

# Small Farms Week

35 Years: Resilience. Strength. Diversity.

March 21–27, 2021

SAMPSON COUNTY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

# The Sampson Weekly

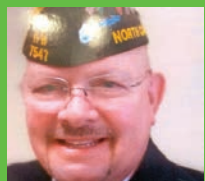


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Week of March 26-April 1, 2021

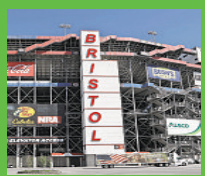
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## WEATHER

**Sat** T-Storms  
80%

Hi: 80° Lo: 65°

**Sun** PM  
T-Storms  
40%

Hi: 83° Lo: 46°

**Mon** Cloudy  
10%

Hi: 65° Lo: 46°

**Tues** Rain  
60%

Hi: 68° Lo: 59°

**Wed** Rain  
40%

Hi: 76° Lo: 53°

**Thur** AM  
Rain  
60%

Hi: 56° Lo: 33°

## WEEKLY VERSE

The Spirit himself  
testifies with our spir-  
it that we are God's  
children. Now if we  
are children, then  
we are heirs — heirs  
of God and co-heirs  
with Christ, if indeed  
we share in his suffer-  
ings in order that  
we may also share in  
his glory.  
Romans 8:16-17

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## Community Reaches Out to Help SC Child Advocacy Center



*\*Center Partners with Helping Hands of Sampson County*

CHILDREN! One of the most important obligations that we have as adults, is to protect our children. The Sampson County Child Advocacy Center has been doing just that since 2015 under the DSS umbrella but in **CAC, see P. 3**

## COVID-19 TESTING & VACCINATION UPDATE

### COVID-19 TESTING REPORT FOR MARCH 22, 2021

Total Number of Tests Reported to Date: 19,492  
Positive Test Results: 7,408 (30 additional since 3/19 report)  
Negative Test Results: 12,084  
COVID Reported Deaths to Date: 97 (1 additional since 3/19 report)

### COVID-19 TESTING REPORT FOR MARCH 23, 2021

Total Number of Tests Reported to Date: 19,552  
Positive Test Results: 7,418 (10 additional from 3/22 report)  
Negative Test Results: 12,134  
COVID Reported Deaths to Date: 97 (no additional from 3/22 report)

### COVID-19 TESTING REPORT FOR MARCH 24, 2021

No report due to COVID Vaccination Event in Progress

### COVID-19 TESTING REPORT FOR MARCH 25, 2021

Total Number of Tests Reported to Date: 19,620  
Positive Test Results: 7,457 (39 additional from 3/23 report)  
Negative Test Results: 12,163  
COVID Reported Deaths to Date: 99 (2 additional from 3/23 report)

### Next Vaccination Event: Friday, March 26, 2021

Location: Sampson Agri Expo Center, 414 Warsaw Rd., Clinton, NC  
Times: 9 am – 4 pm  
Second dose will be provided 9 am-11am to those who have received their first dose on February 27, 2021.  
First doses will be provided 1 pm - 4 pm to anyone 18 years and older who has not received any vaccine in the previous 14 days

## Honoring 25 Years of Service



In today's world, it's important to show respect for those who put their lives on the line to protect each and every one of us. And that respect is definitely due to Captain Julian Carr, who has served in the Sampson County Sheriff's Office for over 25 years until his recent retirement in January.

Being a law enforcement officer takes bravery, honor, sacrifice and courage. They must focus on the safety of the community, having a positive impact on people's lives, and engaging the community, all while trying to enforce the laws. A monumental task to say the least. Carr has performed and excelled at these duties for the last 25 years.

Captain Carr was sworn in with Clinton Police Department in the summer of 1995 and a year later he joined the Sampson County Sheriff's Department in 1996. Carr had previously served in the US Army for 8 years as he was fresh out of high school. Service to his fellow citizen is very important to Carr, who has served others since he graduated. After getting out of the military Carr worked several other jobs at Lundy's and Westpoint Pepperell, but he longed to do something more. So as Carr worked long hours on the production floors, he decided that he would take BLET (Basic Law Enforcement Training) at night, even though he knew it would be tough while working a full-time job. He was able to complete BLET and was sworn in as a reserve officer with the Clinton Police Department.

After his illustrious career in law enforcement and his recent retirement, Carr has decided to start yet **CARR, see P. 4**



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# LOCAL NEWS

## Ireland Named 2020 Outstanding Veteran Volunteer



The Richard Clinton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution are proud to announce the 2020 Outstanding Veteran Volunteer Award for their chapter, Mr. Cliff Ireland. Mr. Ireland is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). He served in the U. S. Army from 1965-1969 and was in the Vietnam Campaign. Since his return, he has been very active with the Veterans of Sampson County. He was Past President and Treasurer of the Sampson County Veterans Council Inc. and serves as a liaison between the Veterans Council and VFW 7547. He is a member of the Memorial Day and Veteran's Day Committee, Master of Ceremonies for years 2018 and 2019. He also serves on the Veteran's Park committee. He has been a guest speaker on Veterans topics for local civic and community organizations. He also worked with the Veterans Service office to host a local veterans affairs Q and A event that included all local VFW and American Legion posts. He has also received special recognition from the Sampson County Veterans Service and the Sampson County Veterans Council Inc. for obtaining their 501-C Charitable IRS Status which has greatly increased the council's ability to solicit funds for veterans related projects/events. He serves as an active member of the SC Veterans Council, Inc. Emergency Relief Funds committee which screens local veterans for financial relief.

During his time in service he received the Vietnam Campaign Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Drill Sergeant Badge. Since his time in Sampson County, he has been a Chamber of Commerce member and graduated from their Leadership program. He was the 2013 Outstanding Chamber Member and in other organizations he was Past President and Board of Directors and Kiwanian of the Year for 2013, Tim's Gift Vice Chairman, Board of Directors Sampson County Partnership for Children, Sampson County Local Emergency Planning Committee, Sampson County Amateur Radio Services, Sampson County Emergency Coordinator for the American Radio Relay League and Amateur Radio Emergency Services Network.

He has a Masters in Business Management from Regent University Graduate School of Business, Bachelor of Science in Business Education from East Carolina University Greenville, N. C. and an Associates Degree in Business Administration from Forsyth Technical College in Winston Salem. He is presently Business Counselor for the Small Business Center at Johnston Community College in Clayton. The Richard Clinton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution are proud to have him as our Outstanding Veteran Volunteer for the year 2020. He will be in running for the State Award for this field which will be announced in June of 2021.

The Daughters of the American Revolution are descendants of Patriots who served or helped in the American Revolution to win our freedom from British Rule. Any woman is eligible to be a member by linking to her ancestor, regardless of Race, Religion or Creed. More than likely anyone who can trace back to the year 1776 in America in their family history will have a patriot in their family. For more information on the D.A.R., please call 910-305-3440.

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doctors*

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Doctors'  
Day**

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Doctor's  
Day**

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**TO THE PHYSICIAN STAFF AT SAMPSON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**

**Our Heartfelt  
Thanks.**

*Sampson Regional Medical Center is proud to honor its physician staff on National Doctors' Day this March 30th. Thanks to their commitment to excellence, their professional dedication and expertise in a full range of medical specialties, they've helped make this community a healthier place to live.*

**SAMPSON  
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**

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### CAC, cont. from P. 1

October 2018, the officially became their own 501c3 non-profit organization.

For those of you that do know what the Child Advocacy Center does, it is making a huge different in our community and in the innocent lives of our children. According to Director Shannon Barber, “Sampson County CAC provides services to children in Sampson County that have alleged physical and/or sexual abuse. We serve children ages 0-17. We offer forensic interviews, medical exams, and advocacy services. Having a center locally prevents families from having to travel outside of the county to access such services. Having a center locally helps the child from being revictimized during an investigation by providing 1 place, 1 person, and 1 time for the child to tell their story of what happened.”

The Child Advocacy Center needs the communities help now more than ever. According to Director Barber, “The Sampson County CAC receives grant funding for services. These funds have been cut the past 2 years and it is anticipated more cuts in the future. We also are a United Way partner and receive funding from them each year. We depend on fundraising efforts to be able to bridge the gap between the lack of funding and agency needs. Covid-19 has impacted our fundraising efforts by limiting what we have been able to do over the past year to raise extra funds. While there has been a decrease in funding, cases during COVID have continued to come in. Once things are back to some form of normalcy and children are back in school, we anticipate even more referrals to come into the center. Last year we provided services to 165 Sampson County children.”

With the decrease in funding and expenses still being incurred, the center is reaching out to the community for help. One such organization that has stepped up the plate is Helping Hands of Sampson County.

According to the founder of Helping Hands, Chris Sessoms, the goal of the organization is, “To keep our hearts open to the needs of our First Responders and to help all of them know they are loved by Sampson County and we appreciate all they do for us.” The group has supported law enforcement, first responders, Sampson Regional Hospital employees, teachers, etc. Many of you have seen the “Back the Blue” billboards across the county. They are currently partnering with the Child Advocacy Center to help raise much needed funds and supplies.

Ms. Sessoms said 196 letters were sent out to churches in the community asking for a love offering and prayers for CAC. “We started asking different agencies and individual groups to help us collect items the agency needed. They desperately need people to help with fund raising so they are not faced with this situation again. The entire Helping Hands of Sampson County committee, everyone has really worked hard to make this happen, from addressing envelopes, sending emails, making phone calls and putting out our new signs!! I believe we have a wonderful committee of people with huge hearts.”

The CAC and Helping Hands has been truly blessed by the outpouring of support from the local churches and community with monetary donations and supplies. Over the last couple of months CAC and Helping Hands has also partnered with Quilts for Kids based out of Pennsylvania, who sent quilts for the children to keep them warm and help to make the experience less frightening. Volunteer quilters lovingly transform fabric into patchwork quilts that comfort children in need.

Another important partner has been Phillip’s Love Bears out of Dunn, NC. This organization gave a donation of fluffy bears to also help ease the pain of young children when in need. According to Mr. Fusco, “Phillip’s Love Bears and Phillip’s Therapy Bears provide quality Teddy Bears to Christian workers at home and abroad, to assist them in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Phillip’s Love Bears also gives the special needs community (and others, outside the special needs community) the opportunity to serve Christ by helping stuff and prepare our teddy bears for mission. Though we are but a single strand in God’s magnificent tapestry, we cherish the opportunity to serve the hands that so faithfully serve Christ.”

Mr. Fusco’s son Phillip was the founder of the organization and it is an awesome story of helping others: “Soon after his birth, Phillip was diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder known as Prader-Willi Syndrome, a partial deletion of the 15th chromosome. Phillip spent the first months of his life in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Duke Medical Center. Several months after his birth, Phillip coded, requiring medical intervention to keep him alive. Phillip underwent several serious surgeries,

including reconstruction of his spinal column, and has spent much time in hospitals related to his genetic condition. Though we did not know what the future held for “little Phillip”, God did. Soon after his release from Shriners, Phillip let us know that he wanted to start doing something to “help children who hurt”. In response to Phillip’s request, we started “Phillip’s Love Bears”.

“Since the inception of this ministry, as many as 10,000 bears have been sent to churches, missionaries, hospitals and orphanages at home and abroad (approximately 40 countries) sending a message that even those with serious physical and mental challenges can play a significant role in touching the lives of those in a hurting world.”

Phillip passed away a few short months ago but his legacy lives on through the thousands of bears that have been given to children and organizations in need; organizations like the Sampson County Child Advocacy Center in Clinton.

CAC Director Shannon Barber noted that the organization continues to need the communities support. “Helping Hands partnered with us to reach out to the faith-based community for support. We have had many churches partner to bring snacks to us for the children to have when at the center. Many churches have agreed to send blankets and stuffed animals for the children to have a comfort item to take with them when leaving the center. Monetary donations are always needed to assist with things that grant funding does not cover for daily operations in the center. We would love for more community members to join our fundraising committee and help plan events for the center.”

If you would like to help with any of the needs at the Sampson County Child Advocacy Center, please give them a call at (910)490-9100 or send a love offering and tax-deductible donation to 204 Sampson Street Clinton NC 28328. An organization well worth supporting.



# CLAYTON HOMES COMMUNITY YARD SALE

EVERY SATURDAY  
(WEATHER PERMITTING) 10AM-4PM

**Come on by whether you are looking to get rid of some clutter or if you are in the market for some good finds!**

**Want to participate? Give us a call for more information and be sure to bring a table to display your items on! This is a free event to attend every Saturday, so don't miss out on a chance for some great deals and the opportunity to tour some of our amazing homes at Clayton Homes of Clinton!**

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National Doctors' Day March 30, 2021

On National Doctors' Day, we salute the caring physicians who follow a special calling to help others and serve the greater good. Their contributions to the world of medicine and the well-being of our community are an inspiration, and we greatly appreciate their hard work and tireless dedication.

