to donate to a "Go-Fund-Me" page the family has set up for him to help with expenses by visiting www.gofundme.com/3scg8ts (this link will also be on the Royal-Hall website). Condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.royalhallowfuneralhome.com. Royal-Hall is honored to serve the Dixon Family.



NEWTON GROVE

Anthony Smith, 71, of Newton Grove passed away on Monday, July 17, 2017. A funeral service was held on Thursday, July 20, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. Officiating the service was Father Kevin Moley and Rev. Penny Zimmerman. Interment followed in Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church Cemetery. A Rosary service was held on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at 6 p.m. in the chapel at West & Dunn Funeral Home, Newton Grove. The family received friends immediately following the Rosary service. Mr. Smith's survivors include wife, Sue Smith; a daughter, Cynthia Smith of Newton Grove; a son, DeWayne Smith & wife Lisa of Salemburg; grandchildren, Adam Capps and Jordan Smith; a sister, Cecelia Warren & husband Mike of Dunn; brothers, Victor Smith & wife Jackie, Cody Smith & wife Natalie all of Newton Grove; brother-in-law, Robert Jernigan & wife Sue of Dunn and Lynn Mobley of Houston, TX; sister-in-law, Regina Sherman & husband Russell of Dunn and a favorite feline, Frannie Rose. Mr. Smith is preceded in death by parents, Elasta & Rosalie Smith; sister, Judy Mobley; brothers, D.C. & Gary Smith and a niece, Melissa Bolian. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Leukemia Foundation. Condolences may be made at www.westanddunn.com. A service of West & Dunn Funeral Home of Newton Grove, North Carolina.



CLINTON

Mrs. Julia Ann Avant Sutton, 76, of 564 H.B. Lewis Rd., Clinton, passed away on Saturday, July 15, 2017 at New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington. Funeral Services were held Tuesday, July 18th, at 2:00PM at Royal-Hall Funeral Home Chapel, 301 McKoy St, Clinton, with Dr. Ray Ammons officiating. Burial followed in the Clinton Cemetery. Born on August 17, 1940 in Whiteville, Julia was the daughter to the late Homer Gause Avant, Jr. and Mary Elizabeth Croom Avant. She was a homemaker all her life and a member of First Baptist Church. She is survived by her daughter, Monica S. Ritenour and husband, Michael of Whiteville; her son, Stephen C. Sutton & wife, Christy of Wilmington; a brother, Hampton Avant of Whiteville; sister-in-law, Carolyn Corbett of Hampstead; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Dillon Stephen Sutton and sister, Gertrude Johnson. The family received friends one hour prior to the service beginning at 1:00PM at Royal-Hall Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Baptist Church, 408 College Street, Clinton, NC 28328. Royal-Hall Funeral Home is honored to serve the Sutton family.



GARLAND

Mrs. Susan Cathline Foy 61 of 2719 Montague Rd., died Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, NC. Mrs. Foy was born January 24, 1956. She was preceded in death by her father, Burton L. Bryson Jr., two sisters, Rebecca McNally, Mary Hebard. Memorial services will be held at a later date. Mrs. Foy is survived by her husband, Rodney J. Foy, two sons, Coby Worthington, Gregory Bryson, one daughter, Tia Worthington, mother, Barbara Darrow, one sister, Jennifer Holt, and 4 grandchildren.

GARLAND

Mr. J W Harper, 83 of Garland, passed away Saturday, July 15, 2017 at Ashe Gardens Assisted Living in Burgaw. The funeral was held at 10:00 am Wednesday, July 19, at Butler Funeral Home in Roseboro with Reverend Eddie Smith officiating. Burial followed at Sunrise Memorial Gardens. Born December 13, 1933 in Drew County, Arkansas, he was the son of the late Johnnie Wells and Thelma Rebecca McKewon Harper. He retired from the US Air Force. He is survived by his loving family. The visitation was held from 7:00 to 9:00 pm Tuesday at Butler Funeral Home in Roseboro. Services are by Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro.

FAYETTEVILLE

Mr. Terry Neil Kaiser 70 of 3605 Sugar Cane Circle Fayetteville, NC died Friday, July 14, 2017 at the VA Medical Center in Fayetteville, NC. Mr. Kaiser was born October 15, 1946 the son of the late Carl J. Kaiser and Genevieve Smith Kaiser. He veteran in U.S. Army for many years. Arrangements are incomplete and will be announced.

