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The Sampson Weekly

FREE



VOLUME 9, ISSUE 22

www.thesampsonweekly.com

Week of May 25-31, 2018

INSIDE

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Union Staff Prove Students ARE IN GOOD HANDS

It's not uncommon for parents to be a little concerned for their children while away at school, but little more than one week ago, staff at Union High School demonstrated that students were in very good hands on Spartan grounds. But this is not your normal feel-good human-interest story. This is a multilayered anecdote where the right people are purposely in the right place at the right time.



Julie Hunter

The story, shared by Union High School Principal Julie Hunter at a recent Sampson County Schools Board of Education Meeting, begins with a tragic twist. Hunter explains, "On February 22nd, Nurse Phyllis Lane sent an email to Union Middle and Union High School teachers and staff, informing us that her breast cancer had spread to her back and has been diagnosed as stage 4."

Hunter states that Mrs. Lane was in such pain because of a crushed vertebra that she could no longer work. "We were all devastated by the news," Hunter added.

Nurse Lane elected to have back surgery over spring break to repair vertebra, along with radiation treatment and chemotherapy for the cancer. Good medicine or a miracle, but Phyllis Lane was able to return to work as a nurse in the Union district on Monday, May 14th. Just in time to one of three people in the right place at the right time.

A few short days later, on May 17th, a morning gym class turns a **UNION, see P. 4**

Relay for Life Slated For Next Friday



Sampson County will hold its 20th Annual Relay For Life on Friday June 1st, 2018 at the Clinton High School Football field. According to event coordinator Morgan Sills, the event has been changed from a 24-hour event to a Friday night only event last year to better accommodate the community.

The Relay For Life event was created to raise money for cancer research and the 24 hour relay theme was adapted because "Cancer Never Sleeps", cancer patients fight cancer 24 **RELAY, see P. 4**

A Legend at Lakewood



James Lewis is honored at LHS Athletic Banquet

When new Lakewood High School head football coach Barrett Sloan takes the field in the fall, he will be following in the footsteps of coaching legend James Lewis, as well as stepping on the field dedicated to his honor.

The news was announced last Thursday at Lakewood's Annual Athletic Banquet - Lewis's last official duty at the school since the start of his retirement at the beginning of this month.

"It is going to be called the 'James E. Lewis Field'," said Lakewood's Athletic Director Darren Hulen. "I honestly couldn't think of a better person that it could be named after."

Hulen, who went to school, college and coached alongside and against Lewis, said that the legacy Lewis has left at the school is something to behold.

"I have been around him for a long time," Hulen admitted, "longer than the 21 years he has been here ... it is like 28 years. He was a year ahead of me in school and we have always been close ... His dedication to this school is amazing. He was always respectful of everyone and he remembered things that was really impressive. He could remember all of his players' names (current and former) and even players from other teams. He is just that kind of guy."

In addition to having the field named after him, Lewis also was honored with The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, signed by N.C. Governor Roy Cooper, an honor that was driven directly from former players, parents and coaches.

"A lot of people went to coach Simpson and requested information on how to nominate him for the Order of the Long Leaf Pine," Hulen said. "They had the idea and got the paperwork and filled it all out and he got it."

A surprised Lewis stood in front of a giant crowd filled with Lakewood parents, players, educators, coaches and Lewis's family.

"Everybody came," Hulen said. "I think we caught him off guard ... it was really heartwarming."

Sampson County School's Athletic Director Al Britt agrees.

"James Lewis is an excellent football coach, athletic director and teacher," Britt said. "He is super competitive and honest to a fault. But the words that best describe **LAKEWOOD, see P. 3**

WEATHER

Fri T-Storms 70%
Hi: 85° Lo: 69°

Sat T-Storms 60%
Hi: 85° Lo: 69°

Sun PM Showers 20%
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Hi: 79° Lo: 70°

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Hi: 83° Lo: 70°

Wed Scattered 50%
Hi: 83° Lo: 71°

WEEKLY VERSE

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.
Romans 12:10

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LOCAL NEWS

From the Desk of Senator Brent Jackson



I hope you are having a great week. The 2018 short session has begun! Last Wednesday, May 16th, the North Carolina General Assembly officially gaveled in for this year's legislative session. Now that we are back in session, I will be sending a weekly newsletter, and will no longer feature a legislative recap section. I am glad to be back and am ready to continue the hard work for the citizens of Senate District 10 and North Carolina. As we continue through-

out our daily routines, I ask that we continue to think about our fellow Americans who are struggling. Please continue to keep the citizens and families suffering from the volcanic eruption of Mount Kilauea in Hawaii and the tragedy that occurred at Santa Fe High School in Texas in your thoughts and prayers.



The legislature continues to work hard on the state budget. Also, I am glad to say that the 2018 NC Farm Act was recently filed, which is legislation my colleagues and I run every year that is aimed at addressing concerns or issues that rural North Carolina and farmers across our state face.

Above is a picture of me gaveling in for session this morning. Sometimes members are asked to host a brief session during which no votes are taken, and the General Assembly sets to reconvene at a time in the near future, ranging from a couple of hours to even a couple of days later. I enjoyed being able to lead session with our senate pages and staff present, along with a couple of other senators.

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

From the District SCC Makes History

Sampson Community College recently graduated the largest class of nurses in the col-

lege's prestigious history. The college offered two new programs, the Medical Assisting Program and Emergency Medical Science Program. The Medical Assisting curriculum aims to prepare graduates as multi-skilled health care professionals qualified to perform administrative, clinical, and laboratory procedures. These students are prepared to work in any type of specialty office, and the Medical Assisting Program can be completed in one year, with three semesters of work. The Emergency Medical Science curriculum is designed to prepare students to provide medical care as a paramedic for critical and emergent patients, and prepare them to serve as a link from the scene of an accident to the healthcare facility. These students practice under medical oversight, and graduate with the knowledge, experience, and competency to be vital to the emergency medical system workforce. If you are interested in learning more about the Medical Assisting Program, please call Misti Wood at 910-900-4071. For those wanting more information on the Emergency Medical Science Program, please call Angela Magill at 910-900-4009.

District Spotlight

The State Board of Community Colleges recently announced that Dr. Lawrence Rouse will become the next President of Pitt Community College. Dr. Rouse has served as the President at James Sprunt Community College since January of 2005. Dr. Rouse entered his presidency at James Sprunt Community College with the goal of having a positive impact on the students, faculty, staff, and community. The effects of his commitment and service can be seen throughout all of Duplin County. Dr. Rouse was named the 2016 President of the Year by the North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges. Also, he was awarded the 2018 Distinguished College President Administrator Award by the Phi Theta Kappa Carolinas Region. There are many accomplishments Dr. Rouse had at James Sprunt Community College, and the college has benefited in many ways under his leadership. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Rouse on being named the next President of Pitt Community College. He will be greatly missed, but I wish him well in his new role.



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

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LAKEWOOD, cont. from 1

James is that he is a 'Servant Leader'. A servant leader is sometimes used in religious or political realms, but the term perfectly surrounds Coach Lewis. Those traits are listening, empathy, healing, awareness, persuasion, conceptualization, foresight, commitment to growth of others, and building community. When I think of Coach Lewis, all of these things are found in him."

Britt added, "I Love James Lewis."

Longtime Lakewood defensive coach and Sampson County Schools Board Member Telfair Simpson said Lewis has touched many lives - not just on the field, but off of it as well.

"James is my oldest friend," Simpson said. "We grew up together, went to school and played ball together. I was fortunate to coach with him for over 21 years. He is an outstanding coach and person. He won a lot of football games and touched a lot of lives."

Simpson continued, "His legacy is the young men he molded, mentored and helped along the way. Naming the football field after him is a small thank you for the time, energy and devotion he put into Lakewood High School and the program. Being honored with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine is a tremendous accomplishment and one he would never have pursued. He is a humble man but very deserving of this award. It recognizes service and sacrifice for 32 years of making a difference in peoples lives."

"I cannot think of a more fitting honor for James Lewis," said Lakewood High School Principal John Goode. "The Order of the Long Leaf Pine is indicative of his place among North Carolina's most influential leaders, and naming our field after him was just the right thing to do. His legacy will thrive through the lessons he instilled in his athletes for years to come."

Longtime Lakewood High Defensive Line coach Larry W. Bass said that Lewis is the model for which all coaches should aspire to be.

"I am glad to see Coach James Lewis be honored in this way," Bass said. "He is a fine example of what all coaches should be. He showed his players as well as his fellow coaches' fine moral character, high standards of sportsmanship and works to make us all better for being associated with him. He worked to instill sound work ethics, as well as wanting his student-athletes to prosper in life after athletics ..."

Bass said that everyone associated with Lewis was better off.

"We, as a coaching staff, were blessed to work with him all these years," he said. "Coach Lewis will be missed by all of us. He has been a wonderful friend to me over the years and I am so glad to see him be honored with the naming of the field after him and the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. I have heard Coach Lewis tell his players many times, 'You get out of life what you put into it, You get just what you deserve'. Coach Lewis always put in for his players, school and community. Coach Lewis deserves everything he has been awarded and I am proud to be his friend."

Shelia Davidson, another Lakewood High coaching legend, said that the influence Lewis had on her was not only motivational, but something that she will take with her forever.

"Coach Lewis found his happiness not in his wins or loses but the lives he changed along the way," she explained. "He took pride in all the little things within his job and by others - young and old - it made them want to work just as hard but to also see approval in his eyes that they too are worthy of his approval. He had a way to motivate, not only his students, but we were better teachers at Lakewood because of the work ethic he brought to the table. I will forever cherish our memories we have shared over the years and take the wisdom he has shined on me for a lifetime."

"I was member of the Lakewood coaching staff for seven seasons," said Dan Heinz. "I can tell you first hand, no one outworks James Lewis. From personally making sure the football field was perfectly groomed, to washing and setting out uniforms, Coach Lewis was hands on involved every step of the way."

Heinz continues, "I was on his football staff for two seasons, I got to see him prepare game plans and make the decisions in real time. Lots of coaches these days have laminated sheets of computerized scripted plays - not Coach Lewis, when he is done preparing he has his game plan in his head and a pocket full of 3x5 cards with plays written on them. I never saw him pull a 3x5 card in a game. One day while in his office he was writing out those cards, I said, 'Coach, you write out all these cards, but i have never seen you use one' ... his response was, 'If you ever do, we are in big trouble'."

Heinz said that those who came in contact with Lewis will never forget him.

"As much as nobody outworked coach Lewis, nobody cared about his players more either," he said. "He knew those kids, their families and situations. He had a good idea of each kids' ability and potential and he pushed them to reach that potential on the field and in the classroom, but most importantly as young men."

Last March, Lewis stepped down from the AD position he held at the school for 13 years. At the time, he said that he was 'debating' retirement altogether heading into his 32nd year of teaching - but knew that it was time to spend more time at home.

By December 2017, the 55-year-old announced his retirement, ready to start a new chapter in his life.

He leaves the school with over 160 victories as head football coach of the Leopards and capped off the final two seasons by making back-to-back third-round appearances in the NCHSAA 1-A State Football Play-offs. Lakewood's 2017 season finished at 11-3.

"We tried to give them something to cheer for on Fridays," the ever

humble Lewis said in December.

Now when they cheer on Friday nights, they will be cheering on a field where Lewis carved out just one part of his legacy.

During his tenure at Lakewood High, Lewis became more than an educator and coach - he built a foundation of quality

and excellence that helped mold thousands of young minds, assist athletes on and off the field, and rallied support for projects that benefit and will continue to create opportunities for those athletes and inspire those at the school for decades to come.

Congratulations Coach Lewis!

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LOCAL NEWS

UNION, cont. from 1

normal day at Union High into a nightmare for many.

Principal Hunter provides a timeline of events.

“At 9:03am a student, Cameron Burley passes out in the gym.”

“At 9:04 and 30 seconds,” Hunter states, “I retrieve the AED (Automated External Defibrillator) machine from the mounting case.”

