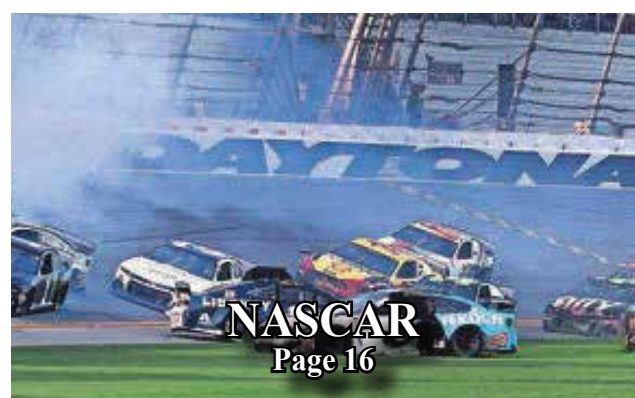




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SAMPSON COUNTY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

The Sampson Weekly



VOLUME 11, ISSUE 7

www.thesampsonweekly.com

Week of February 14-20, 2020

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WEATHER

Fri	Partly Cloudy 0%
Hi: 54°	Lo: 27°
Sat	Partly Cloudy 0%
Hi: 47°	Lo: 29°
Sun	Partly Cloudy 20%
Hi: 57°	Lo: 31°
Mon	Sunny 20%
Hi: 64°	Lo: 43°
Tues	Sunny 10%
Hi: 71°	Lo: 56°
Wed	Sunny 10%
Hi: 62°	Lo: 34°

WEEKLY VERSE

*Rend your heart and
not your garments.
Return to the
LORD your God, for
he is gracious and
compassionate, slow
to anger
and abounding in
love, and he relents
from sending
calamity.*
Joel 2:13

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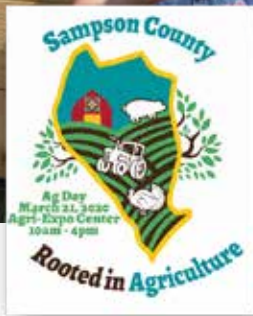
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910-590-2102

SAMPSON COUNTY AG DAY WILL BE HELD MARCH 21, 2020 AT THE AGRI-EXPO CENTER



Another exciting Ag Day is coming our way – March 21, 2020.

What's Sampson County's leading industry? You said it, "Agriculture"! Be sure to plan on joining us for the upcoming Sampson County Ag Day on March 21, 2020. The Sampson County Extension Center, along with

AG DAY, see P. 3

NCDHHS Provides Coronavirus Update for Travelers Returning to North Carolina



The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and local health departments to respond to the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak and assure the health and well-being of North Carolinians as residents return from China.

The federal government is recommending self-monitoring with public health

CORONAVIRUS, see P. 3

BREAKING NEWS

Clinton City School Employee Returning From China Shows No Symptoms of Sickness

School System Limits Employees Work Activities

According to John Lowe, Executive Director for Technology and Auxiliary Services with Clinton City Schools, "Clinton City Schools has an employee who recently returned from a trip to Guangzhou in the Guangdong province in China. Their arrival back in the United States was on February 2, 2020. The human resources department followed CDC guidelines when establishing parameters for their return to work."

Lowe continued, "As a precaution, this employee's work activities were limited to the auxiliary offices for a fourteen day period counting from their first full day back in the United States. They also were given the option to perform duties in school sites during this fourteen day period during after school hours only when no students and parents are in the building."

Mr. Lowe stated that "per CDC guidelines located at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/risk-assessment.html#table-risk-management>, this employee falls in the Asymptomatic Medium exposure category. The guidelines provided by our Human Resources department follow the recommendations of the CDC.

Clinton City Schools conferred with Wanda Robinson, Director of the Sampson County Health Department," noted Lowe, "and she concurred that, because this employee is asymptomatic, the employee is a low risk to the school system."

Anyone with questions or concerns may contact the Public Information Office of the NC Department Health at 919-855-4840.

You may also contact John Lowe, Executive Director for Technology and Auxiliary Services or Dr. Wesley Johnson, Superintendent of Clinton City Schools if additional information is needed.

Save Big with the Pig! in Garland

Preferred Angus Bnls Ribeye Steaks \$7.99/lb

Preferred Angus Bottom Round Roast \$3.29/lb

Baby Back Pork Ribs \$2.49/lb

20oz Hormel Fully Cooked Sides 2/\$5

Fresh Buy 2pk Pork Spare Ribs \$1.79/lb

Jumbo Pack Split Breast Chicken \$1.39/lb

12oz Gwaltney Bacon \$2.99

5lb Bag Fryer Drums or Thighs \$3.95

15oz Hormel Fully Cooked Entrees \$4.99

16oz Gwaltney Hot or Mild Roll Sausage 2/\$3

12oz Swaggerty's Sausage Links or Patties 2/\$5

12oz Gwaltney Meat Franks or Meat Bologna 5/\$5

10oz Select Flavor Oven Cravers 2/\$5

2lb Seabest Tilapia Fillets \$5.99

5lb Bag White Potatoes \$2.99

Fresh Sweet Yellow Onions \$0.99/lb

128oz Country Maid Ice Cream Pails 2/\$8

16oz Borden American Cheese Singles 2/\$6

Garland STORE HOURS:

7:00 am to 9:00pm Daily

We Fill Propane Tanks! 20-100 lbs. at the

Garland Piggly Wiggly Location

Sale Date 2/12/20 to 2/18/20

LOCAL NEWS

Hwy 421 Rest Area Closed- Maybe Permanently

In a recent letter to Sampson County Manager Ed Causey from NC DOT Division Engineer Chad Kimes, PE, the county was alerted of the possibility of the Hwy 421 Rest Area being permanently closed. The rest area has been closed since January 31st of this year. The rest area, located near Six Runs Creek in the Taylors Bridge community, is nearly 50 years old. The NC DOT Travel Map website says that the rest area is “temporarily closed”.

According to the letter, “The NC Department of Transportation currently administers a custodial operations and maintenance contract for the Sampson County Rest Area (including lawn and grounds maintenance) located on US 421 and maintains this facility on a year-round basis. Due to budgetary constraints, NCDOT is in the process of reducing expenditures statewide. The department has reduced maintenance contracts for rest areas across the state by 24 percent. The current maintenance contract for this rest area in Sampson County is set to expire on January 31. In the effort to reduce expenditures, our plan is to temporarily close this site upon contract expiration and then pursue a permanent closure.”

The letter went on to explain, “This rest area is among one of the three least visited areas of the 58 sites in the serving 37,230 visitors annually in comparison with the busiest serving 982,918 visitors. The cost to maintain this rest area is the second highest of all 58 sites in the state. In fiscal year 2019, the average cost per user statewide of all 58 sites was \$0.61, when in comparison the cost per user of this facility was \$2.40.”

The letter was in the February agenda packet for the Sampson County Board of Commissioners under the title “Board Information”. During this meeting, which was held on February 3rd, the board did not discuss the letter in open session.

The rest area was up against similar circumstances only 8 years ago in 2012. With intense



community involvement and opposition to the closure including behind the scenes work from Senator Brent Jackson and Sampson County Board Chairman Jefferson Strickland, the rest area remained open. In March of 2012. County Manager Ed Causey said of the decision not to ultimately close the rest area, “The County Commissioners are very interested in the economic vitality of the entire County. In that regard, Hwy. 421 is a very important transportation link. Likewise, the Commissioners are concerned about any action that could directly or indirectly diminish the importance of this important transportation link. It is also noted that this rest area is an important landmark for our county.”

Instead of being closed in 2012, the rest area underwent a 3-month renovation project. Linwood Reynolds, who was Division Engineer of the DOT at the time said, “The rest area is a very important fixture in the southern part of Sampson County. Many local residents use the facility as well as commuters. This makes the rest area unique compared to others in the state.”

Coombs Elected to NC Pork Council Board of Directors



Josh Coombs of Clinton was elected to represent District 4 on the NC Pork Council Board of Directors. Throughout his childhood, Josh’s family owned and operated hog farms in Sampson County. He now owns Josh Coombs Farms, raising nursery and finishing pigs for Prestage Farms. In addition to swine production, he also manages 325 acres of timber. Josh is also a full-time captain with Clinton Fire Department and was named the 2019 Fire Fighter of the Year.

The N.C. Pork Council board is comprised of 18 district directors elected by the membership. Additional board members include representatives from allied industries and meat processors. Anyone serving on a national pork industry board is included at the state level as well. Representatives of N.C. State University, the N.C. State College of Veterinary Medicine, N.C. A&T State University and the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services serve as non-voting members of the board.



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Sampson County
Animal Shelter
Call (910)592-8493

This is Della, a 1 year
old Husky mix.
Can you be her
“forever” family?



You can also make a monetary, supplies or pet food donation to the shelter. Contact the Sampson County Animal Shelter at (910)592-8493.



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on March 1st.

Service as low as **\$22.99** monthly
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Scallops with 2 sides and drink \$7.99

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New Winter Hours: Wed-Sat 11am to 9:00pm • Sun. 11am to 5pm

CORONAVIRUS, cont. from P. 1

supervision for all travelers returning from mainland China (excluding Hubei Province) who have been screened at one of 11 airports and found to have no symptoms. These travelers will be allowed to travel to their final destination. Impacted travelers in North Carolina will receive written instructions from their local health department on how to monitor for symptoms and limit the potential spread of the infection.

The federal government is quarantining all people traveling from the Hubei Province, which is the epicenter of the outbreak and isolating anyone arriving in the United States from China with symptoms.

“In light of the rapidly evolving situation with a new virus, North Carolina is taking a proactive approach to protect the health and well-being of recent travelers from North Carolina and our communities,” said NCDHHS State Health Director and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Elizabeth Cuervo Tilson. “Fortunately, we have not had any cases of novel coronavirus in North Carolina so far, but we are continually monitoring and will make changes to our response as needed.

Currently, the federal government is requiring that:

- All travelers to the United States who have been in China in the past 14 days are being routed to 11 airports, none of which are in North Carolina. There they are screened for travel history and symptoms.

- Travelers who have returned from Hubei province in China where the outbreak is centered are quarantined by the federal government for 14 days in those ports of entry.

- Travelers from elsewhere in China with symptoms of respiratory illness remain in those ports of entry under isolation and monitoring by federal health officials.

- Travelers from China (excluding Hubei Province) without symptoms will be al-

lowed to continue to their final destination. These travelers will self-monitor with public health supervision.

NCDHHS will receive notification of asymptomatic travelers who are permitted to continue to North Carolina as their final destination from CDC’s Division of Global Migration and Quarantine. This list will be shared with appropriate local health departments, who will contact travelers and provide them with written public health guidance for people under monitoring to be reviewed and acknowledged by both the local health department and traveler.

The risk to the general public in North Carolina, especially without history of travel to China, is still considered very low at this time. Remember that the steps to take to prevent the spread of flu and the common cold could also help prevent the spread of other respiratory viruses like 2019-nCoV:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.

- Avoid exposure to others who are sick.

- Stay home when you are ill.

People who have questions or concerns related to 2019-nCoV can call 866-462-3821 for more information. Press 1 for English or to ask for a language interpreter. Spanish speakers should press 2. To submit questions online, go to www.ncpoisoncontrol.org and select “Chat.”

There are also resources available on the Division of Public Health website at www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus and on the CDC’s website at cdc.gov/coronavirus. For questions or concerns, contact the Local Health Department at (910) 592-1131 ext. 4971 for the Health Director, Wanda Robinson.



AG DAY, cont. from P. 1

many partners, sponsors and supporters, host Ag Day to provide agricultural learning and awareness through entertainment, games and activities, demonstrations, informational booths, and exhibits.

We have outgrown our past location at the Sampson County Extension Center and Livestock Facility, so this year, we will partner with the Sampson County Agri-Exposition Center and the Sampson County Convention and Visitors Bureau, to bring you a fun filled and exciting day to share with your entire family. The Agri-Exposition Center is located at 414 Warsaw Road in Clinton, NC. We will have activities to offer indoors and outdoors. Some of the attractions and treats we will have this year are:

- Agri-Pride Simulator to learn about harvesting crops
- NC State “Howling Cow” ice cream
- Paint your own mini barn quilt
- Free wellness checks from the Agrimedecine Institute
- Gardening and plant care concerns? Ask the Extension Master Gardeners
- Balloon Man “Smitty”
- Hubb’s Farm Barrel Train

In the past we have offered local entertainment at this event, but this year, we have added professional entertainment all day for the entire family. Check out our Facebook page, and website for additional information on the entertainment lineup.