CLINTON

Miss Edna Marie Marshall, 65, of 700 Betty Street, Clinton, NC, passed away Saturday, July 15, 2017 at home. The funeral service will be held at 1pm, Saturday, July 22, 2017 at Lisbon St. Missionary Baptist Church, Clinton, NC with the Rev. Thaddeus Godwin officiating. Burial in Hillcrest Memorial Park, Clinton, NC. Miss Marshall is survived by SISTERS-Patricia Boykin and Pamela Marshall both of Clinton, NC; BROTHERS-Willie Marshall, Jr. of Atlanta, GA, Terry "Turk" Marshall and Alfonso Marshall both of Clinton, NC. Visitation at Worley Funeral Home Friday, July 21, 2017, Public: 1pm - 7pm, Family: 6pm - 7pm. Online condolences may be sent to www.worleyfuneralhomeinc.com.

Arrest Reports

07-13 Steven Prentice King, 46; 2126 Dutch Grove Circle, Goldsboro; 6 Counts: Order for Arrest/Failure to Appear-Child Support; Court Date 07-25
 07-13 Jaecuan Glennis Stevens, 20; 7045 Faison Highway, Faison; Assault on a Female; Habitual Misdemeanor Assault; Assault Serious Bodily Injury; Assault by Strangulation; False Imprisonment; No Bond; Court Date 07-14
 07-13 Antonio Maurice Jackson, 36; 407 East Sandy Lane, Magnolia; Aggravated Assault; Secured Bond \$4,500; Court Date 08-16
 07-13 Shaquasia Wright, 25; 18 Wildflower Lane, Clinton; Simple Assault; Unsecured Bond \$500; Court Date 07-24
 07-13 Antonio Maurice Jackson, 36; 407 East Sandy Lane, Magnolia; Escape From Custody or Resist Arrest; DWLR; Fail to Heed Light or Siren; Contempt of Court, Perjury, Court Violations
 07-13 Mitchell Lamont McNeil, 38; 59 Golden Eagle, Clinton; 2 Counts: Sell Cocaine; 2 Counts: Deliver Cocaine; Possession with Intent to Sell/Deliver Cocaine; Maintaining a Vehicle; Secured Bond \$75,000; Court Date 07-14
 07-13 Lydia Sandra Hayes, 30; 2360 Holland Town Rd, Salemburg; Forgery Of Deeds or Wills; Unsecured Bond \$1,500; Court Date 07-14
 07-13 Ronnie Eason, 50; 726 Williams St., Clinton; Possession with Intent to Manufacture/Sell/Deliver Schedule II Controlled Substance; Maintain Dwelling; Dispense Meds without License; Trafficking opiates by Possession; Trafficking opiates by Sell; Trafficking opiates by Deliver; Secured Bond \$125,000; Court Date 07-14
 07-13 Shelton Ron Williams, 29; 6038 Zoar Church Rd., Salemburg; 2 Counts: Sell Cocaine; 2 Counts: Deliver Cocaine; 2 Counts: Possession with Intent to Sell/Deliver Cocaine; Secured Bond \$100,000; Court Date 07-14
 07-13 Ronald Bernard Blue, 67; 5137 Craft St., Fayetteville; 2 Counts: Misdemeanor Larceny; 2 Counts: Possess Stolen Goods/Property; Secured Bond \$1,000; Court Date 08-09
 07-14 Eric Lamar Hobbs, 36; 2550 Big Piney Grove Road, Clinton; Child Abuse; Secured Bond \$2,000; Court Date 08-22
 07-14 Joseph Anthony Lafromboise, 31; 4384 Wrye Branch Road, Newton Grove; Probation Violation Out of County; Secured Bond \$5,000; Court Date 07-26
 07-14 Tina Nicole Nunnery, 43; 4894 Autryville Hwy., Autryville; Assault and Battery; No Bond; Court Date 07-25
 07-14 Jimmy Meckoy Rouse, 21; 503 Tram Rd., Clinton; 3 Counts: Sell Cocaine; 2 Counts: Deliver Cocaine; 2 Counts: Possession with Intent to Sell/Deliver Cocaine; Sell Marijuana; Deliver Marijuana; Possession with Intent