“At 9:05, Nurse Lane is applying the AED pads to Cameron’s chest as she instructs Cameron’s father, Doug Burley (a teacher and coach at Union), to begin CPR.”

Hunter explained that the AED analyzed Cameron’s condition and recommended that a shock be applied. The AED announced, “Stand Back. Do not touch patient.” The shock is applied, and CPR was continued.

“After what seemed like an eternity,” adds Ms. Hunter, “Cameron takes a deep, long breath and comes back to us. By 9:11am Cameron is breathing on his own, has a steady heart beat and even manages to laugh.”

Ms. Hunter relayed the story to board members and those in attendance at the board meeting in order to then honor Nurse Phyllis Lane. Hunter stated, “Tonight, we wanted to take a moment to recognize our school nurse Phyllis Lane, for her calm demeanor and for her

RELAY, cont. from 1

hours a day, 7 days a week. Each year, more than 4 million people in over 20 countries raise much-needed funds and awareness to save lives from cancer through the Relay For Life movement.

This year’s theme is “Cancer Not Here, Not There, Not Anywhere.” Event Coordinator Morgan Sills stated, “Relay For Life of Sampson County truly is a time of hope and remembrance! I love the atmosphere that Relay For Life of Sampson County has, as the community comes together to fight back against cancer, show hope to those battling cancer, and remember those we’ve lost. I have had many loved ones receive a cancer diagnosis and the American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Sampson County continues to show my family that one day we will end this dreaded disease.”

In 2010, Sampson County Relay For Life raised \$280,000 and placed in the top ten nationally for its population. Last year, Sampson County raised \$198,000 with over 500 people in attendance. Event organizers are again optimistic for a great event and have a goal with the American Cancer Society to raise \$180,000. Morgan Sills, event coordinator says, “Any amount of money we raise is research one step closer to the overall goal of getting rid of cancer. Sampson County is great; everyone pulls together and supports each other. We always do a great job in this county. Cancer affects everyone. Cancer doesn’t discriminate; so many of us have a personal connection to cancer. When someone receives a cancer diagnosis, it’s not only devastating for them, but also for every one of their family members and friends.”

The Relay For Life is of course designed to raise money to fight cancer, but its far more than just another charity walk. It’s a wonderful way to raise awareness about cancer on the local level, and even more importantly it provides a means to celebrate the hard-won fight with Cancer Survivors. With approximately 90% of all people having someone they know affected by cancer Relay For Life is more than a cause, it is a community event.

The Relay is also a time to celebrate and is designed to be filled with fun events like the Parade of Teams where teams get to express their TEAM SPIRIT. The Survivor walk, the Survivor and Caregiver walk, and the Kids Walk Lap are always a time of group unity and support.

The Luminary Ceremony is a very special time during the Relay For Life. It’s a time to remember and honor all those who have been touched by cancer, especially those loved ones who have been lost to the fight. Luminaries bearing the name of a person affected by cancer will line the Relay For Life track, the lights will go out and participants will walk a silent lap to honor those lost. It becomes a very emotional part of the event and an ever-present reminder of the love and respect felt for lost loved ones.

Morgan Sills stated, “We gather at Relay For Life as a community, determined that those who are facing cancer will be supported, that those who have lost their battle will NOT be forgotten, and that, together, we will continue to fight back so that one day, no one in Sampson County will hear those dreadful words – “you have cancer.”

All donations received at the Relay will go to benefit the American Cancer Society and the fight against cancer. For more information about Relay For Life and how you can help win the fight against cancer please contact Morgan Sills at morgan.sills@cancer.org or 910.591.6505. or visit on-line at www.relayforlife.org.

Schedule of Events:

7:00 PM - Opening Ceremonies
7:15 PM – Survivor Walk
7:30 PM – Caregiver Walk
9:30 PM – Luminary Ceremony
11:00 PM – Closing Ceremonies

Rules For Relay for Life Event:

No Alcohol – no drinking – not even in cups where people can’t tell what is in it; No Smoking on school property; No concealed weapons; NO PETS (not even little ones you are carrying) Please don’t use live animals as your team mascot – this is not a new rule even if participants think it is; No bikes – not even to ride in memory of someone / No golf carts; No roller blades / No skates / No skateboards / No Heelies.

instruction on what to do to save this student’s life. This was a miracle!”

“What is also a miracle,” added Hunter, clearly choking back tears, “is that you came back to work at the right time – even though you are still battling cancer... You came back to work!”

Hunter then concluded, “Phyllis, your work on this planet is not done – you keep fighting, and we will forever keep fighting right alongside you!”

Of course, Principal Hunter wanted to express her gratitude for Lane’s quick work and expertise, but it wasn’t lost on school board members that Lane was one of three people at the right place at the right time. The Board of Education also recognized Julie Hunter for her part in saving a young Spartan life.

And as Principal Hunter stated in later comments to The Sampson Weekly, “Doug Burley should also be commended for his ability to maintain his composure and perform CPR on his own son. Doug went into training mode - he began compressions and started his count.”

Hunter also stated, “We are just so thankful that we had the AED and also for the staff who are trained in CPR and First Aid.”

Cameron was taken to the hospital where he stayed for nearly a week, but Principal Hunter informed us Wednesday of this week that Cameron is back home with his family and everyone is doing great.

Three people in the right place, at the right time, with just a hint that there was True Purpose in their being there when they were... Students at Union High are truly in good hands on Spartan grounds.



Phyllis Lane

Murder Investigation Under Way on Indian Town Road



Sampson County Deputies responded to an E911 call Saturday at 11:58pm to a Kent Circle address off Indian Town Road. On scene deputies found the body of 33-year old Willie Junior Melvin, a black male with a listed Ville Platte, Louisiana address.

Initial reports indicate that an unknown suspect approached and entered the front door of the Kent Circle address and shot the victim in the chest with a handgun. Type and caliber of handgun was not indicated in the initial report.

After contacting officials with the Sampson County Sheriff’s Office, Capt. Julian Carr stated, “Deputies responded to 154 Kent Circle, Clinton NC. An investigation into the shooting death of Willie Junior Melvin was launched. Melvin is a 33 years of age male. The call came into the E911 Center at 11:58 pm Saturday 5/19/18.”

“Unfortunately,” added Carr, “I can’t release any details surrounding the case at this time. With assistance from the NCSBI and the Clinton Police Department, we’re still conducting interviews and following leads. We will send out a more informative press release at a later time.”

Initial reports indicate that the suspect was wearing black pants and a black hoodie when he opened the front door of the Kent Circle residence and shot Melvin. The suspect then fled north on foot. The residence where the shooting occurred is little more than 200 yards from Clinton High School.

We will provide further details as they are released by local law enforcement

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We Should Know . . .



Miss NC Victoria Huggins with J.W. 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 guest for this week's show is the reigning Miss North Carolina, Victoria Huggins.

Victoria Huggins is a Graduate Student through Johns Hopkins University, studying Government with an emphasis in Political Communication. In 2015, she graduated Cum Laude from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mass Communication with a Double Minor in Religion and Music. Before becoming Miss North Carolina, Huggins worked at WECT/WSFX in Wilmington, North Carolina as the Morning News Producer and Reporter.

J.W. Simmons opens the show this week as they return to the studios of Star Communication for the first time since Hurricane Matthew. He asks Miss North Carolina if she feels at home in a TV studio.

"Oh absolutely," states Huggins. "One of my favorite things as Miss North Carolina that I've been able to do is having such a strong home base with television and knowing how it all works. I tell people that you can take the producer out of the control room, but you can't take the producer out of the girl. So, it's just awesome. I feel right at home."

Simmons says that while he's interviewed many Miss North Carolina's they have all been at the beginning of their reign. With Victoria Huggins the interview comes near the end of her reign which should provide for a different perspective.

Simmons asks Huggins to think back and remember if there was a time on stage in Raleigh when she realized she might actually win Miss North Carolina. Huggins replies, "The beautiful part of my story that has really resonated with our state is that it's one of perseverance. I did not win on my first try, my second, third or even my fourth. It was five tries. So, my message of not giving up and persevering despite the obstacles, every year that I went, I got better. I got stronger. And most importantly I learned more about who Victoria Huggins would be as Miss North Carolina. Not, this is who I have to be to obtain my goal to be Miss North Carolina."

"So, I really went in this past year just letting go and letting God, because I'm a very type A personality. I like to have my ducks in a row. I like to strategize, the whole nine yards. Well this year I was like, look this is my final year. I'm aging out and if its going to happen its going to happen. And if not, we'll just move on to the next part of the plan."

"But," says Huggins, "from the time I entered into Raleigh at the beginning of competition week I had a peace that just surpassed all understanding. And throughout the week that peace just resonated and every time I would start to get nervous it would just automatically calm me down."

"I am a woman of faith," adds Huggins. "And I was so blessed. I prayed, and I just had that peace. When I got to the final night of competition it was every single moment God reassuring me I've got you every step of the way. And from top 15, they were calling us out and I heard that still, small voice say you're going to be number 3. And I was the 3rd one called."

"Then they're going to eliminate us from the 15 to 10 and we're all sitting in our talent costumes and we didn't know if we were going to perform or not, because once they said our name for the top 10 we immediately had to perform. And as soon as I got out there in my dress the voice came again and said you're going to be number 10. And I said, ok, don't do this to me God."

Huggins explains that she was again number 10. And at top 5 the same thing happened with her being number 3.

"So," says Huggins, "once we get in to top 5, after every things over I'm like, ok voice, come again. Give me some reassurance here. Am I the girl or not. And it was just complete dead silence."

"I had been 3rd runner-up twice," adds Huggins, "and I had been 2nd runner-up. So, I figured if I could just get past 2nd runner-up it would be ok. And there we were. It was me and Miss Mount Holly, and we were standing there with our hands - and as pageantry goes there is an old saying - if your hands are on top then you're going to be the winner. If your hand is on the bottom, then you're going to be 1st runner-up."

"Well, the girl I was holding hands with had her hand on top, and I was like, oh no that isn't going to happen. So, I switch hands."

Huggins says that at that moment the small voice returned and said, it's you. She adds that you can see in the video that she started crying. "And the announcer said the 1st runner-up is Miss Mount Holly, and your new Miss North Carolina is Victoria Huggins. I just went down," says Huggins. "I was all about hard work. 5 years. 5 committees. It was all right in that moment and it was finally my turn."

Next, Simmons asks Huggins if at that moment she also got a message of this is what I want you to do with you time. Huggins replies, "The main thing that I wanted to accomplish in being Miss North Carolina, and I shared my business plan with the judges, was that I wanted to be the people's queen."

"I wanted to represent everyone. Every race, every background, every religion. I wanted to be a true Miss North Carolina that represented everyone from Murphy to Manteo. It was my goal to travel and visit all 100 counties, and I am well on my way having been to 69 counties which is more than we've had in over 20 years."

"And what has meant the most to me as Miss North Carolina is, everybody wants to ask what's your ethnic background and that's a very common question, but I really don't think that it matters. I think the grace and the beauty of me having a darker complexion with dark hair and dark eyes is that when I'm in these different parades and different communities where I go and speak in schools, and I see these little girls whether their Hispanic, Caucasian, African-American. Whatever they are, I have that moment where I see them pull on their momma's hand and say, she looks like me."

Huggins adds, "I think that is such a beautiful thing, because in Robeson County where I grew up unfortunately I didn't have a lot of great female role models that were in the spotlight from my community. We had so many in the home environment and the school environment, but they weren't reaching out of the community."

"So, for me," says Huggins, "that has always been my goal. To be a positive reflection of my community and my state to let little girls know if someone like Victoria Huggins, who grew up in a two-stop light town with nothing in it but a Piggly Wiggly and churches, can become Miss North Carolina then what can they do."

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

Happy Memorial Day!

We honor the memory of service members
and their families who have sacrificed
to protect the freedom we enjoy.