9:30 am– 11:00 am – Charles Carlisle and the Grandpas (Blue Grass Band)
11:00 am – 12:00 pm - Jerry Carroll – Agriculture Comedian
12:00 pm – 3:00 pm – The Pizazz Band (Beach, Soul, Funk, Country and Rock)

There is still time to join Ag Day 2020 as a sponsor, vendor, or partner! Please visit our website at <https://sampson.ces.ncsu.edu/sampson-county-ag-day/> for more information and how you can get involved. Follow Ag Day as well on our Facebook page: NC County Cooperative Extension – Sampson County. Additionally, you may contact the Sampson County Extension Center at 910-592-7161 or by emailing eileen_coite@ncsu.edu, brad_hardison@ncsu.edu, or hunter_rhodes@ncsu.edu

We look forward to seeing you at Sampson County Ag Day, Saturday, March 21, 2020.

Fowler Retires After 63 Years



Congratulations to Miles D Fowler, attorney at law, on his recent retirement. Fowler has been serving the community for over 63 years.

Salemburg Man Loses Life in Fire

The Sampson County Sheriff’s Office responded late Saturday night with multiple fire departments to a structure Fire involving a life hazard at 502 E College St. in Salemburg, NC. The fire happened at approximately 10 pm.

Neighbors were able to remove a male from inside the burning residence and Sampson County EMS and deputies performed CPR on the victim Upon arrival. Unfortunately, the first responders’ efforts were not successful in reviving the victim. Responding firefighters worked hard and were able to extinguish the fire. The victim was home alone.

Preliminary investigations by the Fire Marshall’s Office have determined that the fire possibly originated in the kitchen and may have been caused by unattended cooking, a pot left on the stove.

Red Cross responded to the scene to provide assistance to the family.

The bravery of those who pulled the victim from the home is remarkable. Prayers go out to the family affected and the first responders involved. All first responders did a remarkable job in their efforts to preserve life and property.

The man’s identity was later released to be 26 year old Shaquille Owens. A Go Fund Me page has been set up to help the family. According to the Go Fund Me page, the family says of Shaquille Owens, “On Saturday February 9, 2020 our family suffered a great loss. Shaq, as he was known, passed away as a result of a house fire. He was a vibrant, loving, humorous, and caring person who never met a stranger.” Mr. Owens leaves behind 2 young children (ages 2 and 4).

The family is in need of clothing, shoes, and diapers, all which was lost in the fire.

LOCAL NEWS

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COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Come get involved in the project process, learn about your parks, and provide ideas for the future of recreation and parks in Clinton!

THREE OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE...

Tuesday, February 18th
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Bellamy Center (500 Pierce Street)

Tuesday, March 17th
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
City Hall Auditorium (221 Lisbon Street)

Thursday, May 7th
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
TBA

Comprehensive Recreation & Parks Master Plan

FEBRUARY
18
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

MARCH
17
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

MAY
7
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

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For more information, reach out to
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jallen@cityofclinton.com



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ELECTION DAY: March 3, 2020

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EUGENE SUPPORTS:

EDUCATION- He believes all North Carolina children should have the right to education from Public Kindergarten through Grade 12. The Education System must ensure counties have quality teachers, a safe learning environment and the educational tools to teach all children.

HEALTH CARE- He believes that every citizen should have a right to a comprehensive Health Care System. All families and individuals should have affordable Medical Care and Services.

EMPLOYMENT- He believes that employment should provide a liveable wage. He believes each county can provide job readiness training that reflects the employment needs of each County.

WORKING TO KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE



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PEARSALL**

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* Paid for by Eugene Pearsall for House of Representatives Campaign

We Should Know . . .



Wayne Dienhart and Robin Walston with J.W. Simmons host of We Should Know

Tuesdays from 2:30 PM until 3:30 PM, J.W. Simmons hosts a show on 1170 AM and on Star channel 16 SD and 316 HD called “We Should Know”, and The Sampson Weekly will feature portions of the transcripts in our continuing efforts to bring you more coverage of what is happening in our community.

The week’s We Should Know is about domestic violence and the guests are Robin Walston and Sgt. Wayne Dienhart.

Sgt. Wayne Dienhart is with the Sampson County Sheriff’s Office and has also been an instructor at Sampson Community Collage where he taught classes on Civil Process, Domestic Violence, Court Duties, Detention Duties, Hazmat, In-Custody Transport and Mental Illness/ Developmental Disabilities.

Robin Walston is a board member of UCare, Inc. Sampson County’s Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program. Walston has a BS degree in healthcare administration and a master’s degree in business.

JW Simmons begin the show stating that Walston has many years of experience in healthcare, but like many others has experienced a journey she would like to share with others.

Walston explains, “I became a statistic of domestic violence my freshman and sophomore years of college. Back then, the domestic violence laws were not what they are today. So, the support wasn’t there. I unfortunately witnessed it from the law enforcement aspect to the healthcare aspect.”

“But shortly after I was able to get out of my situation, I changed career paths and went into healthcare, greatly due I think to some of the stigma I encountered. The first time I was ever in the emergency room I went into healthcare and saw a lot of bias from healthcare workers unfortunately. Not all, but some. Enough that it had an impact.”

“I called Pam (Gonzalez) at that time and asked her what we could do to make services more available. And maybe to possibly educate some of the healthcare workers about what we could do for the victims. I started volunteering then for UCare, and that was even before we had a shelter.”

Walston goes on to add, “The first couple of victims we picked up, I took to Harnett County. That was the only shelter in our area. And then dealt with UCare and the legal system here in Sampson County once the shelter was up and running.”

“Even then, when the domestic violence laws changed there was still some reluctance from other counties, not Sampson County, to provide us aid. There was a time when Pam called me after working a 16-hour shift and I picked up a lady who also happened to be a nurse. Pam thought that I could identify with her and help her. We went to court; the judge wrote the order. We drove to the other county, but the sheriff would not honor the order because it didn’t say that particular sheriff’s office had to help us. We got back in the car and drove back to Sampson County before the judge again so that he could put the word in there. Spent all day long trying to get her some help and like I said, there was a lot of reluctance.”

Simmons states that part of Walston’s story is that her abuser would basically drive around for a while but then brought back to her apartment without her knowledge. He asks if that was the norm during that period of time.

“Yes,” says Walston. “It was. I wasn’t aware of it, but I was packing my bags planning on coming home to momma and daddy and little to my knowledge they had brought him back. That was before we had cell phones, so I had no earthly idea until he came through the door to my apartment. I was brutally attacked that evening.”

Walston adds, “When I came to in the emergency room, he was there beside me and basically told me what would happen if I told the truth. So, I didn’t have any help.”

Next, Simmons asks Walston if during her journey from her experience to now if she sees similar examples of violence and captivity. “Well,” says Walston, “there’s all different kinds of abuse. There’s financial abuse and there’s the physical and violence as well. There is also emotional abuse and I think 9 times out of 10 it’s a combination of all three. I see it in all socioeconomic levels. I don’t think you can select just one group of victims. Male, female, sexual orientation, age. Domestic violence crosses all borders.”

Simmons asks Walston what she would like people to know if they are in a similar situation. “I think a lot of people just don’t come forward because they’re embarrassed or they’re fearful. I think about 30% of mild domestic violence cases don’t get medical care or it goes unreported. And that’s sad. Thinking about our numbers at UCare, we helped over 1,300 people last year and in 2017 it was over 1,200. That’s a lot of people so, if you consider that 30% goes unreported that tells you a lot.”

“But there is help out there,” adds Walston. “And people that can help guide you through the process. That’s one of the things I think women fear because starting all over again is really a scary thing.”

Simmons next turns to Sgt. Wayne Dienhart stating that he’s been involved in domestic violence since 2002, nearly two decades. He asks Dienhart to discuss what he’s seen during his two decades and what someone ready to take action can do.

“How we get involved is people will actually call 911. Say someone is concerned about someone else, we get the call and will go investigate. And if they don’t have a ride, we can take them to UCare, hospital, wherever they need to go. We are basically there for our victims. Walston said a few minutes ago that she went to other counties who didn’t honor protection orders. There is a federal law that says a protective order is good in any county of the state, any state in the county, all territories and all Indian reservations. So, we enforce other counties, other states, and they enforce ours. So, the issue Walston had with the other victim will not happen anymore.”

“But a lot of times you have children in the middle and some victims have a really tough time getting them out of the violence because they want to stay with their kids and the abuser will threaten if you leave me I will take the kids from you. But we can take care of that problem when we get there. They just need to call so we can get them out of that violence. Things have changed a whole lot since 1996.”

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

The next “We Should Know” hosted by J.W. Simmons will air next Tuesday from 2:30 to 3:30 PM on our local radio station WCLN 1170 AM and on Star channel 16 SD and 316 HD. If you would like to reach “We Should Know” you may call them at 910-592-8947 or email them with show ideas at weshouldknowedu@gmail.com or you can find them on Facebook.

Sampson County VITAL STATS

Deaths	
-Jesse Lewis Butler Jr	-Hal David Hollingsworth
-Sherry Deneen Baggett	-Pinckney Hugo Heaton
-Ann Lee Clack	-Melva Jane Lanier
-Sherwood Wayne Duff	-Alta Blanche McLamb
-Peggy Lee Davis\	-Mildred Rice
-Charles Edward Faulkner III	-Melinda Sellers
-Billy Ray Fryar	-Eva Ann Underwood
-Doris Mae Hall	-Julia Elizabeth Utley
	-Karen Teresa Wood

Marriage Certificates	
-Jose Angel Vasquez to Rebeca Maldonado Nava	
-Shawn Bartley Jackson to Jennifer Renee Turner	

Births	
-Ramsey Cole Armatys born on January 28, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Anthony Reid Armatys and Alanna Denise Armatys	
-Scarlett Roldan Gomez born on January 28, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Mario Roldan Rivera and Julissa Gomez	
-Kaspian Amari Rich born on January 29, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Elasha Jar’Coreya Rich	
-Holden David Tedder born on January 29, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center Corey Dean Tedder and Brooke McKay Tedder	
-Elsa Saray Vazquez Diaz born on January 29, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Jesus Vazquez Reyez and Petra Luz Maria Diaz Gonzalez	
-Iker Daniel Lopez Mauricio born on February 1, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Leslie Guadalupe Mauricio Landin	
-Emmersyn Miya Mireles born on February 2, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Miguel Angel Mireles Jr and Ashley Nichole Nireles	
-King Zion Amah Anders born on February 3, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Nashawn Davina Anders	
-Julian Emmanuel Sanchez Alvarado born on February 3, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Sergio Ernesto Sanchez Escobedo and Jessica Alvarado Sanchez	

Land Transfers	
-Gabriel Panuco, Gabriel Panuco Jr to Evelyn Lopez Panuco- Lot 27 Plainview	
-James Carl Hannah, Vickie Lorraine Hannah to Irene Perez Hernandez, Samuel Perez Hernandez- 0.65 Acres Taylors Bridge	
-Albert Lloyd Bordeaux to Carl Alexander Blackburn, Albert Lloyd Bordeaux- 2 Tracts South River	
-Elois Robinson, Harvey C Robinson to Reshaud Jermaine Robinson- Tract 1 A 1.50 Acres Franklin	
-Elois Robinson, Harvey C Robinson to Auja Simone Robinson- Tract 1B 1.50 Acres Franklin	