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# CRIME

CRIME REPORTS

03-15 Tavis Rache Lamb, 32, Magnolia. Child Support Failure to Appear. Bond \$600. Trial Date 03-23-21

03-15 Mary Ann Hi,, 86, Newton Grove. Second Degree Trespass. Trial Date 04-19-21

03-15 Tyreise Nyshaun Carroll, 22, Clinton. Bond \$500. Trial Date 04-05-21

03-15 Bobby Ray Copeland, 50, Clinton. OFA-FTC-Child Support. Bond \$200.

03-15 Joshua Ray Autry, 25, Clinton. Order for Arrest. Bond \$500. Trial Date 04-06-21

03-15 Justina Skye Phillips, 28, Clinton. Order for Arrest. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 04-06-21

03-15 Jose Benito Garcia, 19, Roseboro. Order for Arrest. Bond \$500. Trial Date 04-05-21

03-15 Billie Jo Hall, 39, Clinton. Simple Assault. Trial Date 04-06-21

03-15 Blas Antonio Torres, 25, Salemburg. Order for Arrest. Bond \$500. Trial Date 04-19-21

03-15 Bryan Allen House, 22, Garland. Order for Arrest, DWLR Not Impaired Rev, Operate Veh No Insurance, Expired/ No Inspection, Canc/Revoke/Susp Certif/ Tag. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 04-06-21

03-15 Taleisha Dainelle Banks, 31, Clinton. Order for Arrest. Bond \$500. Trial Date 04-21-21

03-15 Marcos Marroquin Hernandez, 44, Garland. Bond \$4000. Trial Date 05-03-21

03-16 Brandon Keefe Hodges, 28, Roseboro. Breaking and or Entering. Bond \$2500. Trial Date 03-19-21

03-16 Addison Huddison, 18, Clinton. Communicating Threats, Injury to Personal Property. Trial Date 03-23-21

03-16 Terry Dunn, 37, Dunn. Criminal Summons- Failure to Return Rental Property. Trial Date 05-13-21

03-16 Thomas Junior Bell, 41, Dunn. Order for Arrest- FTA- Child Support. Bond \$200

03-16 Abel Najera Lazaro, 27, Clinton. Assault on a Female, Order for Arrest. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 04-27-21

03-16 Brandi Racquel Blake, 37, Autryville. Shoplifting, Stolen Property Offenses. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 04-16-21

03-16 Branden Alexander Elder, 33, Dunn. Warrant Service for Other Agency. Bond \$7500. Trial Date 03-18-21

03-16 John Roger Melvin, 31, Roseboro. OFA- FTC-Child Support. Bond \$1000.

03-16 Connie Dee Hopkins, 42, Faison. Order for Arrest. Bond \$368. Trial Date 03-22-21

03-17 Daniel Scott Saunders, 35, Clinton. Breaking or Enter Motor Vehicle, Larceny, Possession of Stolen Goods. Bond \$2000. Trial Date 04-09-21

03-17 Tyrek Dasha Melvin, 25, Newton Grove. Possession of Firearm by Felon, Possess Stolen Firearm, Assault on a Fe-

male, Assault by Pointing a Gun, Larceny of Motor Vehicle, Order for Arrest, Fail to Return Rental Property. Bond \$26250. Trial Date 03-19-21

03-17 Victor Ray Register, 28, Clinton. Order for Arrest-FTA-Child Support. Bond \$1000. T

03-17 Anthony Dewayne Furlow, 38, Clinton. Order for Arrest- FTA-Child Support. Bond \$1500.

03-17 Jeremy Clayton Horne, 37, Autryville. Possess Meth, Possess Drug Paraphernalia. Bond \$2000. Trial Date 04-09-21

03-17 Courtney Nicole Bishop, 39, Clinton. Violation of Court Order. Bond \$4000. Trial Date 05-03-21

03-18 David Ignacio Ocampo Segura, 21, Newton Grove. Sexual Exploitation of a Minor. Bond \$250000. Trial Date 03-19-21

03-18 Katyrin Ocampo Moreno, 21, Harrells. Order for Arrest. Bond \$500. Trial Date 04-05-21

03-18 Jamie Lee Hood, 37, Clinton. Violation of a Court Order, Injury to Personal Property, Interfere Elect Monitor Device. Bond \$25000. Trial Date 06-08-21

03-18 Kristen Tew Edwards, 41, Fayetteville. Possess Meth, Poss Drug Paraphernalia, Shoplifting. Bond \$10000. Trial Date 03-19-21

03-18 Melanie LAvette Walker, 33, Fayetteville. Simple Possession Marijuana. Trial Date 05-06-21

03-18 Eriel Ventura Antonio, 25, Clinton. Possession of Cocaine, Possession of Meth, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, DWI, Speeding 67/55. Bond \$2500. Trial Date 04-16-21

03-18 David Jorge Krch, 41, Turkey. Driving While Impaired. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 04-12-21

03-19 Maira Crystian Luengas, 24, Godwin. Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Misdemeanor Child Abuse. Trial Date 06-08-21

03-19 Howard Lee Carroll, 40, Garland. Habitual Larceny. Bond \$10000. Trial Date 04-16-21

03-19 Ronald Elvin Morst, 54, Clinton. Order for Arrest. Bond \$358. Trial Date 04-01-21

03-19 Shannon Lee Cruz, 35, Clinton. Order for Arrest. Bond \$500. Trial Date 04-14-21

03-19 Jose Eduardo Moreno, 27, Newton Grove. Driving Under the Influence, No Operators License, Poss Open Container. Bond \$1500. Trial Date 06-17-21

03-19 Dalphine McCullers, 40, Clinton. Order for Arrest. Bond \$500. Trial Date 04-14-21

03-19 David Jorge Krch, 41, Turkey. Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle. Trial Date 04-12-21

03-19 Michael Paul King, 43, Clinton. Simple Assault. Trial Date 04-12-21

03-19 Memorie Denise Bullard, 18, Roseboro. FTA. Bond \$500. Trial Date 04-13-21

03-19 Tremain Armon Kellam, 30, Roseboro. Order for Arrest. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 04-15-21

03-19 Jaffet Mazel Araujo, 32, Clinton. OFA- FTA Speeding. Bond \$100. Trial Date 06-09-21

03-19 Ronald Glenn Murphy, 39, Harrells. Driving While Impaired. Bond \$1500. Trial Date 06-08-21

03-19 Health Lynn Chavis, 33, Clinton. DWI, Possess Oxycodone, Possess Drug Paraphernalia, Failure to Maintain Lane Control, No Insurance, Display Fictitious Registration Plate, Unsafe Tires. Bond \$1500. Trial Date 06-07-21

03-19 Whitney Fifi McDonald, 32, Clinton. Possess Firearm by Felon, Possess Stolen Firearm. Bond \$10000. Trial Date 04-16-21

03-19 Tamatha Leigh Pugh, 49, Clinton. Larceny <1000. Bond \$500. Trial Date 05-05-21

03-19 Richard Matthew West, 38, Newton Grove. DWI, Failure to Maintain Lane Control, Open Container. Bond \$1500. Trial Date 07-14-21

03-20 Shakirah Nyeema Pigford, 43, Harrells. Driving Under the Influence, Order for Arrest. Bond \$1600. Trial Date 06-16-21

03-20 Michael Anthony Carter, 33, Maple Hill. Possess Stolen Firearm. Bond \$10000. Trial Date 04-16-21

03-20 Gustavo Jimenez, 21, Clinton. Order for Arrest. Bond \$500. Trial Date 04-16-21

03-20 Brittany Leigh Williams, 31, Hope Mills. Order for Arrest. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 05-18-21

03-20 Bobby Louis Rich, 38, Salemburg. Felony Probation Violation, Misdemeanor Probation Violation. Bond \$35000. Trial Date 12-25-21

03-20 Desteen Rayquan Howard, 23, Clinton. Carrying Concealed Gun. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 07-14-21

03-20 Zion Jyrell Smith, 22, Clinton. DWLR. Trial Date 07-14-21

03-21 Micahel lee Graham, 56, Clinton. Driving While Impaired. Bond \$2500. Trial Date 07-20-21

03-21 Candace Sherry Johnson, 39, Clinton. Fugitive Warrant- DUI. Bond \$4000. Trial Date 03-22-21

03-21 Jill Gainey Williams, 47, Clinton. Order for Arrest. Bond \$20000. Trial Date 03-22-21

03-21 Kylan Tennille Wilson-Muller, 22, Dunn. Order for Arrest. Bond \$250. Trial Date 05-03-21

03-21 Wilbur Eugene Carroll, 45, Clinton. Second Degree Trespass. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 04-19-21

03-21 Tiffany Nicole Weathers, 32, Clinton. Poss Marijuana > 1/2oz to 1 1/2oz. Bond \$500. Trial Date 04-28-21

03-21 Raymond Howard Spears, 66, Dunn. Breaking & Entering Motor Vehicle. Bond \$4500. Trial Date 04-16-21

03-21 Howard Roscoe Clark, 45, Harrells. Possess Marijuana up to ½ oz.

03-21 Franklin Chad Jernigan, 41, Godwin. DV Protective Order Violation. Trial Date 05-21-21

03-21 Johnna Rose Creech, 53, Newton Grove. Order for Arrest. Bond \$3000. Trial Date 04-14-21

03-22 Terri Arlinda Pope, 35, Clinton. Possess Meth, Possess MDMA, Possess Drug Paraphernalia. Bond \$2000. Trial Date 04-16-21

03-22 Dacquan Brunson, 26, Clinton. OFA No

Operators License, OFA Drive Left of Center. Bond \$500. Trial Date 04-08-21

03-22 Sue Ellen Jons Godbold, 39, Clinton. DWLR, Poss Stolen Goods. Bond \$500. Trial Date 04-05-21

03-22 Jason Lee Newkirk, 27, Roseboro. DWLR. Bond \$500. Trial Date 04-27-21

03-22 Kaleshia Faison Ford, 37, Clinton. Speeding, DWLR. Bond \$500. Trial Date 04-05-21

03-22 William Keith Sampson, 34, Clinton. Possess of Firearm by Felon. Bond \$2500. Trial Date 04-16-21

03-21 Candace Sherry Johnson, 39, Clinton. Fugitive Warrant- DUI. Bond \$4000. Trial Date 03-22-21

03-23 Jessica Louann Hall, 36, Wilmington. OFA Driving While Impaired, OFA DWLR Not. Bond \$4000. Trial Date 04-20-21

03-23 Antonio Neal Chestnutt, 46, Clinton. OFA- Misdemeanor Larceny. Bond \$2000. Trial Date 04-14-21

03-24 Devin Leigh Burgess, 24, Clinton. Possess Marijuana. Trial Date 06-15-21

03-24 Rozell Wayne Venable, 27, Clinton. Possess Marijuana. Trial Date 06-15-21

03-24 Sha Lite Rah Sady Dale Campbell, 25, Clarkton. Possess Marijuana, Possess Drug Paraphernalia, Possess/ Display Fictitious Registration Placard, No Liability Insurance, Fail to Apply for New Title. Trial Date 06-07-21

03-24 Devonte Benjamin Boykin, 25, Clinton. Carrying Concealed Gun. Trial Date 07-14-21

INCIDENT REPORTS

03-14 Steven Rackley reported a Motor Vehicle Theft- Nissan Frontier \$3500.

03-13 Jason Edgerton reported Theft from Motor Vehicle- handgun \$650.

03-17 Hannah Garason reported Counterfeiting/Forgery check- check \$1400.

03-17 Hutchins Smith reported a Breaking & Entering Residence- television \$329, television \$139, Blue Ray player \$100, Play Station 3 \$115, Bass guitar \$350, amplifier \$80, speaker \$150.

03-23 Shakeila Lamb reported Damage to Property- \$75.

03-19 Tiara Simmons reported Credit Card/ATM Fraud- \$3800.

03-19 Esther Ramirez reported Theft From Motor Vehicle- purse \$50, credit cards, debit cards, money \$160.

03-19 Lenwood Jackson reported Larceny- lawnmower \$1500.

03-21 Paula Franco reported Theft From Motor Vehicle.

03-21 Earl Stoked reported Wire Fraud- \$1400.

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

CARR, cont Pg 1

another career as a truck driver. No doubt with Carr’s background he will succeed.