Sampson County To Remember Memorial Day



The Sampson County Veterans Service Office and Veterans Council are getting ready to hold its Annual Memorial Day Celebration on May 28, 2018 at the Sampson County Veterans Memorial Park located at 200 Northeast Blvd. in Clinton. The event starts at 10:00 AM.

Special Prayer will be done by James Britt, Chaplain of the Sampson County Veterans Council. Posting of Colors will be presented by the VFW Post 7547 Color Guard which includes Alvin Herring, Russell Raines, Andrea Goodman, Marshal Thornton, and Walter Raynor. Service Flag Bearers include Army: Willie Mitchell, Navy: James Britt, Air Force: Dean Wilson, USMC: Darryl Price, and USCG: Avon Jones. The Pledge of Allegiance will be led by Cliff Ireland, President of the Sampson County Veterans Council.

The National Anthem will be performed by De-Ondra Peterson.

According to Ann Knowles, Veterans Service Officer, the keynote speaker at this year's event will be W. Ray Johnson, BG Retired NC Army National Guard. The "Laying of the Wreath" and "Calling of the Names" will be presented by Cliff Ireland, President of the Sampson County Veterans Council and Avon Jones, Vice President of the Sampson County Veterans Council.

Closing Prayer will be presented by Pastor Gerald Underwood, Andrew Chapel Missionary Baptist Church.

The Firing Squad will consist of James Britt, Daryl Price, Kenny Williams, and Willie Mitchell. The

Closing of "Taps" will be performed by Avon Jones, American Legion Post 319.

Mrs. Knowles noted, "We will lay a carnation for each name that is called that gave their life for their country. It is a time that our family and friends can visit in the park and remember their soldier or loved one."

"We have had a Memorial Day celebration in Clinton since 1977," stated Knowles. "We have not always had the event we have now. Sometimes it was just a wreath laying at the county courthouse monuments or at a cemetery or the community college. But we always remember those who did not come back and gave their all."

"We usually have a good turnout, anywhere from as many as 200 to as few as 75. But they are there to give honor. No matter how big or small, the program is always great. This is a way that Sampson County citizens can show their respect to the ones who lost their lives for their County and Country. It tells all who live here, that our Soldiers and Veterans are important to us. We stop on Memorial Day to remember the sacrifice they made, so we can go about our lives each and every day as free people; with the right to worship in our churches and not be afraid of being taken prisoner. Even to the ones who protest our service, spit on our flag or burn our Bibles, the soldier fought to give them the right to express themselves. On Memorial Day, the citizens of our county know that there is going to be a memorial service to honor our soldiers that gave their lives. They know that this is their service and they are welcome. We want the families of our soldiers who lost their lives to know we mourn with them and care for the family left behind."

Mrs. Ann explained why this day is so important to her, "Memorial Day to me is a day to stop and remember the service member who lost their life from the Civil War to the present War. It is a day to remember their mother, father, spouse, children, sister, and brother that does not have their loved one home with them to celebrate a holiday, to go swimming, fishing or shopping or to just have a family day. It is a day that we tell these families we are sorry for their loss. It should not be one day a year but every day. It is a day that I think about the wars that have called our men and women to go to a foreign land to fight, and the hardship and suffering that they endured. I think about the veterans today who still mourn for their brothers or sisters that lost their life in service and who carry the images with them daily and how it affects their life. I think of our leaders of this great nation who get so wrapped up in power that they forget it was the soldier that fought to keep our country the home of the free and the brave. I think we forget that our freedom is not free but is paid for by the price of blood from our soldiers. They forget that we have an obligation to our servicemen and women who died for our freedom to continue the fight. We have an obligation to maintain our freedom for our children and the future generations. To me, it is a day for me bow my head and pray for those lost and their families. And May God Bless the Widows and Orphans. We will never forget the sacrifice that your loved one made to keep us free."

Refreshments will be provided by Ladies Auxiliary, VFW Post 7547 for all that attend and the organizers urge, "Please spend a few minutes with us in the park to remember those who gave their lives to make this country free. We share your sorrow in the loss of your loved one and share your pride in their service to our country."

Memorial Day Program

May 28, 2018

Beginning at 10:00 am

Sampson County Veterans Park

Everyone is invited to attend a reception
immediately following the program.

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."

- Ronald Reagan

Diabetes



Do You Have Diabetes? Come Learn with Us.

By Amy Lucas, RN, BSN

Diabetes diagnoses are on the rise in Sampson County. For this reason, Sampson County Health Department and Sampson Regional Medical Center have joined forces to bring a comprehensive diabetes education program to any citizen of our county. Our partnership is aimed at providing the community with the most effective and efficient diabetes education resources available.

What does this mean for you? If you have been diagnosed with Diabetes (Type 1, Type 2, Gestational, or Pre-Diabetes), we want to see you! We offer an assessment, self-management classes, 3-month follow-up, nutritional review, and more. These services are offered without any out-of-pocket cost to the patient. We will bill Medicaid, Medicare, or Insurance, if available, but perform all services related to diabetes at no cost to the patient.

Comments from our patients who have participated in our program include:

“I had no idea about carbs, this program helped me understand what they do to my blood sugar”.

“I have mobility issues and cannot exercise, but during class, I was taught exercises that even I can do. Thanks for customizing the program to help those on all different levels of ability”.

Our program participants are seeing lower blood sugar numbers as well as improved mobility, weight loss, and a greater understanding of how to make healthy eating choices.

What is Diabetes?

Diabetes is a chronic disease. It means that your blood glucose (sugar) is too high. Over

time, too much glucose can lead to problems with your eyes, kidneys, heart, nerves, feet and teeth. Diabetes is a serious disease, but it can be managed. You can learn to live well with diabetes. There are nine things that you can start doing today to improve your blood glucose.

- Follow a food plan -- Well-balanced meals and healthy snacks
- Keep a healthy weight -- If you are overweight, even losing a small amount of weight can help lower your blood sugar
- Get regular physical activity – Try for 30 minutes of aerobic exercise (walking) every day
- Check your blood sugar level – Your health care provider will show you how to check
- Lower your risk for heart disease -- Quitting smoking, Lowering Blood Pressure, Lowering Cholesterol
- Take good care of yourself --Brush and floss teeth daily, dry your feet well after bathing, check your feet daily for cuts, blisters, or signs of infection, get a flu shot yearly
- Take your medicine – If you are prescribed medication, take it exactly the way your health care provider tells you to
- Work with your health care provider – Ask your health care provider for a referral to diabetes education classes available in your area.
- Enroll in a Diabetes Self-Management Education Program in Sampson County

Education is a powerful tool to assist you in managing your diabetes, so please contact the Sampson County Health Department to find out more information about how you can be a part of our nationally recognized diabetes education program. 910-592-1131 ext. 4249 or 4240.

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FAITH

The Royal Wedding Yet To Come

Perhaps you, like many others, woke up early Saturday morning -- and when I say early, I mean an ungodly hour of the morning! -- To watch what everyone has been talking about the last two weeks: Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's wedding. Hey, so did I.

The Royal Wedding has certainly been a hot topic in the news, mostly because here in America, we don't usually get to see this sort of thing. We don't have a royal family. When our founding fathers established how this nation would govern itself, they abhorred the thought of a monarchy. They had seen what tyranny was and established a system of checks and balanced between three branches of government so that freedom could indeed ring in the new land. But still something about royalty captures our imagination and demands our attention. My three year old daughter loves princesses, she builds castles out of her brothers' Legos, and if you were to give her a tiara she would probably wear it for days.

It's no surprise then that when the Bible speaks of things to come, it mentions a royal wedding and a royal feast to follow. Jesus used the imagery of royal when he said in Matthew 22:2, "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son." In Revelation 19:6-9, John writes of a royal wedding feast: the marriage supper of the Lamb. He states, "For then I heard what seemed a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder crying out, 'Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure' -- for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are the true

words of God.'"

Notice that Scripture says that the King -- that is Father God -- is preparing a wedding banquet for his son, and that the Bride -- that is the church -- have been clothed with fine linen, which we find out is righteous deeds. In other words, Jesus has wed himself to the church and the church -- that is, every-one single follower of Christ, belongs to him for eternity. Also notice that not everyone is invited to take part in this marriage. Blessed are those who are invited, but on the flip side, cursed are those who are not. Damned are those who are not. Condemned are those who are not. This is reality. These are the true words of God."

You and I were not invited to the royal wedding that took place at the Windsor Castle. In fact, only 600 guests were invited personally to the royal wedding. But because of national television and live internet streams, we all got to catch a glimpse of the celebration from the outside in. One day, we will either be invited or not invited to an even greater Royal Wedding -- and whether we partake in it or not, we will get to see it. For the condemned, they will see it and remember the times they disregarded the invitations.

If you have disregarded an invitation to come and follow Christ, you stand condemned. You stand presently as an enemy of God. The reason this has happened is because you have sinned against a holy God. Think of a bride. A bride wears white because it symbolizes purity. If the church is the bride of Christ, and we are clothed in righteous deeds -- we actually do not deserve to be the bride. None of us are righteous. We all have sinned against God. We have broken God's law. We have blasphemed God and we have rebelled against Him with our deeds. Our biggest problem is our sin, and Jesus is the only solution. Even in your life if you were good



99% of the time and sinful 1% of the time, that 1% would still be an egregious offense to a holy God. If God were a judge in a courtroom, he would find us guilty.

But while we were yet guilty, while we were yet sinners, while we were yet enemies of God, Christ died for us. Jesus stepped in and paid the penalty -- the penalty of God's wrath. Christ took God's wrath upon himself to be the perfect substitute we needed. When we repent and accept by faith the substitutionary death Jesus died, our invitation is accepted on the basis of what Christ has done. We are invited to the wedding, not as a spectator, but as the Bride.

So as the uproar over the royal wedding begins to wane, we look forward to another royal wedding. Not one of Prince William or Prince Harry's children, but to Christ and his bride. Have you RSVP'd?



Will Matthews



Nehemiah 3:3, "But the fish gate did the sons of Hassenaah build."

If you traveled years ago to Jerusalem you would discover a city surrounded by a wall with gate entrances. These gates have been given a variety of names over the centuries. The names of the gates could speak of the different aspects of a believer's life. One of these gates is called the Fish Gate.

The Fish Gate was the closest entrance to the city's fish market. Fishmongers coming with their prized catch from one of Israel's two seas would have been familiar with this gate. Some of the fish caught by Peter, John and James would have eventually made their way through this gate; perhaps they even accompanied them at times. This gate, just after the sheep gate, takes the believer on to his next progression in the new covenant journey of catching souls.

The prophet Habakkuk's analogy that God "make men as the fishes of the sea" continues its theme where God draws men out of sin's deep, dark and dangerous waters by way of evangelism (Habakkuk 1:14). In accordance with this theme, Jesus called fisherman to be His very first apprentices saying, "Come ye after men, and I will make you to become fishers of men" (Mark 1:18). You might recall how Jesus produced a miracle catch of fish for His disciples even though they had toiled all night and caught nothing. Christ did this to show His disciples they would not be

able to catch the souls of men apart from His guidance.

The apostle Peter fervently trained for three years how to properly fish for men, but he got discouraged after Jesus was not daily by his side, so he went back to fishing for fish. John 21:3, "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing."

Why has Peter not gone out zealously telling everyone that he had seen Israel's Messiah in His glorious resurrected form? This shows how easily we can get sidetracked from what we really need to be doing for the Kingdom of Heaven, sharing the good news of salvation. Peter never got sidetracked again after Jesus performed the second miraculous catch of fish from the seashore. John 21:6, "He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish."

Peter became so suddenly enthusiastic that he drew the net to land and counted the fish as if they were the souls of men. John 21:11, "Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not torn." The call of evangelism sounded loudly in Peter's heart once again.