to Sell/Deliver Marijuana; Secured Bond \$90,000; Court Date 07-14
 07-14 Joseph Estevan Locklear, 21; 115 Don St., Clinton; Sell Cocaine; Deliver Cocaine; Possession with Intent to Sell/Deliver Cocaine; Conspire to Sell Cocaine; Conspire to Deliver Cocaine; Secured Bond \$7,000; Court Date 07-28
 07-15 Samuel Christopher Tew, 35; 282 Network St., Stedman; Failure to Appear- DWI: Failure to Appear- Careless and Reckless; Court Date 07-25
 07-15 Michael Thomas Smith, 30; 317 Branch St., Raleigh; Resisting a Public Officer; Failure to Appear- Speeding; Failure to Appear- DWLR Not Impaired Revoked; Secured Bond \$1,000; Court Date 08-02
 07-15 Fulgencio Martinez-Torres Jr., 23; 298 Goshen Church Road, Faison; Communicating Threats; Secured Bond \$1,000; Court Date 08-15
 07-16 Jose Alfredo Martinez-Torres, 21; 8737 Faison Hwy., Faison; Assault on a Female; Misdemeanor Child Abuse; DWI; Child Not in Rear Seat; No Bond; Court Date 07-17
 07-16 Malique Travor Taylor, 23; 7106 Old Mintz Hwy., Garland; Assault on a Female; Injury to Personal Property; Failure to Appear- Fail to Stop at Stop Sign/Flashing Red Light; 2 Counts: Failure to Appear-DWLR- Not Impaired Revocation; Domestic Criminal Trespassing; Court Date 08-01
 07-16 Christopher Brian Cole, 40; 2760 Hobbton Hwy., Clinton; Failure to Appear- Misdemeanor Probation Violation; Secured Bond \$5,000; Court Date 08-02
 07-16 Jennifer Jackson Carter, 37; 1412 Cartertown Rd., Clinton; Simple Assault; No Bond; Court Date 08-31
 07-16 Anthony Martin Carter, 39; 1412 Cartertown Rd., Clinton; Assault on a Female; No Bond; Court Date 08-31
 07-16 Jociann Joyce Holmes, 23; 892 Maynard Rd., Godwin; Order for Arrest/Failure to Appear-Fail to Comply; Court Date 07-20
 07-17 Sharanda Ray Stanley, 28; 42 Jaclane Dr., Clinton; Hit/Run Leave Scene of Property Damage; Written Promise to Appear; Court Date 08-14
 07-17 Misty Horne, 36; 358 Prong Rd., Dunn; Communicating Threats; Second Degree Trespassing; Secured Bond \$1,000; Court Date 08-14
 07-17 Javier Medrano, 27; 146 Hunt Lane, Clinton; Failure to Appear- No Operators License; Secured Bond \$500; Court Date 07-26
 07-17 Kenneth Alan Parker, 47; 137 Kate Lane, Salemburg; Order for Arrest-Child Support; Court Date 07-25
 07-17 Kimberly Dawn Oneil, 41; 13 Ravenwood Court, Rockmart, GA; Threatening Phone Call; Written Promise to Appear; Court Date 08-01
 07-17 Allen Simmons, 61; 70 Julius Land, Clinton; 3 Counts: Possession with Intent to Sell/Deliver Meth; 2 Counts: Sell Meth; 2 Counts: Deliver Meth; 3 Counts: Maintain Vehicle for Controlled Substance; Secured Bond \$30,000; Court Date 07-28
 07-17 Rodney Lenuel Leach, 48; 326 Ridge Lane,