Carr noted that during his 25 years serving the people of Sampson County, he has regarded it as a privilege to serve. Carr said, “It has been an HONOR to have served each and every citizen. My only hope is I never let anyone down and never brought discredit upon the badge I wore or office I served.”

Sheriff Jimmy Thornton remarked of Captain Carr’s service, “Julian was a valued employee who was committed to his job and community. We appreciate his service and wish him well in his retirement.”

Finding it tough to leave his comrades at the Sheriff’s Department, Captain Carr summed up his journey of service:

*“To my Teammates at the Sampson County Sheriff’s Office and the Citizens of Sampson County: I wanted to take a minute to say thank you to each of you for the truly impactful 25 plus years I had the opportunity to serve as a Sheriff’s Deputy for Sampson County. It has been the greatest honor of my professional life to be selected and serve as Captain of the Criminal Investigation Unit to impact the safety of our community in such a meaningful way.*

*During my law enforcement career, I had the distinct pleasure to serve the citizens of our county and serve alongside of some of the finest civil servants in the country. My coworkers and their families embody the true meaning of selfless service and I rest easy at night knowing that the finest officers in the country*

*stand guard around the clock. The Sampson County Sheriff’s Office is a great organization, filled with team members who care, and the atmosphere feels like an extended family. I can’t begin to tell you how proud I am to have been a small part of this great team.*

*Great organizations, however, are not bought, not encountered by circumstance, and you can’t order them online...they are built- with equal parts of vision, teamwork, camaraderie, hard work, and genuine care for one another. A hallmark of every great organization is great leadership.*

*Sheriff Jimmy Thornton has been the guiding light for our Sheriff’ Department for over 19 years and along the way, brought a passion and humility that inspires us all. His devotion to the citizens of Sampson County and the Department employees is beyond reproach. His leadership has been instrumental in the development of our workforce, improving the capability of our department, and his personal engagement makes everyone around him better.*

*Simon Sinek said, “The courage of leadership is giving others the chance to succeed even though you bear the responsibility for getting things done”. That quote perfectly embodies Sheriff Thornton’s service. I am so grateful for his leadership and friendship, as well as his personal devotion to the cause of protecting our citizens while maintaining a force that fosters a climate of dignity and respect.*

*Lastly, as I retire and become a private citizen, I will never forget the memories and will always be thank-*

*ful for the sacrifices you make every day. I am proud to have been in your ranks and to have served faithfully alongside each of you. Take care, all the best, and God Speed!”*

Thank you Captain Carr for your unselfish service to others and may God Bless you in your retirement.



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FOOD

# Protect Your Health with a Heart-Smart Eating Plan

FAMILY FEATURES

As people have spent more time at home, many have rediscovered the simple joy of home-cooking and stumbled upon a secret weapon for health at the same time. By making smart, intentional decisions from breakfast to dinner and every meal (and drink) in-between, they are supporting strong bodies.

A heart-smart eating plan is especially important for more than 30 million people in the U.S. living with type 2 diabetes who are at double the risk for heart disease and stroke compared to those without diabetes, according to the American Heart Association and American Diabetes Association’s Know Diabetes by Heart initiative. When managing diabetes and heart health, building a consistent eating plan with the right balance can be a powerful tool. Healthy eating provides benefits for the whole family whether members are managing existing health conditions or not. This recipe for Baked Parmesan Chicken is packed with 30 grams of protein in each serving yet delivers only 280 calories. For a tasty way to increase vegetable intake, try pairing the no-sugar chicken dish with Green Beans with Mushrooms and Onions.

A key to feeling your best begins with the first meal of the day. Start the morning on a nutritious note with this Ham and Broccoli Frittata – a low-sugar, low-fat, low-calorie alternative to traditional fat- and sugar-laden breakfast foods. With this recipe, you’re setting yourself up for a healthy day and getting the energy you need to live it to the fullest.

Find more recipes and learn more about managing the connection between diabetes and heart health at [KnowDiabetesbyHeart.org/Recipes](http://KnowDiabetesbyHeart.org/Recipes).



Baked Parmesan Chicken

**Baked Parmesan Chicken**

Recipe courtesy of Know Diabetes by Heart  
Prep time: 15 minutes  
Cook time: 18 minutes  
Servings: 4 (3 ounces chicken per serving)

- Cooking spray**  
1 large egg  
1 tablespoon water  
2 teaspoons olive oil  
1/3 cup finely crushed, low-sodium, whole-grain crispbread  
1/3 cup shredded or grated Parmesan cheese  
2 tablespoons minced fresh parsley  
1/2 teaspoon ground oregano  
1/4 teaspoon pepper  
4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts (about 4 ounces each), all visible fat discarded, flattened to 1/4-inch thickness

Preheat the oven to 400 F. Lightly spray a 13-by-9-by-2-inch baking dish with cooking spray.

In a shallow dish, whisk the egg, water and oil. In a separate shallow dish or pie pan, stir together the crispbread, Parmesan cheese, parsley, oregano and pepper. Dip the chicken in the egg mixture then in crumb mixture, turning to coat at each step and gently shaking off any excess. Using fingertips, gently press the coating mixture so it adheres to the chicken. Arrange the chicken in a single layer in the baking dish. Lightly spray the chicken with cooking spray.

Bake for 15-18 minutes, or until chicken is no longer pink in the center and the top coating is golden brown.

**Nutritional information per serving:** 280 calories; 80 calories from fat; 9 g total fat; 2.5 g saturated fat; 0 g trans fat; 1 g polyunsaturated fat; 4 g monounsaturated fat; 125 mg cholesterol; 340 mg sodium; 530 mg potassium; 18 g total carbohydrate; 4 g dietary fiber; 0 g sugar; 0 g added sugar; 30 g protein; 370 mg phosphorus. Choices/Exchanges: 1 starch, 4 lean protein.

**Green Beans with Mushrooms and Onions**

Recipe courtesy of Know Diabetes by Heart  
Prep time: 10 minutes  
Cook time: 10 minutes  
Servings: 4 (1/2 cup per serving)

- Water**  
8 ounces green beans, trimmed  
2 teaspoons olive oil  
4 ounces sliced mushrooms, stems discarded  
1/2 cup thinly sliced onion  
1 medium garlic clove, minced  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice  
1 pinch pepper

Fill a medium saucepan 3/4 full of water. Bring to a boil, covered, over high heat. Cook the green beans, uncovered, 5 minutes, or until tender-crisp. Drain well in a colander.

In a medium nonstick skillet, heat the oil over medium-high heat, swirling to coat the bottom. Cook the mushrooms, onion, garlic and salt 5 minutes, or until the mushrooms are soft and lightly browned, stirring frequently. Stir in the lemon juice, pepper and cooked green beans.

**Nutritional information per serving:** 60 calories; 25 calories from fat; 2.5 g total fat; 0.5 g saturated fat; 0 g trans fat; 0.5 g polyunsaturated fat; 1.5 g monounsaturated fat; 0 mg cholesterol; 60 mg sodium; 300 mg potassium; 9 g total carbohydrate; 2 g dietary fiber; 4 g sugar; 0 g added sugar; 2 g protein; 70 mg phosphorus. Choices/Exchanges: 2 vegetable, 1/2 fat.



Ham and Broccoli Frittata

**Ham and Broccoli Frittata**

Recipe courtesy of Know Diabetes by Heart  
Prep time: 10 minutes  
Cook time: 25 minutes  
Servings: 4 (1/4 frittata per serving)

- Cooking spray**  
2 cups frozen fat-free potatoes O’Brien, thawed  
6 ounces small broccoli florets, rinsed in cold water, drained but not dried  
8 large egg whites  
1 large egg  
4 ounces lower-sodium, low-fat ham (uncured, nitrate/nitrite-free), cut into 1/4-inch cubes  
1/4 cup fat-free milk  
1/4 teaspoon pepper

Preheat the oven to 400 F.

Lightly spray a medium ovenproof skillet with cooking spray. Heat over medium heat. Remove from the heat. Put the potatoes in the skillet. Lightly spray with cooking spray. Cook for 4-5 minutes, or until potatoes are golden brown, stirring occasionally.

In a microwaveable bowl, microwave the broccoli, covered, on high for 3-4 minutes, or until tender-crisp. Drain in a colander. Stir the broccoli into the potatoes.

In a medium bowl, whisk the egg whites and egg. Whisk in the ham, milk and pepper. Pour the mixture over the potatoes and broccoli; stir well.

Bake for 15-18 minutes, or until the eggs are set.

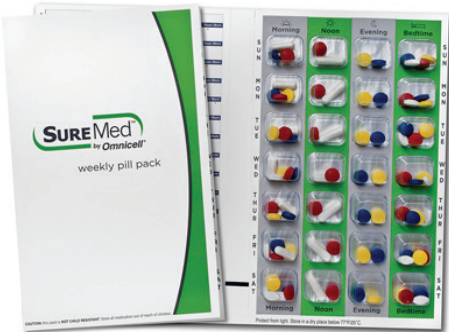
**Nutritional information per serving:** 180 calories; 30 calories from fat; 3 g total fat; 1 g saturated fat; 0 g trans fat; 0.5 g polyunsaturated fat; 1.5 g monounsaturated fat; 60 mg cholesterol; 460 mg sodium; 570 mg potassium; 17 g total carbohydrate; 2 g dietary fiber; 4 g sugar; 1 g added sugar; 18 g protein; 210 mg phosphorus. Choices/Exchanges: 1 carbohydrate, 2 lean protein.



Green Beans with Mushrooms and Onions



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## RISE UP - REMEMBER 2021 GIVING GOD ALL THE GLORY!!



Grove Park Baptist Church received the Rise Up- Outstanding Youth Group trophy



Sonshine Kids Good Samaritans were Luna Ordaz and Karson Wilson



The Gillespi Sisters received the Youth Good Samaritan Award



Mitchell Brewington and his wife Kristine lead worship with Holly Grove Praise Team



Caleb Lane and Mr. Sylvester Wilson share about the power of prayer



Rise Up 2021 was virtual, but Tim's Gift and people involved gathered in the Mt. Vernon sanctuary to praise the Lord



Mr. Sinclair and Ms. Becky share a word of encouragement



Mt. Vernon Youth Group, led by Aaron and Emily Wilson, passed the Outstanding Youth Group trophy they were awarded in 2020 to Grove Park Youth Group



Ms. Katelyn and Ms. Becky salute Colby Darden and Alex Wilson as Sonshine Kid Prayer Warriors

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## ...by God's Grace

By God's Grace, we can Rise Up to Remember the past while reaching out to help His children in need, cherish the present by keeping our hope in Jesus as we enjoy each day He gives, and looking to the future with faith as we 'keep on keeping on' - knowing God is in control and He wins in the end. Amen!

When honorable, humble allegiance is given to God and His Word, Jesus is invited to 'come into our hearts and we live by His (example) ways, and the Holy Spirit dwells within - guiding us each (gift given) night and day...we can cling to the old rugged cross and exchange it one day for a crown with blessed assurance that where God is will be our eternal place to stay.

Tim's Gift 10th Annual "Rise Up" was a blessing to behold for people far and near. God was glorified as we celebrated His grace and goodness for the tenth year. When plans for Rise Up 2021 were cancelled last November, God had other plans already in place. Being home quarantined the last week of 2020 and first week of 2021, He stirred my heart with a powerful charge..."Are you going to cancel everything for ME"?

In those days of solitude, His plans unfolded for Rise Up- Remember (those in need) for 2021! Giving God all the glory has deeper, more passionate meaning in my life after experiencing Rise Up virtually and seeing what God can do when we give Him the reins, Rise Up, Remember He wants first place in our lives, love Him with All our heart, mind, and soul (everything), and Refuel every day in order to stand strong in faith as we witness troublesome days!

The pictures on this page (provided by a local Good Samaritan) share the joy and passion of serving the Lord with gladness...red and yellow, black and white...all of us are ever so precious in His sight! We humbly thank everyone who helped make Rise Up-Remember happen, especially our sponsors. Most importantly, we give God - our Father - all the glory!

By God's grace, one day I hope to share the rest of the 'Rise Up 2021' story.

~ In His love, Becky



FAITH

# THE QUARTER



A preacher from out-of-state accepted the call to a church in Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the bus driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change.

As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, “You’d better give the quarter back, it would be wrong to keep it.” Then he

thought, “Oh forget it, it’s only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a ‘Gift from God’ and keep it.”

When his stop came, he paused at the door, and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, “Here, you gave me too much change.”

The driver, with a smile, replied, “Aren’t you the new preacher in town?”

“Yes”, he replied.

“Well, I have been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I’ll see you at church Sunday.”

