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SAMPSON COUNTY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

The Sampson Weekly

FREE



VOLUME 10, ISSUE 8

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Week of February 22-28, 2019

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New Emergency Operations Center Could Top \$7 million



At the Sampson County Planning Session last week, commissioners were presented plans for a new Emergency Operations Center that could top \$7 million to complete. The only problem, how to pay for it.

In July of 2018, the Board of Commissioners awarded a contract to The Wooten Company to conduct a space needs study for a new EMS facility. The \$8500 price tag for the study was covered by State grant funding, thanks to Senator Brent Jackson. County officials hope the study will provide a basis for planning and budgeting and will be used as a component of non-loan (grant funding) applications in the near future.

The current EMS building, located on Northeast Blvd in Clinton, [EMS, see P.4](#)

Rise UP-Rejoice 2019 Conference Slated for Saturday February 23rd



The 7th annual Rise UP Conference hosted by Tim's Gift Inc. and sponsored by local businesses and individuals will be held at Sampson County Agri-Expo Center on Saturday, February 23rd, 2019. The theme for this year's local event is Rise UP – Rejoice.

According to event coordinator Becky Spell-Vann, "Rising UP to Rejoice is a local, free event that gives people of all ages the opportunity to enjoy Christian fellowship, food, fun, faith filled mission activities, praise and worship...all made possible by God's Grace and the goodness of businesses sponsoring and people volunteering! Experiencing God's plans panning out piece by piece has humbled this old country chic who is crazy in love with the One who made me and opened doors to serve Him in ways beyond my wildest dreams! Yes, Rise UP - Rejoice - the 7th Christian celebration - hosted by Tim's Gift has special significance and is shaping up to be one you won't want to miss!"

Becky continued, "Let me count the ways He has provided and put things in place for an event packed full of HIS Amazing Grace! "REJOICE" was the unanimous choice for this year's Rise UP focus which seems a perfect fit for 2019 when factions divide, and sin saturates across God's creation. Satan paints a picture of hatred and horrific happenings hoping to suppress rejoicing and stop close relationships with our heavenly Father and families. There were many hurdles and headaches while planning for Rise UP - Rejoice; yet, the enemy did not have his way and stop the 7th Christian celebration which will be held in Clinton on February 23rd at the Agri Expo Center with kick off time at 1:30pm Saturday!"

Youth will enjoy an afternoon from 2 - 3 pm filled with local and foreign mission activities : making 300 tie dye t-shirts that will be delivered to Children's Cancer Center in Atlanta, Ga - cutting old blue jeans and men's button down shirts to sew dresses and tops that will be shipped to three African countries led by Julie Bannister whose min-

[RISE UP, see P. 3](#)

WEATHER

Fri	Rain	90%
Hi: 56°	Lo: 42°	
Sat	Rain	90%
Hi: 48°	Lo: 47°	
Sun	AM Rain	60%
Hi: 73°	Lo: 38°	
Mon	Partly Cloudy	0%
Hi: 59°	Lo: 34°	
Tues	Partly Cloudy	0%
Hi: 64°	Lo: 43°	
Wed	AM Rain	60%
Hi: 65°	Lo: 42°	

WEEKLY VERSE

We give thanks to you, O God, we give thanks, for your Name is near; men tell of your wonderful deeds.
Psalm 75:1

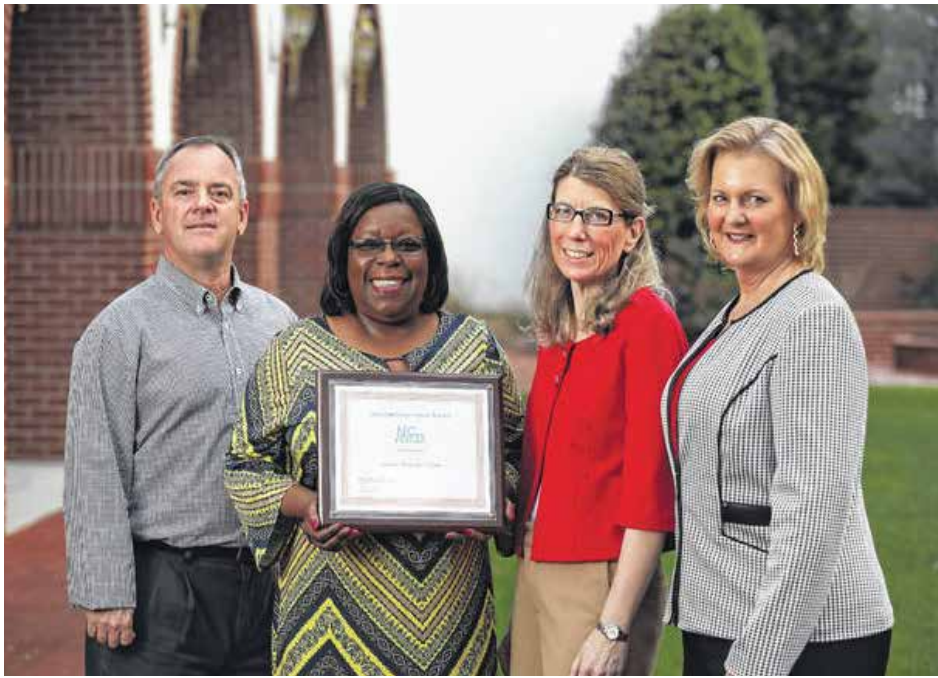
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Lighthouse Awarded to Two Sampson Schools



Sunset Avenue School: Jeff Royal- teacher, Principal Vanessa Brown, Assistant Principal Julie Malcolm, Karen Wrench- teacher (courtesy photo)

Sunset Avenue School and Plain View Elementary School have yet another plaque on their walls, recognizing each school for performance growth and success. Both schools were recently awarded the 2019 North Carolina Association

[LIGHTHOUSE, see P. 4](#)

Save Big with the Pig! in Garland

Preferred Angus Bnls New York Strip Steak \$5.99/lb

Preferred Angus Sirloin Tip Roast \$2.99/lb

Springer Mountain Farms Whole Chickens \$0.99/lb

Armour Meat Hotdogs 5/\$5

12oz links or patties Swaggerty's Sausage 2/\$5

12oz thick or regular Jesse Jones Bologna \$1.79

16oz Hormel Black Label Bacon \$3.99

16oz Swaggerty's Roll Sausage 2/\$5

18.4oz Prairie Fresh Prime Marinated Pork Tenders \$3.99

7oz John Morrell off-the-bone Sandwich Meat 2/\$5

2lb Seabest Tilapia Fillets \$6.99

1lb Seabest Cooked Salad Shrimp \$7.99

3pk XL Slicing Tomatoes 2/\$5

5lb bag All Purpose creamy Red Potatoes \$2.99

16oz Borden American Cheese Singles 2/\$5

128oz Turkey Hill Tea 2/\$5

48oz Turkey Hill Ice Cream 2/\$5

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LOCAL NEWS

From the Desk of Senator Brent Jackson

I hope you are all having a great week. This week was Future Farmers of America Legislative Day here in Raleigh. I was joined by multiple FFA organizations throughout the district including Hobbton, Midway, Lakewood, Princeton, and Harrells High Schools (all pictured below). It was a pleasure getting to know them all and talking to them about the importance of Ag. Education in both the state legislature and throughout our state.



I also had the opportunity to speak at the Ag. Teachers' Association Meeting with their FFA Students (pictured below). I enjoyed being able to stress the importance of agriculture in education and in the policies within the General Assembly. Our future looks full of successes with these fantastic young students working towards careers in North Carolina's most crucial industry.