Autryville; Order for Arrest-Child Support; Court Date 07-31
 07-18 Jason Wayne Byrd, 32; 207 B W Roseboro St., Clinton; Order for Arrest-Child Support; Court Date 07-25
 07-18 Ginger Thornton Baggett, 38; 3559 Straw Pond School Road, Roseboro; Possession of Methamphetamine; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia; Secured Bond \$35,000; Court Date 07-28
 07-18 Holly Amber Phillips, 33; 207 W Roseboro St., Roseboro; Possession of Methamphetamine; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia; Secured Bond \$35,000; Court Date 07-28
 07-18 Cory Allen Byrd, 27; 159 Harpers Glen Drive, Clinton; Possession of Methamphetamine; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia; Felony Probation Violation; Secured Bond \$85,000; Court Date 07-28
 07-18 Jason Wayne Byrd, 32; 157 Farm Tree Lane, Clinton; Possession of Methamphetamine; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia; Secured Bond \$35,000; Court Date 07-28
 07-18 Ginger Thornton Baggett, 38; 3559 Straw Pond School Road, Roseboro; Fraud- Unauthorized Use of Conveyance; Secured Bond \$500; Court Date 08-17
 07-18 Emily Doan Miller, 29; 1653 Bearskin Road, Salemburg; Assault with a Deadly Weapon; Secured Bond \$5,000; Court Date 08-17
 07-18 Kevis Diamond Wright, 20; 1151 Kenan Weeks Rd., Newton Grove; Simple Physical Assault upon an Officer; Resisting a Public Officer; Injury to Personal Property; Injury to Trees/Crops/Lands; Secured Bond \$27,500; Court Date 07-28
 07-18 Jeremy Derrell Owens, 32; 225 Dogwood Circle, Clinton; 2 Counts: Sell Cocaine; 2 Counts: Deliver Cocaine; 2 Counts: Possession with Intent to Sell/Deliver Cocaine; Sell Marijuana; Deliver Marijuana; Possession with Intent to Sell/Deliver Marijuana; Secured Bond \$60,000; Court Date 07-28
 07-19 Roy Williams, 22; 122 Pete Quinn Rd., Warsaw; Sell Marijuana; Deliver Marijuana; Possession with Intent to Sell/Deliver Marijuana; Secured Bond \$20,000; Court Date 07-28
 07-19 Devyn Patrick Bread, 21; 4033 Fayetteville Hwy., Godwin; Order for Arrest/Failure to Appear-Speeding; Order for Arrest/Failure to Appear-Brake/Stop Light Equipment Violation; Order for Arrest/Failure to Appear- Probation Violation; Secured Bond \$25,500; Court Date 08-10
 07-19 Amanda Lockamy, 31; 1013 Lloyd St., Clinton; Order for Arrest- Child Support; Court Date 07-25
 07-19 Malcom Lee Henry, 23; 3088 HB Lewis Rd., Clinton; 2 Counts: Sell Cocaine; 2 Counts: Deliver Cocaine; 2 Counts: Possession with Intent to Sell/Deliver Cocaine; Secured Bond \$75,000; Court Date 07-28
 07-19 Miguel Angel Lopez Jr., 19; 102 Mency Ct., Mount Olive; 2 Counts : Sell Marijuana; 2 Counts: Deliver Marijuana; 2 Counts: Possession with Intent to Sell/Deliver Marijuana; Conspire Sell Cocaine; Conspire Deliver Cocaine; Secured Bond \$25,000; Court Date 07-28
 07-19 Ernest Eugene Franklin, 47; 76 Cardinal Lane, Roseboro; DWI; Left of Center near Curve; Secured

Bond \$1,500; Court Date 08-17
 07-19 Anthony Michael Jones Jr., 24; 761 West Rd., Turkey; 2 Counts : Sell Marijuana; 2 Counts: Deliver Marijuana; 2 Counts: Possession with Intent to Sell/Deliver Marijuana; Secured Bond \$20,000; Court Date 07-28
 07-19 Tyree Joel Smith, 32; 204 West Butler Ave., Clinton; Sell Cocaine; Deliver Cocaine; Possession with Intent to Sell/Deliver Cocaine; Secured Bond \$25,000; Court Date 07-28

Incident/Investigation Reports

07-13 Angeles Sanchez reported a Burglary located at 31 Homewood Lane, Newton Grove. Items reported missing included three impact drills, chainsaw, floor jack, two TVs and a stereo.
 07-14 Edna Wilcox reported the Theft of her Motorcycle and Helmet located at 135 Lonnie Parker Lane, Clinton.
 07-14 Charles Alexander reported a Burglary located at 511 Gold St., Roseboro. Items reported missing included a TV and a Dish Network box.
 07-15 Lillie Biegler reported the Larceny of a Car Battery located at 337 Elwell Rd., Garland.
 07-15 Carlettiss Allen reported a Breaking and Entering located at 228 Pearson St., Clinton. No items were reported missing.
 07-16 Aperil Dorris reported the Larceny of US Currency and debit cards located at 124 Hammer Lane, Salemburg.
 07-17 Harry Kendrick Jr reported the Larceny of a Firearm located at 1391 Airport Rd., Garland.
 07-18 Antwan Lee reported the Larceny of a Firearm located at 645 N Fayetteville St., Salemburg.
 07-18 Elsie Mcphail reported a Burglary located at 1571 Mcphail Rd., Salemburg. Items reported missing included a car, medications, US Currency, tablet, debit cards, bag and a GPS.
 07-18 Charles Barber reported a Burglary located at 8909 Dunn Rd., Salemburg. Items reported missing included an assortment of jewelry.
 07-18 Jesse Lee reported a Burglary located at 5316 Maxwell Road, Autryville. Items reported missing included frozen foods, drill, weed eater and a soft cooler.
 07-18 Taleana Whetstone-Perez reported the Larceny of Medication located at 1780 Autry Mill Road, Godwin.
 07-18 Julia Sullivan reported a Larceny located at 48 Alex Lane, Dunn. Items reported missing included an assortment of jewelry.
 07-18 Marion McLamb reported a Larceny located at 1955 Southeast Blvd., Clinton. Items reported missing included a firearm, trailer and trimmer.

