

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Luke 2:7 "And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."

CHRIST IS BORN THIS CHRISTMAS DAY

SAMPSON COUNTY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

The Sampson Weekly



VOLUME 11, ISSUE 51

www.thesampsonweekly.com

Week of December 23-31, 2020

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WEATHER

Thur T-Storm
80%

Hi: 56° Lo: 46°

Fri Sunny
0%

Hi: 37° Lo: 20°

Sat Sunny
0%

Hi: 40° Lo: 25°

Sun Mostly Sunny
10%

Hi: 50° Lo: 31°

Mon Rain
50%

Hi: 55° Lo: 34°

Tues Sunny
10%

Hi: 47° Lo: 29°

Sampson County Board of Education Hires New Superintendent



Interim Sampson County Schools Superintendent Dr. Stewart Hobbs with newly appointed Superintendent Dr. David Goodin

On Thursday afternoon, the Sampson County Board of Education announced the selections and election of Dr. David Goodin as the next Superintendent of Sampson County Schools. The vote was all in favor with a dissent from school board member Glenn Faison.

SUPERINTENDENT, see P. 2

Longtime SCC Employee Retires After Over 30 years



Before she was Vice President of Academic Affairs at Sampson Community College, Wanda Capps was Division Chair of Health Programs, and Department Chair of Nursing, and an Instructor in the Associate Degree Nursing Program; the list goes on and on. Capps' resume tells of her journey at Sampson Community College, but the stories and experiences she shares are richer and fuller than anything the pages of her resume could say. Now, after over 30 years of service, Capps plans for her retirement.

Capps graduated from Hobbton High School in Newton Grove. Her parents, who never had the opportunity to attend college, were always sure to emphasize the importance of education in Capps and each of her siblings. In some way, Capps and each of her siblings work in education, so she thinks the emphasis on education had an impact.

"My parents were advocates and set an example of how important education was by being involved in many functions at our schools. Going to college was like asking if you were going to church on Sunday morning, you didn't ask because it was expected," Capps remembered.

A graduate of Atlantic Christian College, now Barton College, Capps immediately began working as a Pediatric RN at Wayne Memorial Hospital, now Wayne UNC Health Care. She eventually moved to the same role at Sampson Memorial Hospital, now Sampson Regional Medical Center. Even as she worked in the hospital environment, she knew she wanted to teach.

Her first role at SCC was as a part-time clinical instructor in the nurse aide program. In 1988, she began as an Associate Degree Nursing instructor. As an instructor her days consist-

CAPPS, see P. 3

Christmas Vacation



By Sandy Sanderson

The movie Christmas Vacation is an unlikely "Christmas classic" but 31 years after its release that is exactly what it is. It is a movie that has stood the test of time. If anything, at age 31 it is more popular now than it was when it was released. It is a movie that most of us can relate to on one level or another and it's just flat out funny. Last year for the 30th anniversary of the release of the movie its star, Chevy Chase, did a limited tour during the holiday season. For the tour, the movie was shown on the big screen again. After the movie, Chevy Chase came out and talked about the making of the movie and answered questions from the audience for about an hour. One of these events was held in Raleigh on December 30, 2019. Since Christmas Vacation is my all-time favorite Christmas movie, I was seated on the fourth row of the event.

You might think that showing Christmas Vacation just after Christmas would dampen the enthusiasm for it. You would be wrong. The event sold out the Duke Energy Center for the

VACATION, see P. 3

WEEKLY VERSE

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14

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MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

LOCAL NEWS

SUPERINTENDENT, cont. from P. 1

During the search process, the board carefully reviewed applications from a diverse field of 25 excellent candidates. Although many qualified candidates applied, the board felt that Dr. Goodin's experience, leadership, and dedication to students and staff would best serve Sampson County School students, employees, and the community for years to come. The board is confident Dr. Goodin will lead the school system to even higher achievement.

Dr. Goodin has enjoyed a long and very successful career in public education spanning more than twenty-one years. He brings a wealth of experience as a superintendent. For the last nearly ten years, since 2011, he has been the superintendent of the Spring Ford Area School District Schools, one of the largest districts in the Philadelphia suburbs. Prior to assuming his current position, Dr. Goodin served as superintendent in two other districts, in the Connellsville Area School District in Connellsville, Pennsylvania and the Harmony Area School District in Westover, Pennsylvania. Dr. Goodin previously served as assistant principal and principal at the middle school level.

Dr. Goodin has an impressive academic background as well. He received a bachelor's degree in social studies from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania in Indiana, Pennsylvania. He went on to earn a master's degree in history from Shippensburg University in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. Dr. Goodin received his Ed.D. in Education Administration and Leadership from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Goodin looks forward to the opportunity to serve the students, faculty, and staff of SCS. As a native North Carolinian, he eager to become an active and engaged member of the Sampson County community. He is married to his wife, Michele, and together they have 6 children ranging in age from 32 to 19 years of age.

Dr. Goodin released the following statement about accepting the position: "I look forward to serving the community of Sampson County through these unprecedented times. Having grown up in Cumberland County NC, being a part of the Sampson County School District is like coming home after being away for 40 years. It is my honor and privilege to serve as your next Superintendent. Together we will strive to bring to Sampson County children the best educational experience possible. Together we can and Together we will."

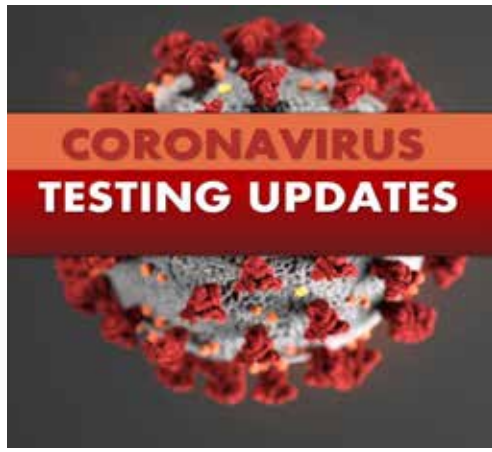
In a message to the parents, staff and students at Spring-Ford Area School District where Dr. Goodin currently serves, he stated, "I've been reminded, during this global pandemic, the importance of family. My family plans to move back to the Carolinas. I'm originally from the South, my mother, children, and grandchildren all still live in the South, and it is important for my family that we spend more time together."

Dr. Goodin will take office on Februar7 22, 2021. Interim Superintendent Dr. Stewart Hobbs will continue to serve until this time.



Newly appointed Sampson County Superintendent Dr. David Goodin along with the Sampson County School Board

COVID-19 Vaccines Arriving This Week



The following was provided as COVID testing updates for Monday, December 21, 2020 (updates were not provided on Friday as staff were working at a COVID testing event).

COVID-19 TESTING REPORT FOR DECEMBER 21, 2020

Total Number of Tests Reported to Date: 13,125
Positive Test Results: 4,640 (71

new cases since 12/17 report)
Negative Test Results: 8,485
COVID Reported Deaths to Date: 56

The Sampson County Health Department still anticipates receiving their first shipment of COVID vaccine this week, likely as early as Monday. Sampson County will follow the vaccine distribution prioritization guidance approved the State and developed by the National Academy of Medicine Framework for Equitable Allocation of COVID-19 and CDC Advisory Committee Immunization Practice. Thus, the first priority group to receive the vaccine will be healthcare workers at highest risk of exposure to COVID-19. NC DHHS defines this group as: Healthcare workers at high risk for COVID-19 exposure based on work duties or vital to the initial COVID-19 vaccine response. High risk of exposure is defined as those caring for COVID-19 patients, cleaning areas where COVID-19 patients are admitted, performing procedures at high risk of aerosolization (e.g., intubation, bronchoscopy, suctioning, invasive dental procedures, invasive specimen collection, CPR), handling decedents with COVID-19 and administering vaccine in initial closed or targeted vaccination clinics.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services is asking people to remember these three things as we stay strong and continue to flatten the curve and slow the spread of COVID-19.

- If you leave home, practice your Ws: Wear, Wait, Wash
- Wear a cloth mask over your nose and mouth.
- Wait 6 feet apart. Avoid close contact.
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer.

These actions can protect our families and neighbors as the state works to ease restrictions while the virus is still circulating.

"Check My Symptoms" is an informational tool for you to check your symptoms online (<https://ncdhhs-covid19-dtra.powerappsportals.us/en-US/>) to determine if you would be recommended to be tested for COVID-19. Additionally, you can use "Find My Testing Place" at <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/.../testing/find-my-testing-place> to find a list of local testing events.

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• NOTICE •

SAMPSON COUNTY TAXPAYERS

The 2020 property tax on real estate and personal property listed in January will be delinquent after January 5, 2021. After this date, by state statute, interest will be added.

Foreclosure, garnishment, bank attachment and levy procedures on real estate and personal property will begin on January 6, 2021. No exceptions or payment arrangements will be made.

If paying by mail, the US Postmark must be dated no later than January 5, 2021. The County Tax Department is located at 126 West Elizabeth Street, Clinton, NC 28328.



Tax Time

Sampson County Tax Collector
PO Box 207
Clinton, NC 28329
Phone: 910-592-7081

VACTION, cont. from P. 1

Performing Arts in Raleigh and it was not the normal theater crowd in attendance. Many attendees came wearing Chicago Blackhawks hockey jerseys like Chevy Chase wore as Clark Griswold in the movie, while others wore white sweaters with dickies showing through like Randy Quaid wore as Cousin Eddie. I watch the movie every Christmas season at home but seeing it on a big screen with a VERY enthusiastic crowd was a much different and enjoyable experience.