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

From the District Duplin County Hurricane Florence Recovery Roundtable

Today, Congressman David Rouzer announced details for a Hurricane Recovery Roundtable, an information session and overview of the critical recovery efforts led by non-profits and companies.

The roundtable will take place at the Ed Emory Auditorium, located at 165 Agriculture Drive, in Kenansville on Monday, March 4 from 6-8 p.m.

The Hurricane Recovery Roundtable seeks to provide constituents with the opportunity to learn more about services available to those still recovering from Hurricane Florence. Members of the public will also have the opportunity to learn more about services provided by visiting booths set up by local non-profits and companies.

Representatives from the following organizations will be present at the Hurricane Recovery Roundtable: Federal Emergency Management Agency, North Carolina Department of Public Safety, North Carolina Farm Bureau, Salvation Army, Food Bank of Eastern North Carolina, Duplin County Recovery, Habitat for Humanity, Duke Energy, North Carolina Cooperative Extension.

All constituents are encouraged to attend. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and the roundtable will begin at Sampson County

Sampson Queens Crowned

Miss Greater Sampson County and Miss Greater Sampson County's Outstanding Teen were crowned Sunday, Feb. 17, at the Sampson County Exposition Center. Carli Batson is the new Miss Greater Sampson County and Taylor Beach is the new Miss Greater Sampson County's Outstanding Teen. Congratulations!



District Spotlight North Carolina Couple Named Outstanding Young Farmers



Brandon and Jessica Batten of Johnston County, North Carolina, were selected national winners at the 63rd annual National Outstanding Young Farmers Awards Congress held Feb. 7-10 in Bettendorf, Iowa. Four national winners were selected from a group of 10 finalists for the award based on their progress in an agricultural career, extent of soil and water conservation practices, and contributions to the well-being of the community, state, and nation. Guest Master of Ceremonies Orion Samuelson announced the four national winners and interviewed them for an upcoming episode of This Week in Agribusiness. The three other national winners for 2019 are from Iowa,

Maryland, and Illinois. National winners received a savings bond from corporate sponsor John Deere and the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., during National Ag Week in 2020. Congratulations on this fantastic award. Our community is lucky to have folks like you representing North Carolina Agriculture.

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



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Hospital volunteers help couple celebrate 64 years of marriage



James & Helen Vann with blankets donated to SampsonRMC

February 20, 2019, was a dreary, cold day that most individuals were having to endure, but for one patient and his wife, it was a day of warm sunny memories. James Robert Vann was not getting ready for his wedding day as he had done 64 years ago, but instead was spending time as a patient at Sampson Regional Medical Center. Although he would gladly wish to be spending this day in a sunny location, he was just as happy to have his wife by his side.

As a member of the Dunn Clowns, Sudan Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., and the South Eastern, South Atlantic and International Clown Association, he has had many opportunities to bring joy and help to those in need. Helen Vann, James' wife, recalls fond memories of her husband playing "Robin" the sad clown. "He may have had a sad face painted on the outside, but inside he was smiling to see the joy and laughter that it brought to the kids' faces," recalled Helen. Over his years of service, he along with other Sudan members, have helped many children requiring medical assistance, so to him helping others just comes naturally.

The Vann's shared this story with Judy Naylor, director of Volunteer Services for Sampson Regional Medical Center. "As part of our hospital volunteer program, we round on our patients to see if there are any needs that we could assist with. This day a request for coffee and a blanket brought an even greater story," shared Naylor. With the presentation of the blanket, a story is shared on the random act of kindness of one Midway High School Beta Club member, Abby Baggett. Baggett made it her personal goal to collect and donate 100 blankets to the hospital to be distributed to patients.

Each blanket has a tag that reads: No act of KINDNESS no matter how small is ever wasted - Aesop. "This random act of kindness from one individual has gone on to bless many patients and their family members as they have received care at Sampson Regional," explained Naylor. Blankets are distributed to any patients that request an additional blanket, children that are hospitalized, and patients celebrating a birthday during their stay. "We want each patient's stay to be a happy experience," added Naylor.

With the presentation of the blanket, it brought tears to Mrs. Vann's eyes. Such a simple gesture can spark so many emotions and memories. Recalling her own experience as a former Beta member she had great pride in sharing that she was able to use her own Midway Beta Club pin from years ago to pin on her granddaughter at her Beta Club induction ceremony. As her story continued, she also shared that they too were celebrating a milestone that day, their 64th wedding anniversary, so the presentation of the blankets was even more special.

When asked what the secret is to a long happy marriage, Mrs. Vann shared "Patience and understanding. With a long successful marriage, you go through seasons and with each new season you must be willing to change." Mr. Vann grinned with a half-smile and replied with persistence, "I asked her for seven years before she ever said yes!" Although his feet were

cold this day, he said his feet were hot the day of the wedding. "I didn't have cold feet 64 years ago, I had hot feet! I wanted to be married before she changed her mind," declared Mr. Vann.

Volunteers presented the Vann's with a special card signed by the staff, cake, and balloons to celebrate their special day. "Although we are not their real family, we celebrated like family and we hope we made this day extra special for them," stated Naylor.

What seemed to be a simple gesture of Sampson Regional's volunteer staff, turned into a story of love and giving that has spanned many years. "At the start of my day, my intention was to check in on a family member of a patient that had a need for coffee, but I got so much more in return. I learned our café staff not only brought a fresh pot of coffee, but hand delivered a cup especially to her. It makes me proud that I work with such caring staff at SampsonRMC," said Naylor.



James Vann as Robin

A random gift shared with a patient touched their hearts and their story of love and patience will forever be remembered by all.

If you are interested in sharing your time and talents or would like to make a donation to Sampson Regional Medical Center, please contact Judy Naylor, director of Volunteer Services, at 910-592-8511 ext. 8563.



Left to Right: Volunteers Linda Williams, Jackie Chapman, Jacki Kubik, Helen Vann (wife), Judy Naylor, Director of Volunteer Services, James Vann (patient)

New Masonry Academy Expands Student Opportunities



Ginger Stone, Director for Instructional Management/Curricular Supp. & Development, with Sampson County Schools gave a presentation to school board members on Tuesday morning at the February work session. The presentation was concerning the new Masonry Academy that will be starting up in March.

Stone explained why the new program is being implemented, "In an effort to provide a skills program to junior and senior students who do not want to obtain a degree, Sampson County Schools, Sampson Community College (SCC), and Employment Security Commission have joined in a partnership to offer a Masonry Academy. The goal is that the program will be open to approximately 12 students and will be at no cost to the student. Students will not get high school credit for the course but upon completion of the program have the opportunity to earn NCCER certification and someone to assist them with job placement."

Sampson Community College will be providing the instructor for the class through Continuing Education. Cost of the course (\$180.00- Tuition, 60 cent- Insurance and \$100.00-Book) will be paid for through grant funds. Employment Security Commission (WIOA) has agreed to pay for any supplies the students will need if they qualify for their program. Employment Security Commission has also committed to help provide the transportation for the students if they have a need and qualify.

According to Mrs. Stone, "We did not want transportation to be a barrier for any student who wanted to participate in the program."

Schedule for new start-up program:

- Tentative start date: March 2019
- Tuesday and Thursday at Sampson Community College Greenhouse
- 4:30 – 7:30pm
- Time allotted for a break. Employment and training will provide food/snacks during the break.
- Program length: 4 years total; 2 years as a high school student and 2 years as a SCC student

Stone stated that "CTE is very excited about this program and the opportunities it could provide for our students."