-Bonnie N Jackson, Donald C Jackson to CLCH LLC- 8.9 Acres Mingo
-Sergio Santos Ortega to Celestino Narvez Guterrez, Loren Celene Narvez Marin- Lots 19 and 20 Block DC S Parker Subdivision North Clinton
-Raeford Daughtry, Willa Dean Daughtry to Elizabeth B Daughtry, Michael P Daughtry- 3.73 Acres
-MidFirst Bank to Secretary of HUD- Lots 1 and 2 Heritage Place Subdivision
-Edith Marie Faulkner Lee Estate, Joan W Smith/EXR to Edith Faulkner Lee Revocable Trust, Edith Faulkner Lee- Lot 12 Block GH Maple Hill Division
-Anthony R Steed, Rebecca B Steed, Shelia B Steed, Thomas Michael Steed to Brittany Zeledon, Jeffrey Zeledon- Lot 4 5.85 Acres Halls
-Ruth Harris, Stephen W Harris to Mary S Fortner, Robert Fortner- Tract 4 25 Acres w/ exceptions Taylors Bridge
-Stancil Oil Company Inc, Henry Harper Whitley Jr, Linda Clark Whitley to Carol W Westbrook, Danny G Westbrook- Lot 6 and 7 Country Ridge
-Darlene M Watson, Joseph G Watson Sr to Jill Suzanne Wolfe, Kenneth J Wolfe Jr- Lot 26 Timberlake Subdivision Section Nine 1.05 Acres North Clinton
-Jim Warren Mobile Homes Inc, T&W Development/DBA/G PTNR, Thornton Logging Company to Roberto Fernandez Elvira- 0.50 Acres McDaniels
-Thornton Homes Co to Merced Albarran Gomez, Irma Ramayo Mondragon- South River
-Alfred L Ferguson/By AIF, Julia Ferguson/AIF to Julia Ferguson- 16.81 Acres Turkey
-Dennis A Jones, Vider Cynthia Jones to Casey Anthony Jones- Lot 3 Mingo
-Linda H Herring, Louis M Herring to Justin N Barefoot, Kristen A Barefoot- 2 Tracts Mingo
-Ruth Harris, Stephen W Harris to Christopher Wright Fortner- 97.69 Acres w/exceptions Taylors Bridge
-Donald C Myers to Connie Herring Smith, Paul Michael Smith- Lot Turkey
-Georgeonna Adams Ward/AIF, Mel Ward/By AIF to Emily Smith Campbell, Michael Ryan Campbell- Lot 3 Dismal
-Easter Pearl Blue Pope to Cephas Pope Jr- 1.50 Acres South Clinton
-Teresa W Fann/MBR, Edna Sue Grantham, Robert Lee Grantham Jr to K&T Family Farm LLC- 38.2 Acres w/exceptions Honeycutts
-Ezra Wendall Spearman, Lillian H Spearman to Glenn M Spearman, Minnie B Spearman- Lot Sampson
-Karen Arecelly Galindo, Jesus Miguel Perez to Jesus Miguel Perez- Lot No 5 0.78 Acres South Clinton
-Catherine F Adams to Emily Smith Campbell, Michael Ryan Campbell- 1.81 Acres Lot 1 Dismal
-Janice L Butler, Jerry W Butler, Nelson L Butler, Patricia S Butler to Tri-Branch LLC- 13.44 Acres Herring
-Jeremy David Stewart Mintz to Patrick Beardslee, Suzanne Beardslee- 8.08 Acres Little Coharie
-Ann Jones to Zona Jones hall- Lots 7 and 8 Heritage Place Little Coharie
-Regina Lorraine Eakins, Candace Ann Thornton, Edward B Thornton, Edward B Thornton Jr, Patricia C Thornton to Lynne O Anton- Tract A 1.046 Acres Franklin
-Jordan Shopping Center Inc to Debra Delynn Rackley- 0.20 Acres Lot Jordan Shopping Center Inc North Clinton
-Pedro Lira Juarez to Margarita Mirrayda Lira- Lot 2 1 Acre South River
-Gloiai Bennett, Gregory Keith Bennett to Francisco Martinez Diaz, Victoria Palma Ventura- 0.36 Acres North Clinton

FAITH

God Is Not Like Your Father



Our Father, Who art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy Name;
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.'

By Will Matthews

Thirteen times.

I counted thirteen times, “Heavenly Father” in one prayer. When I was in high school, a particular man was often called on to pray in my home church. He also happened to be my Sunday school teacher. I don’t know if anyone else ever noticed it; we never discussed it. But for some reason, I remember it. Every time he got called on to pray, he started with the words “Heavenly Father,” and before he started the next part of his prayer, he would chime back in with “Heavenly Father”.

There’s nothing wrong with that, by the way. I always just found it, I don’t know, annoying? Formulaic? Why not mix it up a little bit, I thought.

On a sunny October afternoon in 2012, those words “Heavenly Father” took on new meaning to me. As I stood in the hospital listening to a baby cry, it hit me like a tidal wave that I was now an “Earthly Father.” As the nurses grabbed my son and quickly bathed him, I reached out my hand to touch him. When I put my finger in his hand and he squeezed, the reality crashed over me that my love for him was like nothing else I had ever experienced. Suddenly, I realized the love that God has for me in a brand new way.

We often call God, “Father.” The Bible calls God, “Father.” Jesus called God “Abba, Father.” There is something profound in the way that God has created families, created parents and created children that mirrors the truth of God’s love for humanity. In many ways, earthly fathers represent God as Father; they are a shadow of reality. As a father, I am a picture of how God relates to my own children, and that’s the way God meant for it to be.

But I am only a representation. I am only a shadow. Many cringe at the thought of God being like their father. In the story of the prodigal son, we see the father with open arms, waiting to forgive the wayward child and wanting to celebrate his return. Not everyone has that earthly father. Their father has been abusive, angry, abhorrent, and angry. So they’ve understandably, but falsely, projected their earthly father on the heavenly father. That is the legend of Martin Luther. It was believed that the great reformer once ran from God, because his understanding of God as Father was too tied up with his experience of his earthly father. He believed God to be heinous and horrible, like his old man was.

Whether you have a bad father or a great father, God is not like your Father. God is greater than your Father. God is morally perfect and the love that is supposed to be reflected in our earthly fathers is even more faithful and true than a human could possibly manifest. While I strive and pray to be a good father to my children, I can only hope that the look at God first as a Father, and then me. They will see my shortcomings, they will realize my failures, but perhaps they will see the prototype of what I am hoping to be. As we look to God as Father first, then to our earthly fathers, we see the original before seeing the replica. When we see our earthly father first, we get that backwards: we set the replica as the standard instead of the original. God is not like your Father, He is your Father. He is your better Father.



Will Matthews

Red Sea Faith

By Ken Smith



Exodus 14:15-16, “The Lord said to Moses, “Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground.”

Often it is easy to have faith when the bright sun is beaming on our face, the green grass of the summer is under our feet and we don’t have a care in the world. However, not every day is a perfect paradise. Great faith is required when we stand alone in the dark because the electric bill hasn’t been paid, the children are crying because of hunger and no hope is found in our heart. Imagine the faith required by the Israelites when they faced what appeared as defeat on all sides.

Shortly after the Israelites slaves escaped from Egypt, they arrived at the Red Sea. They saw Pharaoh’s army behind them and the water in front of them, and they cried out to Moses, “It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert.” (Exodus 14:12). While most of us have never landed in a situation as desperate as this, we also tend to blame outside forces, including God, for the bad things that overtake us. Have you ever said, “Why did God let this happen to me? Why have I had such a loss, when people nearly so worthy as I am seem to fare better?” When we ask those kinds of questions, we stop thinking about what God can do for us in the future.

Despite our circumstances, we must continue to focus on the future with faith, as the Israelites eventually did through the Red Sea. Charles Spurgeon declared, “The Lord will make a way for you that no foot has been before. That which, like a sea, threatens to drown you, shall be a highway for your escape.” The power of the Gospel can open any door the enemy has closed and will comfort you regardless of the place that God has predestined you to be.

We all have fears, doubts and concerns, some of them so great that we echo the Israelites, “I would rather be a slave in Egypt than get slaughtered by soldiers or drown in the sea.” God wants us, instead of looking back at our enemy, to instead look for His presence. We should align ourselves with God and put our faith in Him. Psalm 50:15 promises, “Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.” God through Jesus Christ gives us the opportunity to strengthen our faith, overcome our many problems and live a life of victory.



Ken Smith

I encourage this week to remember that God will never abandon you where He has directed your path. Robert Morgan in his book, The Red Sea Rules, wrote “When things are going badly, when you feel trapped between sword and sea, when you’re under assault, acknowledge the devil, but keep your eyes on Christ. He will see you through. He will make a way.” Often we focus our eyes on the enemy behind us thinking there is little hope, but the same God that delivered the Israelites slaves has not changed and can deliver you.

Early Voting for March 3, 2020 Primary Election will be offered at the following location in Sampson County beginning on February 13, 2020 through February 29, 2020. Days and hours listed below:

Sampson County Board of Elections Office
120 County Complex Road
Building F; Suite 110
Clinton, NC 28328

Monday – Friday Voting Hours
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Saturday, February 29, 2020 Voting Hours
8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Any Sampson County resident may vote early at the above location during the hours indicated above.



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What's Happening

By Angela Martin

at **SCT**



SCT Set for Disney's The Little Mermaid

The cast of Disney's The Little Mermaid is complete, and we are thrilled to announce the cast. We have a stellar group of people of all ages for the production. Our Ariel for this production is Schuyler Floyd. Schuyler has been involved at the Sampson Community Theatre for the past four years. During this time, she has been in numerous productions including, Cats, How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying, Seussical, Elf, Jr., Mary Poppins and Shrek - just to name a few. Schuyler has been taking voice with Angela Martin and a member of Angela's Musical Troupe. Schuyler was recently part of the group from Angela's Musical Troupe that performed at Disney - twice - in the past year. She is currently a freshman in the Musical Theatre program at William Peace University. Our Prince Eric is being portrayed by Kameron Duff. Kameron is a 5th year senior at the Sampson County Early College High School. He is also a member of Angela's Musical Troupe in which he performed at Walt Disney World, also twice. Kameron has been in numerous productions at SCT including, Pocahontas, Shrek and Hairspray. Be sure to check out Kameron, Schuyler and the rest of their talented cast beginning on April 24 and runs April 24-26 and May 1-3 with Friday and Saturday shows at 7:30 pm and Sunday matinees at 2:30 pm. We are expecting a large number of people at our production so purchasing tickets before the performance is essential.

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Rated PG 13 for disturbing images/thematic content, and brief drug material

A long time ago in a distant fairytale countryside, a young girl leads her little brother into a dark wood in desperate search of food and work, only to stumble upon a nexus of terrifying evil.

**Fri-Sat-Sun 1:30p 4:30p 7:30p
Mon-Wed 6:30p**



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

NOW SHOWING

Rated PG for action, some violence, rude humor and brief mild language

A live-action adventure comedy based on the global blockbuster videogame franchise from Sega that centers on the infamously brash bright blue hedgehog. The film follows the (mis)adventures of Sonic as he navigates the complexities of life on Earth with his newfound human best friend Tom Wachowski

**Fri-Sat-Sun 1:30p 3:45p 6:00p 8:15p
Mon-Wed 6:30p**



BIRDS OF PREY AND THE FAN

NOW SHOWING

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

When Gotham's most nefariously narcissistic villain, Roman Sionis, and his zealous right-hand, Zsasz, put a target on a young girl named Cass, the city is turned upside down looking for her. Harley, Huntress, Black Canary and Renee Montoya's paths collide, and the unlikely foursome have no choice but to team up to take Roman down.

**Fri-Sat-Sun 2:00p 5:00p 8:00p
Mon-Wed 6:30p**



BAD BOYS FOR LIFE

NOW SHOWING

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

The Bad Boys Mike Lowrey (Will Smith) and Marcus Burnett (Martin Lawrence) are back together for one last ride.

**Fri-Sat-Sun 1:30p 4:30p 7:30p
Mon-Wed 6:30p**



THE PHOTOGRAPH

NOW SHOWING

Rated R for sexuality and brief strong language

When famed photographer Christina Eames unexpectedly dies, she leaves her estranged daughter Mae Morton (Rae) hurt, angry and full of questions. When a photograph tucked away in a safe-deposit box is found, Mae finds herself on a journey delving into her mother's early life and ignites a powerful, unexpected romance with a rising-star journalist, Michael Block

**Fri-Sat-Sun 2:00p 5:00p 8:00p
Mon-Wed 6:30p**

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JUDGE TIM SMITH

DISTRICT COURT

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Paid For By the Committee To Elect Tim Smith; Melissa Blizzard Stevens, Treasurer.

The March 3 primary is quickly approaching, with early voting already underway. My Dad, your North Carolina District Court Judge Tim Smith for the Fourth Judicial District (Jones, Onslow, Sampson and Duplin) must win this primary to keep his seat, which means he needs our support now more than ever. I am proud of the support our family has received so far and know it's a testament to the goodness my Dad has spread throughout his personal and professional life. The last few weeks have been difficult for our family but, like many of you, we were raised farm tough. These trials have only brought us closer and made us stronger. I can say I've never been more proud to be a "Smith".

I was told early on in this election that things could get dirty, but I didn't believe it. I honestly believed this race could occur by candidates wholesomely sharing their QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE and KNOWLEDGE and then letting the voters make a fair and informed decision on who should represent our district on the bench. Makes sense, right?

How naive I was! During the last month or so, NOT ONLY has my Dad's name been slandered by his opponent and his political circle alleging that my Dad is not a fiscal conservative and therefore cannot be a true Republican, Dad has also been involved in an unusual incident that resulted in an overwhelming amount of negative press, as well as, unsubstantiated rumors and even some outright lies being spread by his political opposition.

Being charged with driving while impaired, one month before an election, within minutes of leaving the courthouse, after conducting a 3 hour normal court session, with a negative breathalyzer reading, a voluntary independent drug recognition analysis confirming no impairment, and witnesses also confirming no impairment, SHOULD bring up a A LOT of questions.