At this showing, however, the movie was not the main event. The main event was hearing from Chevy Chase after the movie. Chase admitted that he never expected the movie to be a holiday tradition when it was released in 1989. He said, "You always hope. But I never come away from making a movie knowing it's going to be a hit." Chase acknowledged that part of the success of the movie was the strength of the cast. It is an all-star cast with many who were established stars at the time like Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, Randy Quaid, Dianne Ladd, John Randolph, and E. G. Marshall. But it is also clear that the casting director had an eye for talent in finding several future stars in Johnny Galecki, Juliette Lewis, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, and Doris Roberts. Although Chase did let a little jealousy show through in his presentation when he discussed the huge financial success that Johnny Galecki later had with The Big Bang Theory.

The presentation was at its best when Chase was telling behind the scenes tidbits about the filming of the movie. Chase says that one of the things he is asked about most is whether the snow was real. The Griswold house is on a back lot in Burbank, California so all of the snow in the Griswold neighborhood was fake. However, the cast went to Colorado to film the Christmas tree and snow saucer scenes in real snow. Chase stated that for the snow saucer scene he did have to ride a snow saucer down a track they had made for him in the snow, but he did not actually break any land speed records.

According to Chase, the trip to Colorado resulted in more snow than the cast and crew actually wanted. They got snowed in. While snowed in, they changed plans and used the time to film the scene where Chase gets locked in the attic. This explains the two types of stairs on the attic entrance that many close observers of the movie have noted. The inside of the attic was from a house in Colorado, while the outside of the attic was filmed on the set in California. Evidently no one noticed that one set folded up while the other slid up and down. Chase stated that almost the entire attic scene was ad libbed. He was just told to react to watching old movies while in the attic.

Chase has been known as a physical comic his entire career and, as such, he did many of his own stunts for Christmas Vacation. He really fell off the ladder while doing the Christmas lights. Chase joked, or at least I thought it was a joke, that the toilet from Lethal Weapon was in the bushes when he fell off the ladder. Lethal Weapon had been filmed

at the house next door on the same set just prior to the filming of Christmas Vacation and that movie did end with the toilet being exploded out the window. Chase also admitted to breaking a finger while punching the reindeer in the scene where he failed to get the Christmas lights to come on. They ended up using that take and Chase said that the expression on his face was real pain not just the fake frustration with the lights.

One scene that stands out in the movie is the insult laced rant that Chase did as Clark when he found out that he was not getting a Christmas bonus that year. Chase said that scene was filmed in one take, but that he had a little help. He stated that since the other actors were facing him and we only see their backs during the portions we see Chase talking, each of the other actors had cards with insults on them for him to use in the scene.

Christmas Vacation is a classic because at the heart of the movie is Clark's sincere wish to make Christmas special for his entire family and the pressure he felt to make everything turn out just right. Many of us have similar feelings and, like Clark, many times our best efforts fail. However, we should take solace in the fact that as Clark learns at the end of the movie, Christmas doesn't have to be perfect to be enjoyed or appreciated.

CAPPS, cont. from P. 1

ed of classroom and clinical instruction. Days could begin as early as 6:30 am, and along with instruction, one-on-one student time and academic counseling were always a part of her routine.

Capps recalled the hours spent writing out transparencies because there were no computers, no PowerPoint, and no email. Early in her career, Capps also instructed Lamaze classes through the Workforce Development and Continuing Education division.

"Wanda Capps will be truly missed by the SCC family. Moving into the Vice-President's position from heading the nursing program, she became a solid brick in the foundation of the administration of the college. Her guidance and concern were always for the betterment of the students, the college, and the community. Our prayers are with you and your family. Enjoy retirement and enjoy life. Thank you for your time and devotion to the SCC family," Dr. Ted Thomas, Chair of the SCC Board of Trustees commented.

Capps calls her years at SCC a blessing. Over her time spent at the college, she was able to see the campus grow, and be a part of the changes made. In 1988, the entire campus was made up of only four buildings — she never could have imagined the changes that would occur. At that same time, the Associate Degree Nursing program was the only health care program offered, but now the division has grown to offer six programs. Capps also remembers the effort and dedication required for the nursing programs to attain National Accreditation. Ultimately, she believes that SCC was a gift given to her by a "higher power."

"I truly believe we end up where we are meant to be. SCC was the best choice for my family and our children. There is a higher power who knew where I needed to be, and I was truly blessed to love what I was doing at SCC. I had the best of both worlds — nursing and teaching," Capps remarked.

Capps' fondest memories include time spent with mentors and coworkers from her time at SCC. Nursing faculty like Mary Brown, who was a mentor and with her as the nursing program moved from building to building until finally finding its home in Technology. Staff like Dr. Starling, who she worked with from the beginning, and who has been a source of knowledge and guidance.

Mary Brown, Former Director of Nursing, remembered Capps' tenacity as a young nurse and her eagerness to teach. Brown says Capps was bright and a joy to be around.

"Most nurses don't go to school to teach, but when Wanda was working at hospital she wanted to know if she could teach. We all enjoyed one another and loved one another — and Wanda taught me the electric slide at a nurse's convention. Hiring Wanda was one of the best decisions I ever made, and I certainly wish her well in her retirement," Brown shared.

Even as much as the mentors and coworkers she has grown to love, Capps says the success and accomplishments of her students have left lasting impressions.

"I remember seeing single moms complete a program that changed their lives and the lives of their children because of a secure job, a home, and food on the table. Or, seeing a student escape circumstances out of their control because they completed their program of study," Capps recalled. "And the many students who succeeded after suffering the loss of a child or spouse. The list goes on and on with these types of stories; this is what's memorable and unforgettable."

Dr. William Starling, President of SCC, and Capps' longtime coworker praised her dedication to the college and its students.

"There are not adequate expressions of thanks and admiration that I can offer to someone I have worked beside for over 33 years. Wanda's story is one of devotion to the nursing education and to the faculty and students that she taught and mentored. I can only guess at the number of nursing students who have successfully entered practice who benefitted from her service with SCC. For those of us who work with her each day, we are happy Wanda can now devote herself full-time to yet another important job, that of grandmother," Starling remarked.

Capps plans to fill her retirement with time spent with her two granddaughters, Katie Jo and Farra Ann. She also plans to make time for her hobbies, embroidery and quilt making and is happy to devote more time to her community and church outreach.

Even after 30 years of service, Capps knows leaving her coworkers and the students at Sampson Community College will not be easy. She says she will continue to cherish the relationships she has created. Capps says she will take a piece of SCC with her and leave a bit of herself behind.

ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX LISTING NOTICE 2021 SAMPSON COUNTY 2021

All persons who own or control business, farm/agri-business and/or any personal property subject to taxation in Sampson County, OR made improvements to real property, must list all such property and/or improvements to real property for year 2021 from Monday, January 4, 2021 through Monday, February 1, 2021.

If you filed a listing form in 2020 with the county, you will automatically be mailed a new form at the owner's address on record as of January 1, 2021. Please review the information, make necessary additions/corrections, sign & return listing forms postmarked by USPS no later than February 1, 2021 to avoid 10% late listing penalty to: Tax Administration, PO Box 1082, Clinton, NC 28329 (Or bring to 126 W. Elizabeth St.) Unsigned forms will be considered late if received after February 1, 2021.

PLEASE CALL 910-592-8146 FOR LISTING ASSISTANCE.

REAL ESTATE	BUSINESS, FARM/ AGRI-BUSINESS & OTHER PERSONAL PROPERTY	PROPERTY TAX RELIEF PROGRAMS
<p>Sampson County has a permanent listing system for real estate; property owners are responsible to annually list any improvements to real property only.</p> <p>Failure to list those improvements to real property is subject to the penalties imposed by NCGS 105-308 and NCGS 105-312.</p> <p>Taxpayers owning only real property will not receive a listing form. If you need to list improvements to real property, please SEE BELOW FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS.</p>	<p><u>ALL BUSINESSES</u> and/or persons owning or possessing personal property used or connected with a business or other income-producing purpose, must list such property with the tax administrator every year, <u>including but not limited to:</u> copiers, computer equipment, signs, supplies, leasehold improvements, furniture, fixtures, machinery, spare parts, etc. IRP (International Registration Plan) plated vehicles must be listed annually during the regular listing period. <u>ALL FARM/AGRI-BUSINESSES</u> must list annually all income-producing personal property, <u>including but not limited to:</u> tractors, combines, combine headers and platforms; motors; bailers; harvesters; tobacco equipment; plows; planters; sprayers, irrigation equipment; supplies; compressors; etc. <u>ALL PERSONAL PROPERTY</u> must be listed, <u>including but not limited to:</u> all unlicensed & permanently tagged motor vehicles; untagged trailers; aircraft; motorcycles; campers; RVs & truck bodies; mobile homes; all boats & all boat motors; jet skis; all household rental personal property; etc. <u>ALL LICENSED</u> vehicles will be billed automatically by the NCDMV. SEE BELOW FOR FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS.</p>	<p>Elderly or Totally and Permanently Disabled Exclusion: North Carolina excludes from property taxes the greater of twenty-five thousand (\$25,000) or fifty percent (50%) of the appraised value of a permanent residence owned and occupied by a qualifying owner. A qualifying owner is an owner who meets all of the following requirements as of January 1 preceding the taxable year for which the benefit is claimed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Is at least 65 years of age or totally and permanently disabled. 2) Has an income for the preceding calendar year of not more than Thirty one thousand five hundred (\$31500). 3) Is a North Carolina resident. <p>Income is defined as all moneys received from every source other than gifts or inheritances received from a spouse, lineal ancestor, or lineal descendant. For married applicants residing with their spouses, the income of both spouses must be included, whether or not the property is in both names.</p> <p>Disabled Veteran Exclusion: This program excludes the first forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000) of the appraised value of a permanent residence owned and occupied by a North Carolina Resident, who is an Honorably Discharged Disabled Veteran, or the unmarried surviving spouse of an Honorably Discharged Disabled Veteran. A disabled veteran is defined as a veteran whose character of service at separation was honorable or under honorable conditions and who has a total and permanent service-connected disability or who received benefits for specially adapted housing under 38 U.S.C. 2101. Contact the Sampson County Tax Office for specific details and applications.</p> <p>Circuit Breaker Property Tax Deferment: This program allows taxes billed each year to be limited to a percentage of the qualifying owner's income. However, taxes in excess of the limitation are deferred and remain a lien on the property. The three most current years of deferred taxes prior to a disqualifying event will become due and payable, with interest, on the date of the disqualifying event. Age 65 or older, with an income not exceeding \$47,250. You must file a new application for this program each year. Contact the Sampson County Tax Office for specific details and application. Application time period for property tax relief programs is January 4, 2021 to June 1, 2021.</p>