When the preacher stepped off the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said,

“Oh God, I almost sold your Son for a quarter.”

author unknown

Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read.

The visible presence of Christ in this world is YOU!

Watch your thoughts; they become words.  
 Watch your words; they become actions.  
 Watch your actions; they become habits.  
 Watch your habits, they become character,  
 Watch your character, it becomes your destiny.

“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart,  
 be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.”  
 Psalm 19:14



Martha M. Pierce

# Otis Sues the County



*Matthew 6:24, “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”*

Season 5, episode 15 of The Andy Griffith Show, entitled Otis sues the county, is a prime example of the danger of being a slave to money. The beloved town drunk in Mayberry, Otis T. Campbell, slips on the floor while exiting his jail cell. Deputy Barney Fife insists that Otis fills out an accident report even though Otis tells him that he has always had trouble with his knee. The accident report needs to be notarized and off to Mount Pilot Otis goes to please his friend Barney.

Once Otis goes to a lawyer to get his statement notarized, the shady lawyer suggests that Otis sue the County for \$5,000. Needless to say, this doesn’t sit well with Mayberry’s law enforcement officers. Thankfully, by the end of this episode the truth is revealed and Otis cherishes his friends more than the chance for a quick gain.

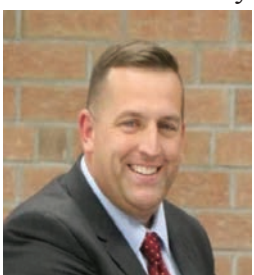
If we attempt to serve two masters we will have divided allegiances and when the difficulties of discipleship clash with the enticement of fleshly pleasure, the magnetic pull of wealth and worldly success will draw us away from Christ.

One example of that is in 2 Timothy 4:10, “for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia.” A homeless man could be guilty of loving a few dollars more than his creator. It’s not a certain dollar amount that draws us away from our devotion to God.

The call to godliness goes against our sinful nature. Only with the help of the Holy Spirit can we remain devoted to one Master. Proverbs 15:27, “Whoever is greedy for unjust gain troubles his own household, but he who hates bribes will live.” I have witnessed many individuals rush to the convenience store to purchase lottery tickets in hopes of getting rich. Throwing away a bulk of their paycheck only to leave the store with excuses of why next time they will get the winning numbers. Many of those people would probably be miserable with the headaches that a large amount of money would bring.

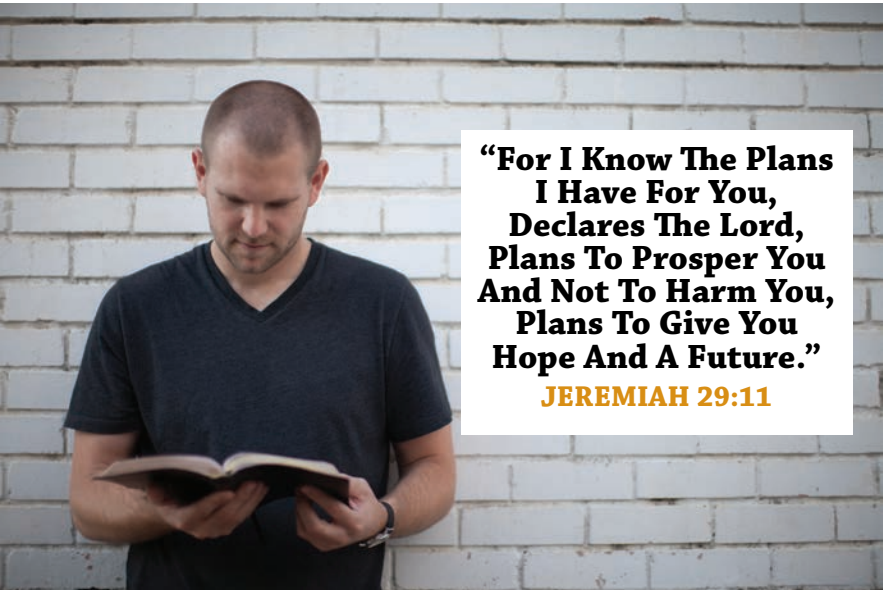
It is the love of money, and not money itself, that is the problem. The love of money is a sin because it gets in the way of worshiping God. 1 Timothy 6:9–10, “But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, author of The Cost of Discipleship, wrote, “Earthly goods are given to be used, not to be collected. In the wilderness God gave Israel the manna every day, and they had no need to worry about food and drink. Indeed, if they kept any of the manna over until the next day, it went bad. In the same way, the disciple must receive his portion from God every day. If he stores it up as a permanent possession, he spoils not only the gift, but himself as well, for he sets his heart on accumulated wealth, and makes it a barrier between himself and God. Where our treasure is, there is our trust, our security, our consolation and our God. Hoarding is idolatry.”



Rev. Ken Smith  
 Atkinson Baptist Church

# OPEN DOOR MINISTRY



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**JEREMIAH 29:11**

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# Union Elementary School Third Term Grading Period



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## Principal's List

Jean Altidor, Haven Bradford, Quentin Highsmith, Lillie Hood, Victor Lopez Rojas, Demarcus McKoy, Benjamin Newton, Lannessa Parker, Alana Powell, Jocelyn Ruiz-Velasco, Jaslyn Sevilla, Erick Velazquez-Lopez

## Honor Roll

Ivan Alberto Lopez, Aliany Aldridge, Amber Aycock Bordeaux, Harold Barbosa, timothy Barnes, Jualian Bautista, Camden Brewer, Hailey Brininger, Ty'ontre Burden, Dustin Carter, Jesus Castro Santos, Theo Duncan, Maria Escobar Diaz, Jeremiah Escorza Paguada, Na'Jae Faison, Preston Fields, Alexia Flores Navarro, Fidel Garcia, Abril Garcia, Aaron Garcia, Angela Gonzalez, Samuel Gonzalez, Eryn Kirby, Clark Licon-Rodriguez, Abigail Lopez-Sanchez, Emily Martinez Gonzalez, Joel Menocal Rubio, Landon Norris, Stephan Ovcharuk, Jorge Pineda Gomez, Christopher Rackley, David Roblero Bravo, Kevin Rodriguez Martinez, Katie Smith, Reme Smith, Asuzena Soto-Flores

# Dr. H. Edward Croom *Inaugurated as UMO's Sixth President*



MOUNT OLIVE – The University of Mount Olive (UMO) held the virtual inauguration of Dr. H. Edward Croom as its sixth president on Thursday, March 25. The program included greetings from representatives of the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, students, alumni, the Original Free Will Baptist (OFWB) denomination, and the Town of Mount Olive. It also featured musical performances by Alumna Brandy Smith, Carolina Sound, and The University of Mount Olive Concert Choir.

Earl Worley, Chair of the UMO Board of Trustees, said, “For those of you that don’t know Dr. Croom, I can tell you both personally and professionally that he is drawn to pursuing big ideas, to embracing challenges, and to facing tough questions. He is a strategic thinker and I couldn’t imagine a more imaginative, creative, and likable campus leader. With his eastern North Carolina roots, his Original Free Will Baptist heritage, and his extensive and skilled career in education and leadership, he is uniquely positioned to lead this institution to new heights.”

Board member Donnie Lassiter said, “Dr. Croom is the epitome of what our University needs to continue and strengthen our role as a leading university in eastern North Carolina and beyond. He is foremost a man of God along with being a lifetime Free Will Baptist. In addition, he is a very well respected member of the academic community in North Carolina.”

Noting that there has never been any requirement that the University president had to be a pastor or a member of the OFWB Church, Gary Baily, Director of Convention Services for the Convention of OFWB, said, “We have been supportive of presidents who were members of our church and of those who were not. But, we are extremely proud of the fact that Dr. Croom is one of us. Dr. Croom, we are grateful for your faith, your expertise, and your humility.”

Representing the traditional student body, Alan Farrior said, “As a former Johnston County Schools student, I have personally experienced your leadership style. I know, firsthand, that you will put the academic and emotional needs of students first. You have made and will continue to make decisions that will allow this campus, its programs, and its people to grow successfully. As we’ve seen with the COVID-19 pandemic, you have already proven that you can see us through difficult times.”

Treyvon Webb, a member of the graduate student body, quoted John C. Maxwell, “‘A good leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.’ Dr. Croom, I have no doubt that you will guide our University with honesty, trustworthiness, justice, courage, responsibility, gratitude, care, and respect. I look forward to your leadership of service with purpose. May we follow in the footsteps of those who helped make this University great and dared to dream!”

Steeped in tradition, Dr. Croom was sworn in using his grandfather’s family Bible. Croom was also presented with a presidential medallion, a wooden replica of the official University seal.

In his inaugural address, Croom spoke about the quick and consistent changes that have occurred since he joined UMO, noting changes in leadership, COVID-19 and resulting remote teaching and learning, as well as the tragic vehicle accident that claimed the lives of four



# Clinton City and Sampson County Schools Take the ‘NC First in FAFSA’ Challenge to Send More Students to College

*High schools across North Carolina are competing for grants in the School Challenge*

Clinton City, NC - Clinton City Schools and Sampson County Schools have officially accepted North Carolina’s First in FAFSA Challenge to help send more local high school seniors to college. Union High School and all of Clinton City high schools are competing against each other and hundreds of other high schools across the state to increase their FAFSA completion rates.

myFutureNC, along with Carolina Demography, College Foundation of North Carolina, College Advising Corps, the Hunt Institute, and the John M. Belk Endowment, are sponsoring the NC First in FAFSA School Challenge to motivate students to take full advantage of free federal aid to help them pay for college. Studies show students who complete the FAFSA are far more likely to enroll in higher education.

“The FAFSA is the first step to free or affordable college so we are thrilled to see 100% of our school districts across North Carolina participating in our First in FAFSA Challenge,” said Cecilia Holden, CEO of myFutureNC. “We are especially grateful to the district leaders, school principals, counselors, faculty, and staff at these high schools who are helping so many students and their families complete the FAFSA and take that first step for a lifetime of opportunity and success.”

NC First in FAFSA launched the inaugural FAFSA Challenge this semester to encourage high schools to earn the highest FAFSA completion rate and implement innovative strategies to support FAFSA completion locally. 494 North Carolina high schools or 75% of public high schools across the state have registered for the challenge.

Schools compete in the Challenge with schools of similar size and type, with winners earning a \$500 grant in each of the following categories:

- Highest percentage of completed FAFSAs
- Highest percent increase in FAFSA completion rate
- Best FAFSA completion strategy

The Challenge will conclude on June 30th, 2021 with winners announced by July 31st, 2021. Schools can keep track of their progress with the NC First in FAFSA Tracker to identify specific areas of need and create targeted efforts to increase attainment. Final FAFSA completion rates are calculated using FAFSA completion data from the U.S. Department of Education and final high school graduation counts from NC DPI.

Currently, Cooperative Innovative High Schools (CIHS) are not listed in the Leaderboard for data limitation reasons. CIHS schools include an array of graduating seniors by grade level which makes it challenging to calculate the true FAFSA completion rate for these schools.

Updates to the leaderboard are made on the second Tuesday of each month. Winners will be announced in Summer 2021.

## ABOUT NC FIRST IN FAFSA:

NC First in FAFSA is a myFutureNC Collaborative that focuses on increasing the number of high school seniors who complete the FAFSA application. Increasing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, completion rate is a fundamental step in North Carolina’s efforts to meet our state’s 2 million by 2030 postsecondary educational attainment goal. Students who complete the FAFSA are more likely to enroll in higher education, persist in their college coursework, and obtain a degree.

Partners include Carolina Demography, College Foundation of North Carolina, College Advising Corps, the Hunt Institute, and the John M. Belk Endowment.

For more information on NC First in FAFSA, visit [myfuturenc.org/first-in-fafsa/](https://myfuturenc.org/first-in-fafsa/).

UMO students. “Change has been rapid,” he said. He praised both faculty and staff for their dedicated efforts in providing students with exceptional opportunities, and “keeping the wheels turning regardless of how bumpy the path may be.”

The theme of his message was, “Start with a Dream. Serve with a Purpose. Finish with a Future.” Indicating a personal preference for white board discussions, Croom said, “We will spend a great deal of time in front of white boards as we make our long range plans for the future.” In those white board sessions, Croom pointed out that the University must constantly re-evaluate to make sure students are leaving with workforce ready qualities. “I strongly believe that just providing our students with a degree is simply not enough anymore,” he said. “Societal demands change rapidly and we must graduate students ready to meet those demands.”