Here are some answers. On the day he was stopped, Dad was recovering from a clinically diagnosed case of the flu, which put him in the bed for 6 days and was accompanied by a respiratory infection and spiking fevers. He returned to work the week he was stopped because he was needed, but he was far from well. During this same week my Grandfather was hospitalized. His health declined rapidly and he ended up passing on January 26.

I see my Dad almost every day and I can tell you, without a doubt, that he was SICK and he was TIRED - physically, mentally and emotionally. But he was NOT IMPAIRED! Can you imagine being charged with driving while impaired, during the heat of an election, when you were actually just recovering from the flu and physically exhausted?

My respect for law enforcement is second to none, but my Dad's guilt or innocence will be decided in a court of law, not a court of public opinion. As a judge, Dad affords each defendant the constitutional right of presuming he or she is innocent until proven guilty. I only hope and pray you will extend my Dad the same right. His trial won't take place until after the election, but then it will be too late to support him. I refuse to sit back and allow injustice to win, and I hope you won't either. He needs our support NOW!

Judge Tim Smith is OVERWHELMINGLY the MOST QUALIFIED candidate for this seat. That is the truth! He was personally asked by attorneys in our district to seek this judge seat when Judge Henry Stevens IV moved to Superior Court. He was chosen, above every other attorney in our district, by the people who work closest with him. I think we can all agree how revealing it is to be supported by colleagues over politicians. Dad is distinguished at what he does and everyone who works with him knows it. When he was asked to serve in this role, he closed a highly successful law practice to finish his career in a position where he could use his vast LOCAL KNOWLEDGE, COURTROOM EXPERIENCE, and LIFE EXPERIENCE to serve our district.

It's important to remember the actual position that's being voted on in this race - District Court Judge - and reflect on how crucial it is for us to keep a LOCAL, EXPERIENCED, and IMPARTIAL judge in that position. District Court Judges hear cases that could potentially alter your life and/or the life of someone you love. District Court Judges will never hear cases that deal with issues like abortion, gay marriage, or gun control. The cases they hear often involve things like: if and/or how often you get to see your child, if your grandchild goes to prison, or if you did indeed trespass on someone else's land. Dad has represented clients in thousands of cases like these and this EXPERIENCE is what enables him to render fair judgement. Think hard about which candidate you would prefer to make these kinds of judgments on your behalf. He understands our communities in ways that many do not. Imagine if the judge hearing the recent hog farm lawsuits actually raised his family in the hog industry. Eastern North Carolina is a farming community. It always has been and I hope it always will be.

Dad has successfully operated a local small business for 33 years. Just last year, he was inducted into the NC Bar Association Legal Practice Hall of Fame, an honor that only 264 attorneys in our state have ever received. He has served as County Commissioner for Duplin County. He has been a contract attorney for Duplin County and a contract attorney for Onslow County Child Support Services for over 20 years. He was raised on a local tobacco farm and was the first generation in our family to attend college. My Dad has worked tirelessly in his current position the last 8 months, not as a conservative or a liberal, but to carry out his duties as a judge by being FAIR, IMPARTIAL, and UNBIASED.

This experience simply cannot be substituted by a 31-year-old real estate attorney/aspiring politician with hardly any courtroom experience who hasn't even been made partner at his law firm. Sadly, Mr. William Shanahan, the opposition, hopes that voters will concentrate on untried allegations and gossip long enough to cover up for his inexperience and catapult him to a position he has not worked nearly as hard as my Dad to obtain. I don't like negative politicking and have never participated in it, but I believe it's important for you to know the truth. Mr. Shanahan has openly stated he wants to be in Washington D.C. in the next few years. He can't even fulfill a 4-year term as Onslow County Commissioner due to his political aspirations. He seeks approval and endorsements from politicians but has little to no support from his colleagues. (One partner at Mr. Shanahan's own law firm financially contributed to my Dad's campaign.) It seems that Mr. Shanahan is more concerned with his own personal gain and party agenda than serving our court system. In my opinion, these are exactly the kinds of people we need to kick out and keep out of office.

To say this election has been trying for our family would be an understatement, but I read something at the beginning of this year that really spoke to me, although I didn't know why at the time. It read, "The greater the trial, the sweeter the victory."

Help support my Dad to VICTORY in this election by ENCOURAGING your family and friends to get out and vote JUDGE TIM SMITH in the Republican primary on March 3.

JUDGE TIM SMITH DESERVES THIS POSITION.

MORE IMPORTANTLY, OUR DISTRICT DESERVES JUDGE TIM SMITH.

*Sincerely,
Ashley "Smith" Jata
Daughter, Judge Tim Smith*

PERFORMANCE AUTO “STAR ATHLETE OF THE WEEK”

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Mintz Christian's Emma White Enjoying Her Senior Year



Emma White is enjoying her final year at Mintz Christian Academy. The three-sport standout (volleyball, basketball and golf) said that she is going to find it hard to say goodbye to such a supportive and loving school.

"Absolutely," the 17-year-old said when asked if leaving Mintz will be hard. "I love my school and not seeing everyone every day will make it difficult to leave."

She continues, "I have formed a lot of relationships here ... and the people here are all great."

White has just wrapped up her final season of basketball at the school - the Lions finished at 6-6 overall. "I love my girls, but I am not the best at basketball," she admits. "My job is to be the big girl down under the net and to get the ball to our point guard, which I do a pretty good job at, but if it wasn't for my teammates, I wouldn't want to play. I am better at volleyball and golf."

Her final season of golf is a week away. "We start up next week," she said with excitement. "I am really lucky that I have been able to have the same coach (Dan Heinz). He is the best. He not only is very knowledgeable about the game, but he knows his players too. He takes Mintz Christian Athletics to another level."

White said that it is a 'family atmosphere' at the school, a school she has been at since second grade. "I was here when they first started," she says. "It has been great for me."

Born in Greenville, White moved to Clinton when her father, Ken, who is a pastor, took over at Goshen New Life Church in Faison. She started playing sports at a young age, "I experimented in recreation ball," she said. "But I looked forward to playing ball at school."

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

"I am pretty surprised," White said about being notified about the honor. "I didn't know anything about it or what was going on, but it makes me feel good to know that my coach thought that much about me to nominate me."

When asked if White is planning on going to college, she says, "Oh yes". "I have applied to like 12 schools," she continues. "Right now, it looks like ECU will be the one (I choose). My mom (Winnie) went there so I have a pretty good supporter of that school."

White said that she will study Math Education. "I've wanted to be a teacher since I was little," she admits. "I've seen the classes they have there (at ECU) and it is a great program, so it seems like it would be perfect for me."

Why math? "Well, nothing has particularly come easy for me, I have always had to work for what I wanted, which I don't mind, because they payoff is so much better."

Does she think she will play sports in college? "No," she said. "Because I am not a D-1 player, but I would love to play club volleyball if I could."

The straight 'A' student, who is in dual enrollment at Mintz and at Sampson Community College, says that her favorite subject currently is History. "I have a great teacher who is very knowledgeable and makes it interesting," she said.

In addition to her family at Mintz, White says that she appreciates all the support she has received from her family. "My dad doesn't really know much about athletics, but he comes to every game," White said. "My mom ... helped me with all of my college applications and has always been there for me. She is top notch."

She also has two younger sisters, Sarah Beth and Sandy Kay, and a younger brother, Jake.

"We are really tight," White said about her family.

When asked if there is anyone she would like to thank, without hesitation she says, "My parents and my coach (Dan Heinz). They have been so supportive; I just can't thank them enough."

In 10 years, White said she would like to be working back in Sampson County. "I would really love to be back here teaching in one of our schools. That would be great."

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EDUCATION

Sampson Middle School Junior Beta Club Wins Big at Convention



SMS Golden Ticket Winners- Gabby Guerrero, Makenna Brewen, Sofia Fleury-Mendible, Alex Evans

Sampson Middle School Jr. Beta Club students attended the Jr. Beta Convention on February 3-5, 2020 in Greensboro, NC. The group came home with big wins in almost every category.

Placement In the following categories:

- First Place Group Talent (Performing Arts Group) 63 students, 7th and 8th graders
- 4 Golden Tickets - These students were chosen to perform in the opening ceremony at the National Jr. Beta Convention in Fort Worth, Texas. They were chosen based on their awesome performance during the Group Talent Competition.
- 7th grader Gabby Guerrero, 8th grader Alex Evans, 7th grader Makenna Brewen, & 8th grader Sofia Fleury Mendible
- Second Place Songfest 41 students, 7th and 8th graders
- Second Place 7th Grade Science- Dylan Mairena
- Third Place Speech - Sheyla Hernandez, 8th grade student
- Third Place Jewelry - Sheyla Hernandez, 8th grade student
- Fourth Place Apparel Design - 7th grader Rebeca Gomez, 8th grader James Darden, 7th grader Kimberly Land, 7th grader Izzy Rivera, 7th grader Blair Miller, & 8th grader Sheyla Hernandez

According to Jamie Harper, Beta Sponsor and 8th grade math teacher at Sampson Middle School, "These students have been spending countless hours preparing since the fall and all of their hard work has paid off! Being in Beta is not all about academics and competitions, but about the students pushing themselves out of their comfort zones and, in some cases, trying something they've never done before. There were over 5200 registered for the convention that our students spent two days networking and competing with. I am so proud of all of their accomplishments!"

"That's just what happens when great students do great things! These beta students fully display what Beta means - service, achievement, character, and leadership," said Paula Darden, Beta Sponsor and AIG ELA teacher for 6th, 7th and 8th grades. "Their extraordinary talent, coupled with their above average effort and dedication, makes me so proud!"

Kenzy Yang, 8th grade SMS Jr. Beta member noted, "Beta is like one big family. If you fall, there's always someone there to catch you."

Wendy Cabral, SMS Parent of 8th grade SMS Jr. Beta member, Lensey Cabral stated about the team's success, "I'm grateful for the sponsors and their extra efforts to make the convention a rewarding experience for students. Our junior betas shared a powerful message with others across the state about serving, persevering, leading and being true to themselves. Their hard work definitely paid off!"

"Beta convention 2020 was an amazing experience that I got to participate in for the first time. There were fantastic performances and I was so excited to see all our hard work we put into group talent and Songfest pay off. I can't wait to compete again in Texas this summer," said Evan Gillespie, 7th grade SMS Jr. Beta member

SMS Principal Robert Turlington remarked about his students and faculty, "The hard work of the students, dedication of our sponsors and contributions by parents and the community all came together to create a truly special event. To say I'm proud of our Beta Club is a tremendous understatement. I can't wait to see how well they do at the National Convention".

Grace W. Ho (Ho Yang Fine Art) created the breathtaking backdrops, for beta talent that helped inspire the beta students to allow their "dreams to put on work clothes" and be the visionaries of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Rita McIver, of Rita's Dream Maker Studio, choreographed the dances and helped the students step out of their comfort zone. She taught them to dance with extraordinary talent, confidence, and skill that they didn't even know they had.



SMS Beta Spiritfest Group



SMS Beta- Talent Show Group

Jamie Harper, Katrina Boykin, and Paula Darden put all the ideas/production together and according to them they loved every minute (and there were a lot of minutes!) of rehearsing, creating, and loving on these Beta students. Paula Darden stated, "We wanted to send this message not only to our audience, but to our own Beta students. They all come with their own stories, and we wanted them to know that no matter what they are going through, and goodness knows they all have their obstacles and struggles, they can overcome and achieve ANYTHING with determination and a willingness to just try, fail, try again, and succeed! (That was our message in group talent- We can be one the ones who dare to make our dreams and ambitions come true, through trying, failing, trying again and again, until we finally succeed!)"

The Beta team and their sponsors wanted to make sure to give credit to Mr. Lowe for his hard work as well. "John Lowe did an amazing job of cutting our music. He spent many hours on this project for us. Boy, does he have a lot of patience and skill!"