- ▶ ALL BUSINESSES requesting an "Extension to file" until April 15, 2021 must be on company letterhead, & must be received or postmarked by U.S.P.S by January 1, 2021 per G.S. 105-311(b), 360(d). The N.C. Statutes do not recognize private postage meter dates; mail early to avoid the 10% late list penalty on listings received/postmarked after February 1, 2021.
 - ▶ Business Personal Property Listings may be filed electronically at eListings@southdata.com. If filing electronically an "extension to file" request until April 15, 2021 must be submitted online by February 1, 2021.
 - ▶ NEW AND/OR UPDATED APPLICATIONS for all other property tax exclusions & deferments, such as religious, charitable, cultural and present use valuation (Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry & Wildlife) including updates for all changes in usage, ownership, income and qualifying parcel size must be filed by February 1, 2021.
 - ▶ FOR LISTING FORMS & INSTRUCTIONS: Contact the Sampson County Tax Office at 126 W. Elizabeth St., Clinton, NC MONDAY-FRIDAY 8am-5pm, Phone 910-592-8146.
 - ▶ The Tax Collector administers & collects the Rental Vehicle Gross Receipts Tax. All returns & payments must be submitted monthly to the Tax Collector.
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For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ~Isaiah 9:6

Christmas

A SAVIOR IS BORN



I wish you peace, love and joy as we enter this Christmas Season and remember the birth of our Savior.

Rep. William Brisson

Rep. William Brisson
NC House Dist. 22

Paid For By William Brisson For NC House


From Our Family To Yours,
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And the angel said unto them,
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Merry Christmas
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New Year!



And he whistled, and shouted, and called it by name; "Oh, Steiger!"

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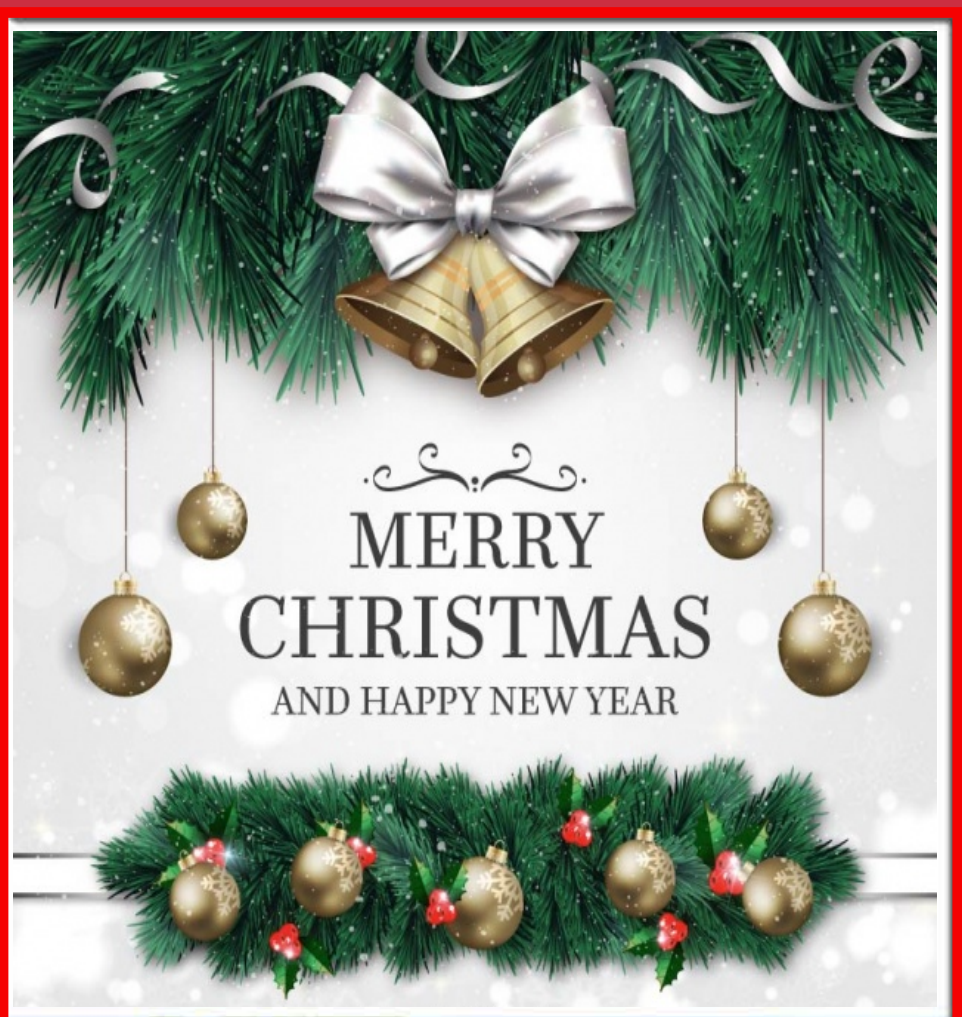
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The Air**

We wish you all the joy, hope and wonder of the season!



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& HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**



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David H. Hobson
Attorney at Law

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Start Your Seasonal Celebration with Small Bites

While main courses, sides and desserts may be what holiday memories are made of, you can calm family members' and guests' appetites with an array of appetizers like these:

- Meatballs
- Stuffed mushrooms
- Stuffed peppers
- Sliced cheese
- Sliced meats
- Crackers
- Spinach dip
- Cheesy bread
- Sliders
- Little smokies
- Fresh fruit and vegetables

A Memorable Holiday Menu

FAMILY FEATURES

Holiday gatherings, even in a time when smaller groups are encouraged, take on special meaning for many families. Part of the joy comes from the food that's shared among loved ones from appetizers and sides to the main course.

This year, you can enjoy those meaningful moments with your

closest family members and friends by putting together a menu that keeps smiles on faces from the first bite to the last. Start with your favorite among the nearly endless appetizer options that symbolize the season then enjoy a tender tri-tip alongside bacon-wrapped asparagus and a twist on classic, roasted potatoes.

Visit Culinary.net to find more holiday menu ideas.



A Simply Tasty Side

Many recipes commonly associated with the holidays are accompanied by lengthy ingredient lists or hours spent in the kitchen. However, all that time and effort doesn't have to be used on this year's side dish when you opt for a simple yet mouthwatering option.

You can feel good about what you're feeding your family this holiday season while saving prep time by serving this Bacon-Wrapped Asparagus made with Coleman Natural bacon, which contains no artificial ingredients or preservatives and is sourced from American family farms that humanely raise their animals with no antibiotics or added hormones. Whether it's served as a side dish or an appetizer, it calls for just a handful of everyday ingredients for a dish you can be proud of.

Visit ColemanNatural.com/Recipes for more seasonal recipe inspiration.

Bacon-Wrapped Asparagus

Servings: 10

- 20 asparagus stalks
- 10 slices Coleman Natural Hickory Smoked Bacon
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper

Preheat oven to 400 F. Line rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper.

Wrap 2 asparagus stalks with 1 slice bacon. Repeat with remaining asparagus and bacon. Place bundles on baking sheet. Drizzle asparagus ends with olive oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Bake until asparagus is cooked through and bacon is crisp, about 20 minutes.



A Tender Holiday Tri-Tip

Centering your holiday meal around a flavorful cut of meat can make the celebration truly memorable, especially when it's cooked to perfection over the hot flame of a grill.

This year, take your family's main course to the next level with a Garlic Herb Tri-Tip lightly seasoned with garlic, thyme, rosemary, salt and pepper to let the naturally flavorful New Zealand grass-fed beef speak for itself. Because the animals roam and graze freely over lush green hills and pastures year-round, New Zealand grass-fed beef is leaner, more finely textured and tastes just as nature intended.

Find more recipes and holiday meal ideas at beefandlambnz.com.

Garlic Herb Tri-Tip

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 30 minutes

Servings: 6

- 1 New Zealand grass-fed beef tri-tip (2 1/2-3 pounds)
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 3 tablespoons fresh chopped thyme
- 3 tablespoons fresh chopped rosemary
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons black pepper

Preheat grill to high heat.

Rub tri-tip with olive oil. Add minced garlic and use hands to evenly distribute.

Combine chopped thyme, rosemary, salt and pepper; cover oiled tri-tip on both sides with spice blend.

Place tri-tip on hottest part of grill and sear 2-3 minutes.

Flip tri-tip and transfer to indirect heat. Continue grilling until internal temperature reaches 135 F for medium-rare.

Transfer meat to platter, cover with foil and let rest 10 minutes. Slice across the grain and serve.

An Easy but Impressive Side

Every holiday meal comes with plenty of traditional and family-favorite dishes, and one of the most common on tables is potatoes. Whether they're roasted, mashed or anything in-between, they're among the most versatile options for the holidays.

This year, you can save time on seasonal favorites with Creamer potatoes from The Little Potato Company. They are ready to use, with no washing or peeling required, and they're small and consistent in size so they cook quickly.

Try them roasted, boiled, smashed or mashed whether you're getting a quick weeknight dinner or making a festive meal on the table. This holiday season, try these Little Hasselback Potatoes for a twist on the classic roasted variety. For an easy cooking hack, slice the potatoes on a wooden spoon to prevent cutting all the way through.