RISE UP, cont. from P. 1

istry is 'Stitches from the Heart', making Blessings Bags and messages of Jesus' love (50 to be shipped to Sierra Leon - 50 to Kenya (where Pastor Dwayne Dunning's brother is a missionary) and 40 to be shared locally - HQ Cheer with Angelique Young teaching sign language and sharing her healing from cancer- Prayer Walk in our City led by prayer warriors from CCC and Olive Grove Churches - Praise and Worship at Mary Gran and Southwood Nursing Centers led by Justin and Kristen Spell with Spellbinding Faith

The dinner hour is 4-5pm (meal by Love of Christ Ministries and US Foods), Good Samaritan, Encourager, and Youth Group Mission trophies will be given out at 5pm with praise music by Norrie Ellis of The Vine / Justin and Kristen Spell from First Baptist Church. The message will be shared by Rev. Russ Emanuel of Olive Grove Church 6-7pm. A love offering will be taken.

In explaining the roots of the conference, Becky explained, "In 2007, I stood in a huge coliseum in Charlotte with the Holy Spirit stirring to have a Christian celebration-revival-event in Clinton. Piece by piece for three years, it came together in my heart and my hometown with Rise UP -Recount Love being the first in 2012."

"We are grateful for each supporter and sponsor," stated Spell-Vann, "for youth leaders bringing their youth, for volunteers giving of their time and resources, for people coming to fill the chairs and feel the sweet spirit of our Lord and Savior tender hearts. It is By God's Grace that Rise UP Rejoice is happening in Clinton for the 7th year. We cannot begin to count the ways His blessings will be sent! Please stop by or come stay for the entire event."

Spell - Vann added, "Honoring local people doing good deeds is important. This year we felt led to continue the tradition to do just that by giving a RISE UP AWARD honoring a local citizen who helps people throughout our communities. One who does Good Samaritan deeds with humility and grace. The person chosen will receive an award and a gift card. We are so excited about this award which will be given each year to a deserving person who Rises Up and reaches out to help others." There will also be other awards given out this year as well, the Outstanding Your Group award and Tim's Gift Encourager award.

You can call Tim's Gift at 592-1126 for more information about Rise UP – Rejoice 2019.

LOCAL NEWS

EMS, cont. from P. 1

was constructed in 1956 and served as a National Guard facility until released to the County in 1995. It currently houses Emergency Management and Rescue, Fire Marshal and Property Addressing Services. During Hurricane Matthew and most recently Hurricane Florence in 2018, the parking lot to the building was flooded and threatened to enter the building near the 911 area. There were also major flooding issues at the Sheltee Trailer Staging area as well.

According to county officials, there is also a major need for more operational space. In the presentation last week, EMS officials stated that the "Emergency Operations Center needs expanding to accommodate effective ICS structure and rescue operations management." Other expressed needs include: more office space; breakout rooms for meetings; more storage space and a room for large equipment.

- EMS officials stated that the facility had major challenges. Challenges noted were:
- 1- Limited kitchen/food preparation and dining areas; difficult to support deployed county personnel and incoming state and federal assets.
 - 2- Limited restroom and shower facilities to accommodate deployed resources. No air conditioning in the restroom areas.
 - 3- 911 Center needs a larger space. Currently there is no ventilation in the 911 area. Additional office and storage space are also needed.
 - 4- Current Bay Area has no ventilation and needs an additional roll up door.
- Also mentioned was the need for a decontamination facility/area and more handicap accessibility.

LIGHTHOUSE, cont. from P. 1

for Supervision and Curriculum Development Lighthouse School Award. The award is presented annually to schools that have furthered student achievement in innovative and creative ways and have nurtured a positive and supportive school and community climate.

The prestigious award was only given out to 4 schools throughout all of North Carolina for 2019, two of them being located in Sampson County. These included Sunset Avenue School- Clinton City Schools, CD Owen High School- Buncombe County Schools, Plain View Elementary- Sampson County Schools and City of Medicine Academy- Durham Public School. Sampson County is proud of our two local schools, Sunset Avenue and Plain View Elementary for their achievements.

Sunset Avenue and Plainview both accepted their awards during the annual conference in Pinehurst February 6th-8th. In addition to a plaque, Sunset Avenue and Plainview received a check for \$1000.00 each.

Plain View Elementary's vision is "Watch us SOAR." Plain View's mission is to create a learning environment that is Safe, Orderly, Accountable, and Respectful, ensuring that every child will SOAR to their greatest potential.

Principal Nicole Peterson expressed delight when she learned of the honor. "Our teachers, support staff, parents, and students are so deserving of statewide recognition. We focus on ensuring that every child is learning at his or her potential to ensure that our students succeed. This award is a testament to the commitment we share."

Superintendent Dr. Eric Bracy echoed Peterson's praise. He stated, "Just four schools in the state were chosen as Lighthouse Schools for 2019 by the statewide curriculum association. For an elementary school in Sampson County Schools to receive this recognition is a tremendous honor for Plain View Elementary and our entire community. I am grateful to all who contributed to this achievement."

Plain View Elementary received a rating of "A" on the state's grading system. Sunset Avenue was the only school in the Clinton City School District to earn a rating of "B". Ratings were from the 2017-2018 school year.

Sunset Avenue School Principal Vanessa Brown stated that the staff and students at the school share a commitment to "high quality teaching and learning." Brown also stated that she is also very proud of the hard work that students, teachers, parents, and staff have done throughout the year to take Sunset Avenue from "good to great".

The 21-acre proposed site is located off of Commerce Street in Clinton (near current Sheriff's Office/Detention Center). The new building will have a footprint of approximately 25,187 sq. ft. Preliminary estimates are estimated at a price tag of \$6,900,000 which includes \$4,700,000 for the actual building, \$470,000 for furnishings, \$380,000 for site development, \$550,000 for construction contingency, \$495,000 for technical services, and county administrative & loan interest of \$305,000.

During Hurricane Florence, various state/federal/local assets were requested, received and managed through the Emergency Management including: 3 helicopters, 2 ambulance strike teams (each with 5 ambulances), 9 high clearance vehicles with National Guard crews, 5 water rescue teams, team of 8 telecommunicators, 3 forestry units, and 3 wildlife units. This also included an EOC overhead team from Santa Clara County, California. EOC activated and staffed for 9 days from September 12-21, 2018. Thirteen shelters were manned and operated over a period of 11 days. This included 11 general population shelters and one special needs shelter housing over 3200 people and one pet shelter housing nearly 200 pets.

During the presentation county officials noted, "Our top priority is a new EOC building."

Other EMS issues discussed were the needs for more incoming lines at the EOC building, the need for mobile phones for each of the 6 ICS section Chiefs, and a Smartboard so that all stations in EOC during an emergency or national disaster have the most up to date information to ensure consistency of message and improve efficiency.


The county has been revising their Emergency Operations Plan since Hurricane Florence and it will be presented to the Board of Commissioners on March 4th for adoption. Staff have also been working on Disaster Workforce Deployment and Disaster Equipment Recommendations which includes new generators for schools which serve as shelters and establishing generator capacity for the Expo Center. Also recommended was the construction of a new disaster warehouse behind the Expo Center. The new facility, according to county officials, needs to be approximately 10,000 sq. feet and will cost around \$450,000. Other equipment requested: an enclosed truck with a lift gate, 2 pallet jacks and 2 enclosed trailers.

After much discussion about the successes and challenges faced during Hurricane Florence, it was concluded by stating, "A coordinated structured response to an emergency or disaster produces the best outcome- for the public and for our employees."