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BLACK

HISTORY MONTH



Carter G. Woodson, founder of Black History Month Former President Barack Obama LeBron James, athlete and philanthropist Stacey Abrams, politician Janet Mock, writer/director/producer of "Pose" on FX

‘ONE SMALL BUT NECESSARY STEP’

Why Black History Month is still important

By Melissa Erickson
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Black History Month began as a “Negro History Week” in 1926. Scholar and historian Carter G. Woodson chose the second week in February, as it contained the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, to bring awareness to African Americans’ role in shaping U.S. history. President Gerald Ford decreed Black History Month a national observance in 1976. This annual celebration is a time of pride, but what does Black History Month mean today? Some black leaders share their thoughts:

“

“Black History Month will always mean honoring the prominent figures of our past, but we put them on the back burner ... and rightfully so in 2019. Instead, we put present-day heroes at the forefront. In this time of division and turmoil, we chose to encourage, promote and reveal the black men and women who are becoming new examples of #black-excellence. Without social media we wouldn’t have such easy, immense access to one another and would have to rely on yet another textbook tale of Martin Luther King Jr. or George Washington Carver to get us through the month. I’m so happy to have the opportunity to see how we’re moving the culture forward in real time.”
— Christine Michel Carter, parent-ing author, speaker and consultant

“Black History Month is so important to me because it’s a time dedicated to shining a light on black culture and achievements, which are too often ignored during the rest of the year. Some people turn their noses up at Black History Month, but until our society acknowledges the contributions of all cultures, this focused time to highlight our achievements and inspire and educate our youth is essential.”
— Crystal Swain-Bates, children’s author and diversity advocate

“Along with being a time to celebrate the accomplishments of our ancestors, Black History Month is a reminder of our duty to be great. It reminds us of the struggles we’ve overcome, and highlights struggles we still have to conquer. It’s a yearly remembrance of the

strength, wisdom and courage it took to go from being the least valued in society to being the heads of companies, industries and even the nation itself. Black History Month confirms and reminds me that I can do anything.”
— Sean Hampton, producer at Bentkey Ventures

“There is an African proverb that says, ‘Until the lion tells the story, the hunter will always be the hero.’ In today’s political and societal climate, rife with lies of omission, collusion, intimidation and ‘alternative facts,’ celebrating and sharing our stories, our struggles and our accomplishments has never been more important. I would love to see more active efforts to provide interactive and expansive programming for children during the month that goes beyond the narratives of Martin, Malcolm and Rosa.”
— Michelle Person, founder of Just Like Me Books and elementary school principal in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District

“As multiracial child I constantly faced adversity growing up. Being raised in a small rural city with my Caucasian family in a predominantly Caucasian community, I looked different compared to everyone else. When I went to visit my African American family in the urban city, I acted different compared to everyone else. This adversity shaped me into the resilient leader I am today. Now as a multiracial female entrepreneur, Black History Month to me is the celebration and appreciate the many generations of African Americans that faced adversity

before me to pave the way for me!”
— Ashley Baier, owner and founder of Recovery Athletics

“Black History Month is a necessity; it counteracts the 11 months in the year that our history/legacy is diminished, tainted, manipulated and/or erased altogether.”
— Nadia Stanley, television producer and author of “I Know Why You’re Single, Sis!”

“Without the black fearless leaders who made opportunities for African Americans possible, I would not be where I am today. Our history reminds me to fight for what I believe in and to work even harder than others would. Most importantly, black history reminds me to always stick with love.”
— Baylie Robinson, author of “Life Lessons College Failed to Teach You”

“To me, Black History Month represents an opportunity for all, not just African Americans or black Americans, to learn about and appreciate the numerous contributions of African Americans in America. Specifically, it’s a time to talk about African Americans within a context that doesn’t always involve the topics of slavery, the slave trade or such. African Americans have contributed to every aspect of American culture, and although often not credited for those influences throughout most of the year, Black History Month is one small but necessary step toward righting that disservice and lack of recognition.”
— Ayanna Julien, managing editor at EffortlessInsurance.com

”

PUZZLES

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 Little terror
5 Wet bar?
9 Knife wound
13 ____ of thumb
14 Church V.I.P.
16 Bounce back
17 Soon, to a bard
18 Throw for a loop
19 Garbage hauler
20 Complex unit
22 Deadly mushroom
24 Schongauer work
26 Toni Morrison's "____ Baby"
27 Tabloid twosome
28 Noble position
32 Retro phone feature
35 Established
37 Indigenous
38 Not quite right
39 Full of bounce
41 Fishing equipment
42 Like cows and sows
44 Campaign pro
45 Shrek, for one
46 Bomb
48 Certain tide
50 Computer capacity
51 Emphatic
56 New Year's Eve staple
59 X, in math
60 Tim Conway film, "The Billion Dollar ____"
61 Factory

63 Quitter's word
64 Word sung on 12/31
65 Concise
66 Flu symptom
67 Arborist's concern
68 Numerical suffix
69 Give the eye

DOWN

1 Hold steady
2 Talk at length
3 Follow follower
4 Plant stem extension
5 Mermaid's milieu
6 Veteran
7 Annex

8 Animal fur
9 Type of psychology
10 Word in a 1978 John Irving book title
11 "Get lost!"
12 Kennel cry
15 Primary color
21 Cereal grass
23 Dogcatcher's catch
25 Evening bell
29 "Brokeback Mountain" director
30 CBer's term
31 Dole (out)
32 Tip, as a hat

33 Brainchild
34 Deserving of respect
36 Word of advice
39 Dry spell
40 Mumbo-jumbo
43 Pie preference
45 Type of illusion
47 Young raptor
49 It may be framed
52 Capture
53 Likeness
54 Locale
55 Aromatic compound
56 Chew the fat
57 Rush follower
58 Envelope abbr.
62 Half a score

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STR8TS

No. 377 Easy

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

SUDOKU

No. 377 Tough

Previous solution - Medium

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

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

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

Solution to Crossword:

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

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Vision of the Son of Man (Revelation 1:9–20)

R I T H I N G S R I G H T S
W M C A L L S J L J O H N S
O H S P I R I T R Y L C W A
R J T P A T M O S Y D H H I
D E T E S T I M O N Y U I D
I S G N A B R O T H E R T H
S U D D E N L Y V O I C E A
L S S U F F E R I N G H I N
A G P R E A C H I N G E I D
N ' L A M P S T A N D S E M
D K I N G D O M W H E N S G
X F P C P A R T N E R G T A
S E V E N P A T I E N T A F
I E X L I K E X I L E D R '
V T A O J M B L O R D ' S V

BROTHER
ENDURANCE
GOLD
ISLAND
KINGDOM
LORD'S
PATMOS
SAID
STARS
TESTIMONY
WHEN

CALLS
EXILED
HAND
JESUS
LAMPSTANDS
PARTNER
PREACHING
SEVEN
SUDDENLY
THINGS
WHITE

CHURCHES
FEET
HAPPEN
JOHN
LIKE
PATIENT
RIGHT
SPIRIT
SUFFERING
VOICE
WORD

Celebrate in the sun safely.
Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.

CRIME

CRIME REPORT

02-05 Suzanne Renee Rodgers, 53, ranier WA. Shoplifting. Bond \$200. Trial Date 03-18-20

02-06 Jarvin Nohel Meza Juniga, 31, Clinton. NOL, No Insurance, Hit & Run Misd fail to Stop. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 03-05-20

02-06 Adonis Lee Toomer, 29, Clinton. OFA- Assault By Pointing A Gun, OFA-Communicating Threats. Bond \$10000. Trial Date 03-03-20

02-06 Abner Isai Quintanilla, 28, Dudley. Possess Drug Paraphernalia, Methamphetamine. Bond \$25000. Trial Date 02-07-20

02-06 James Richard Harper, 32, Fayetteville. Larceny-FTA. Bond \$500. Trial Date 02-03-20

02-06 Jacqueline Johnson, 36, Clinton. Contributing Delinquency of Juvenile. Bond \$2000. Trial Date 03-17-20

02-06 Shifeke Zymone Stanley, 20, Clinton. Possess firearm by felon. Trial Date 02-07-20

02-06 Celena Leeann Dowless, 19, Clinton. Order for Arrest. Bond \$200. Trial Date 03-05-20

02-06 Jessica Jazmine Cruz, 24, Goldsboro. Contribute to Del of Juvenile, Trespass of Real Property, Defraud Innkeeper, Unauthorized Use of Motor Veh. Bond \$1100. Trial Date 03-05-20

02-07 Russell Condell Bell Jr, 29, Garland. Parole Violation.

02-07 Celena Leeann Dowless, 19, Clinton. Order for Arrest. Bond \$200. Trial Date 03-05-20

02-07 Vanessa Star Royal, 35, Salemburg. Unauthorized use of motor vehicle. Bond \$1500. Trial Date 03-02-20

02-07 Tanika Nicole Bell, 29, Clinton. OFA- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 03-05-20

02-07 Shannon Elaine Mrcum, 47, Roseboro. Possess Drug Paraphernalia. Bond \$2500. Trial Date 03-17-20

02-07 Shane Lee Bond, 35, Harrells. Poss Opn Cnt/Cons Alc, PSG Area, DWLR Not Impaired Rev, Open Cont After Cons Alc. Bond \$1100. Trial Date 02-10-20

02-07 Kenneth Alan Parker, 49, Salemburg. Larceny After Break/Enter, Poss Stolen Goods/Property, Breaking & Entering, Child Support. Bond \$4500. Trial Date 02-10-20

02-07 Shnetta Renee Corbett, 48, Clinton. Fail to Comply. Bond \$365. Trial Date 03-02-20

02-07 Idael Calzada Delgado, 26, Dunn. Misd Prob Viol Out of County. Bond \$25000. Trial Date 03-04-20

02-07 Derrick Rasheen Caldwell, 28, Turkey. Possession of Firearm by Felon, PWISD Marijuana, Possess Marijuana Paraphernalia, Fictitious Info to Officer. Bond \$25000. Trial Date 03-06-20

02-07 Justice Allen Wynn, 25, Clinton. Injury to Personal Property. Bond \$1500. Trial Date 03-03-20

02-07 Erica Butler, 40, Clinton. Assault individual with disability. Bond \$750. Trial Date 03-17-20

02-07 Michael J Taylor, 49, Callahan FL. Possess Stolen Motor Vehicle, Drug Equipment Violations. Bond \$25000. Trial Date 03-06-20

02-07 Breanna Eve Sweatman, 28, Jacksonville FL. Possess Stolen Motor Vehicle, Possess Heroin, Drug Equipment Violation, RDO. Bond \$25000. Trial Date 03-06-20

02-07 Anthony Eugene Singleton, 49, Newton Grove. No Operators License, Driving While Impaired. Bond \$2000. Trial Date 02-20-20

02-08 Kevin Germaine Lee, 44, Clinton. Assault on a Female, Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Trial Date 03-06-20

02-08 Adrian Delvido Parker, 30, Clinton. OFA- Fail to Comply, OFA/Misdemeanor Probation Violation. Bond \$890. Trial Date 03-03-20

02-08 Bryson McCullen, 58, Mount Olive. OFA/ Fail To Comply. Bond \$115. Trial Date 03-04-20

02-08 Erik Manuel Nieves, 26, Salemburg. DWI. Bond \$2500. Trial Date 02-13-20

02-08 Eldebarge Monroe, 32, Clinton. Simple Assault, Driving While Impaired, DWLR, fail to Maintain Lane Control, Reckless Driving. Bond \$22500. Trial Date 02-11-20

02-08 James Lee Eason, 55, Clinton. Fail To Comply. Bond \$315. Trial Date 03-05-20

02-08 Kevin Germaine Lee, 44, Clinton. PWISD Cocaine, FTA-No Operators License, FTA-Expired Registration Card/Tag, FTA-DWLR Not Impaired Rev, Sell Cocaine, Deliver Cocaine. Bond \$10500. Trial Date 03-06-20

02-08 Marvin David Trejo-Moradel, 18, Rose Hill. Speeding, Reckless Driving to Endanger, Expired Tag. Bond \$200. Trial Date 02-25-20

02-08 Monique Suzette Robinson, 34, Harrells. OFA-FTA. Bond \$500. Trial Date 03-05-20

02-08 Larisa Ann Dillinger, 32, Roseboro. Injury To Real Property. Bond \$500. Trial Date 03-03-20

02-08 Alvaro Paniagua Rubio, 29, Newton Grove. Assault inflict serious Injury, Assault with a deadly weapon. Trial Date 03-03-20

02-08 Oliver Terrell Owens, 41, Rose Hill. Driving While License Revoked Not Impaired. Bond \$500. Trial Date 03-02-20

02-08 Joseph Donte Beard, 30, Clinton. DWLR Not Impaired Rev, Fail To Wear Seat Belt- Driver. Bond \$1500. Trial Date 02-21-20

02-08 Micah Shawn Ledford, 26, Clinton. Larceny of Motor Vehicle, Felony Probation Violation. Bond \$25000. Trial Date 02-21-20

02-08 Patrick Lewis Johnson, 36, Dunn. PWIMSD Heroin, Sell Heroin, Deliver Heroin, Fail to Report New Address-Sex Offender, Child Support. Bond \$80529.61. Trial Date 02-11-20

02-08 Kevin Germaine Lee, 44, Clinton. FTA-No Operators License, FTA-Expired

Registration Card/Tag, FTA-DWLR Not Impaired Rev, Sell Cocaine, PWISD Cocaine, Deliver Cocaine. Bond \$10500. Trial Date 03-06-20

02-09 Anthony Terrel Faison, 38, Clinton. DWLR not Impaired, Permit Operation No Insurance, NCL/REVOK/SUSP CERTIF/TAG. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 02-12-20

02-09 Melissa Bradsher, 44, Clinton. Speeding, Reckless Drvg-wanton disregard. Bond \$100. Trial Date 02-20-20

02-09 Darius Javon Horton, 28, Clinton. Robbery With Dangerous Weapon, Consp Robbery Dangrs Weapon. Bond \$15000. Trial Date 02-21-20

02-09 John Darious Faison, 27, Faison. Driving While Impaired, Operate Veh No Ins, Fict/Alt Title/Reg Card/Tag, Expired Registration, Card/Tag, Poss Opn Cnt/Cons Alc, Psg Area, DWLR Impaired Rev. - Bond \$3000. Trial Date 02-11-20

02-09 Bennie Frederick, 20, Clinton. Display fictitious tags, Driving while license revoked not impaired. Bond \$500. Trial Date 03-05-20

02-09 Christa Leak, 34, Clinton. Fail to Comply with Monies. Bond \$2542.47. Trial Date 03-09-20

02-09 Marcus Desean Faison, 24, Clinton. Possess Marijuana.