Visit littlepotatoes.com for more holiday recipe inspiration.

Little Hasselback Potatoes

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 20 minutes

Servings: 8-12

- 1 bag (3 pounds) The Little Potato Company Holiday Blend
- 10 sprigs thyme, removed from stem
- 6 sprigs parsley, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced



- 6 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- sour cream (optional)
- cooked bacon pieces (optional)
- green onion slices (optional)

Preheat oven to 400 F.

Lay wooden spoon flat on solid surface and place one potato in spoon. Using

paring knife, slice 1/8-inch thick slices along length of each potato one at a time.

In bowl, toss potatoes, thyme, parsley, garlic, olive oil, salt and pepper. Place potatoes on parchment-lined baking sheet, cut sides down. Bake 10 minutes, flip and bake 10 minutes, or until soft.

Serve with sour cream, bacon and green onion, if desired.

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HCA's Grice Bell Named Star Athlete of the Week



Harrells Christian Academy senior Grice Bell says that he was "surprised" when he was told he had been named this week's Performance Auto/Sampson Weekly Star Athlete of the Week.

"No sir, I had no idea," the 17-year-old three-sport (football, basketball and baseball) standout said when told he was named this week's honoree.

It should come as no surprise – Bell was just named to the NCISAA All-State First Team, as well as the NCISAA All-Conference Team for his work as defensive end for the Christian Crusaders. Bell finished with 37 tackles (20 solo), 4 sacks and two fumble recoveries.

It was an achievement Bell was proud of.

"Well, last year I was a bit disappointed," he explains. "I made third team ... so this year I wanted to work hard to set a goal to get on the first team, which I did. It was very exciting."

The football team went 8-1 overall and 5-0 in the NCISAA Big East Conference, falling in the NCISAA State Championship 55-21 to Christ School.

Making to the state championship was the perfect way to cap off an incredible season, says

Bell. "Well, this was the first group of seniors who are going to be coach Jason Arnette's first graduating class. So, to come from where we were as freshman players and to make it to the championship in our final year, a lot of us seniors were just happy to be there."

And the loss? "Yeah, it was difficult because it was the last time I would probably be playing football ... in reality, I don't think that has hit me yet."

Bell came to Harrells Christian Academy in the fifth grade, it is a place that he took to right away. "When I first came here, I was a little bit nervous," he explains. "But the transition was easy because I made friends quickly. I had a bunch of friends the first two-three days."

Over the years, those relationships continued to grow, which explains why graduating from the school early next year will be difficult for the teen. "Yes and no," he says. "Because I know that some of the people I see every day I probably won't see again."

A lifelong University of North Carolina fan, Bell got his start in recreation football when he was about 5-years-old. "I loved it," he said. "Out of the three sports I play, football is by far my favorite."

The Crusader basketball team, where Bell plays center, is currently 3-0.

When asked why football is his favorite, Bell explains, "It is the comradere from the guys. The other sports are like three months, with football you start in July and end in November and you are in the gym all year."

It comes as a surprise that Bell has no plans to play football post high school.

"No, it's never been an ambition of mine to play college football," Bell said. "I am planning on going to college (ECU, ECW and Campbell) – I haven't decided yet. But I want to go and major in business. Then get my masters. I grew up around real estate so I will probably help my dad out."

Bell said that the memories on the field will stick with him for years down the road. "This year we beat Trinity for the second time and won the conference championship and when we won to get into the state championships."

He continued, "My best friend (Jack Barber, a junior) had never played football before and he came out this year and played well ... I will remember that too."

Bell also said he will also remember the good times he had with coaches Jason Arnette and Clayton Hall. "I will miss walking in the weight room and joking with them. They are not just great coaches, but they are great guys too."

The straight A-B student, who says his favorite subject is English and History, said that he wanted to thank his parents Patrick and Mary and his twin sister Ann Holland Bell for all of their love and support over the years.

"My dad got me started playing football," Bell said. "That meant a lot to me."

He also wanted to thank coach Arnette and Hall for "believing in me".



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2 Corinthians 9:15

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Jimmy Thornton
SAMPSON COUNTY SHERIFF

www.sampsonsheriff.com

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Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon
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John 8:12



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And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

MATTHEW 1: 21-23

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2 Corinthians 9:15



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Happy New Year!*



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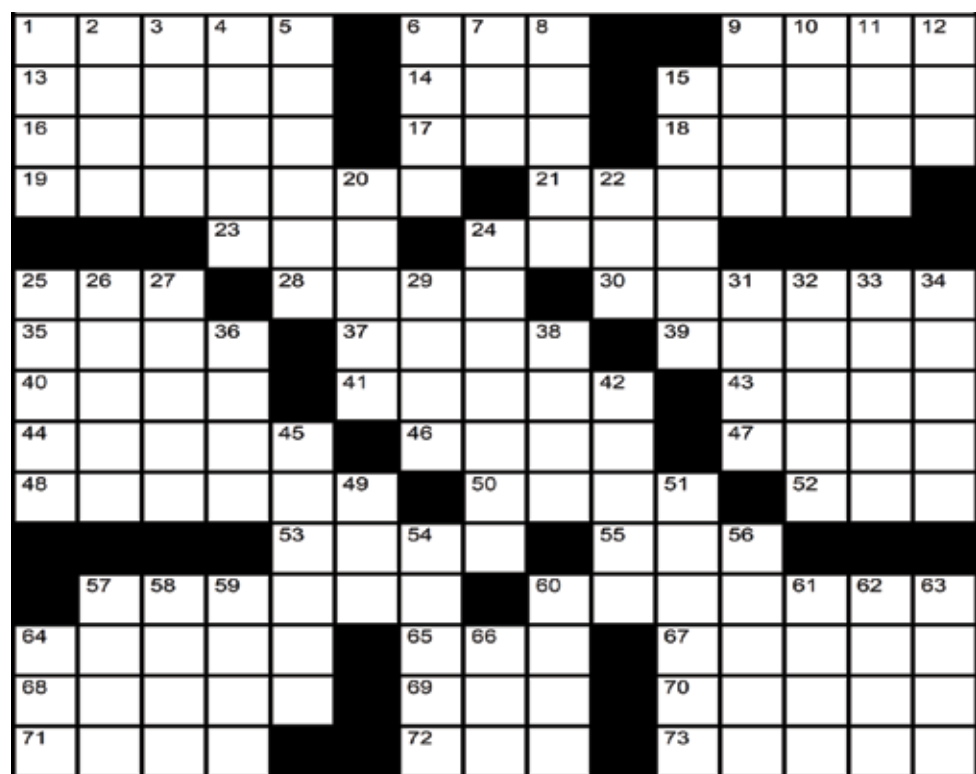
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**HALLOWEEN**

**ACROSS**

- 1. Accumulate
- 6. To and \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. Audition tape
- 13. October, e.g.
- 14. Adam's body part
- 15. Mountain climber's spike
- 16. Weasel's aquatic cousin
- 17. Gentry's "\_\_\_\_\_ to Billie Joe" (1967)
- 18. Agitate
- 19. "Stanley Kubrick's "The \_\_\_\_\_"
- 21. \*Ghost or ghoul
- 23. "\_\_\_\_\_ Clear Day You Can See Forever"
- 24. Clothing joint
- 25. \*Nighttime radar flyer
- 28. European sea eagle
- 30. Not wholesale
- 35. In the sack
- 37. Popular dieter's foe
- 39. Laundromat setting
- 40. Carrying bag
- 41. Enjoy, as in food
- 43. Parks on a bus
- 44. Made a mistake
- 46. In 1492, it sailed the ocean blue
- 47. Outback birds
- 48. Stadiums
- 50. \_\_\_\_\_ pit
- 52. Hitherto
- 53. Genuflecting joint
- 55. Feather glue
- 57. \*She played Laurie Strode
- 60. \*Dead one
- 64. Bipolar disorder phase
- 65. \_\_\_\_\_ Marienbad, e.g.
- 67. Blind alternative

**DOWN**

- 1. Andy's radio partner
- 2. Sweater eater
- 3. Dead against
- 4. Kind of pad
- 5. Sacred spot
- 6. \*"Eye of newt, and toe of \_\_\_\_\_"
- 7. Relieve from
- 8. Falstaffian body
- 9. Christian of haute-couture
- 10. Evening purse
- 11. Lion's share
- 12. Single
- 15. Kindergartener's textbook
- 20. Drug agents
- 22. "\_\_\_\_\_ for the course"
- 24. Nonprofit's purpose
- 25. \*"Psycho" motel proprietor
- 26. Terminate, as in mission
- 27. "Four" prefix
- 29. Indian flatbread
- 31. Homemade swing seat

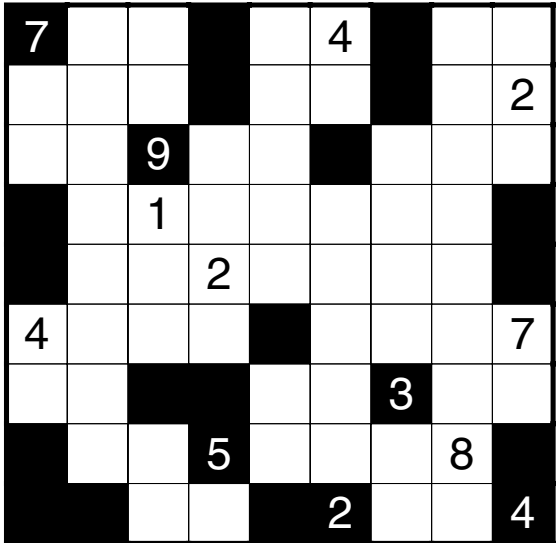
**ACROSS**

- 32. Societal breakdown of moral standards
- 33. October edition of "Vogue," e.g.
- 34. Minimum
- 36. Ownership document
- 38. \* \_\_\_\_\_-chilling
- 42. Haile Selassie's disciple
- 45. Stalin's order, e.g.
- 49. "Wheel of Fortune" request
- 51. Equestrian's seat
- 54. Op-ed piece
- 56. More raw
- 57. Vena \_\_\_\_\_
- 58. g or cm
- 59. \*"The Vampire Chronicles" author
- 60. \*Christine and such
- 61. Weather
- 62. Homer's "Iliad"
- 63. Monthly due
- 64. Came together
- 66. Crusty dessert