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- Previous job related CDL experience preferred
 - Previous forklift experience preferred
 - Previous flatbed experience preferred
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Salary: \$20.00 /hour

Required experience:

▪ Management: 1 year

Required license or certification:

- Valid Class A CDL and Medical DOT card

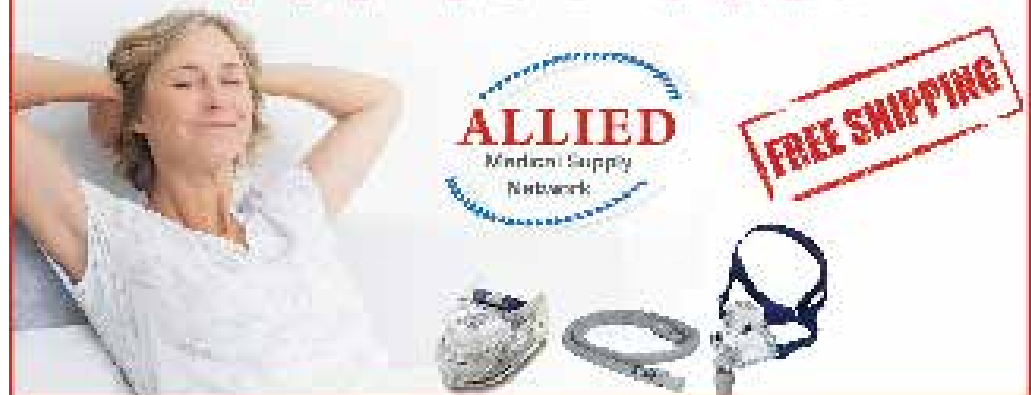
Apply in person, 1950 Easy Street Dunn, NC, Call 910-567-2625, or contact celiaw@buysod.com for an application. EOE

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Ezell Trucking is currently looking for a full time billing clerk to assist with computer entry, bill processing, scanning, filing, & copying. Requirements: good phone skills, proficient computer skills, & excellent communication skills. Clerk experience preferred, but not required.

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*Shifts vary, must be willing to start early am

*Competitive pay

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Must meet following requirements:

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*Previous Class A driving experience required

(minimum of 2 years)

*Clean driving record

*Current DOT Medical card

*Be able to pass a criminal background and drug test

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*Previous flatbed experience preferred

*Must be reliable and able to work independently

*Must be able to operate a tablet for routing/GPS purposes

Full-time drivers are offered a competitive pay + bonuses, medical/dental/vision, 401k with company match, paid time off, paid holidays and more!

Job Type: Full-time

Required experience:

• Class A CDL Driving: 2 years

Required license or certification:

Apply in person, 1950 Easy Street Dunn, NC, Call 910-567-2625, or contact celiaw@buysod.com for an application. BOE

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By **Brenda Brown**

Congratulations Chamber Member of the Week



Congratulations to our Member of the Week, Prestage Farms! Started in 1983 here in Sampson County by Bill and Marsha Prestage, Prestage Farms is a multi-generational family owned and operated business. Today Prestage Farms, along with its affiliated businesses is a "Top 5" producer of quality pork and turkey that employs some 2,000 people and contracts with 450 farm families in seven states. Prestage Farms has operations in Alabama, Iowa, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Texas in addition to its home and headquarter near Clinton, NC. You can find out more about them at www.prestagefarms.com



Chamber Chat

By **Kaitlin Norris**,
Executive Director
Clinton-Sampson
Chamber of Commerce

As most people squeeze in their vacations these next few weeks, we will be gearing back up for Sampson County to become alive again. We will be gearing up for all of our wonderful events that start in the fall such as our Coat Closet, the Leadership Program, and our Christmas Parade!