02-09 Edward Terell Scott, 43, Clinton. DWI. Bond \$2000. Trial Date 03-16-20

02-10 Stevie Yranell Williams, 44, Clinton. Domestic Assault on a Female, Possess Marijuana up to ½ Ounce, Resisting Public Officer. Trial Date 02-18-20

02-10 Joey Lee Kiger, 36, Garland. Larceny of Motor Vehicle, Poss of Stolen Goods/Property. Bond \$4500. Trial Date 02-21-20

02-10 Christopher Donyel Pope, 35, Clinton. OFA-FTC-Child Support. Bond \$500. Trial Date 02-19-20

02-10 Hesham Mohamed Hadwan, 37, Goldsboro. PWISD SCH I, Maintain a Vehicle Dwelling, Possess Drug Paraphernalia. Bond \$5000. Trial Date 03-06-20

02-10 Brandon Wilson, 39, Coats. Uttering Forged Endorsement, Larceny, Obtain Property False Pretense, Forgery of Instrument. Bond \$25000. Trial Date 02-13-20

02-10 Jeanie Berlin McNeil, 54, Harrells. Order for Arrest. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 03-31-20

02-10 Marion Roy Hales, 32, Autryville. Fail to Comply with Monies. Bond \$305. Trial Date 03-04-20

02-10 Brittany Tiquisha Kenan, 29, Salemburg. Probation Violation. Bond \$5000. Trial Date 03-11-20

02-11 Israel Tramell Melvin, 20, Clinton. Possess Marijuana. Trial Date 03-23-20

02-06 Best of Clinton reported LOST/STOLEN LICENSE PLATES valued at \$150.00.

02-06 Ronnie Eason of Clinton reported Larceny of Cell Phone valued at \$30.00.

02-06 Latoya Shanta Boykin of Clinton reported Lost or Stolen Property valued at \$400.00.

02-06 Kenneth Bryant of Clinton reported Breaking and Entering Motor Vehicle-stolen Laptop valued at \$800.00.

02-06 Marilyn Williams of Roseboro reported Theft From Motor Vehicle- CD's.

02-06 Michelle Harrell of Roseboro reported Theft From Motor Vehicle- stolen documents.

02-07 Shaquasia Wright of Clinton reported Theft form Motor Vehicle- Stolen firearm valued at \$300.00.

02-07 Deacon Jones Toyota of Clinton reported Damage to Property- Toyota Tundra- \$250.00.

02-07 Tawfiq Pure Station -Khanshali of Salemburg reported a Breaking & Entering- stolen money \$1000.00.

02-07 Sampson Co Sheriffs Office reported Damage to Patrol Vehicle- \$500.00.

02-07 Gary Fenton Barefoot of Dunn reported Larceny of Motor Vehicle- trucks valued at \$8000 each.

02-07 Bobby Gene Autry of Clinton reported Larceny of a Firearm valued at \$300.00.

02-07 John Bradshaw of Newton Grove reported Armed Robbery, Communicating Threats. Stolen handgun (\$300), cell phone (\$180).

02-07 Samuel Junior Spell of Clinton reported All Other Larceny- Nintendo Switch valued at \$600.00.

02-07 Walmart of Clinton reported Larceny.

02-08 William Sherrill Strickland of Dunn reported Breaking & Entering and Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property- damage to windows \$200.00.

02-08 Jeret Owen Blackman of Dunn reported Larceny From Motor Vehicle- stolen fishing equipment valued at \$300.00.

02-09 Elias Jaramillo Osorio of Clinton reported a Larceny- stolen welder (\$750), Tools (\$150), Helmet (\$65), Welding Polishers (\$250).

02-09 Antonio Lamar Hemmingway of Clinton reported Theft from Motor Vehicle- money \$40, firearm \$499.

02-10 Lisa Denham Draughon of Dunn reported All Other Larceny- stolen rings (\$4000).

02-10 Daisy Horne Cash of Autryville reported Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property and Larceny- damage to automobiles \$150.00.

02-10 Godwin Manufacturing of Dunn reported Theft From Motor Vehicle- tools valued at \$780.00.

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

OBITUARIES



FRIDLEY MN
Mr. Derrick Andrew Beatty, 35, of Fridley, MN, formerly of Clinton, NC, passed away Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at North Memorial Health Hospital, Robbinsdale, MN. The funeral service was held at 1pm, Saturday, February 15, 2020 at New Bethel AME Church with Rev. James Sinclair officiating. Burial in Merritt Memorial Cemetery, Magnolia, NC. (Waycross Community) Mr. Beatty is survived by BROTHER-Brian T. Sampson of Kissimmee, FL. Viewing at the Church Saturday, February 15, 2020 12pm - 1pm. Online condolences may be sent to [worleyfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.worleyfuneralhomeinc.com).



NEWTON GROVE
Maggie Joyce Bennett, 86, of Newton Grove passed away on Saturday, February 8, 2020. Ms. Bennett's funeral service was held on Tuesday, February 11 at 11:00 am. The funeral was held at Newton Grove Baptist Church in Newton Grove the Rev. Paul Rose and Rev. Johnathan Solomon officiating. The family received friends at Newton Grove Baptist Church on Tuesday, February 11th from 10 till 11 am and at other times at the home of Joyce Warwick at 1897 Wilson Road in Clinton. Ms. Bennett was laid to rest at Hillcrest Cemetery in Newton Grove. Ms. Bennett's survivors include her daughters, Brenda Blackmon of Faison, Linda Bennett and friend Bill Dowd of Atlantic Beach, Margaret Adams and husband Terry of Benson and Joyce Warwick and husband Mike of Clinton; six grandchildren; and eight great grandchildren. Ms. Bennett was preceded in death by her parents, Marion and Annie Bryan; and her husband, David "Dock" Bennett. Memorials may be made to the Newton Grove Baptist Church. Online condolences may be made at www.westanddunn.com. Services have been entrusted to West & Dunn Funeral Home of Newton Grove, North Carolina



WALLACE
Elizabeth Brinkley Edwards was born on March 4, 1974 in Dekalb County, GA to Earl Franklin Brinkley, Sr and Linda Walker Brinkley. She graduated from Rockdale County High School Class of 1992 in Conyers, Ga. and then attended Meredith College. There she found her love for business and fashion and graduated with a Bachelor of Science

degree in 1996 majoring in Business Administration and Clothing and Fashion Merchandising. She is survived by her husband of 19 years, Jeremy Edwards, and their three kids, Jay, Walker, and Hali; her mom and dad, brother Frank Brinkley, his wife Allison, and their three children Matthew, Tyler, and Sarah, as well as her Aunt Jane Edwards and many other extended family members. Her work career began in Raleigh, NC at Farm Bureau Insurance and moved on to work for John Deere Corporation. After moving to Wilmington, she took a break from the work force to raise her kids and be a fulltime mom and she was the best in the business. She spent her days taking the kids to school, practices, and teaching them how to grow into the great people that they are today. Once she got a great foundation under them, she decided to return to work. Elizabeth began working at White House Black Market, where she was able to fulfill her passion for retail and fashion. Later, she found a new passion in her work life and began teaching Interior Design at Heide Trask High School. She enjoyed impacting her students and teaching them about fashion and life. In May of 2008, she was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma. That was the beginning of her long battle with cancer. She was treated multiple times including two stem cell transplants, radiation, and chemo. She had beaten Multiple Myeloma after twelve years of fighting it. However, in May of 2019, she was diagnosed with Stage 4 Metastatic Endometrial cancer. Once hearing the diagnosis, she was ready to fight again and fight she did. She ultimately ended up winning the battle because cancer can no longer cause her pain. She won this battle on the morning of February 4, 2020 while at the Lower Cape Fear Hospice Center, when she went to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Beth's family greeted friends at a visitation at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, February 7, 2020 in the First Baptist Church of Wilmington, 411 Market Street, Wilmington, NC 28401. A service to celebrate her life followed at 2:00 p.m. in the church. Interment will be in Rockfish Memorial Cemetery in Wallace, NC at 4:00 p.m. Flowers are welcomed or please consider a donation in memory of Beth to the Lower Cape Fear LifeCare--1414 Physicians Drive--Wilmington, NC 28401 or Leukemia Lymphoma Society--3 International Drive, Suite 200--Rye Brook, New York 19573 (<http://www.LLs.org>).

ROSEBORO
Mr. Haywood Peterson "Pete" Harris, Sr., 91 of Roseboro passed away on Friday, February 7, 2020 at the Gardens of Roseboro. A memorial service was held at 3:00 PM Sunday at Roseboro First Baptist Church with Rev. Hampton Faircloth officiating. The family received friends following the memorial service. Mr. Harris was a native of Sampson County, the son of Avner Fleet and Lois Wood Harris. He was preceded in death by his parents and wife, Ruth Elizabeth Hawkins Harris. He was the



retired owner and operator of the A. R. Harris and Son Hardware Store for many years. He was a member of the Lakewood Country Club, where he was an avid golfer for over 70 years. He was also a member of the Roseboro First Baptist Church. He is survived by his daughter, Carmen Jenkins and husband, Mark of Roseboro and a son, Pete Harris, Jr. of Roseboro; three grandchildren, Alison Frazier, Mark Jenkins, II and Josh Harris; two great grandchildren, Wells Harris and Luna Frazier. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Roseboro First Baptist Church, 3720 S. Salemburg Highway, Roseboro, NC 28382. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC.

CLINTON
Pinckney Hugo Heaton, Jr., 90, of Kerr Street, passed away on Thursday, February 6, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center. A Funeral Service was held Saturday, February 8th at 2:00 pm at Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church with Dr. Steve Wilkins officiating. Burial followed in the Riverview Memorial Park in Wallace. Born on September 20, 1929 in Charleston, South Carolina, Mr. Heaton was the son of the late Pinckney Hugo Heaton, Sr. and Leila Nettles Heaton. He was a member of Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church. Mr. Heaton was a pharmacist for sixty-five years and retired from Kinston K-Mart Pharmacy, after working there for over twenty-five years. He was a hard-working man, who was passionate about his job and loved serving his community and customers. Mr. Heaton is survived by his wife, Betty Blanton Heaton; three sons: Ronald Anderson and wife, Phyllis of Clinton, Hugh Heaton and wife, Susan of Fort Worth, Texas, Mike Anderson of Fayetteville; one daughter, Jennifer Heaton of Wilmington; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service on Saturday, beginning at 1pm, in the Church Fellowship Hall. In Lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church, 201 Fayetteville St., Clinton, NC 28328. Royal-Hall is honored to serve the Heaton Family.



AUTRYVILLE
Mr. James Thomas "Tom" Howard, 77 of Autryville passed away on Sunday, February 9, 2020 at Southwood Nursing and Retirement Center. The funeral service was held at 2:00 PM Wednesday, Feb. 12 at Union Grove Baptist Church with

OBITUARIES

Rev. Paul Honeycutt, Rev. Marc Walters and Rev. Rob Wingo officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery. Mr. Howard was a native of Sampson County, the son of James Clayton and Eloise Holland Howard. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, Norma Page Howard and two brothers, Linoard Howard and Ellis Howard. He was a farmer and a retired member of the Clement Rescue Squad and was also a founding member of the Clement Fire Dept. He is survived by two sons, Darryl Howard and wife, Tammy and Kevin Howard and wife, Debbie all of Autryville; three grandchildren, Bethany Owen and husband, Robby of Autryville, Savannah Howard of White Lake and Nolan Howard of Autryville; one great grandson, Landen Owen of Autryville. The family received friends from 6-8 PM Tuesday, Feb. 11 at Butler Funeral Home in Roseboro and at other times at the home. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC.