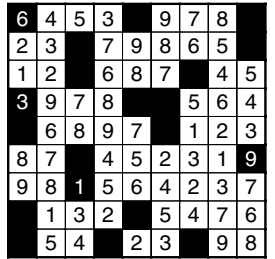


**STR8TS**

No. 407 Tough



Previous solution - Medium

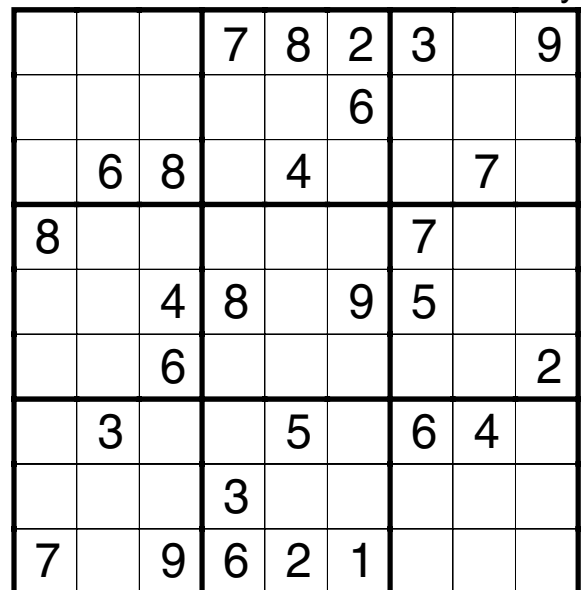


How to beat Str8ts – Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into compartments. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A straight is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, eg [4,2,3,5].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

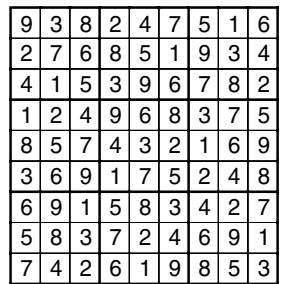
You can find more help, tips and hints at [www.str8ts.com](http://www.str8ts.com)

**SUDOKU**

No. 407 Easy



Previous solution - Very Hard



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

For many strategies, hints and tips, visit [www.sudokuwiki.org](http://www.sudokuwiki.org)

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The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

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**Gideon (Judges 6:1-40)**

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

- |            |        |            |
|------------|--------|------------|
| ALTAR      | ANGEL  | ASKED      |
| BAAL       | CALL   | CAREFUL    |
| COME       | DEFEND | DESTROY    |
| DROVE      | ENEMY  | FLEECE     |
| GIDEON     | GOAT   | HAND       |
| HIDE       | ISRAEL | ISRAELITES |
| LAND       | LORD   | MAKE       |
| MIDIANITES | PEOPLE | PLACE      |
| REMAIN     | RESCUE | SACRIFICE  |
| SAID       | STAY   | TAKE       |

**Naomi and Ruth Return (Ruth 1:6-22)**

L I V E N Y A  
 R E T U R N R  
 R B L E S S R  
 I O M H Y G I  
 L N A O M I V  
 O D R M V V A  
 R N R E L E L  
 D O Y G E A A

- |         |       |        |
|---------|-------|--------|
| ARRIVAL | BLESS | GIVE   |
| HOME    | LIVE  | LORD   |
| MARRY   | NAOMI | RETURN |



# OBITUARIES

## LAKE WACCAMAW

**Mr. Edwin Lester Bedsole, 69** of Lake Waccamaw passed away on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at the Lake Waccamaw Premier Living and Rehab. Center. A private memorial service will be held at a later date. Mr. Bedsole was a native of Cumberland County, the son of Herbert Wilton and Mary Love Williford Bedsole. He was a retired salesperson for Sears. He is survived by a son, Horace Wilton Bedsole of Fayetteville; sister, Nancy Bedsole Hall (Greg) of Roseboro; brother, Donald Bedsole (Claudia Stewart Bedsole) of Clayton; three grandchildren, Landon Bedsole, Ashley Dailey and Caleb Morgan. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC.



## HARRELLS

**Mrs. Mamie Cromartie, 96**, of 340 Brooklyn Ave., Harrells, NC passed away on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at Southwood Nursing Center, Clinton, NC. Mamie was born June 01, 1924 in Sampson County to the late Amos Spearman and Mattie Tatum. She is preceded in death by her husband; Garfield Cromartie, two brothers; Henry Spearman, Johnny Spearman and one sister; Margie Johnson. A graveside service was held at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, December 22, 2020 at Spearman Family Cemetery in Harrells, NC officiated by the Reverend Willie C. Alford. Mamie leaves to cherish her memory two daughters; Mattie Cromartie Washington of Harrells, NC, Alice Lamb of Castle Hayne, NC, 6 grandchildren; Melinda Washington, Sophia Cromartie, Erica Washington, Garfield Washington, Chris Lamb, Melissa Lamb and 1 great-grandchild; Michaela Lamb. A viewing was held on Monday, December 21, 2020 from 1:00 PM-6:00 PM at Carter Funeral Home in Garland, NC. The service can be followed live via Facebook on the Carter Funeral Home Facebook page.

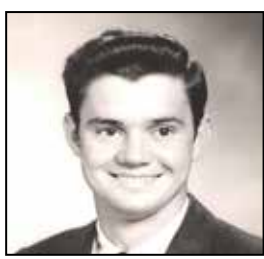
## CLINTON

**Donna Jean Morrison Conway** died peacefully in her sleep on December 17 at Sampson Regional Medical Center in Clinton, N.C. She was 80. She was born on September 21, 1940, in Beech Fork, W.Va., the only child of Ada Morrison and Charles Estep. Throughout her childhood and teen years, Donna's family moved frequently because her stepfather, Harlan Shepard, was a traveling carpenter. She had fond memories in particular of their time living in Indian Rocks Beach, Fla., and El Paso, Texas. The family eventually settled in South Point, Ohio, and Donna graduated from South Point High School in 1959. After graduation, Donna moved to East Liverpool, Ohio, and took an office job at what is now known as Mountaineer Casino, Racetrack and Resort across the Ohio River in Newell, W.Va. There, she met a horse trainer from suburban Philadelphia named Joseph Conway, whom she married in 1965. The couple eventually settled back in Huntington, where Joseph took a job as a chemical engineer and plant manager at Columbia Paint Corporation's Raybo Chemical Company subsidiary. In 1980, while simultaneously raising three children, Donna began a successful career as a librarian with the Cabell County Public Library system at the West Huntington branch. Among her many accomplishments there, Donna was a key player in supervising the branch's move from a dilapidated Old Central City storefront on West 14th Street to a brand-new, custom-built and modern facility a few blocks south. She also took library science courses at Marshall University and eventually worked as a reference librarian at the library's main branch in downtown Huntington. Donna retired in 2005 and moved first to Bridgeport, W.Va., before settling in Clinton. She loved spending her retirement years with her grandchildren as well as her beloved cat, Sebastian. She enjoyed watching Jeopardy! and keeping in touch with her many friends via text message and Words With Friends. She also was a member of the Clinton Newcomers' Group and Book Club. She was preceded in death by her father and mother. Her husband, Joseph, died in 1984. In 1990, she married Jack Cushman, who died in 1998. Donna is survived by her son Joseph II (of Arlington, Va.); her daughters Ada (of Clinton) and Maura (of Tega Cay, S.C.); Maura's husband, Joshua Perdue; and grandson Michael and granddaughters Jillian and Sophia. The family would like to especially thank Donna's home-health caregivers, Deanna Ashford and Crystal Stone. In consideration of COVID-19-related travel and public-gathering restrictions, as well as the Christmas holidays, there will be no visitation or funeral. Instead, a celebration of life is planned for a later date. Royal Hall Funeral Home is in charge of local arrangements. The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made in Donna's honor and memory to your local animal shelter.



## STEDMAN

**James "Bobby" Robert Edwards, 71** passed away Friday, December 18, 2020 at Womack Army Medical Center. Funeral service was held at 2:00 pm Monday, December 21, 2020 at Stedman Church of God of Prophecy, officiating was Rev. Donald Baldwin. Burial followed in the church cemetery. The family received friends from 1:00 pm to 1:50 pm Monday at the church prior to the service. He was born at Fort Jackson, SC to the late William and Doris Edwards. He is also preceded in death by brothers, Donald and Bruce Edwards; and a sister, Janet Tedford. Bobby was a United States Army Veteran. He is survived by his wife, Edna Edwards of the home; children, Anthony Edwards & wife, Rachel of Autryville and Jennifer Edwards Vittetoe & husband, Thomas of Fayetteville; grandchildren, Hunter Edwards, Tyler Edwards, Destiny Simmons and Ashton Vittetoe; brothers, Billy Edwards & wife, Judy of Eastover and Mike Baker & wife, Elaine of Charlotte; and a sister, Jean Rabano & husband, Rudy of Clayton. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 6535 Clinton Road, Stedman, NC 28391.