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Plain View Elementary School: Starting from left (back): Shannon Honeycutt- Kindergarten Teacher, Dr. Linda Jewell Carr- Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, Kimberly Johnson- 2nd Grade Teacher, Wendy Cabral- Assistant Superintendent of Personnel Services, Dr. Eric Bracy- Superintendent. Front: Jennifer Davis- Media Coordinator, Nicole Peterson- Principal, Cynthia Lee- 5th Grade Teacher (courtesy photo)



Manager's Special

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We Should Know . . .



Billy Kennedy and Eddie Barnes with JW Simmons, Host of We Should Know

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

The topic for this week’s show is addiction and the guests today are Eddie Barnes, Outreach Minister at Clinton Community Church and Certified Recovery Coach; and Billy Kennedy, Human Services Technology Instructor at Sampson Community College and Chairperson of the Sampson County Substance Abuse Coalition.

JW Simmons begins the show asking Billy Kennedy to discuss his journey in Substance Abuse Recovery outreach with its beginnings as the Meth Task Force. Kennedy explains, “Yes, we worked together on the Gang Conference and then we kind of segued into the Sampson County Meth Coalition. We had it labeled the Meth Task Force but recognized that many other substances were effecting families, so we did change the name from the Meth Task Force to the Substance Abuse Coalition for that purpose to include all substances that could potentially be abused and affect families.”

Simmons says that a report in 2016 listed the top 20 cities in America for opioid abuse list 4 cities in North Carolina; Wilmington, Jacksonville, Fayetteville and Hickory, NC all within driving distance from Sampson County. He asks what impact that had on his guests in terms of what to do and where to go from there.

Eddie Barnes replies, “For me overall, to see we’re in the middle of those cities and how we can be a hub to that, and from a person of faith, since 2016 we’ve seen 3 people that are connected to our church be buried from opioid overdose, in some form whether it be nephew, a son or grandson or just someone trying to get their life back together. And it breaks our heart. This isn’t an issue that touches just big cities. This isn’t an issue on the west coast, or far up north. This is an issue that’s right around the corner.”

“We’ve had several family members asking for us to help their kids out. We saw a need and for us as a church, and me as a person that’s dealt with addiction – not opioid addiction but alcohol addiction – there’s a potential to change lives. For us, we wanted to be on the forefront personally in the ability to change lives in what would be considered a small town.”

Barnes goes on to explain the Sampson County has many corridors to large cities and that when drugs pass through, they likely make a stop here along the way. Another factor which

makes the opioid issue so difficult is it’s not a dirty drug on back streets, but rather a prescription from a doctor picked up at the pharmacy or the hospital. It’s even in your grandparents medicine cabinet.”

Barnes says that because of this, “It has to be fought on all fronts. When we see these statistics, we can’t turn a blind eye. We can’t be silent, and we can’t just ignore the needs of those around us. It gets to the point that we get scared, or don’t know what to do or try to ignore it saying its not a problem we have, when in reality it is.”

Barnes say that its much more than just telling a substance abuser to just stop, it is providing education and resources for them, but also for those around the addict that is also being impacted. Like cancer, Barnes says that nearly everyone has been touched by addiction through a family member or friend.

Kennedy affirms Barnes’ comments stating, “Opioids touches everyone. It used to be that we thought of it as someone else’s problem, but all of us have a story and a connection. And so, as we began working with the coalition and looking at things, we could do to make a difference we thought about education, training, support of parents and family members who are struggling with addiction.”

“One of the things I think is most important that we’ve accomplished, we were part of, and that was bringing Naloxone to the local community. To police officers and family members of those who have medications that are potentially dangerous. But also, family members who are worried about their loved ones. You can go to the local drug store and purchase Naloxone now. That wasn’t the case a couple of years ago. And I think we did have a part to play in that.”

Kennedy says one of their primary ways to bring education and resources to the community is an upcoming event called S.C.O.P.E. 4 Hope a Sampson County Opioid Summit.

The Sampson County Opioid Summit is scheduled for February 27th from 8:30am until 2:30pm at the Sampson County Exposition Center located at 414 Warsaw Road in Clinton. The event is titled S.C.O.P.E. meaning Sampson County Opioid Prevention & Education. There will be presentations by state and local representatives, personal testimonies, panel discussions, and a Q & A with local law enforcement, health providers, substance abuse & mental health professionals.

Local education, prevention and treatment resources at the summit will include the following:

- Emergency Care & Treatment- Shawn M. Howerton, MD, Chief Executive Officer and CMO Sampson Regional Medical Center
- Medication Take Back Program- Lt. Stokes McKoy, Clinton Police Department
- Naloxone Distribution Program- Kelly Parrish RN, Sampson County Health Department
- Access to Care- Melissa Reese, BS, Eastpointe
- Mobile Crisis & Services- Lakeshia King, MSW, LCAS-A, Easterseals UCP
- Behavioral Health Program- Brandi Burchett, LPCS, Commwell Health
- Spiritual Support for Recovery- Eddie Barnes, Pastor, Celebrate Recovery

Pre-registration is not required but is strongly encouraged. Lunch will be provided with registration. Register online at: <https://bit.ly/2rkd4V3>. For more information please visit www.sampsoncoalition.org. The Opioid Summit is sponsored by Sampson County and the Sampson County Substance Coalition.

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

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

SCC Receives Fire Truck for Training



(L-R) Dominic Orlando, Lead Instructor, Aleta Whaley, Director of Public Safety Training, Kellen Tucker, Jackson Gordon, Victor Tucker, Chief, Ridgeway Volunteer Fire Department, Brandon Gordon, Conner Gordon, Matthew Spell, SCC Fire Academy Cadet and Lee.

Sampson Community College was able to bolster its Fire Academy program this week through the donation of a fire truck from

the Ridgeway Fire Department, located in a town called Norlina, two hours northwest of Clinton.

The truck is a 1985 GMC and was the first truck the department purchased as an incorporated department in 1985. It is a tanker truck that holds can pump 1000 gallons of water a minute. Cadets from the college’s Fire Academy were on hand to pick up the truck.

Aaron Lee, who enrolled in SCC’s Fire Academy as a chance to better serve the community, was among those who went to claim the truck. “It was an opportunity to meet people from another fire department in a different area of the state,” says Lee. “It allowed us to see how they run their station, but to also thank them personally for their donation and to let them know the truck would be put to good use. I want to be a full-time fire fighter so any tool that can help me get there is most appreciated.”

The truck will immediately be used for the Fire Academy offered through the college’s Workforce Development and Continuing Education Department. The department will also be able to use the engine for additional firefighter certifications. Those courses offer studies in emergency medical care, fire alarm and commu-

nications, fire behavior, fire control, fire department organization and fire hose appliances and streams, among others.

SCC’s Fire and Technical Rescue programs prepare graduates for a career in Fire Service and/or to support local volunteer agencies. SCC serves as the North Carolina Department of Insurance Delivery Agency for Sampson County encompassing FireFighter, Driver Operator, Aerial, and Technical Rescue Specialties.

“It truly has been a great privilege getting to know the members of the Ridgeway Fire Department,” says Amanda Bradshaw, Dean of Workforce Development and Continuing Education. Bradshaw helped coordinate transfer of the fire truck. “As we meet volunteer firefighters from across the county and state they all emulate a great sense of pride for their communities, their departments and for the act of being a volunteer. The stewardship they show for the equipment that each of their departments receives is humbling and authentic. We can’t thank them enough.”

For more information about any of these programs at SCC, contact Aleta Whaley at 910.900.4018 or at awhaley@sampsoncc.edu.



Homicide on Trinity Church Road

On Saturday, February 16, 2019, around 10:00 PM, deputies with the Sampson County Sheriff’s Office along with Sampson County EMS responded to an unknown situation around the 2300 block of Trinity Church Road (inside Sampson County). A body was discovered inside the residence. Sufficient evidence was present to warrant a homicide investigation.