DUNN

Rose Stephenson Jackson of Dunn, N.C. passed away peacefully at Wake Med Raleigh N.C. on February 11th, 2020 surrounded by her family. The youngest of four children Rose was born to Helen W. and the late Chester Earl Stephenson Sr. and was proud to grow up as a Johnston County Native. Rose had a special love for the citizens of Benson and the surrounding Communities. A graduate of Benson High School, Rose retired from the NC Department of Transportation in 2004 with 28 years of service. She was a member of Mt Elam Baptist Church, Roseboro, N.C. and enjoyed living "life on the farm". Her kindness and beautiful smile were like a "Ray of Sunshine" to everyone. Rose will be missed by those whose lives she touched. In addition to her Mother she is survived by her Husband, Thomas M. Jackson of the home. Danny Ray Stephenson (wife Dianne) of West Melbourne, Florida. Chester Earl Stephenson Jr. (wife Sandra) of Benson, N.C. Barbara Jean Stephenson Jones (Husband Donald) of Dunn, N.C. And many special Nieces and Nephews. A service of worship and celebration will be held Saturday at 2:00 PM Mt Elam Baptist Church, 2211 Mt Elam Church Road, Roseboro, N.C. 28382 with the Reverend Brandon Glunt and Reverend Adam Jones and Reverend Ashley Jones officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. Special Thanks to Annie Ruth Elliott and Joy Royal for their kindness and devotion To Rose and our family during her illness. Visitation will be Friday from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Skinner and Smith Funeral Home 905 Erwin Road Dunn, N.C. 28334 and other times at the home. In lieu of flowers Memorials may be made to Mt Elam Baptist Church 2211 Mt Elam Church Road Roseboro, N.C. 28382.



PLAIN VIEW

Clarence Eugene Jernigan, 95, of the Plain View Community in Sampson County, died Saturday, February 8, 2020. He was born February 22, 1924, to Rossie Clarence Jernigan and Mary Hawley Jernigan. Eugene is survived by his wife of over 72 years, Llewellyn Tart Jernigan. He is survived by two sons and a daughter, and their families: Gene T. Jernigan and wife,

Charlla, of Dunn; Joe L. Jernigan and his wife, Vickie, of Durham; Janet J. Stewart, and husband, Marshall, of Columbia, Missouri. He is survived by grandchildren and great grandchildren: Trent E. Jernigan and wife, Kate, of Winston-Salem, and James and Adelaide; Martin R. Jernigan and wife, Sarah, of Raleigh; Seth J. Jernigan and wife, Kelly, of Durham, and Wyatt and Stella; John M. Stewart of Arlington, Virginia. Eugene was preceded in death by his sisters and brother-in-law: Nancy Christine Jernigan of Dunn, Edna J. Smith and her husband, Alton P. Smith. After graduation from Plain View High School, Eugene worked for 41 years with the North Carolina Department of Transportation in Sampson County. He retired in 1986 as County Maintenance Engineer and was honored by having the road he lived on named after him. On the occasion of his 90th birthday, Eugene was presented with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by the office of The Governor of North Carolina in appreciation for extraordinary service to the state. Eugene was an active resident of the Plain View Community. He was an organizer and member of the Plain View Volunteer Fire Department and was instrumental in bringing residential telephone service to the community. He served on the Plain View School and Midway High School Advisory Boards, as well as supporting many local and community endeavors all of his adult life. Eugene was a Mason for over 73 years and a member of Mingo Lodge #206. He was a Past Master and served the Lodge as Treasurer for over 69 years. Eugene was a Certified Lecturer for over 64 years, a member of the Wilmington Scottish Rite Bodies, and the Sudan Shrine for over 50 years. He was presented the Joseph Montfort Medal for distinguished service by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina in 2006. Eugene was dedicated to Christ, having accepted Christ as his savior at the age of 18 and joining the church in 1942. He was an active member of Lee's Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church where he served in various roles and on various committees over the years, to include Sunday School Superintendent and Teacher, Deacon and Trustee. He served as Choir Director for 48 years, retiring in 1998. His involvement and support extended beyond his local church, serving as a delegate to the state convention many times over the years and supporting the enterprises of the Original Free Will Baptist Denomination, including his ongoing support of the University of Mount Olive, since its founding in 1951. Funeral services were held at 3:00 pm on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at Lee's Chapel OFWB Church, 4948 Plain View Highway, Dunn, NC with Dr. Brad Williamson and Dr. Ricky Warren officiating. The family received friends at the church prior to the service from 1:00 pm - 2:45 pm. Burial followed the service at Lee's Chapel-Williford Cemetery with Masonic Rites. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Lee's Chapel OFWB Church Endowment, 4948 Plain View Highway, Dunn, NC 28334, or Whitestone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community, 700 S. Holden Road, Greensboro, NC 27407, or The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford, 600 College Street, Oxford, NC 27565. Condolences may be sent to www.skinnerandsmith.com. Arrangements are by Skinner & Smith Funeral Home.

CLINTON

Geraldine Mathis Lane 80 of Clinton died Saturday February 8, 2020 at Wake Medical Center in Raleigh. Visitation: Friday, February 14, 2020 from 5:00pm-7:00pm at Andrew's Chapel Baptist Church, 2541 Reedsford Rd, Clinton, NC 28328 Funeral Service: Saturday, February 15, 2020, 11:00am at Andrew's Chapel Baptist Church, 2541 Reedsford Rd, Clinton, NC 28328



ROSEBORO

Mrs. Lena Pearl Langley, 55 of Roseboro passed away on Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020 at her home. The funeral service was held at 8:00 PM Wednesday, Feb. 12 at Butler Funeral Home in Roseboro with Rev. William Hall officiating. The family received friends from 7-8 PM Wednesday prior to the service. Mrs. Langley was a native of Cumberland County, the daughter of Donnie Gilbert and Doris Truma Wiggins Hollingsworth. She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Toby Hollingsworth. She

worked as a personal care giver. She is survived by four daughters, Renea Anderson (Zain Alghaithi) of Roseboro, Nikki Davis (Thad Cook) of Roseboro, Jessica Anderson of Roseboro and Caitlin Locklear (Angus) of California; three sisters, Diane Brookhouse (Freddie) of Fayetteville, Susan Stobb (Brad) of Fayetteville and Charlie Lord (John) of Parkton; brother, Donnie Wayne Hollingsworth (Margaret) of Galax, VA; thirteen grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro.



LAUREL MD

Mrs. Lula B. Lee, 97, of Laurel, MD, formerly of Clinton, NC, passed away Thursday, February 6, 2020 at Gilchrist Center, Columbia, MD. The funeral will be held at 12 p.m., Saturday, February 15, at Browns Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Clinton, NC with Pastor Jeffery White officiating. Burial will follow in Hillcrest Memorial Park, Clinton, NC. The visitation will be held Saturday, February 15, at Browns Chapel Missionary Baptist Church from 11-12 p.m. The family will receive friends Friday, February 14, from 5-8 p.m. at the Comfort Inn, Clinton, NC. Mrs. Lee is survived by her son, Freddie L. Lee, Jr. of Hanover, MD; daughter, Kecha L. Lee of Bowie, MD; brothers, James Garfield Boykin of Southfield, MI and Monte Boykin of Woburn, MA; three grandchildren. Online condolences may be sent to worleyfuneralhomeinc.com



IVANHOE

Mrs. Sandra Louise Mitchell, 74, of 7712 Wildcat Rd., died Sunday, February 09, 2020 at her residence. Mrs. Mitchell was preceded in death by her mother Rosalie Brown Keene and stepfather, Harold B. Keene and a brother, Ray Franklin McLamb. Funeral service was held at 11:00 A.M. Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at Harmony Presbyterian Church by the Reverend Jim Owen and Reverend Eckie Lancaster. Interment followed in the church cemetery. Mrs. Mitchell is survived by her Husband, Thomas I. Mitchell, One Daughter, Angela Dyas and husband Steven of Salem, Oregon, Two Sons, Claude T. Mitchell and wife Kimberly of Oak Island, NC, Jeffery C. Mitchell and wife Charlotte of Goldsboro, NC, Two sisters, Gay Nell Moore and husband Joe of Glade Spring, VA, Patricia Ann Bost of Clayton, NC, Five Grandchildren and One Great-Grandchild. The family received friends on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 from 10:00AM-11:00A.M. in the church fellowship hall before the service.

FAYETTEVILLE

Brandy Samantha Morrissey, 38, died Saturday February 8th, 2020 at Duke University Hospital in Durham. Visitation: Friday, February 14, 2020 from 6:00pm - 7:00pm at Hope Valley Hawkins Chapel. Funeral Service: Saturday, February 15, 2020 at 3:00pm at Greater Six Runs Missionary Baptist Church 400 Six Runs Church Rd, Turkey, NC 28393. Burial: Sandhill Cemetery 3 Sampson St, Clinton, NC 28328



NEWTON GROVE

Ms. Carolyn A. New 72, of Newton Grove passed away Friday, February 7, 2020 at Kitty Askins Hospice Center, Goldsboro. Ms. New's funeral service was held on Monday, February 10, at 11:00 am at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Newton Grove. Father Joe Dionne officiated the funeral service. A rosary service was held on Sunday, February 9 at 6 p.m. at the West and Dunn Funeral Home Chapel in Newton Grove. The family received friends at the funeral home until 8 p.m. following the Rosary. Ms. New was laid to rest in the Clinton City Cemetery in Clinton. Ms. New's survivors include her daughter, Ann Marie Hall and husband Eric of Autryville, son; Christopher New of Newton Grove, granddaughter; Olivia Hall and brother, Earl Adams and wife Gin of Durham. Ms. New was preceded in death by her parents, Earl and Mary Adams; and her husband, Woodrow "Gus" New. Online condolences may be made at www.westanddunn.com. Services have been entrusted to West & Dunn Funeral Homes, Inc., Newton Grove, North Carolina.



SALEMBURG

Shaquille O'neal Lamont Owens 26 of 502 East College Street Salemburg died Saturday February 8, 2020 at his home. Visitation: Friday, February 14, 2020 from 6:00pm - 7:00pm at Hope Valley Hawkins Chapel. Funeral Service: Saturday, February 15, 2020 at 4:00pm at Charles E. Perry School 705 Boone St, Roseboro, NC 28382



CLINTON

Bobby Joel Pearsall passed peacefully on February 11, 2020 at Kitty Askins Hospice of Goldsboro with his family by his side. Bobby was born on July 16, 1945 to the late Albert Carson and Mittie Hudson Pearsall. He was raised in Warsaw and graduated from James Kenan High School in 1963, and a proud player on the State Championship Football Team. After graduating

high school, he attended college and worked at Research Triangle Park with the Monsanto Lab before returning to the family business, where he became the Owner & Operator of Pearsall's Transmission Service in Warsaw. He was a member of Grove Park Baptist Church and charter member of the Piney Grove Ruritan Club. Bobby had a heart of gold, always offering a helping hand or word of encouragement to his family and friends and never met a stranger. He will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of forty-six years, Sharon Hollingsworth Pearsall; two sisters: Judy P. Tucker and husband, Victor of Warsaw, Angeline P. Oates of Charlotte; niece, Holly C. Byrd and husband Joe of Charlotte; nephew, Davy Oates and wife, Kim of Rolesville; six great-nieces and three great-nephews; and his furry support cat, Freddy. Also, surviving are his wife's family: Joanne Peterson, Jane Hollingsworth, Robin and Joey Williford and their children, Charlie & Suzanne; Stewart and Roxanne Hollingsworth and their children, Samantha "Sam" Hollingsworth and Staci Brooks (Garrett), Taryn Hollingsworth and her daughter, Saige; and Kevin Hollingsworth. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his father and mother in law: Lowell and Doris Hollingsworth; and two brothers-in-law: Samuel Lowell Hollingsworth and Gary

William Hollingsworth. Funeral services will be held Saturday, February 15th at 12:00 Noon at Grove Park Baptist church with Dr. Dennis Bazemore officiating. Burial will follow in the Maplewood Cemetery located in Mount Olive. The family will receive friends prior to the service, from 10:30 am until 11:45 am, in the sanctuary of the church. The family would like to thank the Grove Park church family, especially his Adult I Sunday School Class, that he loved so much, and also to all of Bobby and Sharon's friends and family for their outpouring of love and prayers during this difficult time. Flowers are welcome, or memorials may be made to the Grove Park Baptist Organ Fund by mailing to 609 Northeast Blvd., Clinton, NC 28328. Royal-Hall Funeral Home is honored to serve the Pearsall Family.