Theodore Epp, founding director and speaker of the Back to the Bible broadcasts, stated, "God has given believers the responsibility of spreading the Gospel to all the world, and we need to use all at our disposal to accomplish this task." This powerful call of sharing the Gospel is not just for those that call themselves pastors, evangelists or Bible teachers, but for everyone that has been transformed by Jesus.

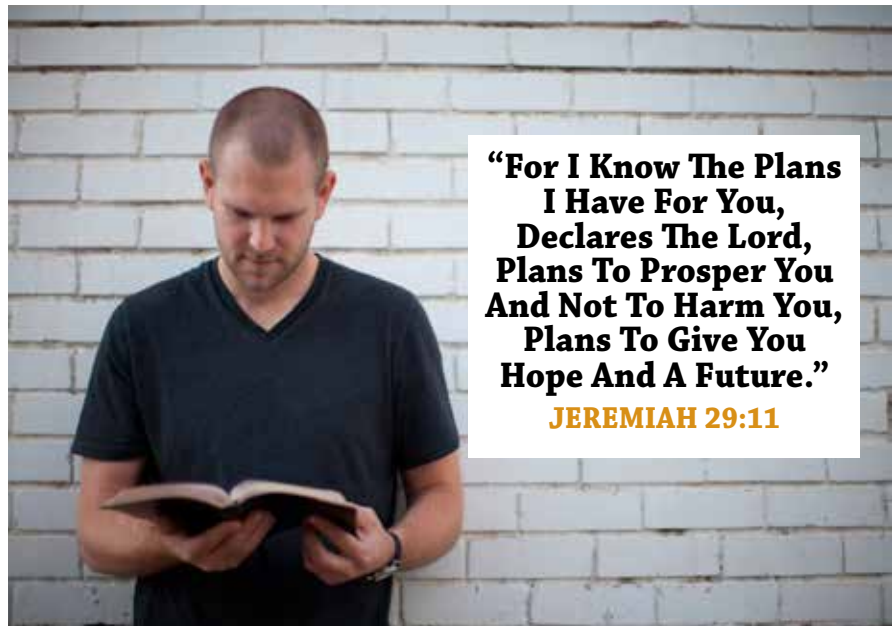
I encourage you to remember this week that you have been called to go fishing for the souls of men. No fish have ever been reeled in if the fisherman stays in the bed. Preparation is required, patience is essential and prayer will always be our guiding force when reaching a dying world with the message of Jesus. Don't become discouraged just because you haven't seen any results from your spiritual fishing. Remain faithful to Jesus and He will guide you in your steps. Paul reminds each of us in Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile." Don't be ashamed to go fishing, you just never know the impact you will have for the Kingdom.



Rev. Ken Smith

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What's Happening at SCT

By Angela Martin

Hairspray is coming - and it is coming in a BIG way!

Our next production is Hairspray. This production is a revival to our production of 5 years ago. During the 2013 season we performed 16 shows of this very popular musical - had 15 sold out shows and developed a buzz that continues today. We hope to bring a little of this magic back as we present Hairspray in July. Our production features some of the same stars as before - cast members who are returning are as follows: Logan Tart is back as Tracy Turnblad, Aaron Batts will be portraying Edna Turnblad once again, Guy Padgett will be Wilbur Turnblad again and Ursula Herring will reprise Motormouth Maybelle. Other former cast members who are returning are Libbie Clark, Annabeth Clark, Judson Clark, Krystin Turlington, Anna Quinn Starling, Laura Carraway, Kathy Day, Dayln Padgett, Erica Miller, Parsell Murphy and Alicia Robinson. The show had a cast that is ready to entertain you! Our show dates are July 6-15 with Friday, Saturday and Sunday shows at 7:30 pm and Saturday and Sunday shows at 2:30 pm. The production is sponsored by Performance Automotive and is directed by Angela Martin - who directed the production five years ago as well. Tickets will be on sale beginning this week at Matthews Gifts, InkSpot Classic Printing and at the Box Office during the week from 6:30-9.

Ursula Herring (pictured center) will be reprising her role as Motormouth Maybelle in this summer's Hairspray revival. Tickets are on sale now at InkSpot, Matthews Gifts and the Box Office between 6-8:30 throughout the week.



hairspray



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AVENGERS INFINITY WAR

Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of sci-fi violence and action throughout, language and some crude references

As the Avengers and their allies have continued to protect the world from threats too large for any one hero to handle, a new danger has emerged from the cosmic shadows: Thanos. A despot of intergalactic infamy, his goal is to collect all six Infinity Stones, artifacts of unimaginable power, and use them to inflict his twisted will on all of reality.

Fri 6:30p

Mon-Thur 6:30p

Sat & Sun 2:00p 5:00p 8:00p



DEADPOOL 2

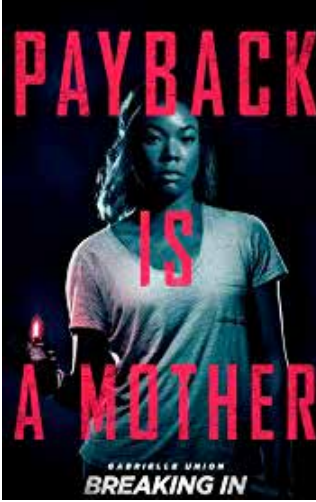
Rated R for strong violence and language throughout, sexual references and brief drug material

After surviving a near fatal bovine attack, a disfigured cafeteria chef (Wade Wilson) struggles to fulfill his dream of becoming Mayberry's hottest bartender while also learning to cope with his lost sense of taste. Searching to regain his spice for life, as well as a flux capacitor, Wade must battle ninjas, the yakuza, and a pack of sexually aggressive canines, as he journeys around the world to discover the importance of family.

Fri 6:30p 9:00p

Sat & Sun 1:30p 4:00p 6:30p 9:00p

Mon-Thur 6:30p



BREAKING IN

Rated PG-13 for violence, menace, bloody images, sexual references, and brief strong language

Gabrielle Union stars as a woman who will stop at nothing to rescue her two children being held hostage in a house designed with impenetrable security. No trap, no trick and especially no man inside can match a mother with a mission when she is determined.

Fri 6:30p 8:30p

Sat & Sun 2:00p 4:00p 6:00p 8:00p

Mon-Thur 6:30p



SHOW DOGS

Rated PG for suggestive and rude humor, language and some action

A human detective (Arnett) and his canine partner (voice of Chris "Ludacris" Bridges) go undercover at the world's most exclusive dog show to solve his biggest case yet.

Fri 6:30p 8:30p

Sat & Sun 2:00p 4:00p 6:00p 8:00p

Mon-Thur 6:30p



SOLO A STAR WARS STORY

Rated PG-13 for sexual material, drug content and partying

When her husband suddenly dumps her, long-time dedicated housewife Deanna (McCarthy) turns regret into re-set by going back to college... landing in the same class and school as her daughter, who's not entirely sold on the idea.

Fri 6:30p 9:10p

Sat & Sun 1:30p 4:15p 7:00p

Mon-Thur 6:30p

MEMORIAL DAY

SHOW TIMES SAME AS
SATURDAY & SUNDAY



Authentic Italian Cuisine

Savory dishes featuring pesto

FAMILY FEATURES
 One of the best times of each day is gathering with family members to enjoy home-cooked meals. Using fresh and versatile ingredients, adults can be at ease that everyone is eating right with a nutritious dinner and kids are eating something delicious and relaxing each evening. Pesto can be used as an ingredient in many recipes and brings a punch of flavor to each dish on the table. For example, it can be served mixed in potatoes, as a spread on sandwiches,

dolloped on soups or dips and as a sauce on pasta. With authentic Italian taste capturing the recipes of the region, Filippo Berio Pestos are made to suit any taste. The versatile flavors include Classic Basil, Sun Dried Tomato, Tomato & Ricotta and Hot Chili and Olive. Each variety is vegetarian, gluten-free and GMO-free, making it the perfect addition to any dinner. Pesto can be served hot or cold, so it is easy to cook with or add to dishes featuring fresh vegetables, like this recipe

for Chicken Caprese Stuffed Spaghetti Squash. Add Savory Zucchini and Fontina Muffins to the meal for a fun twist on muffins. For a more traditional meal the whole family can enjoy, try this Tomato and Tortellini Soup made with Tomato & Ricotta Pesto. This pesto is based on an age-old Sicilian recipe, combining the smoothness of ricotta cheese and the rich taste of Filippo Berio Extra Virgin Olive Oil. For more flavorful recipes and ways to cook with pesto, visit FilippoBerio.com.

Savory Zucchini and Fontina Muffins
 Prep time: 15 minutes
 Cook time: 15 minutes
 Total time: 30 minutes
 Serves: 12

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- 1/2 cup Filippo Berio Sun Dried Tomato Pesto, divided
- 1/3 cup Filippo Berio Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 cup shredded zucchini
- 2 green onions, finely chopped

12 cubes (1/2 inch each) fontina cheese
 Heat oven to 400 F. Line 12-cup muffin pan with large paper liners. In large bowl, whisk flour, baking powder, salt and pepper. In separate bowl, whisk 1/4 cup pesto, olive oil, milk, sugar and egg; stir into flour mixture until moistened. Fold in zucchini and green onions. Divide half the batter evenly among muffin cups; place cube of fontina on top of batter. Top each with 1 teaspoon remaining pesto; top with remaining batter. Bake 15-20 minutes, or until golden brown and top of muffin springs back when pressed lightly. Let cool slightly; serve warm. **Tip:** To make extra savory, add 1/2 cup cooked and crumbled bacon.

Chicken Caprese Stuffed Spaghetti Squash
 Prep time: 10 minutes
 Cook time: 45 minutes
 Total time: 55 minutes
 Serves: 4

- 2 small spaghetti squash
- 2 tablespoons Filippo Berio Robusto Extra Virgin Olive Oil, divided
- 3/4 teaspoon salt, divided
- 3/4 teaspoon pepper, divided
- 12 ounces boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1/3 cup Filippo Berio Classic Pesto
- 1 1/2 cups halved cherry tomatoes
- 8 ounces fresh mozzarella cheese, sliced
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil

Heat oven to 400 F. Halve spaghetti squash lengthwise and scrape out seeds; drizzle cut sides with 1 tablespoon olive oil and season with 1/4 teaspoon each salt and pepper. Bake, cut sides down, on parchment paper-lined baking sheet 45-50 minutes, or until tender. Let cool slightly. Using fork, scrape strands of squash into bowl; reserve squash shells. In skillet, heat remaining oil over medium-high heat; cook chicken, onion and remaining salt and pepper about 5 minutes, or until chicken is browned. Stir in pesto; bring to simmer. Cook about 5 minutes, or until chicken is cooked through. Stir in cherry tomatoes; cook about 1 minute, or until slightly softened. Toss spaghetti squash with chicken mixture; divide among reserved squash shells. Top with mozzarella cheese; broil 1-2 minutes, or until cheese melts. Sprinkle with chopped basil. **Tip:** For a more savory dish, add chopped black olives or jarred artichokes, if desired.



Tomato and Tortellini Soup
 Prep time: 10 minutes
 Cook time: 35 minutes
 Total time: 45 minutes
 Serves: 4-6

- 2 tablespoons Filippo Berio Olive Oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 carrot, diced
- 1 stalk celery, diced
- 1/2 cup Filippo Berio Tomato & Ricotta Pesto
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1 teaspoon oregano
- pinch of chili pepper flakes
- 1 can (28 ounces) whole Italian-style tomatoes
- 4 cups reduced sodium chicken broth

3/4 teaspoon salt
 1/2 teaspoon pepper
 1 package (12 ounces) fresh cheese tortellini
 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
 grated Parmesan cheese, for serving

In large saucepan over medium heat, heat oil; cook onion, garlic, carrot and celery about 5 minutes, or until softened. Add pesto, basil, oregano and chili flakes; cook 1 minute. Add tomatoes, chicken broth, salt and pepper; bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer about 20 minutes, or until slightly thickened. In blender or using immersion blender, puree tomato mixture; return to pan and bring to simmer. Add tortellini; cook 8-10 minutes, or until tender. Sprinkle with parsley and Parmesan. **Tip:** Dried basil can be substituted for 1 tablespoon chopped fresh basil, if desired.