The victim of the homicide is identified as Barbara Anne Smith, age 55, of 2329 Trinity Church Road, Magnolia, NC.

Cause of death – Although the victim had multiple trauma wounds consistent with a homicide, the official cause of death is still pending a forensic medical exam by the Sampson County Medical Examiner.

Open House

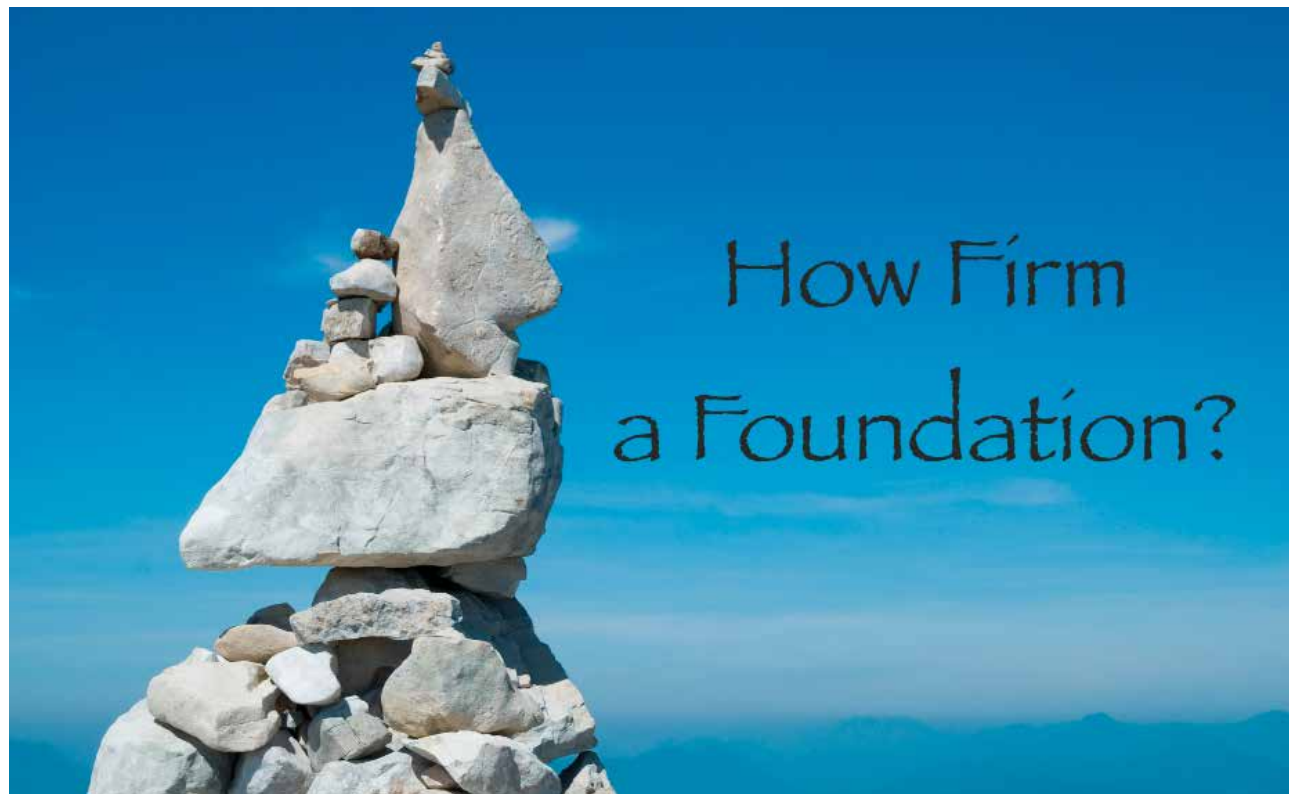
Mintz Christian Academy

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FAITH



1 Corinthians 3:10-11, "According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

Paul founded churches all over the Roman Empire, but everywhere he went, he laid exactly the same foundation that was to have faith in Jesus as the crucified and risen Son of God. Yet the churches he and others founded did not all look and act the same; they took on the characteristics, concerns and peculiarities of the men and women of that church. According to Paul, that's exactly how it should be so long as they all worshiped in harmony.

When Paul wrote the letter of First Corinthians, the congregation of the Corinthian believers had started to fracture; in part because they had turned to three different architects. In effect, one had designed the roof, another the walls and a third had made plans for the doors and windows. When the people tried to implement the various proposals, their discussions broke down into arguments over which designer's plans to follow.

One segment liked Peter because he was a disciple; another liked Apollos and his eloquent preaching; and another preferred Paul and his wise interpretation of Scripture. Paul said, "You can't build a church by following me or Peter or Apollos. There's only one architect and builder and that's Jesus Christ. All of us must follow Him."

Christians come in many stripes such as Baptist, Methodist, Pentecostals and many others. Often divisions exist even within each group, but we should strive to keep Jesus at the foundation of our worship.

When we forget that Christ is our only foundation, we slip into our own little kingdoms. We begin to look down our religious noses at other churches because they use a different Bible translation, sing from another type of hymnal or their worship style is just unfamiliar to us. Many of these religious divisions and disputes have been generated by issues, practices and traditions that are not part of the fundamentals of our faith.

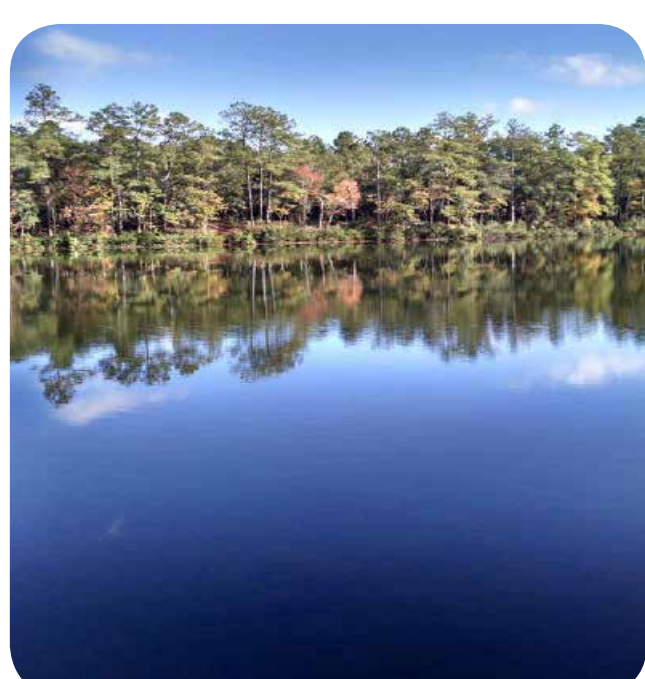
The Body of Christ is a glorious unity in diversity, but when we major on the minors, the spirit of factionalism replaces that of unity and peace. As Christians, we should have the boldness and courage to stand up and contend for the essentials of the faith, even if it means a lack of peace. We should never compromise the truth of the gospel for the sake of peace. However, we should be gracious and demonstrate kindness and tolerance for believers who disagree with us about the non-essentials. There are some things that are not clear enough in God's revelation for us to understand fully, but these are not the clearly revealed core issues of the faith.

In all things we should strive to be loving and gracious to other believers in the family of God. This week, I encourage you to remember the words of the apostle Paul found in Ephesians 4:4-6, "There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call - one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

Rev. Ken Smith
Pastor – Atkinson
Baptist Church



THE BEAUTIFUL NATURE OF MILLERS POND PARK



North Carolina is so blessed to have such a wonderful diversity of nature. From the ocean to the mountains, and everywhere in between, natural beauty abounds. Right here in South Eastern North Carolina is no exception.