After establishing the University’s direction Croom said, “...it will be important for us to serve, and serve with a purpose. It is my thought that, for the University of Mount Olive to thrive in the future we must create a sense of need from our community and stakeholders,” he said. “I believe that the success of the University of Mount Olive is directly proportional to our ability to build strong relationships in the future.”

Beyond his dreams of service and relationship building, Croom spoke on the business of leading a University. “Part of my responsibility as President is to make sure we operate in a manner that creates a level of financial stability,” he said. “When my tenure here is finished, I must make absolutely sure I have provided a foundation for a bright future ahead. It will not be easy and will require difficult decisions. As President, we will operate with a sound business model.”

In closing, Croom said, “We will hold true to our mission which is to serve our students, our founding church, and our communities. We will be as transparent as possible and communicate often in an effort to build trusting relationships. If we seek His (God’s) face, dream and dream big, serve others in a manner that builds relationships - then we will truly provide an opportunity for all of our stakeholders to finish with a future!”

The full inauguration ceremony can be found at <https://umo.edu/inauguration/>.

The University of Mount Olive is a private institution rooted in the liberal arts tradition with defining Christian values. The University is sponsored by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. For more information, visit [www.umo.edu](http://www.umo.edu).



PUZZLES

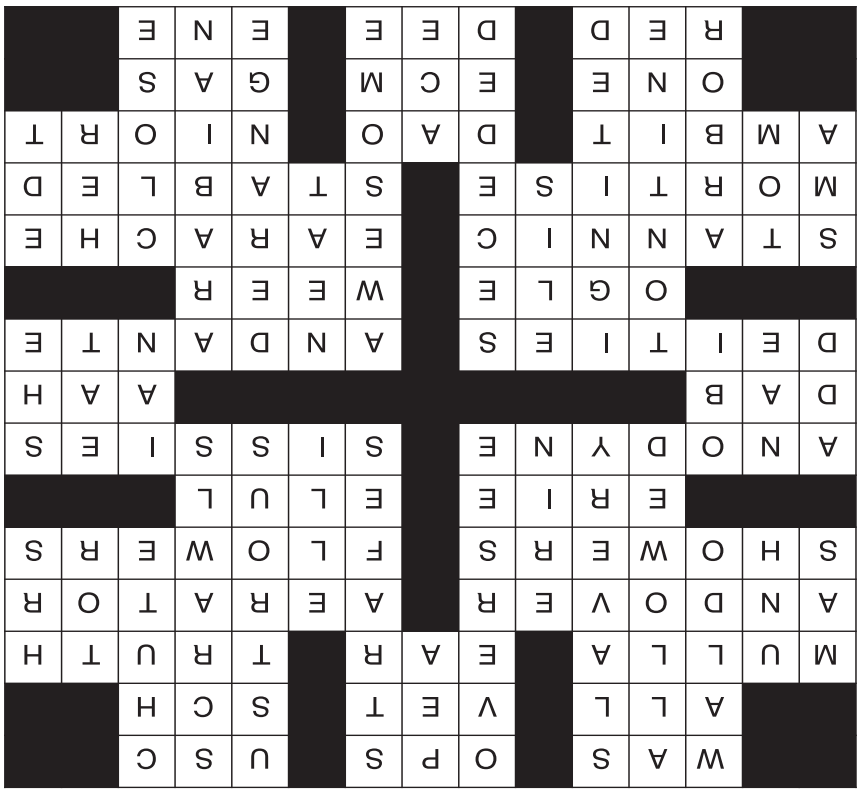
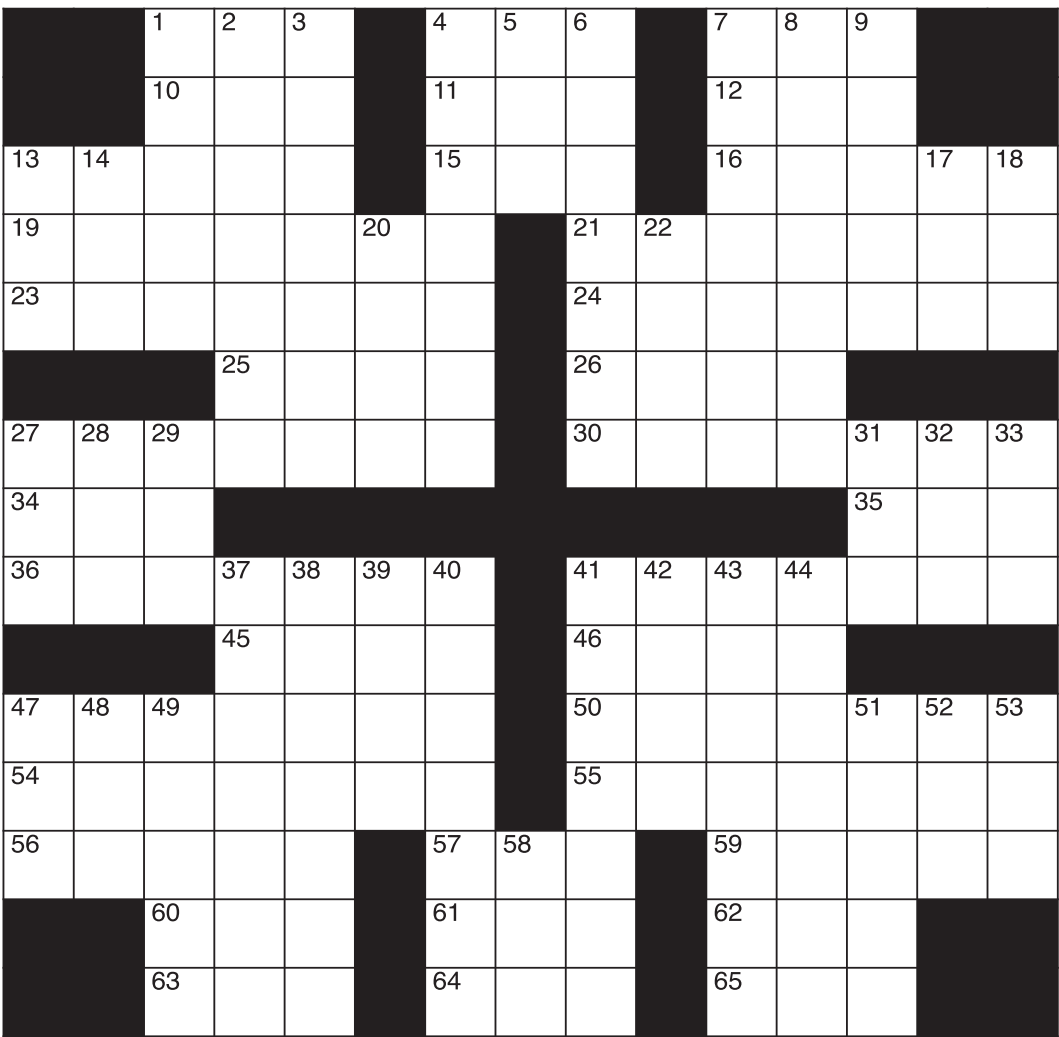
# Crossword Puzzle

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. No longer is
- 4. Wife of Saturn
- 7. L.A. Trojan school
- 10. Complete
- 11. Animal doctor
- 12. Old Austrian coin (abbr.)
- 13. Islamic teacher
- 15. Hearing organ
- 16. Abolitionist Sojourner
- 19. Phillips Academy town
- 21. Apparatus to add air
- 23. April rain
- 24. May results of 23 across
- 25. N.W. PA. city
- 26. 12th Jewish month
- 27. Analgesic
- 30. Cowards
- 34. Hit lightly
- 35. Express pleasure
- 36. Divinities
- 41. Moderately slow tempo
- 45. Stare impertinently
- 46. More small
- 47. Of or containing tin
- 50. Pain in #15 across
- 54. Where the tenon fits
- 55. Said of a sheltered horse
- 56. Range
- 57. Project Runway winner Chloe
- 59. French postal code 79000
- 60. Small integer
- 61. European Common Market
- 62. Auto petrol
- 63. Crimson
- 64. River in NE Scotland
- 65. East northeast

CLUES DOWN

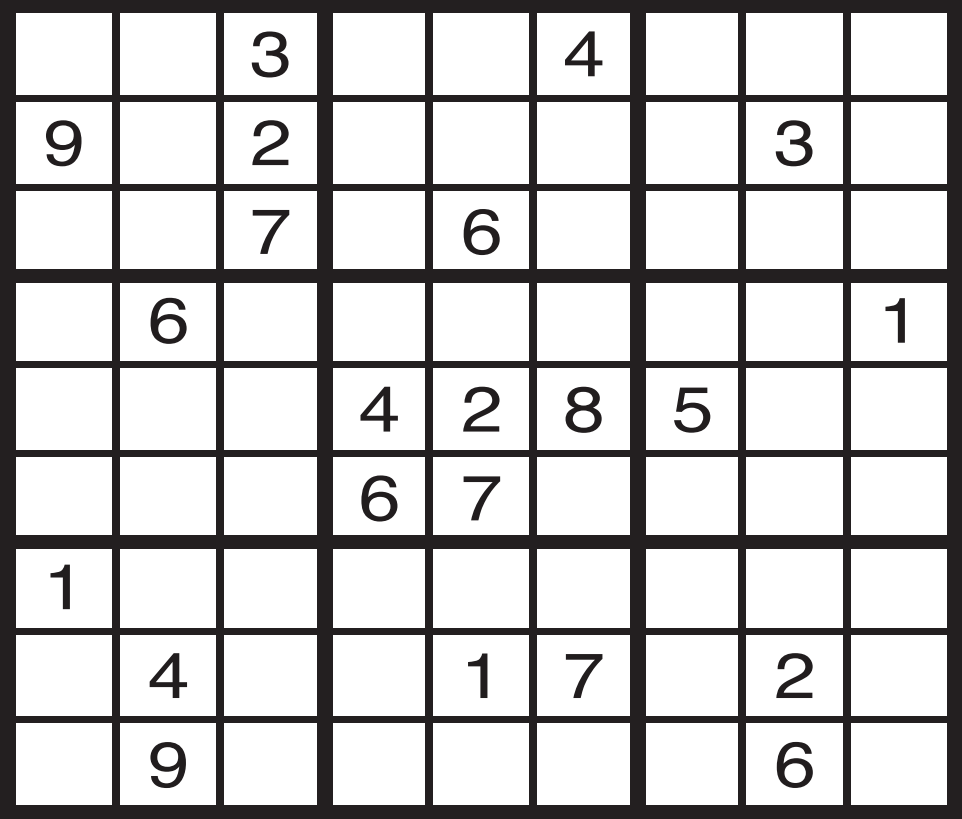
- 1. Ralph \_\_ Emerson, writer
- 2. Permitted
- 3. State of bondage
- 4. Administrate
- 5. Common garden pod plant
- 6. Machine-guns from the air
- 7. L\_\_\_\_\_ : shining
- 8. Scribbles
- 9. An inclined trough
- 13. More (Spanish)
- 14. Durham, NH school
- 17. Hill (Celtic)
- 18. Time units (abbr.)
- 20. Legal clerk Brockovitch
- 22. Norse goddess of old age
- 27. Form a sum
- 28. No (Scottish)
- 29. Japanese sash
- 31. 007's creator
- 32. Consume food
- 33. The woman
- 37. Group annuity + lottery combination
- 38. Set fire to
- 39. Ancient Olympic Site
- 40. Split from
- 41. Awe-inspiring
- 42. Tidy
- 43. Drive mad
- 44. Middle Eastern riding horse
- 47. Spinal Muscular Atrophy
- 48. Technical author Clancy
- 49. Garden framework
- 51. Being near
- 52. Of she
- 53. Summer sun up in NY
- 58. Highest card



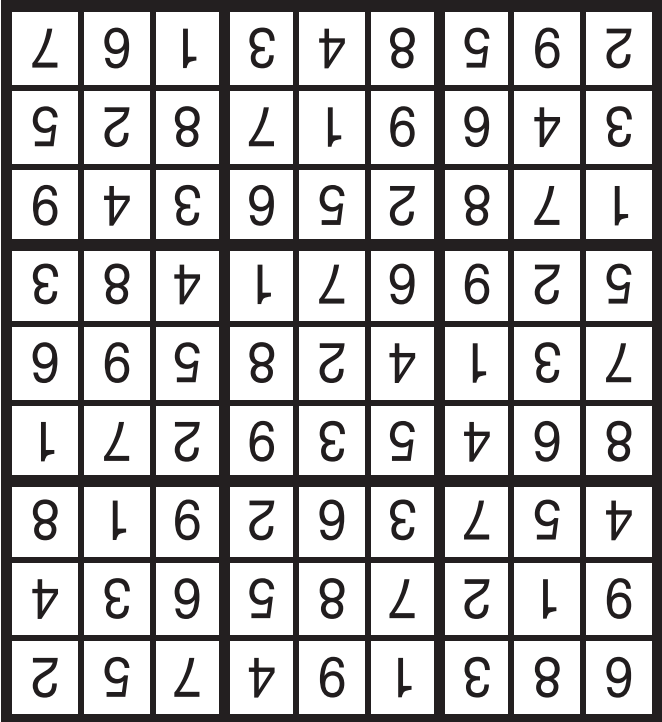
# SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