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5 Fun, Educational Summer Activities for Kids

FAMILY FEATURES

Summer may be a break from formal education, but keeping kids excited about learning can be an easy way to keep them active and engaged instead of zoned out on screen time.

The National Summer Learning Association estimates that kids can lose up to two months of learning during the summer but involving kids in educational summer activities can prevent them from forgetting skills they learned during the school year.

Encourage your kids to keep learning outside of school with these fun and educational summer activities.

Visit a Science Museum

Spend a rainy day enjoying a science museum, which offers hands-on experiences to make learning fun. Kids can build on what they've already learned and apply new discoveries when they return to school in the fall. Many museums offer

special prices for families, which makes it an opportunity for the whole family to bond. Once you get home, talk about favorite exhibits or lessons and ask kids to express those memories on paper in the form of a journal entry or colorful drawing.

Head to the Zoo or Aquarium

At a conservation-oriented destination like an Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)-accredited zoo or aquarium, kids can learn about the importance of environmentally friendly practices, animal care and welfare and more. Families can also explore the unique challenges facing endangered species and discover how members are Saving Animals From Extinction (SAFE). After learning about animals that need help, kids can visit zebrapen.com/aza for fun games that reinforce what they learned. Kids can also draw their favorite animals, real or imaginary, and take a photo to enter Zebra Pen's AZA SAFE contest. Prizes include

zoo or aquarium tickets and items from the Zensations product line.

Go on a Nature Hike

Hikes provide abundant nature lessons, giving kids a chance to get some exercise while exploring and appreciating their surroundings. Visit a national or local park to get some fresh air and learn about preserving nature. Along with a picnic lunch, bring along information about local wildlife and plants, and have kids search for each item on the list as a scavenger hunt. Back at home, test their memories by having them create a collage of all the things they found.

See a Show at a Children's Theater

Experiencing live theater is a positive way to introduce kids to new cultural experiences. Because they're typically short in run time, most shows can hold

the attention of kids of all ages while conveying important life lessons. Pick a show with lots of interaction that can allow kids to stay focused and maybe even participate in the show. Acting out their favorite scenes, illustrating favorite characters or writing a new scene or different ending are all ways to keep the learning going after the curtains close.

Join a Library Program

Special summer programs at libraries can give kids a chance to enhance their reading skills. Many local libraries offer contests that challenge kids to read a certain number of books during the summer and include a series of incentives for reaching certain milestones. The reading component is often supplemented with crafts and activities to make reading fun. Extend the challenge even further by choosing a favorite book and asking kids to write or draw a sequel that takes those characters on another exciting adventure.

Capture Life's Moments



In addition to getting out and exploring new things, encourage daily writing, coloring and expression by asking kids to creatively capture their summer experiences. Teaching kids to write and draw about things they find fun is a great way to reinforce what they've learned and foster a love for writing.

Letting kids get creative begins with the right supplies. For example, Zebra Cadoodles and Starters come in different designs to get creativity flowing.

Make summer adventures more memorable by encouraging kids to capture them through these ideas:

1. Write about experiences in a journal or diary.
2. Mom and Dad can join in on the fun by writing or creating their own bullet journals using Zebra Sarasa Fineliners, Mildliners and more. Bullet journals can be perfect for planning summer activities.
3. Take photos to share with friends and family both online and in-person.
4. Draw pictures of the favorite parts of the day. An option like Zebra Zensations Colored Pencils are perfect for writing, coloring, sketching and expressing creativity for every craft and project. They're refillable and triangular-shaped, so they won't fall off the table.
5. Share experiences on social media.
6. Collect drawings, writing entries and photos to create a summer keepsake or scrapbook.

Find more ideas for capturing summer experiences at zebrapen.com.

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Midway's Blythe Best Honored at Athletic Banquet; Signs with Methodist

On Tuesday night, Midway High School three-sport standout (softball, volleyball and golf) Blythe Best was honored at the school's annual Athletic Banquet.

Best received four cords (Arts Honors Society; CTE Honors Society; AIG and N.C. Honors); A BETA Club Stole; The Outstanding Senior Award; The Wendy's Heisman Athlete for Midway High School; An Academic All-Star; and received the Red Cross Volunteer Scholarship.

It has been an amazing week for Best, who just five days earlier, committed to play softball at Methodist University.

When Best was honored with the Performance Auto/Sampson Weekly Star Athlete of the Week award back in September of 2017, she had already been accepted to play softball at Methodist University but hadn't committed yet.

Last Thursday, the 17-year-old catcher officially signed to further her softball career and more importantly, her educational career at Methodist. The straight 'A' student, with a staggering 4.5 GPA, will major in Biology. She wants to become a pediatric optometrist.

In front of friends, family, coaches, teammates and teachers, Best signed her name on the dotted line.

"I actually decided back in September," Best said. "Honestly, I don't know why it took me so long [to sign], I had a lot of things going on, but I am glad that I was able to get it done."

The event took place in the Midway High School Media Center on May 17.

"It is all super exciting," she said. "I am really honored and grateful that so many people came out to support me. Even my golf coaches came out and watched. I was really touched."

The event was the culmination of hard work, dedication, determination and passion for athletics for Best, who stood out in the three sports she participated in at Midway High School.

"I am really glad that I have gotten it out of the way," she admits. "Now, I can focus on

my final year at Midway."

The Sampson County native, who was scouted by other colleges, said she chose Methodist University because it was the school that she could "grow" at.

"I went to a softball camp at Methodist when I was in the fifth grade," Best said. "At that time, the coach told me that one day, he wanted me to play for him. So, it all came full circle when I signed to play there."

Best explained that she also liked Methodist University because of the similarities to her school.

"When I visited the school again, it just felt so much like home," she said. "Everyone was so nice there, they have a great program for what I want to go into academically, it is not too far away from home and, honestly, I just loved the coach. I really feel like I can grow there."

Best will stay on campus and will work hard to earn her place on the Monarchs softball squad.

"I want to be competitive," Best admits. "I plan on going in there and continue to work hard on the field and in the classroom."

There shouldn't be any concern.

In her final softball season at Midway High, Best was nothing short of outstanding.

Through 19 games, Best hit .348, with 24 hits, 23 RBIs and had an on-base percentage of .400 and a slugging percentage of .420. The Lady Raiders fell in the third round of the NCHSAA 2-A State Softball Championships (on March 30).

In addition to her work on the field and in the classroom, the legacy that Best will also leave at Midway High School is being one of six ladies (along with Kaylah Jackson, Laura Person, Madison Peterson, Miranda Holmes and Regan Naylor) who were the first-ever members of the girls' golf team at Midway High.

Led by coach Glen Patrick, the team had a solid inaugural season, placing fifth, fourth (twice) and third in matches.



For her part, Best, who says her short game (chipping and putting) is the strongest part of her game, averaged scores of 53-54 in each match. Those scores are incredible because for the past 13 years, she has lived close to a golf course (Sandy Ridge) and never played until the beginning of this season.

When asked if she plans to try out for the Methodist ladies' golf or volleyball teams, Best said she would like to continue to play golf, possibly in intermurals at the school.

One thing Best is not looking forward to is saying goodbye to the only school system she has ever known.

"People really don't understand how close this community is and how supportive it is," she said. "It is so close, everyone knows each other, and I have really cherished that."

She continued, "Leaving here will be bittersweet - more sweet than bitter. I will miss it. But there is a big door closing and the next door is opening, and I am very excited about it."

Having said that, Best wanted to send a special thank you to those who have supported her over the years.

"I would like to thank my parents (Beth and Michael) and my family, coaches and friends for all the love and support they have given me over the years and during this process," she said. "I would also like to thank God for His direction and for the ability to play the sport I love."

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Back row (men): Ivan Zelaya - Wrestling, Chandler Perry - Golf, Dewan Lesesne - Basketball, Greg Monk - Track, Wesley Cowand - Swimming, Cooper Brewen - Tennis

Clinton Finishes Season 14-1



The Clinton Dark Horse Tennis Team took on the Carrboro Jaguars in the 2A East Dual Team Championship Tuesday afternoon. Carrboro proved to be too tough by winning the match 5-1 to advance to the state championship Saturday in Burlington. Winning the lone singles court for the Dark Horses was their only senior, Trevor Leggett, at number five. Clinton finishes their season at 14-1, winning the East Central Conference title and 2A East Region Runner-up.

Midway Golf Team Recognized for State Golf Championship



During Sampson County Schools' May Board Meeting, MHS Principal Strickland recognized the 2018 Midway High School Golf team. The team won the NCHSAA 2A State Golf Championship in Whispering Pines on May Individual 8, 2018.

This is the fourth team state championship in the 59-year history of MHS. Logan Patrick was the NCHSAA Individual State Champion as well. Trey Pope was awarded the Sportsmanship award.

Midway HS and the Raider community are proud of these student-athletes for this rare accomplishment. We congratulate each teammate and coach for the hard work and dedication that they have shown throughout the season!

The Golf Team Members are: Logan Patrick; Andrew Eldridge; Trey Pope; Jordan Sullivan; Matthew Faircloth; Brett Stone; Ashton Sasser; Austin Marley (Manager). The Coaches are Glenn Patrick and Donnie Moore.

Lakewood Sports Recognized for Community Service

Lakewood Principal John Goode recognized the varsity athletic teams from Lakewood High School. Under the supervision of and with the assistance of their coaches, have completed a number of community service projects in the Lakewood district. Representing the LHS Athletic Coaching Staff is Darren Hulon and Dana Hair project videographer. These projects were submitted to the NCHSAA, and on April 19 Lakewood High School was informed that they would be recognized as a one of 2018 NCHSAA Commissioner's Cup recipient. The Commissioner's Cup recognizes athletic programs for their time, dedication, and impact made on their local communities through service projects. In addition to the award, Lakewood's Varsity Sports Program will also receive a stipend of \$1,000.



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EDUCATION

SCC Student Goes Platinum



From left, Phillips, Beatty, instructor Rhonda Donald, Erica Dean and Royal.

Proving that a student is ready for the workforce is actually something that can be measured with tests. These tests are referred to as ACT's or American College Testing assess-

ments.

The ACT National Career Readiness Certificate is an assessment-based credential issued at four levels, including Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze. The ACT NCRC measures and certifies the essential work skills needed for success in jobs across industries and occupations. The ACT NCRC is widely used by employers, educators, workforce developers, and others with a stake in the success of the economy. Almost three million ACT NCRCs have been issued nationwide since the credential was introduced in 2006.

Platinum level signifies that a recipient scored significantly well in all of the core areas to include Applied Math, Workplace Documents and Graphic Literacy. Platinum means the student has the necessary foundational skills for 99% of the jobs in these areas. No SCC student has ever reached this 99% platinum level...until now.

Joseph Beatty is the first Sampson Community College student to obtain a Platinum National Career Readiness Certificate. Alonza Royal, Human Resources development Director, says this is an achievement he is excited to see. "This accomplishment is one that has stood out above all others in the history of the program here at SCC," says Royal. "This test is a trusted indicator that, in combination with other selection tools, can improve his chances of being hired and he achieved the highest level possible."

Beatty's class also included Sulinda Phillips, who achieved the Bronze certificate and Erica Dean who achieved the Gold. Those seeking more information about the ACT NCRC program should contact Alonza Royal at 910.900.4014.

SCC Trucking Gets Overhaul



Davis Tyndall, President of Davis' Auto Body & Paint, Inc. inspects the work being done to SCC rigs.

Sampson Community College has put on a fresh new face the past few months and when it comes to one of its most popular programs, the same applies. This year, the college appointed a new President, orchestrated a new entryway into the college and is developing brand new programs. Now, SCC's Truck Driver Training program is getting a makeover that will last the next several weeks.