One place to see some of that beauty nature has to offer is Millers Pond Park in Pender County, located on Highway 117 just south of Paul's Place before reaching the North-East Cape Fear River at Castle Hayne.

The park is centered around Millers Pond, a large pond that is surrounded by natural forest. There are also picnic tables and a play area for children. Kayaking and canoeing are allowed in the pond. But

no swimming!

Dogs are welcome as long as they are kept on a leash and the owners are required to clean up after their pets.

My husband, Holly (our little Chihuahua) and I recently visited Millers Pond Park. It was an absolutely beautiful day. The temperature was just right and just cloudy enough to make for a wonderful hike.

Starting out on the trail that goes all the way around the pond there is a sign that warns that poisonous snakes inhabit the area. So, you need to be observant and careful!

There weren't many people on the trail, so we just took our time and walked slowly and enjoyed the quiet beauty of nature. I noticed right away that there were a lot of native holly trees about. Large pine trees and a huge oak tree are along the trail as well.

In a natural hole in a tree along the trail we spied a painted rock "hidden" there to be found by the next observant person to come along! The back of the rock said it was painted by 910 Rocks! That was a happy little surprise!

Along the trail there were bear grass, vines with little yellow flowers, and several different small trees and bushes. I knew what several things were, but some species I couldn't name. I need to brush up on our local native flora!

Also found along the trail were ferns and moss. We also saw two stumps covered in mushrooms, as well as large "steps" mushrooms growing on a tree. There

were lots of different kinds of mushrooms growing amongst the fallen leaves on the ground. All of this made it look like this could be the forest home of fairies, elves, gnomes, brownies, and sprites! It was absolutely magical! I love finding mushrooms and I want to learn more about mushroom identification.

There is plenty of wildlife there as well. Standing on the decks by the water of the pond we easily saw fish swimming along, as well as a large frog who jumped into the pond with a plop!

We also saw a baby turtle on a log in the water. And several squirrels racing up and down trees and scurrying along branches, including one squirrel who sat in a holly tree amongst the ruby red berries like he was the owner of that tree!

There were some beautiful purple flowers growing by the restrooms and a dainty yellow butterfly was busy fluttering from bloom to bloom!

There was so much beautiful nature to see. Somethings unexpected, like finding a burl on a tree! It was so relaxing to just leisurely stroll along the trail and breath fresh air, and take in the awesome beauty of God's work. Just a wonderful quite peaceful afternoon. And Holly smelled everything in sight, much to her delight!

If you love nature, I highly recommend you visit Millers Pond Park and walk the trail. It's a great adventure and it doesn't cost a thing! A local treasure to enjoy.



By Carolyn Horrell Mintz



"Long ago even before He made the world, God chose us to be His very own, through what Christ would do for us. He decided then to make us holy in His eyes, without a single fault - we who stand before Him covered with His love. His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family by sending Jesus Christ to die for us. And He did this because He wanted to, God LOVED us even then."
Ephesians 1:3-5 Living Bible

And the One who had chosen to love, created you and me who could love in return, by placing in us a seed of choice. Now it is our choice!

This saying is prominently posted in our home: "The inheritance that matters most is a Godly LEGACY of authentic Christian faith that will impact members of future generations for good throughout eternity."

Billy Graham said: "Our days are numbered. One of the primary goals in our life should be to prepare for our last day. The LEGACY we leave is not just in our possessions, but in the quality of our lives. What preparations should we be making now? The greatest waste in all of our earth, which cannot be recycled or reclaimed, is our waste of the time God has given us each day."

To quote David Jeremiah: "Hopefully we all want to leave a LEGACY of faith and obedience, and Godly living; and

at the end of our earthly sojourns, we want God to have all the credit for any good we've done or any blessings we've imparted to others. Live today so, should God call you shortly home, you'll leave behind the testimony of a Christ devoted life filled with good deeds pointing to a loving Savior."

L eaving
E veryone
G odly
A nd
C hristlike
Y earnings

I love to work with acronyms, makes the thought easier to remember. Prayerfully, I came up with the one above for LEGACY, I trust it will be passed down through my family for generations to come.

Recently I shared this thought with a friend, and she was intrigued by the word "Yearnings". She reminded me that in the words of Jesus we as Christians are to be the "Salt of the earth". We all know that salt makes you thirst, thus we will yearn to be Christlike.

How very appropriate are these words from a Gaither song: "More of You, more of You I've had all but what I need Just more of You.

Of things I've had my fill
And yet I hunger still
Empty and bare
Lord hear my prayer for more of You."

Let us all be more loving, kind, thoughtful, and dedicated as Christians in this thirsty world, thus living out our LEGACY.



Martha M. Pierce

What's Happening

By Angela Martin

at **SCT**



Pocahontas is filled with laughter and glee...

Pocahontas is still in rehearsals and our costumes are beginning to take shape as our production is in sight. Pocahontas tells the story of the princess from the Algonquin nation that decided to become friends with the Jamestown settlers. It is a story of how to relate to others and how we are all the same. The message of peace, friendship and tolerance and acceptance to others are key focuses in our production and we are thrilled to be able to offer you that opportunity to see this fantastic show in person. Our show dates are March 22- March 31 with Friday and Saturday performances at 7:30 pm and Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:30 pm. The show is proudly directed by Angela Martin and is sponsored by Performance Dodge/Ford. The production is filled with lots of young people and lots of energy.

Our patron program is coming up and we are thrilled to be offering you the opportunity to be a part of our season. Our patron program is \$100 and this money pays for our season and offers you a chance to receive 2 tickets for each of our 6 productions throughout the year. It also provides the opportunity for you to have your name or your business placed in our programs throughout the season. Please consider this opportunity because this is our primary source of support for our productions. If interested please contact, Brenda Martin - 910-990-4510.



The Natives (Sasha Bazaluk, Reese Woodard and Evander Pope) stand back as our Wordspinner (Chloe Herring) sings about the Legend of Pocahontas. Show times are March 22-March 31 - with Friday and Saturday performances at 7:30 pm and Saturday and Sunday matinees scheduled for 2:30 pm. Sampson Community Theatre presents the musical "Pocahontas", with book by Vera Morris, music and lyrics by Scott DeTurk, directed by Angela Martin and proudly sponsored by Performance Automotive in Clinton. General admission is \$10.00. The theatre is located at 115 Fayetteville Street, Clinton, North Carolina. Call 910-592-8653 for more information.

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ALITA BATTLE ANGEL

NOW SHOWING

Rated: PG-13 for sequences of sci-fi violence and action, and for some language

Set several centuries in the future, the abandoned Alita (Rosa Salazar) is found in the scrapyard of Iron City by Ido (Christoph Waltz), a compassionate cyber-doctor who takes the unconscious cyborg Alita to his clinic. When Alita awakens she has no memory of who she is, nor does she have any recognition of the world she finds herself in. Everything is new to Alita, every experience a first.

Friday 6:30p
Sat & Sun 1:30p 4:30p 7:30p
Mon -Wed 6:30p



HAPPY DEATH DAY 2 U

NOW SHOWING

Rated PG-13 for violence, language, sexual material and thematic elements

Jessica Rothe leads the returning cast of this sequel to the 2017 movie. This time, our hero Tree Gelbman (Rothe) discovers that dying over and over was surprisingly easier than the dangers that lie ahead.