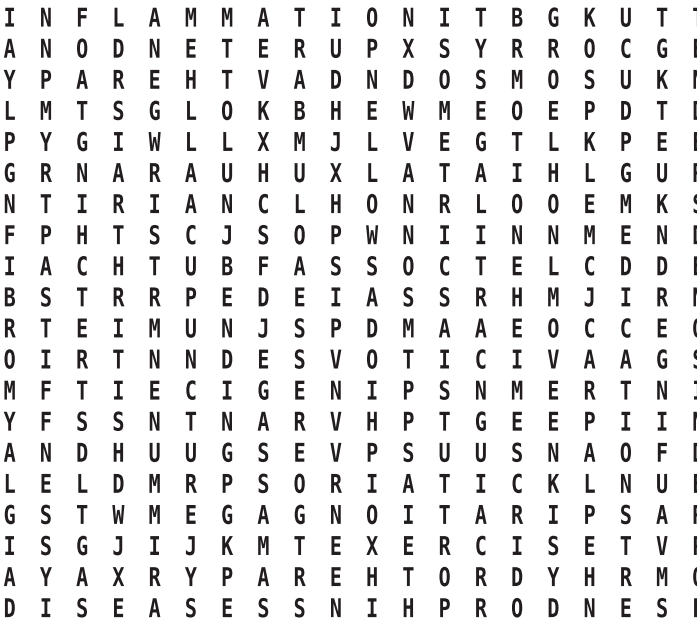
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test.



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



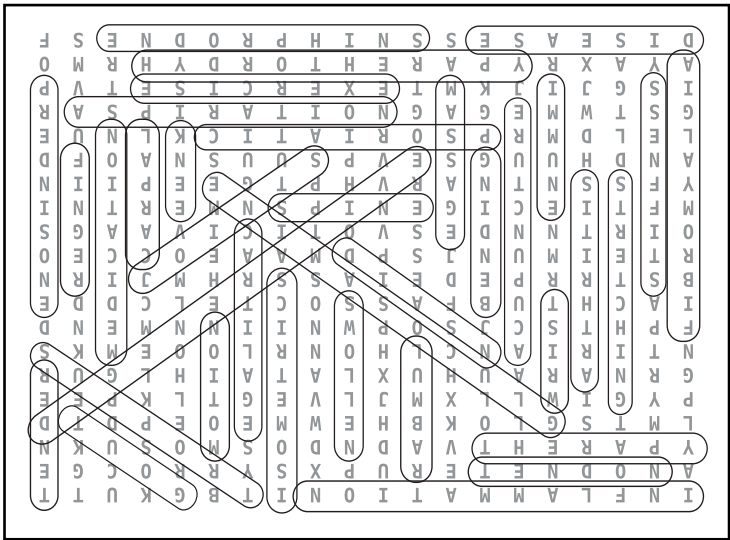
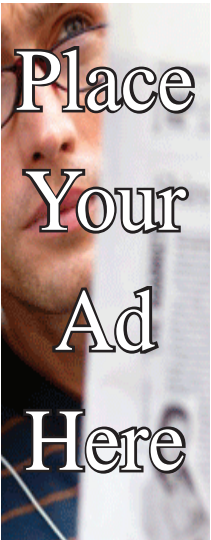
## JOINT HEALTH WORD SEARCH



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

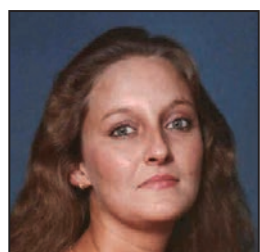
WORDS

- ACUPUNCTURE
- ARTHRITIS
- ASPIRATION
- BENDING
- CARPAL
- CARTILAGE
- DEGENERATIVE
- DISEASE
- ENDORPHINS
- EXERCISE
- FIBROMYALGIA
- FINGER
- GLUCOSAMINE
- GOUT
- HYDROTHERAPY
- IMMUNE
- INFLAMMATION
- ISOMETRICS
- JOINTS
- KNEE
- LUMBAR
- MASSAGE
- MEDICATION
- MOTION
- NSAID
- PREDNISONE
- PSORIATIC
- SPINE
- STIFFNESS
- STRETCHING
- SUPPORT
- SWOLLEN
- TENDER
- TENDON
- THERAPY
- WRIST





# OBITUARIES



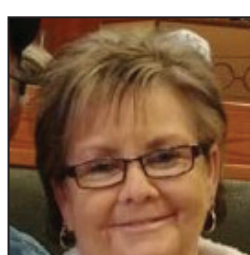
## ROSEBORO

**Kim Lucas Allen 59** of 1671 Butler Island Road Roseboro died Thursday March 18, 2021 at Sampson Regional Medical Center in Clinton. Ms. Allen was born in Sampson County NC to the late Donald Edward and Lola Owens Lucas and worked for the United States Postal Service until her retirement. Preceded in death by Brother, Johnny Lucas and Sister Linda Shoal. Ms. Allen also leaves to cherish her memorial; Sons: Joseph Allen (wife Jessica) of Benson. Dillon Allen (soon to be wife Toni) of Benson. Siblings: Kevin Lucas of Roseboro, Sherry Godwin of Roseboro, Anita Ralings of Virginia and Karen Faircloth of Roseboro. 5 Grand Children. Family received friends Tuesday March 23, 2021 after the Graveside Service.



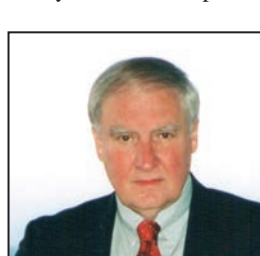
## ROSEBORO

**Eunice Anderson 82** of 503 McPherson Street, Roseboro NC died Friday March 19, 2021 at UNC Wayne Hospital in Goldsboro. Eunice was born in Robeson County, NC to the late Eugene & Quessie Sinclair. Eunice farmed throughout her life until she became a housewife. She treasured the time she spent with her family as well as fishing and cooking. In addition to her parents, Eunice is preceded in death by her son, Clyde Sinclair. A Home Going Service was held at 1:00 pm on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at Hope Valley Hawkins Funeral Chapel, 1246 Hobpton Hwy. Clinton with Elder James M. Faison officiating, burial will be held at a later date. Eunice leaves to cherish her memories: children: Gladys Lucas, Larry (Sarah) Anderson, Billy (Edna) Anderson, Norris Anderson, Linda Anderson (deceased), Shirlon Anderson, Huey D. Anderson, brothers: Hubert Sinclair, Jack Sinclair (Betty Lou) and one sister: Catherine Sinclair, grandchildren: Faye, Barketta, Alvin, Tanika, Nicole, Tiffany, Norris Jr., Raven, Courtney (De'Juan), Jason (Toccara), Clyde, Jr., Calvin and Cassandra. Eunice also leaves a host of great grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Eunice also raised Bridgette Sinclair, Charles (Tina) Sinclair, Nancy Sinclair, Quessi Sinclair (deceased) and all of their children. A visitation was held prior to the service from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at Hope Valley Hawkins Funeral Service, 1246 Hobpton Hwy. Clinton.



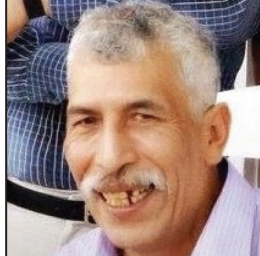
## CLINTON

**Gloria Jean Bass Baldwin, 63**, of 2556 Old Warsaw Road, passed away Monday, March 22, 2021 at Atrium Health Cabarrus in Concord, NC. A graveside service was held at 11 AM, Thursday, March 25th at Rowan Baptist Church with Rev. Clay Carter and Rev. Joe Dabbs officiating. The family received friends following the service. Gloria, born May 30, 1957 in Sampson County, was the daughter of the late Arthur “T-man” Bass and Viola Edna Dabbs Bass. She was the owner and operator of Gloria’s and a member of Rowan Baptist Church. Gloria is survived by; husband of 46 years, Frankie Baldwin; children, Scott Baldwin (Melissa), Becky Mercer (Jeremy), Terrie Brown (Eric) and Frankie Marie Baldwin; step-daughter, Cindy Szalwinski (Paul); grandchildren, Monica, Megan (Austin), Brittany (Doug), April, Hunter, Will, Bella Gray, Ryder, Erica Pearl, Sara and Jacob; great-grandchildren, Kaitlyn; brothers, Donald Ray Dabbs, Perry Arthur Bass and Wayne Bass; sister, Deborah Diane Peterson; and several nieces and nephews. Memorials may be made to Rowan Baptist Church (Nursery or Children’s Department), 701 Rowan Road, Clinton, NC 28328. Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.crumpler-honeycutt.com](http://www.crumpler-honeycutt.com).



## CLINTON

**Mr. Edward Washington Bissette, 81**, of 103 Greenwood Drive, passed away peacefully at his home Saturday, March 20, 2021 surrounded by his family, after a courageous battle with cancer. Funeral services were held on Thursday, March 25, at 2:00 P M at Royal-Hall Funeral Home Chapel with Dr. Ray Ammons officiating. Burial followed at the Clinton Cemetery. Born on October 16, 1939 in Sampson County, Ed was the son of the late Eunice Washington and Martha Sanders Bissette. He was owner and operator of Royal Furniture Co. and a member of the First Baptist Church. Even though he never moved away from his beloved hometown, he traveled the globe with his wife of fifty-two years. He is survived by his wife, April Royal Bissette; one son, Edward Douglass Bissette and wife, Gina of Raleigh. He was most proud of his three grandsons, Edward Joseph Bissette, Jack Douglass Bissette and John Royal Bissette. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Catherine Sanders. He will truly be missed by his family and numerous lifelong friends. The family received friends one hour prior to the service, beginning at 1:00 PM, and other times at his home. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to First Baptist Church, 408 College St. Clinton, NC 28328. Royal-Hall is honored to serve the Bissette family.



## AUTRYVILLE

**Humberto Monsivais Delatorre, 62** passed away on Thursday, March 18, 2021. Funeral service will be held at 1:00 PM Saturday, March 27, 2021 at Butler Funeral Home Chapel. The family will receive friends from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM Friday, March 26, 2021 at the funeral home. He was born in Mexico to the late Marcos Monsivais and Aurora Delatorre. He is also preceded in death by his wife, Mary Anne Anderson; and a daughter, Adrianna Denise Monsivais. He is survived by his son, Humberto Monsivais, II & wife, Amber; step-daughter, Raquel Martinez; step-son, Gabriel Trujillo; grandchildren, Jacob Wade Simmons, Luis Enrique Martinez, Adriana Jasmine Martinez, Kaden Alexander Monsivais and Kayleigh Anne Monsivais; and siblings, Eulalio, Josefina, Rosa, Lencha, Belen, Rigo, Rodolfo and Cirilo Monsivais, and also a lifelong friend, Charlie Tanner. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC 28382.



## MANHATTAN, NY

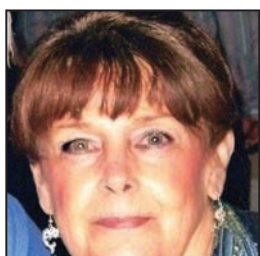
**Mrs. Annie Constance Dodson, 82**, of Manhattan, NY formerly of Clinton, NC passed away Friday, March 19, 2021 at Mt. Sinai Hospital, Manhattan, NY. The graveside service will be held at 1pm, Sunday, March 28, 2021 at Sandhill Cemetery, Clinton, NC with Rev. Dr. Louie Boykin officiating. Mrs. Dodson is survived by DAUGHTER-Shelia DeVaughn of Seattle, WA; SONS-Billy L. Dodson, Jr. and Billy Dodson, III both of Manhattan, NY; 2 grandchildren. The live-stream will be available AT THE SERVICE TIME. NOTE: To access the service via Facebook, log on to your Facebook account and type in Worley Funeral Home. Public Viewing at the Cemetery (Mask are required) Sunday, March 28, 2021 12:30pm - 1pm.