SCC's rigs are getting pulled apart and repainted to improve the look on the trucks, which serve as moving billboards for the college. A visit to Davis' Auto Body & Paint in Clinton is testament to that. In about one month, workers will piece them back together and show off their handiwork.

"She's in a thousand pieces right now," says Amanda Bradshaw, Dean of Workforce Development and Continuing Education referring to one of the trucks. "The paint has deteriorated over the years so this will be a welcome facelift for the trucks and our fleet will look like new again." The program has become known nationwide as one of the premier schools in the country for the quality of training. It is the most cost-efficient program of its kind in the United States. The makeover serves to uphold that image with the equipment put on the road that bears the SCC brand. A new paint job is only half the story though.

For years, the training grounds resided at the Ag Provision Lot in Kenansville, 27 miles away from main campus in Clinton. Now, work has begun on a new training facility located in the Industrial Park area in Clinton. "The program has grown over the years," says Fred Stamey, Coordinator and Lead Instructor. "The new site will offer growth for the program so we can train more students for a new career in the trucking industry." One of the major benefits for the students will be the travel time to and from school. Stamey says the move will cut commute time to about one-third for out of town students, a particular benefit as the price of gasoline continues to rise.

The ultimate goal is to expand the current enrollment of 24 students per class to 32 students per class. As if the program didn't have long lines of students as it were, the college is developing a training class for Class "B" licenses which include straight trucks and dump trucks as well. For more information about the Truck Driver Training program at SCC, contact Fred Stamey at fstamey@sampsoncc.edu or at 910.900.4042.

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Sampson County School Awards



The Governor's School of North Carolina is the oldest statewide summer residential program for gifted and talented high school students in the nation. Dr. Wesley Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services for Sampson County Schools, recognized the students that were selected to attend one of two campus, Governor's School East at Meredith College or Governor's School West at Salem College, and will spend six weeks of their summer investigating contemporary texts, compositions, artistic expressions, issues, ideas, and the theories that flow from them.

The academic environment of Governor's School thrives upon the intellectual curiosity of students and faculty alike, and students are expected to be producers of knowledge, problem solvers, and problem finders. These six students completed a portfolio, essays, and interviews at the local level and/or performances and additional interviews at the state level. We are so thrilled to have these six dedicated young men and women to represent Sampson County Schools this summer at Governor's School, and we wish them a summer of learning and growth.

The students are from Midway HS, Austin Konnor Brown (arts-theater); Brayden Coats (music-saxophone); Rachel Edwards (academic-natural science); Michael Gautier (academic-English); Tessa Wood (academic-English); from Hobbton HS, Anthony Romero-Jorge (academic-natural science).



Dr. Shajuana Sellers, Principal at Roseboro Salemberg Middle School recognized Catina Iverson at the Monday night Sampson County School Board meeting. She recently was awarded a \$4,000.00 Simple Gifts grant entitled Bringing the Pages to Life: Making Connections with Reading and History. She will take her Battle of the Books team to Washington DC to visit the United States Holocaust Museum, Ford's Theater, and various monuments while connecting the book "Chasing Lincoln's Killer to those places. This experience and connecting the book with the visit will be an unforgettable experience for the students.

Dr. Sellers also recognized Andrea Rouse who has written and received two grants through Donor Choose. One for 9 Kindles for her EC self-contained students and one for a pitching machine for the student athletics at RSMS.

In addition, Dr. Sellers recognized Jennifer Gemma and Arleen Mason. They were awarded \$5,000.00 grant from the Amos and Alice Butler Lakewood Area Education Fund. The grant money allowed Ms. Mason to have a smartboard and new laptops in her classroom to aid her in delivery of exciting science and social studies lessons. This grant also allowed an older promethean board to be placed in the Health room to assist with those lessons.

OBITUARIES

SALEMBURG

Michael Arnette, Age 53- 2010 Bearskin Rd, Salemburg, NC died Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at Sampson Regional Medical Center, Clinton, NC. Funeral was held Saturday, May 19, 2018 at Butler & Son Funeral Home Chapel, Roseboro, NC at 2:00 pm. Public visitation was held at Butler & Son Funeral Home on Friday, May 18, 2018 from 1 to 7 pm. Family present 6 to 7 pm. Butler & Son Funeral Home, Inc. Roseboro, NC



CHARLOTTE

Thelma Butler Best, Age-84, 5801 Hwy 70E, Goldsboro, N.C. died Monday 5/21/18 in Charlotte, N.C. Funeral services Friday 5/25/18 at 3pm-Best Grove MBC, 1065 Tommys Rd. Goldsboro, N.C. Interment: Best Family Cemetery, Goldsboro, N.C. Visitation 1 hour prior to the service at the church. Butler & Son Funeral Services, Clinton, N.C.



DUNN

Leon S. Britt, 80 of Dunn passed away on Saturday, May 19, 2018. Mr. Britt's funeral service will be held on Tuesday, May 22, 2018, at 2:00 pm, in the West & Dunn Funeral Home Chapel in Newton Grove. The Rev. Alton Childers will be officiating the service. Mr. Britt will be laid to rest in the Bradshaw Family Cemetery in Newton Grove. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Tuesday, May 22, from 1 till 2 PM. Mr. Britt's survivors include his daughter, Betty Armstrong and husband David of Dunn; his son, Donald Britt and wife Lurene of Dunn; grandchildren, Kayla Armstrong, Amanda Thornton, Matthew Armstrong, Kenny Britt and Jeremy Britt; great grandchildren, Elizabeth and Madison Strickland; a brother, John Britt of Raleigh; and a sister, Edith Lee of Clayton. Mr. Britt was preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Clyda Britt; and his wife, Evelene Britt. Online condolences may be made at www.westanddunn.com. Services have been entrusted to West & Dunn Funeral Home of Newton Grove, North Carolina



NEWTON GROVE

Mother Ruth Lee Butler Bullock 97 formerly of Newton Grove passed away on Saturday, May 12, 2018. Home Going Service was held on Saturday, May 19, 2018 at 3:00 pm at Poplar Grove Baptist Church 163 Poplar Grove Church Ln, Faison, NC, with Rev. Willie Alford officiating, burial followed in the Sandhill Cemetery. Mother Ruth was born in Faison NC, on January 29, 1921 to the late Alonzo Butler and Allie Simmons Butler.



God in His infinite wisdom and divine love called her from our midst on Saturday, May 12, 2018 at South Nassau Communities Hospital. She was preceded in death by her father, mother, one sister, Blanche Stevens and two brothers George and Alonzo Butler Jr. Ruth attended Sampson County Schools. Ruth joined Poplar Grove Missionary Baptist Church at a very early age. In 1969 Ruth migrated to Far Rockaway, New York. She joined First Baptist Church and served under the leadership of the late Rev. H. Oliver Scott. She was a faithful member and usher until her health prevented her from attending. Ruth worked at Five Town Nursing home until her retirement. She loved working with the elderly. Ruth was a loyal New York Knicks fan who cheered her team on every opportunity she could. She also loved wrestling, game shows and court TV. She should have received her law degree because of the number of hours she watched those court shows. Although gone from this present world, she will never be forgotten. Her legacy of love, forgiveness, strength and her many talents orator, actress and comedian will live on through her children and grandchildren. She will forever be her in our hearts, we will never forget her. Her husband John Jasper Bullock preceded her in death as well as three of her sons, Glenwood, (Edna) Clinton, NC, Reginald and John Bullock. She leaves to cherish her memories one son Raydolph Bullock (Tempie) Newton Grove, NC six daughters Mary Haynes Far Rockaway, NY, Carolyn Chancy (Harold) Newton Grove, NC, Gloristine Bullock Far Rockaway, NY, Allie Hill (Lynwood) Fayetteville, NC, Kathy Bullock and Sheri Williams (Pendarvis) Philadelphia, PA. Three sisters Nancy Thompson, Connie Brown, Faison, NC and Mallie Stocks, Kinston, NC. One grandson, Dexter who preceded her in death. Twenty-four grandchildren, twenty-seven great grandchildren, and fourteen great great grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Visitation was held prior to the service on Saturday, May 19, 2018 at Poplar Grove Baptist Church from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm and a walk through 2:00 pm until 5:00 pm Friday May 17 2018 at Hope Valley Hawkins Funeral Chapel 1246 Hobbs Hwy Clinton NC

GODWIN

Mr. Marion Leornald Daniels, 83, of Godwin died Saturday, May 19, 2018 at Liberty Commons Nursing and Rehab in Benson. Mr. Daniels was born November 13, 1934 in Sampson County to the late Marion B. and Annie Dell Howard Daniels and was also preceded in death by his brother, Elmond Sherrill Daniels. He was a 1953 graduate of Clement High School. Mr. Daniels was a farmer, worked with the ASC Office of Sampson County measuring land, multiple tobacco markets weighing tobacco, Dunbar Foods and retired from the United States Postal Service. He was a lifetime and faithful member of Baptist Chapel Church where he served as the treasurer of the Brotherhood. A funeral service was held at 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at Baptist Chapel Church with Rev. Joey Cantrell and Rev. Alan Roberts officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery. Mr. Daniels is survived by his wife of 59 years, Joyce Tart Daniels; daughter, Wanda Daniels Beaufort and husband Ronald of Charleston, South Carolina; sons, Ronald Terry Daniels and wife Gail of Benson, Larry Kenneth Daniels and wife Beth of Mobile, Alabama; brother, Donald Daniels and wife Judy of Godwin; sisters, Iris Rose Stewart, Jan Stewart and husband Tommy, all of Godwin, Sherline Bass of Newton Grove, Frances Daniels Callis and husband Joe of Clinton, Annette McDuffie and husband Bobby of Fayetteville; grandchildren, Katie Daniels and Adam Lockamy. The family received friends 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at Skinner & Smith Funeral Home in Dunn. Memorials may be made to Baptist Chapel Church 2208 Baptist Chapel Rd. Autryville, NC 28318.



TURKEY

Mildred Inez Herring, 84, of 334 Faison Road, passed away Monday, May 21, 2018 at Sampson Regional Medical Center. A funeral service will be held at 3 P.M., Friday, May 25, 2018

at Turkey PFWB Church with the Rev. Michael Howard officiating. Interment will follow in the Wilson Family Cemetery in Faison. The family will receive friends one hour before the service in the church fellowship hall and at other times at 75 Union School Road, Turkey, NC. Mildred, born in 1933 in Duplin County, was the daughter of the late Joe Wilson and Ollie Mae Powell Wilson. She worked in the textile industry and was a member of the Turkey Pentecostal FWB Church. In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, Leonard Ray Herring and brother, Earl Wilson. Survivors are; children, Gloria Jean Herring Howard (Michael) of Mechanicsville, VA, Vickie Herring Daw of Clinton, Leonard Ray Herring, Jr. of Turkey and Connie Herring Smith (Mike) of Turkey; grandchildren, Chrystal H. Robins, Kesha H. Cummings (Kevin), April Best (Kenneth), Lynwood Daw (Danielle), Phillip Daw (Amber), Heather Jernigan (Jarrett), Cherish Smith (Terry), Amanda Edgerton (Jeremy), Reed Herring, Adam Smith, Raechel Smith, and Raegan Smith; great-grandchildren, Morgan Robins, Brenden Pope, Braxton Pope, Brooklynn Cummings, Logan Best, Libbie Best, Lucas Daw, Madison Jernigan, Mason Jernigan, Matthew Jernigan, Dawson Smith, Drake Smith, Davis Smith, Hailey Smith, Emily Edgerton, Ella Kate Edgerton and Paxton Daw; brothers and sisters, Joe Wilson, Jr. of Fayetteville, Shirley Stallings of Fayetteville, J. D. Wilson (Connie) of Tampa, Florida, Dural Wilson (Betty) of Turkey, and Brenda Johnson (Arthur) of Fuquay Varina; and many nieces and nephews. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.crumpler-honeycutt.com. Arrangements are by Crumpler-Honeycutt Funeral Home, 118 Fayetteville St., Clinton, NC 28328.