Friday 6:15p 8:30p
Sat & Sun 1:15p 3:30p 5:45p 8:00p
Mon -Wed 6:30p



LEGO MOVIE 2

NOW SHOWING

Rated: PG for mild action and rude humor

It's been five years since everything was awesome and the citizens are facing a huge new threat: LEGO DUPLO invaders from outer space, wrecking everything faster than they can rebuild. The battle to defeat them and restore harmony to the LEGO universe will take Emmet, Lucy, Batman and their friends to faraway, unexplored worlds, including a strange galaxy where everything is a musical.

Friday 6:30p
Sat & Sun 1:45p 4:15p 6:45p
Mon -Wed 6:30p



HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON

NOW SHOWING

Rated PF for adventure action and some mild rude humor

As Hiccup fulfills his dream of creating a peaceful dragon utopia, Toothless' discovery of an untamed, elusive mate draws the Night Fury away. When danger mounts at home and Hiccup's reign as village chief is tested, both dragon and rider must make impossible decisions to save their kind.

Friday 6:30p
Sat & Sun 1:15p 4:15p 6:45p
Mon -Wed 6:30p



WHAT MEN WANT

NOW SHOWING

Rated: R for language and sexual content throughout, and some drug material

Ali Davis (Taraji P. Henson) is a successful sports agent who's constantly boxed out by her male colleagues. When Ali is passed up for a well-deserved promotion, she questions what else she needs to do to succeed in a man's world... until she gains the ability to hear men's thoughts!

Friday 6:30p
Sat & Sun 1:30p 4:30p 7:30p
Mon -Wed 6:30p

**Senior Day Every
Wednesday at 11am
\$2.00 Movies
(seniors only)**



Pasta and Chicken in Garlic Cream Sauce

Recipe courtesy of Milk Means More
Prep time: 30 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Servings: 8

- 4 slices bacon, cut crosswise into 1/2-inch-wide pieces
- 3/4 pound boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into 3/4-inch pieces
- 10 ounces (about 4 cups) farfalle (bow tie) pasta
- 2 1/2 cups reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 1/2 teaspoons dried Italian seasoning
- 1/2 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 3 cups baby spinach leaves
- 1 cup halved cherry tomatoes, for garnish

Place removable pan inside programmable pressure cooker. Using saute function, cook bacon, uncovered, until crisp. Use slotted spoon to remove bacon from pan. Drain bacon on paper towels. Leave 1 tablespoon drippings in pan; discard remaining.

Add chicken to bacon drippings in pan in two batches. Using saute function, stir-fry chicken 2-3 minutes, or until cooked through. Use slotted spoon to remove chicken from pan. Repeat until all chicken is cooked. Press cancel.

Stir pasta, broth, garlic, Italian seasoning and pepper into drippings in pan. Secure lid and set pressure release to sealing function. Select high pressure setting and cook 5 minutes. Press cancel.

Allow pressure to release naturally 5 minutes. Move pressure release to venting function to release any remaining steam. Remove lid.

Stir cream into pasta mixture. Using saute function, cook and stir, uncovered, until boiling. Boil, uncovered, about 4 minutes, or until sauce generously coats pasta, stirring frequently. Press cancel. Stir in chicken and Parmesan cheese.

Place spinach and bacon in large bowl. Pour pasta mixture over top. Toss until combined. Ladle into serving bowls. Top each serving with tomatoes.

Pasta and Chicken in Garlic Cream Sauce

Family-Favorite Comfort Foods

3 dairy-inspired dishes for weeknight dinners

FAMILY FEATURES

Warm meals that come together quickly are a necessity for busy families, especially on weeknights filled with homework, practices, meetings and more. Serving up comfort foods that require less time in the kitchen make for more moments spent together at the table.

Hearty and satisfying, this Chicken and Wild Rice Soup can bring everyone together for a warm, soothing meal, while Cheesy Turkey Chili Mac makes

for familiar fare enjoyed by adults and kids alike. For a rich, creamy, one-dish dinner solution, Pasta and Chicken in Garlic Cream Sauce requires less than 45 minutes of kitchen duty, making it an ideal weeknight family-favorite.

These dairy-fueled recipes from Milk Means More of Michigan can be part of a healthy diet that includes fruits, vegetables, grains, fat-free or low-fat dairy and a variety of protein foods.

Find more weeknight meal solutions at milkmeansmore.org.

Chicken and Wild Rice Soup

Recipe courtesy of Milk Means More
Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 1 hour

- 1 cup shredded carrots
- 1/2 cup finely chopped onion
- 1/2 cup sliced celery
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons butter or clarified butter
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 4 ounces (about 2/3 cup) wild rice, rinsed and drained
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme leaves
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 12 ounces skinless, boneless chicken breast halves, cut into 3/4-inch pieces

- 1 cup plain low-fat Greek yogurt
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1/2 cup whipping cream

In Dutch oven, cook carrots, onion, celery and garlic in hot butter about 2 minutes, or until tender, stirring occasionally.

Stir broth, wild rice, thyme, salt and pepper into vegetable mixture. Bring to boil. Reduce heat. Simmer, covered, 40 minutes. Stir in chicken pieces. Return to simmer, covered, 10-15 minutes, or until rice is tender and chicken is done.

In small bowl, whisk together yogurt and flour. Gradually whisk in cream. Stir into chicken mixture. Cook and stir over medium heat until boiling. Boil 1 minute. Ladle into bowls.



Cheesy Turkey Chili Mac

Cheesy Turkey Chili Mac

Recipe courtesy of Milk Means More
Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Servings: 8

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 pound lean ground turkey
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 can (15 1/2 ounces) kidney beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 can (15 ounces) no-salt-added tomato sauce
- 1 can (14 1/2 ounces) diced tomatoes with green chili peppers
- 1 2/3 cups reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 8 ounces (about 1 3/4 cups) elbow macaroni
- 1/2 cup 2 percent or whole milk
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 cups (8 ounces) shredded Mexican blend cheese

- 3/4 cup plain fat-free Greek yogurt or sour cream

Place oil in removable pan of programmable pressure cooker. Place pan in pressure cooker. Using saute function, heat oil until hot. Add turkey and onion. Cook, uncovered, about 5 minutes, or until turkey is no longer pink, stirring to break up. Press cancel. Stir in beans, tomato sauce, diced tomatoes, broth, chili powder, garlic salt and pepper. Stir in macaroni. Secure lid and set pressure release to sealing function. Select high pressure setting and cook 5 minutes.

Allow pressure to release naturally 2 minutes. Move pressure release to venting function to release any remaining steam. Remove lid. Stir macaroni mixture. Whisk together milk and flour. Stir into macaroni mixture. Using saute function, cook and stir, uncovered, 1-2 minutes, or until boiling. Press cancel.

Stir cheese into macaroni mixture until melted. Ladle into serving bowls. Spoon dollops of yogurt or sour cream on top.



Chicken and Wild Rice Soup

PERFORMANCE AUTO "STAR ATHLETE OF THE WEEK"

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Clinton's Javiah Cruse Signs with Winston-Salem State



Linebacker ready to prove himself at the next level

Clinton High School senior linebacker Javiah Cruse said he is more than excited about playing college football in the fall.

"Most definitely," the 18-year-old said Wednesday evening. "I am ready to take the next step. I look at it just like I did when I was little – you go to elementary school, middle school, high school and then college – for me, it is the natural next step up and I am really excited about playing football at the college level."

His childhood dream of playing in college became official last week (February 6) when he signed to play football at Winston-Salem State University in front of family, friends, coaches and teammates in Clinton High School's Media Center.

Recruiters from Winston-Salem have had their eye on Cruse, who also plays tackle on offense, for some time now – in fact, the 6-foot, 1 inch, 220-pound Cruse was the Rams highest football recruit.