## RALEIGH

**Arthur Franklin "Frank" Bordeaux Jr., 79**, formerly of Raleigh, NC, passed away Monday, December 14, 2020 after a long illness. Born in Sampson County on January 31, 1941, Frank was the first child and only son of Arthur Franklin Bordeaux Sr. and Lois Blanche Carter Bordeaux. A graduate of Clinton High School, Frank spent his childhood helping out on the family farm and learning life lessons of hard work and perseverance that would serve him well as an adult. Frank completed his MS degree at North Carolina State University where he was a Kellogg Fellowship Recipient (1962-1963). From 1964 - 1968 Frank was at Michigan State University, first, as a graduate student receiving his PhD, and secondly, as an Agricultural Economist - ERS, USDA, Michigan State University. After a move to the Bluegrass State in 1969, Frank rose to the level of Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics (with tenure) at the University of Kentucky, where his work included research and teaching responsibility in agricultural policy, economic development, and finance. In 1978 Frank returned to his home state of North Carolina where he served as the Chief Economist for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture with an advisory role to the

Commissioner of Agriculture until 1987. In 1988 Frank founded the North Carolina Agricultural Finance Authority (NCAFA). The NCAFA has a statewide responsibility for providing credit to farmers and agribusinesses. Frank served as the Executive Director of the NCAFA until his retirement in 2015. An avid supporter of University of Kentucky sports and a dual sport season ticket holder at NCSU, Frank shared many memorable moments, both in victory and defeat, with his children, Amy and Todd, and his adored grandchild Brenley. Frank is preceded in death by his parents and his younger sister, Iris Daye Bordeaux. He is survived by his children Amy Bordeaux Clifton (Wade Ellison) of Fuquay-Varina, NC; Todd Bordeaux (Susan) of Rolesville, NC; granddaughter Brenley Bordeaux of Rolesville, NC and younger sister Barbara Ray Bordeaux of Raleigh, NC. The family would like to thank Renaissance Home Care at Traditions for dotting on and loving Mr. Frank during his stay with them. We would also like to extend our thanks for the help, guidance, and support given by Kindred Hospice. Donations can be made in memory of Arthur "Frank" Bordeaux to The Alzheimer's Association <https://act.alz.org> or Kindred at Home Foundation <https://www.curohealthservices.com/donate/>. The family received friends from 1:00 to 3:00 PM Saturday, December 19, 2020 at Royal Hall Funeral Home, Clinton, NC.

## CLINTON

**Capt. Joyce Marie Williamson Goings, 82** of 530 Kenneth Carter Road, Clinton, NC passed on Saturday, December 12, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center, Clinton, NC. The graveside service was held at 1 p.m., Monday, December 21, 2020 at Andrews Chapel MBC Cemetery, with Rev. Dr. Thaddeus Godwin officiating. The burial followed the service. Mrs. Goings is survived by a host of nieces, nephews and cousins. Viewing at Worley Funeral Home (Mask are required) on Monday, December 21, 2020 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.



## ROSE HILL

**Margaret Spearman Greene, 84**, of Rose Hill, NC, passed away Tuesday, December 8, at the home. A visitation was held Friday, December 11, 2020 from 2-5 PM at Summerville-Boykin Mortuary, Inc. in Garland, NC. A graveside service was held Saturday, December 12, 2020 at 2 PM at the Spearman Family Cemetery on Kader Merritt Road in Rose Hill, NC. The service was officiated by Rev. J. Melvin. She is survived by two sisters, Mary Faison Brown of Magnolia, and Peggie Tillman Womack (James) of Fayetteville, NC; daughters of the heart, Bridgette Gillespie and Vashiti Gillespie, of Buffalo, NY; Nan McEady of the home; two granddaughters, Shahirah and Taylor Gillespie, and a host of family and friends. Please follow social distancing at the service and masks are required. Service will be live-streamed via Summerville-Boykin Mortuary, Inc. Facebook page.



## SALEMBURG

**Mr. Anthony Dale "Tony" Honeycutt, Sr., 68** of Salemburg passed away on Friday, December 18, 2020 at his home surrounded by family. A graveside service was held at 2:00 PM Tuesday, Dec. 22 at Union Grove Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Paul Honeycutt and Rev. W. O. Reiber officiating. The family request that you bring your own chair to be comfortable at graveside. There was a walkthrough visitation on Monday, Dec. 21 from 1-5 PM at Butler Funeral Home in Roseboro. Mr. Honeycutt was a native of Sampson County, the son of Paul V. "Boss" Honeycutt and Otha Hairr Honeycutt. He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Magalene Honeycutt and brother, Larry Honeycutt. He attended Clement High School and graduated from Sampson Community College with his GED. He worked for Hazmat Environmental Services, Sentinel Transportation, Lundy's Packing Company, Crop Production Services, Rohm Haas and was a handyman in the Salemburg area for plumbing and landscaping service. He was a member of Union Grove Baptist Church and a member of Farm Bureau and Woodmen of the World. He was also a previous member of Salemburg Fire Department and was a first responder. He enjoyed fishing, going to the beach and camping at White Lake and Sneads Ferry. Most of all he enjoyed spending time with family, friends and telling stories. He is survived by his wife, Maedean Tyndall Honeycutt; former wife, Denise Royal Lane; children, Anthony Honeycutt, Jr. and wife, Mary Beth of Edinboro, PA, Tara Gagnon and husband, Chris of Wilmington and Joseph Honeycutt and wife, Marie of Salemburg; step-children, Sammy Edwards and wife, Melissa of Rincon, GA and Lana Stocks and husband, Bob of Stedman; grandchildren, Grace Honeycutt, Anthony Honeycutt, III, Elise Honeycutt, Lucy Honeycutt, Makayla Honeycutt, Chloe Honeycutt, Ethan Honeycutt and Olivia Gagnon; step-grandchildren, Cadet Staff Sgt. William Tatum, Josh Edwards, Allen Stocks and USMC Corporal R. J. Stocks; brother, Paul Wendell Honeycutt and wife, Lane of Salemburg; two sisters, Gerline Best and husband, Wilbert of Clinton and Ondra Tew and husband, Claude of Eastover; sister-in-law, Jean Honeycutt; and several nieces and nephews. The family would like to thank Liberty Hospice for the loving care provided for Tony during his illness. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to, Annie Armstrong Mission Fund, c/o Union Grove Baptist Church, 395 Vander Road, Salemburg, NC 28385 or to Tim's Gift Inc., 108 Northeast Blvd., Clinton, NC 28328. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC.

## CLINTON

**PFC Ester King, affectionately known as "The Man on the Roof" 100 years old**, peacefully departed this life Monday, December 14, 2020 at The Carrolton of Dunn Nursing Home in Dunn, NC. PFC King was one of the oldest World War II Veterans in Sampson County, drafted in 1942 to serve in the United States Army. Mr. Ester King, the oldest child of the late Needham (Ruben) and the late Bertha McLamb King, was born May 21, 1920 in Sampson County. He received his education at the Keener School, in Sampson County from 1928-1933, leaving school in the fifth grade to start working in the fields. On November 12, 1946, Mr. King married the love of his life, the late Alease Monk and to this union Suella and James Starling were born, both who preceded Mr. King in death. Mr. King was the oldest member at Union Grove Freewill Baptist Church, Clinton, NC. Mr. King leaves to cherish his memory: his sister - Mrs. Studie Mae Darden of Randallstown, PA; two brothers Mr. Silas King of Brentwood, NY and Mr. Mitchell King of Lawton, OK; his caretakers and nephew Mr. Anthony Herring (Alina) of Clinton, NC; great-nephew Mr. Roberto (Peanut) Herring of Clinton, NC and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and many community friends. A public walk-through viewing was held at Butler and Son Funeral Home, Clinton, NC, Saturday, December 19, 2020 from 11:00am - 1:00pm with no more than 10 individuals inside at one time. Masks are required and practicing social distancing. The graveside service was officiated by Dr. Bishop William Earl Jones, Jones Tabernacle, Kinston, NC, Saturday, December 19, 2020 at 1:30pm at the Roseboro Cemetery, Marion-Amos Road, Roseboro, NC. The service will be LIVE-Streamed on the Butler and Son Funeral Home Facebook Page. Masks are required and practicing social distancing. Butler & Son Funeral Services, Clinton, N.C.



## NEWTON GROVE

**Amy Marie Lee, 48**, of Newton Grove passed away on Friday, December 18, 2020 at Duke University Hospital. Ms. Lee's funeral service will be held on Tuesday, December 22, 2020 at 2:00 pm. the service will be held at Mill Creek Christian Church in Four Oaks. The Rev. Jessica Braxton and Rev. Eric Moore will be officiating. Ms. Lee will be laid to rest in the Bradshaw Family Cemetery in Newton Grove. Family will receive friends on Tuesday, December 22, 2020 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm at Mill Creek Christian Church. Friends may come visit on Monday, December 21 from 1 pm to 5 pm as well as the funeral home the family will not be present. Ms. Lee leaves behind her daughter, Lindsey Lee of Newton Grove; her parents, William "Pud" and Monica Lee of Newton Grove; partner, Tim Reeb of Newton Grove; sister, Carrie Benson of Newton Grove; brother, Jeff Lee of Raleigh; a grandson, Brooks Cox; grandmother, LaRuth Lee of Newton Grove; nephew, J.T. Benson of Newton Grove; and a niece, Kamrie Benson of Newton Grove. We ask the in order to stay in compliance with the North Carolina State COVID Law that social distancing measures be taken and a mask worn at all times during all services. Online condolences may be made at [www.westanddunn.com](http://www.westanddunn.com). Services have been entrusted of West & Dunn Funeral Home of Newton Grove, North Carolina.