FAYETTEVILLE

Mr. Samuel "Sammy" Butler Holden, 71 passed away Saturday, May 19, 2018 at his home surrounded by his family. A celebration of life service was held at 3:00pm Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at Butler Funeral Home Chapel, officiating was Dr. Ernie Johnson. The family received friends from 1:30pm to 3:00pm Wednesday at the funeral home prior to the service. He is preceded in death by his father, Joshua B. Holden. Sammy received a Bachelors Degree in Business from Methodist College and worked as Chief Financial Officer at Carolina Model Homes. He also worked as the Financial Administrator of Highland Presbyterian Church until he retired. After retiring he worked part-time doing accounting work with Glenn Murphy & Co. Sammy loved his family and friends and will be truly missed by all who knew him. He is survived by his wife, Sue Holden of the home; daughter, Candace Rebecca Mosteller & husband, Joshua of Pennsylvania; grandchildren, Holden Joshua Mosteller and Hudson Samuel Mosteller; mother, Christine Crumpler Holden of Clinton; siblings, Oral B. Holden & wife, Shari of Stedman, Christy H. Boyette & husband, Wayne of Clinton and Kevin Holden & wife, Kim of Wilson; Father and Mother-in-law, Lester and Madeline Barnes of Clinton; several nieces, nephews and cousins; and his loving dog, Gracie. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Sammy's honor to the Child Advocacy Center, P.O. Box 488, Fayetteville, NC 28302 or to the Fayetteville Urban Ministry, 701 Whitfield Street, Fayetteville, NC 28302. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 6535 Clinton Road, Stedman, NC 28391.



CLINTON

Mrs. Mary E. Best, 89 of 213 Jacobs Street, Clinton, NC passed away on Sunday, May 20, 2018 at Rex Healthcare, Raleigh, NC. The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 25, 2018 at First Baptist Church, Clinton, NC with Rev. Judy Johnson-Truitt officiating. Burial in Sandhill Cemetery, Clinton, NC. Mrs. Best is survived by her DAUGHTERS-Janice Rayner of Clinton, NC, Bettie Strickland of Mt. Olive, NC and Mary Swanson of Leesburg, VA; SON-Willie Boykin of Haymarket, VA; SISTER-Leatha Stokes of District Heights, MD; 14 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Viewing at the Funeral Home Thursday, May 24, 2018 Public: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m. Family will receive friends from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. at the church on Friday.



CLINTON

Mr. Michael Ozea Rogers, 65, of 132 Reedsford Road, Clinton, NC, passed away Thursday, May 17, 2018 at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center, Fayetteville, NC. The funeral service was held at 5pm, Saturday, May 19, 2018 at Worley Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Mike Shook officiating. Cremation to follow. Mr. Rogers is survived by WIFE-Ora Rogers of the home; DAUGHTERS-Tyrrah Pope and Mecca Robinson both of New Britain, CT and Georgenia Wilson of Clinton, NC; SONS-Jermaine Fawcett of Baldwin, MI, Stephan Palmer of Hartford, CT and Robert Murray of New Britain, CT; BROTHERS-William Henry Hicks, Jr. of CT and Ricardo Rogers of Spartanburg, SC; 19 grandchildren. Visitation at Worley Funeral Home on Saturday, May 19, 2018 Public: 12pm - 5pm.



CLINTON

Ms. Eva Bell Whitted, 93, of 165 Waterhouse Circle, Clinton, NC, passed away Friday, May 18, 2018 at Rex Healthcare, Raleigh, NC. The funeral service was held at 2 p.m., Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at Lisbon Street Baptist Church, Clinton, NC with Rev. Ray Bolton officiating. Burial in Sandhill Cemetery, Clinton, NC. Ms. Whitted is survived by her HUSBAND-Amos Whitted of Clinton, NC; DAUGHTERS-Mattie Underwood, Gloria Lee, Vivian Murphy, Melva Faison, Linda Chavious and Delynn Solice all of Clinton, NC; SON-Amos Lee Whitted of Dunn, NC; 19 grandchildren, 34 great grandchildren and 23 great great grandchildren. Visitation at Worley Funeral Home Tuesday, May 22, 2018 Public: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Family: 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.



DUNN

Mrs. Brenda Lee Williford, 71, of Dunn, died Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at her home surrounded by her family. Brenda was born June 9, 1946 in Sampson County to Mary Benson Lee and the late Eugene Lee. She was preceded in death by her husband, John F. Williford; step-father, Hugh V. Lee; and sister-in-law, Sally Lee. Mrs. Williford was a beautician for over 28 years. Brenda was a member of Westfield Baptist Church. She was a member of the American Legion Post 109 in Benson, NC. For many years Brenda served as President of the Ladies Auxiliary for the American Legion Post 135 in Savannah Georgia. Brenda loved her family

along with gardening, boating, spending time at the beach and beach music. Funeral services were held 11 A.M., Saturday, May 19, 2018 at Westfield Baptist Church with Rev. Jeff Johnson officiating. Interment followed at Coats City Cemetery. In addition to her mother, Brenda is survived by her daughter, Wanda Philligin and husband John of Fayetteville; her sons, Michael L. Hollingsworth and wife Nancy of Hickory and Tommy Lee and wife Christina of Dunn; her brother, Landis E. Lee of Clinton; her sisters, Tammy Lee and Donna Edwards and husband Pete, all of Dunn. She is survived by her grandchildren, Johnny Philligin, Shelby Hollingsworth, Stewart Hollingsworth, Sharon Wyndham, Amber Edwards, Jessica Murphy, Dana Lee, Austin Lee, Christina Lee; and her six great grandchildren. Brenda is also survived by Kaye Hoerig, Melinda Korsairs, Donna Williams, an Elizabeth Pruitt and their families. The family received friends from 6-8 P.M., Friday, May 18, 2018 at Skinner & Smith Funeral Home in Dunn.



CLINTON

Mrs. Janice Eldridge Anders, 73, of 2055 Carr Church Rd. passed away peacefully at her home on Thursday, May 24, 2018 with her family by her side. Arrangements for her funeral will be announced as soon as possible. Royal-Hall is honored to serve the family.

CLINTON

Nancy Brewer Kitchin, a beloved mother, sister, grandmother and great grandmother passed away on May 17, 2018. Nancy was born Nancy Phillips Brewer on March 9, 1919 in Wake Forest, North Carolina. She is survived by her three children, William Walton Kitchin Jr. and wife Anne of Greenville, NC, Samuel Wait Brewer Kitchin of Clinton, NC and Rebecca Clark Kitchin Larson and husband Randy, of Winston Salem N.C. She is also survived by her sister Sue Brewer Joyner, of Asheboro; eight grandchildren: Lucy Partrick Kitchin of Washington, DC, William Walton Kitchin III of Greenville, NC, Susan Kitchin McElhinney of Denver, CO, Anna Clark Kitchin of Elizabeth City, NC, Catherine Eugenia Kitchin of Raleigh, NC, Robert Anders Larson of Indianapolis, IN, Henry Wait Larson of Winston Salem, NC and Nancy Elizabeth Larson of Atlanta, GA; and five great grandchildren. Nancy was born to Samuel Wait and Nancy Belle Phillips Brewer, the middle child of three children. She attended Meredith College and received a degree in 1940. While at Meredith, she served as Postmistress General of the school and was elected May Queen by her classmates her senior year. Always intellectually curious, Nancy enrolled at Wake Forest College during the summer because women could attend summer school classes. Nancy remained an ardent and loyal Wake Forest supporter her entire life. She made her debut in the Terpsichorean Club of Raleigh's 14th Annual North Carolina Debutante Ball in 1937. In 1941 she married William Walton Kitchin, also of Wake Forest. While, her husband was deployed in Europe during WWII, Mrs. Kitchin worked as a teacher in Wake Forest. Dr. Kitchin set up the first surgical practice in connection with Sampson County Memorial Hospital in 1950 and Nancy moved to Clinton where she would spend the rest of her life. She quickly became known for her kindness, generosity, and Bridge game. A devoted Baptist, Mrs. Kitchin joined the First Baptist Church and served as a Sunday School teacher and in many other capacities for many years. She loved reading and words. She completed a cross word puzzle every morning and was involved in a series of book clubs in Clinton in which she found great delight. Nancy was known for her love and passion for Wake Forest University, a passion she shared with her family. The family made sure never to miss a football or basketball game whether in person or on television. Later in life, she became a fan of the Atlanta Braves but no team ever surpassed her beloved Demon Deacons and she relished the fact that both of her sons went to Wake Forest along with a grandchild. She was, however, very forgiving toward grandchildren who went to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill despite her best efforts at conversion. Nancy's love of life was exhibited by the joy she found in her hobbies and in entertaining her many friends. An avid and talented bridge player, she played as often as possible. Her house at Coharie Drive was the home of constant activity and she retained the ability to make all who visited comfortable and welcome. Quick to laugh, she loved nothing more than being surrounded by a living room of people telling stories, debating and being engaged in lively conversation. Above all, Nancy's kindness and warmth and love of people engendered adoration in all who knew her. Among those for whom she was a mother, grandmother, sister, or friend she was considered a person of exception and true grace and will be greatly missed but celebrated for the life she so joyfully lived. Funeral service was held at 11 A.M., Monday, May 21, 2018 at Crumpler-Honeycutt Funeral Home, 118 Fayetteville St., Clinton, NC 28328, with Reverend Mike Shook officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Interment will follow the funeral in the Clinton City Cemetery. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.crumpler-honeycutt.com. Memorials may be made to Wake Forest College Birth Place Society, PO Box 494, Wake Forest, NC 27588-0494.

SALEMBURG

Mr. Jerome David Parker, 58 of 295 Ariel Road, Salemburg, NC died on Monday, May 21, 2018 at Wayne Memorial Hospital, Goldsboro, NC. The funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

LINDEN

Gene Stephens, Age-78, 4242 Linden Rd, Linden, NC, formerly of Autryville, NC died Saturday, May 19, 2018 at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center, Fayetteville, NC. Funeral services will be Saturday 5/26/18 at 11 AM Christian Light MBC, Autryville, N.C. Interment in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends at 8642 Beaver Dam Rd. Autryville, N.C. Visitation: Friday 5/25/18, 1 to 6pm, family present 5 to 6pm. Butler & Son Funeral Home, Inc. Roseboro, NC.

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SOCIAL SECURITY HONORS THE NATION'S HEROES ON MEMORIAL DAY



On Memorial Day, we honor service members who have given their lives for our nation. Social Security acknowledges the heroism and courage of our military service members, and we remember those who have given their lives to protect our country. Part of how we honor these heroes is the way we provide Social Security benefits.

The loss of a family member is difficult for anyone. Social Security helps by providing benefits to protect service members' dependents. Widows, widowers, and their dependent children may be eligible for Social Security survivor's benefits. You can learn more about Social Security survivors benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/survivors.

It's also important to recognize those service members who are still with us, especially those who have been wounded. Just as they served us, we have the obligation to serve them. Social Security has benefits to protect veterans when an injury prevents them from returning to active duty or performing other work.

Wounded military service members can also receive expedited processing of their Social Security disability claims. For example, Social Security will provide expedited processing of disability claims filed by veterans who have a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Compensation rating of 100 percent Permanent & Total (P&T). The VA and Social Security each have disability programs. You may find that you qualify for disability benefits through one program but not the other, or that you qualify for both. Depending on the situation, some family members of military personnel, including dependent children and, in some cases, spouses, may be eligible to receive Social Security benefits. You can get answers to commonly asked questions and find useful information about the application process at www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors.

Service members can also receive Social Security in addition to military retirement benefits. The good news is that your military retirement benefit generally does not reduce your Social Security retirement benefit. Learn more about Social Security retirement benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/retirement. You may also want to visit the Military Service page of our Retirement Planner, available at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/veterans.html.