## FAYETTEVILLE

**Betty Jean (Spell) Faircloth, 81** earned her angel wings on



Eva Fisher Spell; husband, Hicks Faircloth; sons, Anthony Hicks Faircloth and Gary Mitchell Faircloth; grandson, Linwood “Mitch” Mitchell Faircloth; and a brother, James Elwood Spell. Betty was a loving mother, sister, grandmother, great grandmother and friend she will be missed by all who knew her. She is survived by her son, Craig “Fish” Faircloth of the home; daughter, Lorinda Raynor & husband, DeWayne of Eastover; sister, Charlotte Tucker & husband, Winford of Georgia; 3 grandchildren, Jessica Locklear & husband, Ervin of Saint Pauls, Brandon Campbell & wife, Lauren and Bridget Hensley & husband, Albert of Ammon; and 11 great grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the family to help with funeral expenses. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 6535 Clinton Road, Stedman, NC 28391.



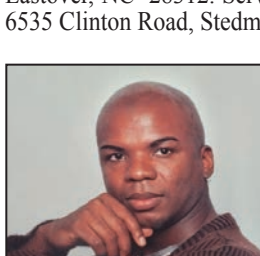
## DUNN

**Mrs. Ann Proctor Honeycutt of Dunn age 72**, passed away on Saturday, March 20, 2021 at Novant Health Brunswick Medical Center in Boliva, NC. Ann was born in Harnett County September 28, 1948. She was preceded in death by her daughter Rhonda Joy Honeycutt, her parents Willie Proctor and Letha Bradshaw Proctor. She retired with US Government Civil Service Department at Womack Army Hospital in Ft. Bragg. She was a loving and caring wife and was loved by her family and friends. She is survived by her husband of 55 years Robert Honeycutt of Dunn, NC; a brother John Proctor and his wife Evelyn on Dunn, NC; a sister Betty Jean Massengill (Bill Raynor) of Dunn, NC; a nephew Mike Warren of Benson, NC. Visitation was held from 6:00 until 8:00 pm on Friday, March 26, 2021 at Crumpler-Honeycutt funeral Home 118 Fayetteville Street, Clinton, NC. A Celebration of life graveside Service was held 1:00 pm Saturday, March 27, 2021 at Clinton Cemetery, Raiford Road Clinton by Mr. Paul Honeycutt (Minister) and Ken Helser (Minister) officiating. Memorials may be made to the: Shriners Children’s Hospital Or to NC Music Hall of Fame. Online condolences may be made at [www.crumplerfuneralhome.com](http://www.crumplerfuneralhome.com). Crumpler Funeral Home in Raeford is in charge of arrangements for Ann P. Honeycutt. For any service information contact 910-875-4145. Crumpler-Honeycutt Funeral Home in Clinton is only hosting a visitation Friday from 6-8 PM and announcing locally for the family.



## EASTOVER

**Ms. Dorothy Eloise (Jones) Melvin, 88** passed away on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at Bethesda Healthcare Facility in Eastover. Funeral service was held at 2:00 PM Friday, Salem United Methodist Church. Officiating was Rev. Francis Daniel. Burial followed in the church cemetery. The family received friends from 1:00 PM to 1:50 PM Friday at the church prior to the service. She was born in Cumberland County to the late Joe Cephus Jones and Victoria Hobson Jones. She is also preceded in death by her husband of 67 years, Elkin Vance Melvin. She was a homemaker and helped on the family farm with her late husband for many years. She was also a longtime member of Salem United Methodist Church and was a seamstress with MJ Soffe. She is survived by her son, Tony Vance Melvin & wife, Glenda “Susie” Fisher Melvin; daughter, Glenda M. Jackson & husband, Lewis of Newton Grove; sister, Bonnie Faye Coates of Godwin; grandchildren, Tony Vance Melvin, II & wife, Angie of Eastover and Lindsey M. Scott & husband, Harvey of Fayetteville; and great grandchildren, Nicholas Vance Melvin, Addyson Faith Scott and Madelyn Grace Scott. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Salem United Methodist Church mailing address 3947 Dunn Road, Eastover, NC 28312. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 6535 Clinton Road, Stedman, NC 28391.



## FAYETTEVILLE

**John Robinson 44** of 216 Waterdown Drive passed away on Thursday, March 4, 2021 at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center. John graduated from Midway High School in 1996. While attending Midway John enjoyed driving the school bus. He also assisted teachers in the special needs classroom as well as his fellow classmates. In his years at Midway High, John was the Drum Major in the marching band. He participated in the Color Guard and Track & Field. He also was the first male cheerleader at Midway High School. After graduating, John worked at the Burger King in Dunn, NC and worked his way up to manager. In 2005, he decided that he wanted more education, so he attended UNC-Pembroke studying Health/PE. John also went to International Air and Hospitality Academy. He was the former Director Support Staff at Genesis Group HM Services and worked for 12 years at Shine Light as well as Five Guys.

John was preceded in death by his father John Willie Marshall III, grandfathers; Charles Russell Robinson and John Willie Marshall, Jr. grandmothers: Alberta (Bert) Stacker and Helen Marshall. A Graveside Service was held at 3:00 pm on Friday, March 26, 2021 at Rest Haven Memorial Gardens in Dunn. He leaves to cherish his memories: Mother: Mattie “Silk” Robinson, siblings: John M. Henry, Takisha White (Decarlos) Keshonda Sneed, John Marshall IIV (B), Sheena Tart, Brian Tart, Uncles: Jerry Robinson (Victoria), Donald Robinson, Charles “Little C” Robinson (Faith), Aunts: Ida Mae Armstrong (Freddie), Willow Dean McDowell, Annie Robinson (Theo), Lula Robinson, Shelia Robinson Walker (Lawrence), Lisa Stacker (Barry), Great Aunts: Patty Sue Stacker (John), Theresa Robinson Cannon, Annie Ruth Robinson Williams (Issac), Nieces & Nephews: Le Sante Hatcher, JaMyiah Cooley, JaZhara Cox, Terrence Walker, Jr., Emoni Walker, Jasiah White, Zayon Burnett, Teralynn Tart. A very special friend Steven Douglas. A very special cousin Katina Sue Bowie. A Walk Through was held on Thursday, March 25, 2021 from 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm at Hope Valley Hawkins Funeral Service, 1246 Hobpton Hwy. Clinton.



## AUTRYVILLE

**Mrs. Doris Horne Strickland, 71** of Autryville, passed away Friday, March 19, 2021 at UNC Rex Health Care. The funeral service was held at 2:00 PM Tuesday, March 23 at Butler Funeral Home in Roseboro with Reverend Bryan Strickland officiating. Burial followed at Grandview Memorial Park in Clinton. The family will receive friends from 1:00 - 1:50 PM on Tuesday prior to the service. Mrs. Strickland is survived by her husband, George Strickland of the home; God daughter, Penny Spell of Autryville; and several nieces and nephews. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home of 401 W. Roseboro Street Roseboro N.C.

## MAGNOLIA

**Pamela Gray Tart, 67**, of Magnolia died unexpectedly on

Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at Vidant Duplin Hospital. She was born on November 5, 1953 in Johnson County; the daughter of the late Cavin Upton and Mary Lou Brock Tart. She was also predeceased by her sisters, Becky Tart Foy, and Julia Tart Jarman.

Pamela is survived by her sons, Dwight Tart and wife, Cristina of Autryville and Douglas Grizzard and partner, Floyd Sutton of Chocowinity; granddaughters, Mary Tart and Anna Tart; sister, Laura Collins and husband, Kenny of Jacksonville, FL; numerous nieces, nephews and extended family and friends that loved her dearly. Pamela was a loving mother and caring grandmother who loved her family with all her heart. She was strong-willed yet gentle woman who always looked for the best in others. Being very artistic and creative, Pam spent her free time, painting and making beautiful bird houses along with various crafts. She enjoyed life and was a people’s person. She loved to laugh and make others laugh. After the passing of her mother, Pamela was the glue that held the family together. She was the one who took interest in the Tart grandchildren and enjoyed taking them to numerous places. They always looked to ‘Aunt Pam’ for fun and unconditional love. She will surely be missed by treasured memories will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew and love Pam. Graveside service will be held at 2:00p.m. on Sunday, March 28, 2021 at Maple Grove Church Cemetery, 784 Maple Grove Church Road, Dunn, NC. In lieu of flowers the family request that memorial donations be made in memory of Pamela Tart to Breast Cancer Research Foundation, 28 West 44th Street, Suite 609, New York, NY 10036 or online at [www.bcrf.org](http://www.bcrf.org).



## CLINTON

**Miss Betty Jean Underwood, 63**, of 702 Pine Street, Clinton, NC passed away Thursday, March 18, 2021 at home. The graveside service was held at 1 p.m., Friday, March 26, 2021 at Sandhill Cemetery with Rev. Kevin Kirby officiating. The burial followed the service. Miss Underwood is survived by her BROTHERS-Charlie Frank Underwood of the home, Graham Underwood of Roseboro, NC, Raeford Underwood and Billy Ray Underwood of Manhattan, NY. The live-stream will be available AT THE SERVICE TIME. NOTE: To access the service via Facebook, log on to your Facebook account and type in Worley Funeral Home. Public Viewing at Worley Funeral Home (Mask are required) Thursday, March 25, 2021 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.



## ARCHDALE

**Ms. Sue Ellen (Horne) West** went to be with the Lord on Sunday, March 21, 2021 with her family by her side. Funeral service was held at 11:00 AM Thursday, March 25, 2021 at Butler Funeral Home Chapel in Stedman, officiating was Rev. Bill Barnes & Rev. Andy Wood. Burial will follow at Concord Baptist Church Cemetery in Autryville. The family received friends from 10:00 AM to 10:50 AM Thursday at the funeral home prior to the service. She was born in Cumberland County to the late Charles Alton Horne and Inez Davis Horne. She grew up in Stedman and graduated from Stedman High School. She also lived in Phoenix and Atlanta, Georgia, then moved back to Stedman and worked at Horne’s Furniture Store a family business. She worked for the FBI in Washington DC doing fingerprinting. She later moved to Greensboro while she worked as an Allstate Insurance Agent for 20 years. She then went to Stan Byrd Realty in Archdale where she worked as a realtor and lived; and was a member of Sophia Baptist Church. She retired then went to North Myrtle Beach and worked as a realtor for Elliott Realty, where she also retired. In addition to her parents she is preceded in death by her son, Richard “Ricky” West, Jr.; sisters, Helen Horne Hunter, and Joann Horne McAlphin; brothers, Tommy Alton Horne and Latha Francis Horne; sister-in-law, Margaret Jackson Horne; and a brother-in-law, Robert McAlphin. She is survived by her life partner of 40 years, Roger Blackwell; children, Pamela West Price of Georgetown, SC, Rodney West of Henderson, NC, and Robert West & wife, Betty of Archdale; brother, Billy Davis Horne & wife Faye of Stedman; many grandchildren and great grandchildren; and a daughter-in-law, Tammy West. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Sophia Baptist Church, P. O. Box 27, Sophia, NC 27350 or to Stedman Baptist Church, 7750 Clinton Road, Stedman, NC 28391. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, masks are required. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 6535 Clinton Road, Stedman, NC 28391.

## SALEMBURG



**James “Jimmy” Joseph Salazar, 58**, passed away at his home with his family by his side on Friday, March 26, 2021. A celebration of life service with US Navy honors will be held at 3:00 PM Sunday, March 28, 2021 at Butler Funeral Home Chapel in Stedman, officiating will be Pastor Eddie Smith. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 6535 Clinton Road, Stedman, NC 28391.

## CLINTON



**Mr. Robert Franklin Butler, Sr., 73** of 174 South Rose Lane passed away Thursday, March 25, 2021 at Wake Med in Raleigh. Funeral Services will be held Sunday, March 28th at 2:30 PM at Old Mill Church of God, 170 Williams Lake Rd. Roseboro, NC. 28382 with Pastor Donnie Honeycutt and Pastor Jerry Waters officiating. Burial will follow at Grandview Memorial Park in Clinton. Born in 1947 in Sampson County Robert was the son of the late Clifton and Loretta Tew Butler and the widower of Myrtle Faye Pearsall Butler. He worked many years at the old Dr. Pepper plant on McKoy Street in Clinton. When they closed, he went to Sampson-Bladen Oil Company until his retirement. Robert is survived by his son, Ronnie Butler and wife, Penny of Clinton; two daughters: Crystal B. Strickland and husband, Junior of Clinton and Marilyn B. Cannady and husband, Nelson of Clinton; sister, Ann Fann of Clinton; three brothers: Mack Butler of Baldwin, FL., Thomas Butler of Jacksonville, FL. and James Butler of Clinton; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. In addition to his parents and wife, Robert was preceded in death by his son, Robert Franklin Butler, Jr and grandson, Michael Andrew Butler. The family will receive friends on Sunday at the church, from 1:00 pm until 2:15 pm, and other times at the home of his son, Ronnie Butler, 194 South Rose Lane Clinton. Flowers are welcome, or memorials may be made to the American Cancer

All Obituaries can be submitted to

[info@thesampsonweekly.com](mailto:info@thesampsonweekly.com)



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# NASCAR THIS WEEK

## SPEED FREAKS

**Dirt at Bristol: One-and-done or more to come?**

**KEN'S CALL:** I think it'll be a hit and NASCAR will have to fight the urge to add another to the schedule. Depending on how well it goes, maybe they shouldn't fight the urge.