We have my favorite opportunity to network, a ribbon cutting, with a new business in Sampson County, Badcock Home Furniture and More. There will be a celebration on Monday, July 24, at 2:30 p.m. to welcome our new business. Badcock Furniture is located at 317 Northeast Blvd here in Clinton. Let's show them why it was a great idea to call Sampson County their home for expansion. Bring your business card and let the Chamber work for you!

Join us on Tuesday, July 25th at 11:30am for our Member of the Week celebration at Southeastern Outdoor Products. They are located at 714 Warsaw Road right here in Clinton. As many of you know, Southeastern does a lot in our community and for our community, so come out and show your support for them as we honor them as our Member of the Week!

As always, we thank you for your support of the Chamber as we strive to make this a better business community for everyone! For more information on the Chamber please give us a call at 910-592-6177 or email us at infor@clintonsampsonchamber.org.

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Question: What does the Small Business Center do for the community?

A: Confidential counseling services are one of the exclusive services offered at the Small Business Center

Question: How much do the counseling services cost?

A: All services provided by the Small Business Center are FREE!

Question: How do I contact the Small Business Center to make an appointment?

A: Call 592-8081 ext. 2032

<https://www.ncsbc.net/center.aspx?center=75450>

Contact: Amanda Bradshaw, Director, Small Business Center P: 910-592-7176 ext. 2032, E: jbradshaw@sampsoncc.edu

MONSTER ENERGY NASCAR CUP SERIES

Race: Brickyard 400
Where: Indianapolis Motor Speedway
When: Sunday, 2:30 p.m. (ET)
TV: NBC
2016 Winner: Kyle Busch (right)



XFINITY SERIES

Race: Lilly Diabetes 250
Where: Indianapolis Motor Speedway
When: Saturday, 3:30 p.m. (ET)
TV: NBC Sports Network
2016 Winner: Kyle Busch

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK SERIES

Race: Eldora Dirt Derby
Where: Eldora Speedway
When: July 19, 9:30 p.m. (ET)
TV: Fox Business
2016 Winner: Kyle Larson

NASCAR INSIDER

by RICK MINTER / Andrews McMeel Syndication

Denny Hamlin's return to Victory Lane ends drought for JGR

A season-long losing streak for Joe Gibbs Racing finally came to an end on Sunday at New Hampshire Motor Speedway as Denny Hamlin took the lead from teammate Matt Kenseth with 34 laps remaining and sped away from Kyle Larson and Martin Truex Jr. to win the Overton's 301.

It was Hamlin's first win in NASCAR's elite Monster Energy Cup Series since last September at Richmond and JGR's first since Carl Edwards won at Texas last November.

Hamlin said Sunday's win came on a day in which his No. 11 Toyota wasn't as fast as the No. 78 Toyota of Truex or the No. 42 Chevrolet driven by Larson. Hamlin was in a backup car Sunday after crashing his primary in practice on Friday, but there were no such errors on Sunday.

"We executed nicely, made no mistakes and capitalized when other guys faltered a little bit, and just [did] everything right to win the race," Hamlin said in his winner's interview.

Hamlin now has 30 career Cup wins, three of them at New Hampshire. He said his latest win came after a surge in performance in recent weeks. He finished fourth in three of the four races leading into New Hampshire.

"We've been treating every week as if it's a playoff race and giving it all we've got," he said. "We've been steadily getting better as the summer has gone on, and we need to continue to stay on that trend of getting better."

Hamlin said the victory is a big relief because it all but assures him of one of the 16 playoff berths. But there's also more speed to be found before the final 10 races that will decide the championship.

"I'm not going to think that [Sunday's win] fixed everything," he said. "I still think that we have some work to do to be guys that contend for a win every single week."

"We're getting there. We really, really are getting there. But we still have some work to do."

"Today was just a bonus. We got some bonus points. It was a good points day overall, and we got another victory. All good things, but really when it comes to Monday, we'll go to work on our next race track."

Overall, it was a good day for the Gibbs team. Matt Kenseth, who is leaving the team's No. 20 at season's end, finished fourth, despite getting just two fresh tires on his final pit stop while most of his challengers got four.

Rookie Daniel Suarez finished sixth, and Kyle Busch appeared to have a car capable of winning, but after leading 95 laps he was nabbed twice for speeding on pit road and finished 12th.

Team owner Joe Gibbs said he was proud of his entire organization for turning its fortunes around.