## CLINTON

**Mr. Jerry K. Matthews, 80** of Clinton passed away Friday, December 18, 2020 at the Kitty Askins Hospice Center in Goldsboro. A graveside service was held at 2:00 PM Sunday, Dec. 20 at Freedom Baptist Church Cemetery, 2099 Tyndall Bridge Road, Salemburg, NC with Rev. Paul Honeycutt and Rev. John Cuthill officiating. There was a walkthrough visitation Saturday, Dec. 19 from 6-8 PM at Butler Funeral Home in Roseboro. At other times the family will be at their home. Jerry was born on December 9, 1940 in Sampson County to W. K. and Maderese Crumpler Matthews. He was preceded in death by his parents. He was a charter member of Freedom Baptist Church. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Peggy Matthews; daughter, Melanie Creeger and husband, Douglas Creeger; one sister, Hellen M. Adams and a special four-legged friend, Penny. The family wishes to express a special thanks to 3HC and especially to Yvette. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Freedom Baptist Church, 2099 Tyndall Bridge Road, Salemburg, NC 28385. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC.

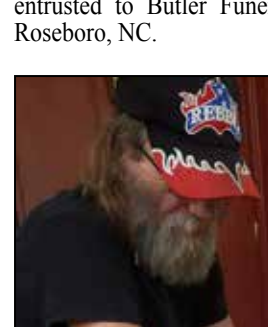


## ROSEBORO

**Mr. Gregory Scott Melvin, 52** of Roseboro passed away on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at his home surrounded by his family. The funeral service was held at 2:00 PM Friday, Dec. 18 at Beaver Dam Baptist Church with Rev. Tim McQueen officiating. Entombment was in the Beaver Dam Baptist Church Cemetery. The family received friends from 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM at the church prior to the funeral. Mr. Melvin was a native of Cumberland County, the son of Gaither Fulton and Evelyn Smith Melvin. He was preceded in death by his parents. He was a tire builder with Goodyear Tire Company. He is survived by his fiancée, Tammy Benitez of Roseboro; three brothers, Gaither Earl Melvin, Joseph Fulton Melvin and John Glenn Melvin all of Roseboro; three sisters, Charlotte Carter of Eastover, Carol Bauer of Sanford and Janet Smith of Roseboro; several nieces and nephews. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC.

## ROSEBORO

**Mr. Truman Martin Oates, 80** of Roseboro passed away on Sunday, December 20, 2020 at the Kitty Askins Hospice Center in Goldsboro. The funeral service will be held at 2:00 PM Wednesday, December 23 at Butler Funeral Home in Roseboro with Rev. Faye Bowden, Rev. Faye Jones, Rev. Sarah Jackson and Rev. George Terry officiating. Burial will follow in Peniel Pentecostal Holiness Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 1:00 - 1:50 PM at the funeral home prior to the service. Mr. Oates was a native of Sampson County, the son of Truman and Mary Celeste Hobbs Oates. He was preceded in death by his parents. He was a welder for Western Publishing Company. He was a U. S. Army veteran. He is survived by his wife, Linda Joyce Oates of the home; sister, Sadie Oates Brookhouse of Clinton. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC.



## ROSEBORO

**Mr. Johnny Mack Pope, 62** of Roseboro passed away on Sunday, December 13, 2020 at the SECU Jim and Betsy Bryan Hospice Home of UNC Healthcare. A memorial service was held at 11:00 AM Saturday, Dec. 19 at Butler Funeral Home in Roseboro. Mr. Pope was a native of Sampson County, the son of Charles Franklin and Ida Mac Sessoms Pope. He was preceded in death by his mother. He was a supervisor at Crumpler Plastic Pipe Company. He is survived by his wife, Tammy Pope; two sons, Brandon Pope and Harley Pope; father, Charles Franklin "Pete" Pope; brother, Thomas Pope; sister, Helen Pearsall; step son, Jason Marks; six grandchildren. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro.

## IVANHOE

**Billy Pridgen, 86**, was born in Bladen County. He was the son of the late Fred Charles and Juanita Melvin Pridgen. He was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Kathleen Peterson Pridgen; grandson, William Ryan Burns; sisters, Doris Pridgen, Christine Bullard and brother, Allen Pridgen. He is survived by his daughter, Ramona Pridgen Burns (Edwin); son, Keith Pridgen (Amy); grandchildren, Samantha White (John), Mariana Pridgen and Samuel Burns and great grandson, Judson White. Billy honorably served his country in the tank division of the US Army. He was a deacon in his beloved Ivanhoe Baptist Church. Working tirelessly for 57 years to provide for his family, Billy was an accomplished brick mason. With a great love for the outdoors, he was an avid fisherman and hunter. He also enjoyed sports and found great pleasure in watching UNC basketball and NASCAR. Graveside funeral services will be 11:00 am Wednesday, December 23, 2020, at Ivanhoe Baptist Church Cemetery with the Rev. Dr. Lynn Bullock officiating. It is requested that everyone wear a mask. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be given to Ivanhoe Baptist Church, 200 Eddie L Jones Rd, Ivanhoe, NC 28447.



## ROSEBORO

**Mr. Roy David Smith, Jr., 60** of Roseboro passed away on



# OBITUARIES

## LAKE WACCAMAW

**Mr. Edwin Lester Bedsole, 69** of Lake Waccamaw passed away on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at the Lake Waccamaw Premier Living and Rehab. Center. A private memorial service will be held at a later date. Mr. Bedsole was a native of Cumberland County, the son of Herbert Wilton and Mary Love Williford Bedsole. He was a retired salesperson for Sears. He is survived by a son, Horace Wilton Bedsole of Fayetteville; sister, Nancy Bedsole Hall (Greg) of Roseboro; brother, Donald Bedsole (Claudia Stewart Bedsole) of Clayton; three grandchildren, Landon Bedsole, Ashley Dailey and Caleb Morgan. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC.



the branch's move from a dilapidated Old Central City storefront on West 14th Street to a brand-new, custom-built and modern facility a few blocks south. She also took library science courses at Marshall University and eventually worked as a reference librarian at the library's main branch in downtown Huntington. Donna retired in 2005 and moved first to Bridgeport, W.Va., before settling in Clinton. She loved spending her retirement years with her grandchildren as well as her beloved cat, Sebastian. She enjoyed watching Jeopardy! and keeping in touch with her many friends via text message and Words With Friends. She also was a member of the Clinton Newcomers' Group and Book Club. She was preceded in death by her father and mother. Her husband, Joseph, died in 1984. In 1990, she married Jack Cushman, who died in 1998. Donna is survived by her son Joseph II (of Arlington, Va.); her daughters Ada (of Clinton



and Maura (of Tega Cay, S.C.); Maura's husband, Joshua Perdue; and grandson Michael and granddaughters Jillian and Sophia. The family would like to especially thank Donna's home-health caregivers, Deanna Ashford and Crystal Stone. In consideration of COVID-19-related travel and public-gathering restrictions, as well as the Christmas holidays, there will be no visitation or funeral. Instead, a celebration of life is planned for a later date. Royal Hall Funeral Home is in charge of local arrangements. The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made in Donna's honor and memory to your local animal shelter.

## HARRELLS

**Mrs. Mamie Cromartie, 96**, of 340 Brooklyn Ave., Harrells, NC passed away on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at Southwood Nursing Center, Clinton, NC. Mamie was born June 01, 1924 in Sampson County to the late Amos Spearman and Mattie Tatum. She is preceded in death by her husband; Garfield Cromartie, two brothers; Henry Spearman, Johnny Spearman and one sister; Margie Johnson. A graveside service was held at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, December 22, 2020 at Spearman Family Cemetery in Harrells, NC officiated by the Reverend Willie C. Alford. Mamie leaves to cherish her memory two daughters; Mattie Cromartie Washington of Harrells, NC, Alice Lamb of Castle Hayne, NC, 6 grandchildren; Melinda Washington, Sophia Cromartie, Erica Washington, Garfield Washington, Chris Lamb, Melissa Lamb and 1 great-grandchild; Michaela Lamb. A viewing was held on Monday, December 21, 2020 from 1:00 PM-6:00 PM at Carter Funeral Home in Garland, NC. The service can be followed live via Facebook on the Carter Funeral Home Facebook page.



## STEDMAN

**James "Bobby" Robert Edwards, 71** passed away Friday, December 18, 2020 at Womack Army Medical Center. Funeral service was held at 2:00 pm Monday, December 21, 2020 at Stedman Church of God of Prophecy, officiating was Rev. Donald Baldwin. Burial followed in the church cemetery. The family received friends from 1:00 pm to 1:50 pm Monday at the church prior to the service. He was born at Fort Jackson, SC to the late William and Doris Edwards. He is also preceded in death by brothers, Donald and Bruce Edwards; and a sister, Janet Tedford. Bobby was a United States Army Veteran. He is survived by his wife, Edna Edwards of the home; children, Anthony Edwards & wife, Rachel of Autryville and Jennifer Edwards Vittetoe & husband, Thomas of Fayetteville; grandchildren, Hunter Edwards, Tyler Edwards, Destiny Simmons and Ashton Vittetoe; brothers, Billy Edwards & wife, Judy of Eastover and Mike Baker & wife, Elaine of Charlotte; and a sister, Jean Rabano & husband, Rudy of Clayton. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 6535 Clinton Road, Stedman, NC 28391.