Service members are also eligible for Medicare at age 65. If you have health insurance from the VA or under the TRICARE or CHAMPVA programs, your health benefits may change, or end, when you become eligible for Medicare. Learn more about Medicare benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/medicare.

In acknowledgment of those who died for our country, those who served, and those who serve today, we at Social Security honor and thank you.



By Brenda Brown

Chamber Member of the Week



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SPEED FREAKS

A few questions we had to ask ourselves

Was slower better at All-Star Race?

GODSPEAK: There was passing, side-by-side racing, and the field could see the winner at the finish. It worked.

KEN'S CALL: The general consensus says yes, so who am I to argue? Prepare for more blue-plate specials in 2019.

Where does Danica finish at Indy?

GODSPEAK: Maybe a bit cautious at first, then she sneaks up through the field for a top-10 finish.

KEN'S CALL: If she doesn't find a wreck, I'll say a solid 12th.

FEUD OF THE WEEK

JOEY LOGANO VS. KYLE LARSON

LARSON: Near the end of the All-Star Race, Larson bumped into Logano, who skimmed the wall, then immediately turned Larson around off Turn 4.

GODWIN KELLY'S TAKE: Since this was a no-points race, both drivers shrugged it off. As Larson said: "He got into the wall, got mad at me and retaliated. It is what it is."

GODWIN'S PICKS FOR COCA-COLA 600

WINNER: Kevin Harvick
REST OF TOP 5: Martin Truex Jr., Kyle Busch, Joey Logano, Kyle Larson
FIRST ONE OUT: Chris Buescher
DARK HORSE: Kurt Busch
DON'T BE SURPRISED IF: Harvick stretches his winning streak to four, counting last weekend's All-Star Race victory.

MOTOR MOUTHS PODCAST

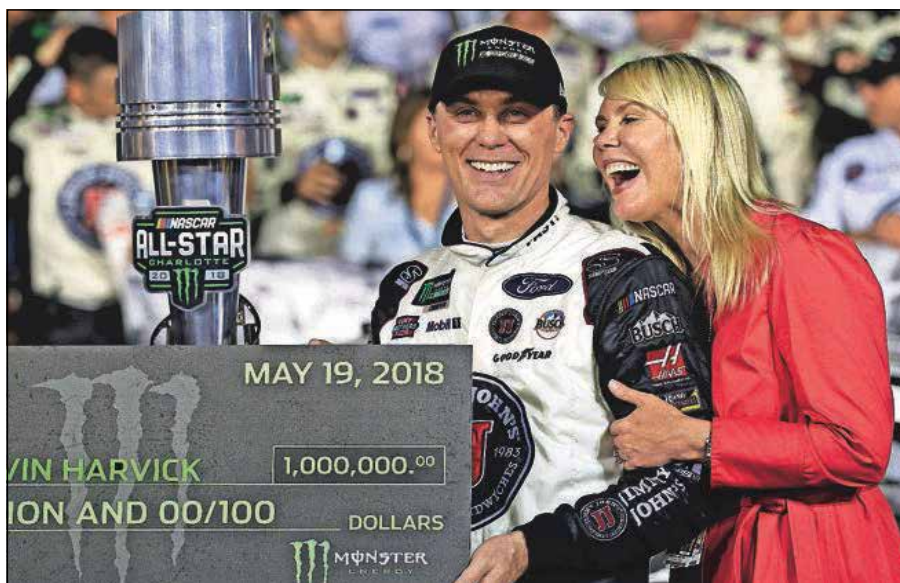
We take off the restrictor plates to discuss the big weekend of racing ahead.

Tune in online at www.news-journalonline.com/daytonamotormouths



ALL-STAR RACE

THREE THINGS WE LEARNED



Kevin Harvick and his wife, DeLana, celebrate his All-Star Race victory, which paid \$1 million to the race winner. [AP/CHUCK BURTON]

1. When you're hot

Don't look now, but Kevin Harvick is riding another three-race winning streak following his All-Star Race victory. Harvick needed a push from Joey Logano to notch this win since the Cup cars were running restrictor plates. "That is just the way that most of us do it from Ford," Harvick said.

2. Charlotte plates

There was very little blowback from the garage area after the All-Star Race was staged with a restrictor-plate package. "Yeah, I actually had some fun, really," said

Chase Elliott, driver of the No. 9 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet. "It was different for sure, but it wasn't all bad."

3. No carry-over

In years past, the savvy crew chiefs would use the All-Star Race as a test run for the Coke 600. Since NASCAR used a plate setup Saturday night, there was nothing for the mechanics' notebooks. "We will come back next week to a normal program and go for it there," Jimmie Johnson said.

— Godwin Kelly, godwin.kelly@news-jrnl.com

THREE THINGS TO WATCH

1. Defending champ

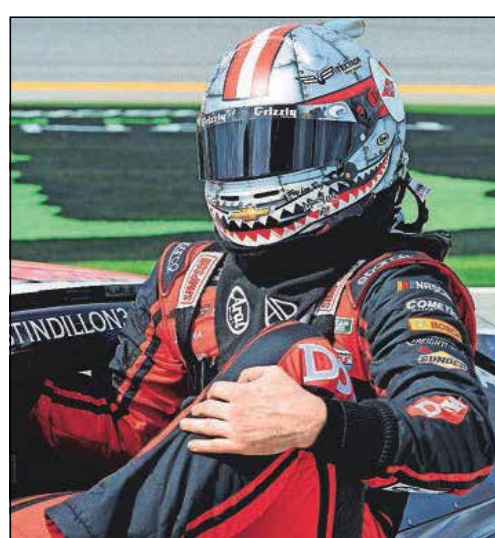
Oddly enough, Austin Dillon's first two NASCAR Cup Series wins came in crown-jewel events — last year's Coca-Cola 600 and this season's Daytona 500. Now it is time to defend his Charlotte title. "I'm really pumped about the 600," said Dillon, who won on one of them "fuel-mileage deals" in 2017. "If fuel mileage is the way we do it, we will do it that way again, it doesn't matter," he said.

2. Plate debate

Steve O'Donnell, who carries the title of executive vice president and chief racing development officer, made an appearance after the All-Star Race. Apparently, NASCAR hopes to use this same package at some tracks next season. "For us, we've got to take the time, be smart about this, really look at it, see where we can go from here," he said. "But I think it's fair to say that this is something we absolutely want to look at."

3. No. 47 sparked?

AJ Allmendinger won the NASCAR Cup Series race that everyone soon forgets about — the Monster Energy Open. The victory got Allmendinger into the spotlight



Austin Dillon climbs from the No. 3 Chevrolet. He hopes to take that team back to Victory Lane in Sunday's Coca-Cola 600. [NEWS-JOURNAL/PETER BAUER]

All-Star Race, but may have also sparked up the No. 47 Chevrolet team and driver. "The first stage was pretty awesome to go 18th to fourth in a couple of laps," Allmendinger said of All-Star Segment 1. "Really competitive and proud of the guys."

— Godwin Kelly, godwin.kelly@news-jrnl.com

QUESTIONS & ATTITUDE

Compelling questions ... and maybe a few actual answers

Who's Jonathan Marshall, and why should I know him?

Marshall is the guy just hired by the NASCAR team owners who make up the Race Team Alliance. As the new executive director, he will obviously be a key figure in upcoming discussions (battles?) with NASCAR leadership over the direction of the sport. RTA chairman Robert Kauffman said "it was time to have a full-time executive who wakes up every day thinking of how to move the collective interests of the RTA member teams forward."

Should we care?

Only in the eventual changes to the business model, as it pertains to future schedules, race-day logistics, etc. It's somewhat interesting that Marshall was formerly an upper executive with the World Surf League, so if there's anyone who knows how to get back on the wave, it should be him.

— Ken Willis, ken.willis@news-jrnl.com

CUP STANDINGS

1. Kyle Busch	503
2. Joey Logano	491
3. Kevin Harvick	484
4. Brad Keselowski	396
5. Kurt Busch	393
6. Clint Bowyer	386
7. Denny Hamlin	380
8. Martin Truex Jr.	376
9. Ryan Blaney	365
10. Aric Almirola	342
11. Kyle Larson	336
12. Jimmie Johnson	286
13. Erik Jones	285
14. Alex Bowman	271
15. Chase Elliott	266

WHAT'S ON TAP

CUP SERIES: Coca-Cola 600
SITE: Charlotte Motor Speedway (1.5-mile quad-oval)
TV SCHEDULE: Thursday, practice (Fox Sports 1, 2:30 p.m.), qualifying (Fox Sports 1, 7 p.m.). Saturday, practice (Fox Sports 1, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.). Sunday, (Fox, coverage begins at 5:30 p.m.; green flag, 6:15 p.m.)

XFINITY: AlSCO 300
SITE: Charlotte Motor Speedway
SCHEDULE: Thursday, practice (Fox Sports 1, 4 p.m.). Saturday, qualifying (Fox Sports 1, 10 a.m.), race (Fox Sports 1, 1 p.m.)



KEN WILLIS' TOP 10 NASCAR DRIVER RANKINGS

1 KEVIN HARVICK When does the bubble burst?	2 KYLE BUSCH Pure talent	3 JOEY LOGANO Turns 28 this week	4 CLINT BOWYER Turns 39 next week	5 MARTIN TRUEX JR. Still bad with a plate	6 DENNY HAMLIN 0-for-25 at Charlotte	7 KURT BUSCH Career win No. 30 may come Sunday	8 KYLE LARSON Keep one eye open for Joey	9 BRAD KESELOWSKI Can't keep it in gear this year	10 ARIC ALMIROLA Eleven Charlotte starts, one top-10
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2018 SCHEDULE AND WINNERS

Feb. 11: Clash at Daytona (Brad Keselowski)
Feb. 15: Can-Am Duel at Daytona (Ryan Blaney and Chase Elliott)
Feb. 18: Daytona 500 (Austin Dillon)
Feb. 25: Folds of Honor 500 at Atlanta (Kevin Harvick)
March 4: Kobalt 400 at Las Vegas (Kevin Harvick)
March 11: Camping World 500(k) at Phoenix (Kevin Harvick)
March 18: Auto Club 400 at Fontana (Martin Truex)
March 26: STP 500 at Martinsville (Clint Bowyer)
April 8: O'Reilly Auto Parts 500 at Texas (Kyle Busch)
April 15: Food City 500 at Bristol (Kyle Busch)
April 21: Toyota Owners 400 at Richmond (Kyle

Busch)
April 29: Geico 500 at Talladega (Joey Logano)
May 6: AAA 400 at Dover (Kevin Harvick)
May 12: Go Bowling 400 at Kansas (Kevin Harvick)
May 19: All-Star Race at Charlotte (Kevin Harvick)
May 27: Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte
June 3: Pocono 400
June 10: FireKeepers Casino 400 at Michigan
June 24: Toyota/Save Mart 350 at Sonoma
July 1: Chicago 400 at Chicagoland
July 7: Coke Zero 400 at Daytona
July 14: Quaker State 400 at Kentucky
July 22: New Hampshire 301
July 29: Pennsylvania 400 at Pocono
Aug. 5: 355 at the Glen, at Watkins Glen

Aug. 12: Pure Michigan 400
Aug. 18: Night Race at Bristol
Sept. 2: Southern 500 at Darlington
Sept. 9: Brickyard 400 at Indianapolis
Sept. 16: Las Vegas 400
Sept. 22: Federated Auto Parts 400 at Richmond
Sept. 30: Bank of America 500(k) at Charlotte road course
Oct. 7: Delaware 400 at Dover
Oct. 14: Alabama 500 at Talladega
Oct. 21: Hollywood Casino 400 at Kansas
Oct. 28: First Data 500 at Martinsville
Nov. 4: Texas 500
Nov. 11: Can-Am 500(k) at Phoenix
Nov. 18: Ford EcoBoost 400 at Homestead