"We got off to a slow start this year, and I think the thing I'd like to say most about our entire group there, nobody ever would point fingers or anything," he said. "Everybody would just say: 'We've got to go to work.'"

"I think our guys back home working on the cars took it the same way, and I think everybody has been working extremely hard, and I'm hoping what's happening now is we're starting to hit our stride and get better and better down the stretch."

"That would be a big deal for us."

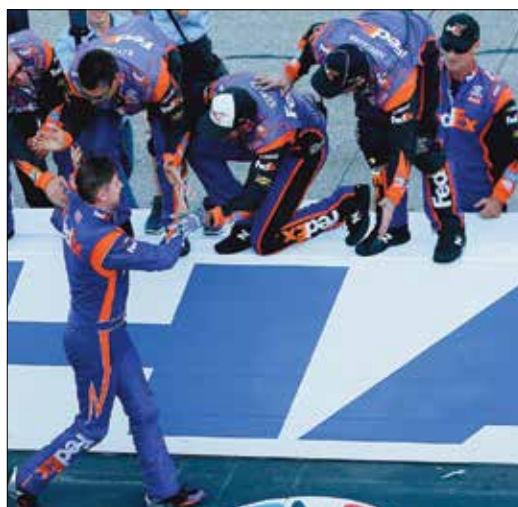
Larson, the runner-up, had a strong performance after having to start the race from the rear of the pack. He was the fastest qualifier on Friday, but his time was disallowed for an unapproved modification to the rear spoiler on his car.

It was his seventh second-place finish of the season and the second time in a row that he finished second after starting in the rear.

Larson said the intense focus on his car by series officials is a sign that his car is a fast one.

"It means everybody is paying attention to us," he said. "This is my fourth year, and I've never been in the position to where NASCAR and other teams are paying so much attention to our race car."

"That's a compliment to everybody at our race shop."



Denny Hamlin celebrates his first win of the 2017 season with members of his No. 11 Toyota crew from Joe Gibbs Racing, and hoists his lobster "trophy" in Victory Lane.

Track work draws mixed reviews from drivers

New Hampshire Motor Speedway officials joined a growing list of track operators that applied an adhesive substance to the racing surface in an effort to provide multiple grooves.

Products such as PJI and VHT are commonly used in drag racing to improve traction. The use of the products at New Hampshire drew mostly positive comments from drivers.

"I was surprised at how well it worked," Kyle Larson said. "I liked the element of it changing quickly and wearing out and then wearing out in different spots and stuff. It just adds an element [for] us that we have to adapt to."

He said he thinks the treatments will work best at tracks where corner speeds are slower.

"It's hard to get the courage up to enter in that stuff at those fast tracks because you don't really know how it's going to react," Larson said. "But [at New Hampshire] you're going so slow in the corners ... you're not going to crash if you go in it."

Danica Patrick, who finished 13th, said the substance wore off early and didn't have a whole lot of effect on the racing.

"It was still basically the same and still hard to pass," she said. "I feel like you still had the normal short track, bump 'em out of the way a little bit. That is what people come for right?"

Patrick's New Hampshire finish was her second best of the season behind a 10th-place at Dover.



Workers patch an area of track pavement at New Hampshire Motor Speedway during a break in the action Sunday.

Kyle Busch gets Xfinity Series win, but Ryan Preece steals the show

Saturday's Xfinity Series race at New Hampshire Motor Speedway likely will be remembered by local fans for the uplifting performance by local driver Ryan Preece, who finished a Xfinity-career-best second.

Out front, the race for the win was among Monster Energy Cup regulars Kyle Busch and Brad Keselowski.

Keselowski appeared to have the best car, leading 102 laps. But on the race's final pit stop, with 30 laps remaining, Keselowski's gas man was unable to get the can detached from the car and it didn't come loose from the car until he was in the next pit box.



Kyle Busch won his 89th career Xfinity Series race Saturday at New Hampshire, and is now just 1.1 shy of his stated goal of 100 victories in the series.

A penalty from NASCAR required him to return to pit road, which handed the lead to Busch, who led the rest of the way to get his third Xfinity win of the season and the 89th of his career.

Preece, driving the potent No. 20 for Joe Gibbs Racing, finished second at his home track.

Preece, who is a standout in Modified racing in the Northeast, said the day was "something I dreamed about." He added that his second-place finish in one of the circuit's best cars should be a sign of hope for short-track racers everywhere.