## CLINTON

**Donna Jean Morrison Conway** died peacefully in her sleep on December 17 at Sampson Regional Medical Center in Clinton, N.C. She was 80. She was born on September 21, 1940, in Beech Fork, W.Va., the only child of Ada Morrison and Charles Estep. Throughout her childhood and teen years, Donna's family moved frequently because her stepfather, Harlan Shepard, was a traveling carpenter. She had fond memories in particular of their time living in Indian Rocks Beach, Fla., and El Paso, Texas. The family eventually settled in South Point, Ohio, and Donna graduated from South Point High School in 1959. After graduation, Donna moved to East Liverpool, Ohio, and took an office job at what is now known as Mountaineer Casino, Racetrack and Resort across the Ohio River in Newell, W.Va. There, she met a horse trainer from suburban Philadelphia named Joseph Conway, whom she married in 1965. The couple eventually settled back in Huntington, where Joseph took a job as a chemical engineer and plant manager at Columbia Paint Corporation's Raybo Chemical Company subsidiary. In 1980, while simultaneously raising three children, Donna began a successful career as a librarian with the Cabell County Public Library system at the West Huntington branch. Among her many accomplishments there, Donna was a key player in supervising



After a move to the Bluegrass State in 1969, Frank rose to the level of Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics (with tenure) at the University of Kentucky, where his work included research and teaching responsibility in agricultural policy, economic development, and finance. In 1978 Frank returned to his home state of North Carolina where he served as the Chief Economist for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture with an advisory role to the Commissioner of Agriculture until 1987. In 1988 Frank founded the North Carolina Agricultural Finance Authority (NCAFA). The NCAFA has a statewide responsibility for providing credit to farmers and agribusinesses. Frank served as the Executive Director of the NCAFA until his retirement in 2015. An avid supporter of University of Kentucky sports and a dual sport season ticket holder at NCSU, Frank shared many memorable moments, both in victory and defeat, with his children, Amy and Todd, and his adored grandchild Brenley. Frank is preceded in death by his parents and his younger sister, Iris Daye Bordeaux. He is survived by his children Amy Bordeaux Clifton (Wade Ellison) of Fuquay-Varina, NC; Todd Bordeaux (Susan) of Rolesville, NC; granddaughter Brenley Bordeaux of Rolesville, NC and younger sister Barbara Ray Bordeaux of Raleigh, NC. The family would like to thank Renaissance Home Care at Traditions for dotting on and loving Mr. Frank during his stay with them. We would also like to extend our thanks for the help, guidance, and support given by Kindred Hospice. Donations can be made in memory of Arthur "Frank" Bordeaux to The Alzheimer's Association <https://act.alz.org> or Kindred at Home Foundation <https://www.curohealthservices.com/donate/>. The family received friends from 1:00 to 3:00 PM Saturday, December 19, 2020 at Royal Hall Funeral Home, Clinton, NC.

## CLINTON

**Capt. Joyce Marie Williamson Goings, 82** of 530 Kenneth Carter Road, Clinton, NC passed on Saturday, December 12, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center, Clinton, NC. The graveside service was held at 1 p.m., Monday, December 21, 2020 at Andrews Chapel MBC Cemetery, with Rev. Dr. Thaddeus Godwin officiating. The burial followed the service. Mrs. Goings is survived by a host of nieces, nephews and cousins. Viewing at Worley Funeral Home (Mask are required) on Monday, December 21, 2020 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

## ROSE HILL

**Margaret Spearman Greene, 84**, of Rose Hill, NC, passed away Tuesday, December 8, at the home. A visitation was held Friday, December 11, 2020 from 2-5 PM at Summerville-Boykin Mortuary, Inc. in Garland, NC. A graveside service was held Saturday, December 12, 2020 at 2 PM at the Spearman Family Cemetery on Kader Merritt Road in Rose Hill, NC. The service was officiated by Rev. J. Melvin. She is survived by two sisters, Mary Faison Brown of Magnolia, and Peggie Tillman Womack (James) of Fayetteville, NC; daughters of the heart, Bridgette Gillespie and Vashti Gillespie, of Buffalo, NY; Nan McEady of the home; two granddaughters, Shahirah and Taylor Gillespie, and a host of family and friends. Please follow social distancing at the service and masks are required. Service will be live-streamed via Summerville-Boykin Mortuary, Inc. Facebook page.

## SALEMBURG

**Mr. Anthony Dale "Tony" Honeycutt, Sr., 68** of Salemburg passed away on Friday, December 18, 2020 at his home surrounded by family. A graveside service was held at 2:00 PM Tuesday, Dec. 22 at Union Grove Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Paul Honeycutt and Rev. W. O. Reiber officiating. The family request that you bring your own chair to be comfortable at graveside. There was a walkthrough visitation on Monday, Dec. 21 from 1-5 PM at Butler Funeral Home in Roseboro. Mr. Honeycutt was a native of Sampson County, the son of Paul V.

# Classifieds


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# NASCAR THIS WEEK

## QUESTIONS & ATTITUDES

### Wait, there's hope for Fontana?

California's Auto Club Speedway, located comfortably inland in Fontana and away from the coastal glitz, never developed the working-man's vibe befitting its surroundings. The track came of age when the 1.5- and 2-mile tracks were taking over Planet NASCAR, and too many races began looking alike on too many tracks that looked alike. The cancellation of next February's Fontana race — and subsequent move to the Daytona Road Course — did nothing to enhance Southern California's reputation in the eyes of many NASCAR fans. But, we're here to tell you, there's hope.

### Does it involve bulldozers?

As a matter of fact, it does. Lost in all the talk about updated schedules and new road courses coming on board, Fontana's next act has been somewhat lost in the shuffle. NASCAR plans to put its operational engineers to the test and shrink Fontana's 2-mile speedway into a half-mile track, a move everyone feels will satisfy a fan base that would enjoy more than the handful of short-track races on the modern schedule. With the mountain views to the north and media/population muscle to the west, it's worth the effort and might be the long-awaited answer for NASCAR in Southern California.



Fontana's Auto Club Speedway enjoys wonderful views, but it hasn't always delivered great racing. Future downsizing might change that perception. GETTY IMAGES

## 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.



## WHAT'S ON TAP

- Jan. 13-18: Chili Bowl Nationals midjet-car championships in Tulsa, Okla.
- Jan. 22-24: Three-day test for Rolex 24 at Daytona
- Jan. 30-31: Rolex 24 at Daytona

### NASCAR Speedweek at Daytona:

- Feb. 9: Busch Clash
- Feb. 10: Daytona 500 pole qualifying
- Feb. 11: "Duel" Daytona 500 qualifying races
- Feb. 12: Truck Series season opener
- Feb. 13: Xfinity Series season opener
- Feb. 13: ARCA Series season opener
- Feb. 14: 63rd Daytona 500
- Feb. 21: Daytona Road Course

## CUP COUNTDOWN



The June race ended in typical Talladega fashion, with cars spinning across the finish line. AP PHOTO/JOHN BAZEMORE

# Blaney survives Talladega chaos

Zach Dean

Daytona Beach News-Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

*This is the third of a series counting down the top five NASCAR Cup Series races of 2020. This week, No. 3:*

Talladega Superspeedway usually finds a way onto this list every year, and 2020 was no different.

Once again, the legendary track provided a photo finish in its first race this past season, with Ryan Blaney defeating Ricky Stenhouse Jr. by just 0.007 seconds. A frantic final few laps included overtime, a daring pass and, of course, big wrecks.

"That was a lot of fun," Blaney said. "We just edged it out, but I'm really proud of this whole Ford Mustang team. It's been a cool year so far, and I'm really excited to get our first win of the year at a cool place. Thank you everybody for coming."

Oh yeah, that's right ... fans!

The June 22 race featured the return of spectators in the grandstands for the first real time since NASCAR returned in May.

The race at Homestead-Miami the previous week featured a few hundred local service members, but this race opened its gates to the public (around 5,000 fans), marking the return of fans to a live sporting event for the first time since the pandemic began.

"The atmosphere of them cheering was back," Blaney said. "Before and after the race, we love that stuff. Drivers, we love support."

Fans supported the drivers, and the drivers supported themselves on this weekend.

During a Sunday night rain delay (the race was eventually completed on Monday), a garage door rope, tied like a noose, was found hanging in Bubba Wallace's No. 43 stall. While the FBI ultimately said no crime was committed, the rest of the drivers showed their sup-



Drivers rallied around Bubba Wallace at Talladega in June. AP/JOHN BAZEMORE

port during Monday's pre-race ceremony, walking Wallace's No. 43 car to the front of pit-road.

Richard Petty, Wallace's team owner, stood by Wallace during the national anthem.

"I've known him for 15 years and he's one of my best friends," Blaney said of Wallace. "I support him 100 percent of the way."

The drivers stood together before the race, but it was every man for himself as the laps started to wind down.

Kevin Harvick passed Blaney when the field took the green to start overtime, and he held the top spot for much of the final two laps thanks to a big push from Chris Buescher.

As those two pulled away with a lap to go, Blaney made his move, jumping to the high line down the backstretch and then crossing below Harvick going into Turn 3, eventually passing him as the

two exited Turn 4.

All of a sudden, Erik Jones entered the mix. He tried to pass Blaney low, then high, and eventually found himself in the middle of a three-wide battle as John Hunter Nemechek joined the fray in the top lane.

With the checkers in sight, Blaney nudged Jones ever so slightly, sending the No. 20 into Nemechek. Those two crushed the wall, sending Aric Almirola, in fourth, spinning across the finish line. Blaney, meanwhile, did just enough to hold off Stenhouse Jr. as the chaos ensued behind them.

"I just kind of blocked, just trying to block the best we could," Blaney said. "Ride the top, ride the bottom. The 20 (Jones) got to my outside, and I tried to go up there to slow him down and ... I hate that I hit him, but just kind of trying to beat and bang to the line and things like that."

## SPEED FREAKS

**After seeing pictures of the Next Gen car testing at Daytona, what do you think?**

**KEN'S CALL:** I like that it looks closer to what you see in today's showrooms. But being a Daytona test, shouldn't they have seen how it behaved behind a tow truck?

**DEAN'S DIRT:** The single-lug tires will take some getting used to, but it "easily" passed the speed test, so I'm happy.

**Erik Jones says he feels "reinvigorated" after his move to Richard Petty Motorsports. You buying it?**

**KEN'S CALL:** What else can he say at this point? His goal should be to improve that team's year-over-year numbers and hope that the overachieving leads him back to a front-pack team.

**DEAN'S DIRT:** It's an iconic car, with an iconic owner. I think Jones will relish the underdog role.

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