**DEAN'S DIRT:** We'll be turning laps on the Daytona's Beach-and-Road Course by 2023!

**Can you make sense of the Noah Gragson-Daniel Hemric dust-up?**

**KEN'S CALL:** The pit incident was just a weird chain of events. The actual throwing of punches was a new aspect to racer confrontations. None landed, it seems, but they'll be put to use in future video promos.

**DEAN'S DIRT:** Do any of these punches ever actually land? I'm sure they did back in the day, but I haven't seen one.

## ZACH'S BRISTOL DIRT PICKS

**Winner:** Kyle Larson

**Rest of top 5:** Christopher Bell, Chase Elliott, Kyle Busch, Martin Truex Jr.

**First one out:** Joey Logano

**Dark horse:** Ricky Stenhouse Jr.

**Don't be surprised if ...:** Larson dominates this race, too, but doesn't fade at the end.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**5** Career wins for Ryan Blaney

**6** Different winners in 2021

**8** Playoff points for Kyle Larson this season

**269** Laps led by Larson at Atlanta

**1970** Last Cup Series race on dirt

## DAYTONA MOTOR MOUTHS

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



## THROUGH THE GEARS



Ryan Blaney won the Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 Sunday at Atlanta Motor Speedway — his fifth career victory. KEVIN C. COX/GETTY IMAGES

# Blaney wins Atlanta as all eyes turn to Bristol

**Zach Dean**  
Daytona Beach News-Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

It sure seemed like our string of new winners in this unpredictable 2021 NASCAR season was all but finished Sunday at Atlanta, where Kyle Larson lapped just about everybody but himself during a dominant afternoon.

Larson, who won a few weeks ago at Las Vegas, led nearly every lap, jumped out to six, seven and sometimes eight-second leads, and easily won the first two stages.

But, as we said earlier, this season has been anything but predictable. So when Ryan Blaney nosed his No. 12 Ford ahead of Larson's in the waning laps, and then quickly sped away to his first victory of the season, perhaps we all should have seen it coming.

Heck, even Blaney did!

"The 5 was crazy fast there the whole race and then we started closing in," he said after the race. "Our car got a lot better there. I think towards the end of Stage 2 it was starting to get there, and then before that last green-flag stop it really came to life."

**First gear**

Blaney's win gives us six different winners to start the season as we inch toward the high mark (under this current format) of seven in 2014.

If you've been paying attention, this one was only a matter of time.

Blaney (this year's breakout driver, as predicted in these spaces back in January) has been closing in on that first win for a few weeks now, finishing fifth at Las Vegas and 10th last week at Phoenix.

Early on Sunday, it was clear this was going to be a Hendrick-versus-the-field kind of day, and Blaney's No. 12, for the third straight week, was right in the middle of it.

**Second gear**

While Blaney and Larson stole the show, there were plenty of disappointing acts. Even though Kevin Harvick somehow finished 10th, his No. 4 Ford struggled all day. So did Brad Keselowski and Joey Logano (although Keselowski's No. 2 machine was damaged early on).

Chase Elliott continued his uneven start to the season with the rare blown engine, while Aric Almirola finished 20th or worse for the fourth time this year.

It wasn't all bad, though!

How about Daniel Suarez, who ran up front all day, recorded a stage point, and finished 17th? Austin Dillon finished sixth as Richard Childress Racing continues to show more speed this year, while Roush Fenway's Chris Buescher finished seventh.

If all that seems weird, just wait until we head to Bristol ...

**Third gear**

Speaking of Bristol, the last time the NASCAR Cup Series raced on a dirt track was in 1970 for the Home State 200 at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds.

Richard Petty won the race — he won 18 times in 1970 — followed by Neil Castles and Bobby Isaac. Bobby Allison finished sixth, Dave Marcis finished seventh, and Benny Parsons finished 14th.

**Fourth gear**

Petty's father, Lee, tops the list of Cup dirt-track winners with 42. Herb Thomas is second with 41, followed by Buck Baker with 40. Richard Petty finished with 30 wins on dirt, just behind Ned Jarrett's 33.

There were 489 NASCAR Cup Series races held on dirt between June 19, 1949, and Sept. 30, 1970, including the first race in premier series history at the .75-mile track known as Charlotte Speedway.

In the 1949 season, seven of the eight tracks competed on were dirt.

**Q&A**

**Excited for Dirt Week?**

Have you met anyone who isn't? Me neither. It's also a return to the old norm, in a way, with actual practice sessions on Friday afternoon (Trucks and Cup) and qualifying for both on Saturday. Except the qualifying will be heat races, which just may steal the weekend and have fans clamoring for more of that at other venues. When something works, there's always the threat of overkill, but that would be a pleasant problem.

**Any chance it doesn't work?**

It could rain like hell and create NASCAR's first delay for mudslides. Barring that, some dirt-track ace like Kyle Larson could turn the main event into a rout. Or it could become a slip-and-slide wreckfest. But frankly, that wouldn't be much different from plenty of past races on Bristol's asphalt. It won't be boring, let's assume.

— Ken Willis



Bristol Motor Speedway will get the blood flowing for stock-car fans. MARK HUMPHREY/USA TODAY NETWORK

CUP STANDINGS	
1. Denny Hamlin	277
2. Kyle Larson	234
3. Joey Logano	214
4. Martin Truex Jr.	212
5. Brad Keselowski	206
6. Kevin Harvick	203
7. Ryan Blaney	191
8. William Byron	188
9. Christopher Bell	183
10. Chase Elliott	183
11. Austin Dillon	170
12. Kyle Busch	163
13. Michael McDowell	158
14. Alex Bowman	157
15. Kurt Busch	152
16. Chris Buescher	144
17. Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	138
18. Ryan Preece	135
19. Bubba Wallace	118
20. Ross Chastain	108

**WHAT'S ON TAP?**

**FRIDAY:** Truck and Cup Series alternate practice sessions at Bristol (3 p.m., Fox Sports 1)

**SATURDAY:** Truck Series heat races (4:30, FS1); Cup Series heat races (6 p.m., FS1); Truck Series race at Bristol (8 p.m., Fox Sports 1)

**SUNDAY:** Cup Series dirt race at Bristol (3:30, Fox)

## KEN WILLIS' TOP 10 DRIVER RANKINGS

<b>KYLE LARSON</b> Wishes they were all dirt races	<b>DENNY HAMLIN</b> Almost a home game this week	<b>MARTIN TRUEX JR.</b> Mr. Top 10 nowadays	<b>RYAN BLANEY</b> Dad Dave can give dirt-track tips	<b>WILLIAM BYRON</b> Has finished 8th in three straight	<b>KEVIN HARVICK</b> Using Truck race as a tune-up	<b>JOEY LOGANO</b> Doesn't look like he enjoys dirt	<b>BRAD KESELOWSKI</b> Will take a top-10 and move along	<b>KYLE BUSCH</b> Fifth at Atlanta = progress, kinda	<b>CHASE ELLIOTT</b> Nobody blows engines anymore

## 2021 CUP SERIES SCHEDULE

**Feb. 9:** Busch Clash (Kyle Busch)  
**Feb. 14:** Daytona 500 (Michael McDowell)  
**Feb. 21:** Daytona Road Course (Christopher Bell)  
**Feb. 28:** Homestead (William Byron)  
**March 7:** Las Vegas (Kyle Larson)  
**March 14:** Phoenix (Martin Truex Jr.)  
**March 21:** Atlanta (Ryan Blaney)  
**March 28:** Bristol (dirt)

**April 10:** Martinsville  
**April 18:** Richmond  
**April 25:** Talladega  
**May 2:** Kansas  
**May 9:** Darlington  
**May 16:** Dover  
**May 23:** Austin  
**May 30:** Charlotte  
**June 6:** Sonoma  
**June 13:** Texas All-Star  
**June 20:** Nashville  
**June 26:** Pocono

**June 27:** Pocono  
**July 4:** Road America (Wisconsin)  
**July 11:** Atlanta  
**July 18:** New Hampshire  
**Aug. 8:** Watkins Glen  
**Aug. 15:** Indianapolis  
**Aug. 22:** Michigan  
**Aug. 28:** Daytona

**PLAYOFFS ROUND OF 16**  
**Sept. 5:** Darlington  
**Sept. 11:** Richmond  
**Sept. 18:** Bristol

**PLAYOFFS ROUND OF 12**  
**Sept. 26:** Las Vegas  
**Oct. 3:** Talladega  
**Oct. 10:** Charlotte Roval

**PLAYOFFS ROUND OF 8**  
**Oct. 17:** Texas  
**Oct. 24:** Kansas  
**Oct. 31:** Martinsville

**CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND**  
Nov. 7: Phoenix

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Best Hamburger: _____	Best Place for Men to Have Lunch: _____	Best Pizza: _____
Best French Fries _____	Best Place to Buy Tires: _____	Best Fitness Center: _____
Best Milkshake: _____	Best Hunting Supplies: _____	Best Salad Bar: _____
Best Ice Cream: _____	Best Deli/Bakery: _____	Best Body Shop: _____
Best Yogurt: _____	Best Place to Buy Groceries: _____	Best Place to Buy a Lawnmower: _____
Best Steak: _____	Best Sales Team: _____	Best Hardware Store: _____
Best Hot Dog: _____	Best Service Department: _____	Best Tax Preparer: _____
Best Fried Chicken: _____	Best Home Improvement Business: _____	Best Place to Buy Auto Parts: _____
Best Seafood: _____	Best Place to Buy a New Vehicle: _____	Best Bank: _____
Best Doctor: _____	Best Place to Buy a Used Vehicle: _____	Best Bank Teller: _____
Best Nurse: _____	Best Insurance Agency: _____	Best Barber: _____
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Best Sheriff Deputy: _____	Best Hushpuppies: _____	Best Jewelry Repair: _____
Best Principal: _____	Best Iced Tea: _____	Best Child Care Center: _____
Best Teacher: _____	Best Coffee: _____	Best Place for Wings: _____
Best Grocery Store: _____	Best Meat Department: _____	Best Place to Buy Office Supplies: _____
Best Place To Buy Appliances: _____	Best Place to Buy Shoes: _____	Best Desserts: _____
Best Place To To Buy Furniture: _____	Best Place to Buy Women's Clothes: _____	Best Chiropractor: _____
Best Place To Buy A Cell Phone: _____	Best Place to Buy Men's Clothes: _____	Best Dry Cleaner: _____
Best Place To Buy Gas: _____	Best Place to Buy Children's Clothes: _____	Best Computer Repair: _____
Best Place To Go on a Date: _____	Best Place to Buy Antiques: _____	Best Place to Buy Flooring: _____
Best Place to Celebrate a Child's B-Day: _____	Best Roofer: _____	Best Place to Buy A Mattress: _____
Best Veterinarian: _____	Best Pharmacy: _____	Best Pest Control Service: _____
Best Mechanic: _____	Best Real Estate Agency _____	Best Photographer: _____
Best DJ: _____	Best Hairstylist: _____	Best Surgeon: _____
Best Place to Get Your Oil Changed: _____	Best Florist: _____	Best Plumber: _____
Best Place to Buy a Gift: _____	Best Landscaper: _____	Best Place to Buy Vacuum Cleaner: _____
Best Jewelry Store: _____	Best Tanning Salon: _____	Best Fire Department: _____
Best Eye Doctor: _____	Best Elected Official: _____	Best Rescue Squad: _____
Best Dentist: _____	Best Convenience Store: _____	Best Pet Groomer: _____
Best Attorney: _____	Best Mexican Food: _____	Best Insurance Agent: _____
Best Manicure/Pedicure: _____	Best Chinese Food: _____	You Write In Your Favorite Category/Winner _____

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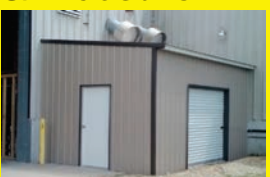
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