EASTOVER

Ms. Jennifer "Jenni" Victoria Simmons Ransom, 41 of Eastover, passed away Saturday, February 8, 2020 at her home. Jenni was a native of Cumberland County, the daughter of the late Hugh Douglas and Mary Lynn Nunnery Simmons. She was a homemaker. She is survived by her husband, Jason Jernigan of the home; two daughters, Jessica Ransom and Kaitlyn Ransom both of Eastover; one brother, Hugh Douglas Simmons and wife, Adriana of Garland; a sister, Dina Young and husband, Troy of Crestview, FL; and four nieces and nephews, Ashley, Troy, Lily and River. A celebration of life will be held at Talley Woodland Park, 2122 Middle Road, Eastover on Sunday, February 16, 2020 at 3:00pm with Pastor Bryan Strickland officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The Karen Chandler Trust, PO Box 87292, Fayetteville, NC 28304; or online at www.karenchandlertrust.com. Butler Funeral Home of Roseboro is serving the family.



CLINTON

Edith Butler Southerland, 92, of 2320 Southeast Blvd, passed away Monday, February 10, 2010 at Sampson Regional Medical Center. A funeral was held at 2 PM, Wednesday, February 12, at Epworth United Methodist Church with Rev. Dalma Cribb officiating. Interment followed in the Clinton City Cemetery. The family received friends from 6 PM - 8 PM, Tuesday, February 11, at Crumpler-Honeycutt Funeral Home, and at other times at the home. Edith, born in 1928 in Sampson County, was the daughter of the late, Ludie Fate Butler and Cleone Hobbs Butler. In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, Spencer Raeford Southerland, and siblings, Grace Myers, Lois Waters, Pauline Jones, Jimmie Butler and Tommy Butler. She retired from Hamilton Beach with over thirty-three years' service and was a member of Epworth United Methodist Church. Survivors include; children, Donnie Southerland and Diane S. Sutton (Wayne); grandchildren, Jennifer Britt (Jamie) and Heather Lockamy (Bobby); great grandchildren, Hailey Lockamy, Allyssa Britt, Dalton Britt, Dakota Britt, Alexia Lockamy and Taylor Lockamy; sister, Rebecca Price (Ken); and several nieces, nephews, friends and family. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.crumpler-honeycutt.com. Flowers are welcome or memorials may be made to Epworth United Methodist Church, 5876 Garland Hwy, Clinton, NC 28328.



FAYETTEVILLE

Ms. Nellie Grace Adcox, 85 passed away Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at Bethesda Healthcare Facility in Eastover. A Celebration of Life service will be held at 11:00am Saturday, February 15, 2020 at Stedman Church of God of Prophecy. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. She is preceded in death by her parents, Hubbard Jackson and Bertie Bullock Jackson; husband, Elmer Lee Adcox, Sr.; and sons, Donald Jackson and Elmer Lee Adcox, Jr. She is survived by her son, Bobby Jackson & wife, Toni; daughter, Rhonda Adcox; sisters, Joyce Bathke and Lois Smith; brother, Roy Jackson; 7 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren; and 6 great-great-grandchildren. Arrangements by Butler Funeral Home of Stedman

CLINTON

Annie Doris Carr 75 passed away on Thursday, February 6, 2020 at The Magnolia Nursing Center in Clinton. Home Going Service will be held at 2:00 pm on Saturday, February 15, 2020 at Hope Valley Hawkins Funeral Chapel, 1246 Hobbton Hwy. Clinton, burial will follow in the Roseboro Cemetery in the Snowhill Community, Marion Amos Road, Roseboro. A visitation for friends and family will be held on Friday, February 14, 2020 from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm at Hope Valley Hawkins Funeral Service & Cremation, 1246 Hobbton Hwy, Clinton.

CLINTON

Doris Evelyn Honeycutt, 87, of Blaney Street, Clinton, passed away Wednesday, February 12th. A funeral service will be held at 2 PM, Saturday, February 15, at Crumpler-Honeycutt Funeral Home with Rev. Anthony Smith officiating. Interment will follow at Grandview Memorial Garden. The family will receive friends from 1 PM to 2 PM, at the funeral home just before the service. Doris, born in 1932, was the daughter of the late Henry J. Andrews and Ellen Lane Andrews. She along with her husband, Bobby, were owner and operators of Bobby's Grill. In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, Bobby Honeycutt, son, Donald Glenn Honeycutt, and brothers, Leonard Andrews and Kelvin Andrews, and sister Martha Andrews Cottle. Survivors include: children, Terry and wife Beth Honeycutt and Sue Honeycutt; grandchildren, Garrett Honeycutt and Spencer Honeycutt; and brother, Melvin Andrews. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.crumplerhoneycutt.com.

CLINTON

Freda Ann Jacobs, 58, passed away Tuesday, February 11, 2020. Funeral service will be held at 3 PM, Friday, February 14th at New Bethel Baptist Church with Rev. Dr. Chris Webb officiating. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour before the service at New Bethel and at other times at 1236 Mt. Moriah Church Road, Clinton, NC. Freda, born September 26, 1961 in Sampson County, was the daughter of Norman Bailey Jacobs and Garnett Rains Jacobs. She attended New Bethel Baptist Church and O'Berry Neuro-Medical Treatment Center. Survivors are: parents, Norman Bailey Jacobs and Garnett Rains Jacobs; sisters, Julia Bell (Craig) and Tina Jacobs (Jonathan); nephews and nieces, Michael Bell, Ashley Bell, Scott Bell, Kich McCrimmon and Donovan McCrimmon; and seven great nieces and great nephews. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.crumpler-honeycutt.com.

GARLAND

Mr. Roger "Little Mac" Lennell McLymore, 62, of 474 West 2nd St., Garland, NC died Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at Fayetteville VA Medical Center in Fayetteville, NC. Mr. McLymore was born July 17, 1957 in Sampson County. Mr. McLymore is preceded in death by his mother Rosie McLymore, one sister Candace McLymore Carr and one brother James McLymore. A Memorial service will be held at 3:00 PM on Saturday, February 15, 2020 at Carter Funeral Home in Garland, NC.

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NASCAR THIS WEEK

The Daytona Beach News-Journal's Godwin Kelly & Ken Willis have covered NASCAR for nearly 60 years combined. godwin.kelly@news-jrnl.com and ken.willis@news-jrnl.com

SPEED FREAKS

A few questions we had to ask ourselves

Time to rethink the Clash or just let 'er rip?

GODSPEAK: Clash rhymes with crash, and the two have gone hand in hand for 42 years. Daniel Suarez skipped the Clash and he looks like a genius now.
KEN'S CALL: Would bumper cars be an obvious concession to the modern ways of this race? Nope, there's no answer, and at this point, the carnage is part of the charm, right?

Can Ricky Stenhouse Jr. go wire to wire from the pole?

GODSPEAK: The last guy who won the Daytona 500 from the pole was Dale Jarrett in 2000. It can happen, but don't count on it, and heavens, don't bet on it.
KEN'S CALL: Doubtful, since it's rather rare. But even if he does, trust me, it won't be as orderly as it would appear in the record books.

GODWIN'S PICKS FOR THE DAYTONA 500

WINNER: Brad Keselowski
REST OF TOP 5: Chase Elliott, Denny Hamlin, Kyle Larson, Matt DiBenedetto
FIRST ONE OUT: Ryan Preece
DARK HORSE: Tyler Reddick
DON'T BE SURPRISED IF: Keselowski collects his third NASCAR major and puts a big smile on Roger Penske's face.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 18:** Drivers who started the Busch Clash
- 6:** Cars that finished the Busch Clash
- 2:** Career Daytona wins by Erik Jones
- 13:** Overtime laps needed to complete Busch Clash
- 1:** Laps led by Erik Jones in the Busch Clash

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DAYTONA 500

THREE THINGS TO WATCH



Jimmie Johnson has his game face on for the 2020 NASCAR Cup Series. He plans to retire after this season. [AP/NICK WASS]

1. Johnson watch

A short time after running the 2019 season finale at Homestead-Miami Speedway, seven-time NASCAR champion Jimmie Johnson, 44, said the 2020 season would be his last as a full-time race driver. Johnson has been getting plenty of attention at Daytona International Speedway, where he will likely make his final Daytona 500 start on Sunday. Nervous? Nah. Johnson ran a half-marathon this past Sunday before racing.

2. Two weekends

Daytona and Charlotte Motor Speedway are the only tracks with back-to-back NASCAR racing weekends. The Daytona 500 is this Sunday and the first weekend does offer a few clues about what could happen in the 500. For instance, Chevy seems to have an engine advantage, while the Fords hold up better in draft conditions.

3. Happy Harvick

Kevin Harvick, 44, is

bucking the retirement trend that has sent the likes of Jeff Gordon and Tony Stewart to the lockers in recent years. He let it slip that he extended his contract with Stewart-Haas Racing when discussing a possible move to television. "For me, that will keep me in the car for a few more years as we go through 2023 and then we will see where we are at," he said. "That timing works well for me."

Godwin Kelly
godwin.kelly@news-jrnl.com

DAYTONA

THREE THINGS WE LEARNED

1. Crash-happy

The Busch Clash at Daytona International Speedway had so many multi-car crashes, only six cars from the 18-car starting field were around for the checkered flag. "That was one of the wildest things I've ever been in racing," said car owner Joe Gibbs. "That may never happen again."



This big pileup happened at the start-finish line during the Busch Clash at Daytona International Speedway. [N-J/DAVID TUCKER]

2. One for two

Erik Jones doesn't need to lead a lot of laps to score Daytona wins. He won the 2018 Coke Zero Sugar 400 by leading the last lap. He repeated that one-lap performance to win the Busch Clash. "It was

a strange race," Jones said. "Craziest race I've ever been in, let alone won."

3. Junior's pole

Ricky Stenhouse Jr. was cut by Roush Fenway Racing after the 2019 season and found a

ride at JTG-Daugherty Racing. He shocked the NASCAR Nation when he took the No. 47 Chevrolet to Daytona 500 pole honors after being clocked at 194.582 mph.

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

QUESTIONS & ATTITUDE

Compelling questions ... and maybe a few actual answers

First-weekend takeaways?

Two come to mind. First, if I'm ever in line behind Joey Logano at Publix checkout and get waved over to a free cashier, I'm gonna think twice about going around, especially if I have eggs in the cart. Second, Hailie Deegan has come to stock-car racing's next level with a certain plan, and unlike Joey, her plan is to avoid mayhem when possible. So far, at least.

Will both situations last?

With Joey, yes, he's long made it known he doesn't like giving up a position, even at Daytona speeds. He's pushing 30 and might be very set in his ways, which is fine — we like the occasional chaos. With Hailie, her stated desire to "play nice," at least in the early going, suggests someone at Ford might've officially offered that advice. But she'll give us another reason to watch ARCA races this year.

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

CUP STANDINGS

Final standings from the 2019 NASCAR Cup Series

1. Kyle Busch	5040
2. Martin Truex Jr.	5035
3. Kevin Harvick	5033
4. Denny Hamlin	5027
5. Joey Logano	2380
6. Kyle Larson	2339
6. Ryan Blaney	2339
8. Brad Keselowski	2318
9. Clint Bowyer	2290
10. Chase Elliott	2275
11. William Byron	2274
12. Alex Bowman	2257
13. Kurt Busch	2237
14. Aric Almirola	2234
15. Ryan Newman	2219
16. Erik Jones	2194
17. Daniel Suarez	846
18. Jimmie Johnson	835
19. Paul Menard	777
20. Chris Buescher	729

WHAT'S ON TAP

(All times Eastern)

CUP SERIES: 150-mile Duel qualifying races
SITE: Daytona International Speedway (2.5-mile tri-oval)
SCHEDULE: Thursday, race (Fox Sports 1, 7 p.m.)

CUP SERIES: Daytona 500
SITE: Daytona International Speedway
SCHEDULE: Sunday, race (Fox, 2:30 p.m.)

XFINITY: NASCAR Racing Experience 300
SITE: Daytona International Speedway
TV SCHEDULE: Friday, practice (Fox Sports 1, 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m.). Saturday, qualifying (Fox Sports 1, 11 a.m.), race (Fox Sports 1, 2:30 p.m.)

GANDER RV & OUTDOORS TRUCK SERIES: NextEra 250
SITE: Daytona International Speedway
TV SCHEDULE: Thursday, practice (Fox Sports 2, 1 p.m.; Fox Sports 1, 5:30 p.m.). Friday, qualifying (Fox Sports 1, 3 p.m.), race (Fox Sports 1, 7:30 p.m.)



KEN WILLIS' TOP 10 NASCAR DRIVER RANKINGS

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