"This one is for all the short-track guys out there that might not ever get the opportunity," he said. "It means a lot to do it at this stage, to prove to people that I feel like I belong to be here and I would only get better with more seat time."

Busch, who now has 175 victories across NASCAR's top three series, said in a post-race interview on Sirius radio that he plans to end his Xfinity career once he reached the 100-win mark.

"Retirement is fast approaching; looking forward to that," Busch said, according to a transcript of the interview posted on ESPN.com.



Ryan Preece finished second in the Overton's 200 Saturday at New Hampshire, and is scheduled to make another Xfinity start at Iowa on July 29.

Safety innovator Baird left his mark on motorsports

Norman George "Norrie" Baird, a longtime employee of Charlotte Motor Speedway and a leader in racing safety, died July 6 at age 72.

Baird, who was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, started his work in racing safety on the Formula One circuit and came to Charlotte in 1980.

Many of his practices in dealing with accidents on the track, including the requirement that drivers in crashes must be checked at the track's care center, are now standard procedure at all major NASCAR tracks.

NASCAR recognized Baird in 2010 by presenting him with its Excellence in Track Services Award. He retired in 2012.

He is survived by his wife Wanda Goddard Baird, longtime executive assistant to former Charlotte track president Humpy Wheeler, and his daughters Honor, Stella, Beth and Myra.

Truck Series drivers gear up for dirt racing at Eldora

On Wednesday night, NASCAR's Camping World Truck Series drivers will be at Eldora Speedway in Ohio making their annual once-a-season run on a dirt track.

For the past four years, the race has been one of the most anticipated Truck Series races, even for those drivers who have little dirt-racing experience.

Defending series champion and current points leader Johnny Sauter is among those who don't have a dirt-racing background to fall back on at Eldora. He has one top-10 finish at Eldora and an average finish there of 18th.

"Obviously, Eldora is a little bit different situation, especially for a guy like me that's raced asphalt his whole life," Sauter said on a teleconference last week. "So, I have fun at Eldora. ... But for me, it's just a place where I just haven't figured it out quite yet."

Since NASCAR has banned testing other than at approved sessions, drivers like Sauter have to be creative in getting experience for a dirt track. He planned to run some test laps in a street stock car at a dirt track in his native Wisconsin.

"I think it's a feel thing," Sauter said of racing on dirt. "If you only do it once a year, it's hard to grasp that concept."

Sauter's fellow truck series driver John Hunter Nemechek likewise has little dirt experience. Still, he thinks the Xfinity and Cup drivers need to run a dirt race, too.

"I definitely think other series should try racing in the dirt just to get a feel of what we're doing, how we're racing," he said. "It puts on one of the

best shows each year and [it's] kind of a standout race throughout the year — something different than our normal asphalt everyday routine.

Most drivers look at Christopher Bell as the favorite to win Wednesday's race. He has extensive dirt experience and won the truck race there in 2015.

Last weekend, he finished second in the King's Royal Sprint Car race at Eldora. He had to start 20th after engine troubles in his heat race, but charged to second place behind winner Donny Schatz in a race that ran without a caution period.

"Eldora is my favorite race track in the whole world," Bell said of the track built by the late Earl Baltes, but now owned by Tony Stewart. "I grew up running a lot of laps there. I think over my dirt career here, I've run more laps at Eldora than I have anywhere in the world."

"I think I've got as good a shot as anybody to win the race and it's one of my favorite races of the year, so I'm really looking forward to it."



Trucks make their way around Eldora Speedway amid fireworks in last season's Dirt Derby.

NUMERICALLY SPEAKING

106 Laps led at Eldora Speedway by Christopher Bell to top all Camping World Truck Series drivers

569 Laps run among the top 15 in truck races at Eldora by Matt Crafton — the most of any driver

302 Laps led in Cup races at Indianapolis Motor Speedway by Jimmie Johnson to top all active drivers

16 Cup wins at Indianapolis Motor Speedway by Chevrolet to lead all manufacturers (Ford is second with three)

NASCAR CUP DRIVER STANDINGS

1. Martin Truex Jr., 758
2. Kyle Larson, 720
3. Kyle Busch, 650
4. Kevin Harvick, 639
5. Denny Hamlin, 589
6. Chase Elliott, 587
7. Jamie McMurray, 572
8. Brad Keselowski, 564
9. Jimmie Johnson, 552
10. Clint Bowyer, 526