"It was a great feeling (to sign)," he says. "I am really excited about what lies ahead for me. They have been really texting me and checking in on me just about every day. That really keeps me going."

In his final season as a Dark Horse, the team finished at 8-3 overall, falling to Kinston in the second round of the NCHSAA 2-A State Football Playoffs – a finish that was remarkable considering that the team started the season with a new head coach – Cory Johnson - (and coaching staff), that came in completely different offensive and defensive schemes.

"Of course, everyone has their reasons for wanting to keep going another season or another couple of games,"

Cruse explains. "For me, I would like to have more games because we came in having to learn and execute ... I think we were right there of putting both together."

He credits the chemistry of the team (most have been playing together since middle school) and Johnson for completely changing up the system and making it a success.

"I will be honest with you," Cruse says, "I was really surprised. He came in – took what he had and made something out of it ... He did a great job."

Born in Poughkeepsie, New York and raised in Sampson County, Cruse says he didn't begin his foray into sports until he got into middle school.

"Well, when I was a kid nobody in the family was really into sports," he explained. "I was more focused on my Bible studies. To be honest, I was the type of kid who stayed home; a homebody ... When I got a little older, I started branching out and got involved with sports."

In his sixth-grade year, Cruse volunteered as manager for head coach Tracy Thornton.

"I saw other players around me excelling and I wanted to get in there and play too," he said. "Now, they let you play (sports) in the sixth grade, but back then they didn't." In his seventh-grade year, Cruse became a member of the football team, playing center – a position he stayed at until high school. Because of his speed and size, it was suggested that he'd be good as a linebacker.

"So, I went home and studied YouTube videos on how to play the linebacker position," he admits. "I have been there ever since."

It's a position that Cruse excelled at throughout his high school career and one he looks to continue in college and,

hopefully, one day, in the National Football League (NFL).

"That is my ultimate dream, yes sir," he said. "I don't know who I would want to play for – really, anyone who would have me (laughs). It doesn't matter."

Since signing to become a Ram last week, Cruse has continued a brutal training schedule that has him starting workouts at 5 a.m. six days a week.

"It's mostly cardio," he admits. "But I am running at least four times a day, six days a week."

When asked why he is working so hard, Cruse says that he is set out to prove that the recruits at Winston-Salem State University got it right.

"I knew that I wanted to sign with them since the first round of the playoffs (in early November 2018)," the standout admits. "I knew that at some other schools I would have no guarantees. I would have to walk on or do something else. Honestly, my mindset wasn't about which college I wanted to go to ... It was really who wanted me."

Cruse said that is one of the reasons that he made his decision to become a Ram.

"The recruiters kept coming at me," he said. "I really liked everything that he was telling me. I made multiple trips to the campus to make sure ... I went to a basketball game in January and I knew it just felt right. The weather was bad, but inside that gym – it was lit. I knew it was the school that I wanted to go to."

Although he is still undecided about what he will study while in college, Cruse knows that he is ready to move on to the next chapter of his life.

"I am going to enjoy my final year (at CHS) and when I get done, I am not going to look back," he said. "I am very excited about moving on."

However, Cruse admits that the memories he has made at the high school will stick with him forever. The main one taking place this past football season.

"I will always remember the atmosphere here in Dark Horse Stadium," he admits. "The crowds that show up here during our home games – there really is nothing like it. When we had Wallace-Rose Hill come in here and we beat them ... in our house! Man, that crowd really makes you feel good." In fact, the support Cruse has received has been crucial to his success – starting with his faith.

"I want to thank God, who will always be first," he said. "I also want to thank all of the Clinton High School coaching staff; All my boys; 'JB'; Coach Johnson; Coach McFadden; and Mohamed Kaba ..."

He continues, "And most importantly, all of my doubters." Congratulations Javiah! Here's to getting a jump-start on your dreams.

PERFORMANCE AUTOMOTIVE SALUTES THE STUDENT ATHLETE OF THE WEEK!

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EDUCATION

Clinton High DECA Attends Conference



On Tuesday, February 5th, Clinton High School's DECA left from the Raleigh-Durham International Airport on a flight to Orlando, Florida. In Orlando, DECA students attended the national Sports and Entertainment Marketing Conference. Students that attended were: Olivia Willford, Taylor Spell, Kendall Spell, Adrian Donatelli, Redden Simmons, Holden Champion, Shawn Matthews, Maegan Byrd, Carrington Dirks, Halin Pearson, Olivia Gillespie. Students were chaperoned by Sharon Spell and the CHS DECA advisor, Venetia Mann.

The Sports and Entertainment conference reinforced concepts taught in sports and entertainment marketing courses. Students heard speakers that worked in Marketing, Sales and Operations, Content Engagement, Strategic Partnerships, and Consumer Insights within the sports and entertainment field. Some of the guest speakers worked for Universal, the Orlando Magic, AdventHealth, Golf Channel, and AAU Sports. The guest speakers touched on topics including the nature of target marketing, the issue of pricing, ticket sales, advertising media, career opportunities, the economic impact of sports and entertainment events and much more. Students had the opportunity to spend several days in the parks of Disney World and Universal Studios where students were able to see real life examples of what Mrs. Mann teaches every day in class; sponsorships, marketing techniques, and endorsements in the parks. DECA students also experienced the incredible performance by Blue Man Group.

US Congressman David Rouzer Visits UMO



US Congressman David Rouzer visited the University of Mount Olive Kornegay Student Farm to discuss opportunities for students pursuing an education in agriculture. Dr. David Poole. (L-R): Austin Rash, a junior agricultural education major from Iredell County; Mackenzie Hall, a junior animal science major from Davidson County; Congressman David Rouzer; James Johnson, a junior agricultural education from Johnston County.

SAMPSON COUNTY SCHOOLS 2019 Kindergarten Registration Clinics

Plain View Elementary	March 1, 2019
Hobpton Elementary	March 29, 2019
Hargrove Elementary	April 5, 2019
Union Elementary	April 8-9, 2019
Roseboro Elementary	April 11, 2019
Midway Elementary	April 12, 2019
Clement Elementary	April 17, 2019
Salemburg Elementary	April 18, 2019



****Please contact the school in your district to schedule an appointment for your child to attend the clinic.**

Copies of the child's birth certificate and immunization record are required for the clinic.

If your child has not had their Health Assessment done prior to the clinic date, please schedule an appointment with your child's physician or your local Health Department as soon as possible. **These physicals are required by State Law to be completed within 30 days of the beginning of school and no earlier than one year prior to school enrollment.**

At the present time, North Carolina State Law requires a Comprehensive Vision Screening by a health care provider prior to beginning Kindergarten. If your child fails the vision screening, the health care provider will refer your child to an ophthalmologist or optometrist for a complete vision exam.

****All children who reach age five on or before August 31 are eligible for entry into Kindergarten.**

SCC Fire Academy Continues to Gain Support



Pictured left to right are; Chief Williams, SCC Fire Academy cadets Emmanuel Howell, Rialey Garcia, Crystal Weber, Aaron Lee, Karah Smith, Dyllan Edge, Katelyn Barefoot, Jorge Juanchi, Matthew Spell and Assistant Chief, Hagan Thornton.

Less than a week after receiving a donated fire truck, Sampson Community College accepted another gracious donation for its Fire Academy Program. The program, offered through the college's Workforce Development and Continuing Education Department, continues to progress and receive support for its efforts.

Chief Alan Williams, of Taylor's Bridge Fire Department in Clinton, donated turnout gear to SCC's Fire Academy to be used for training at the college. Taylor's Bridge was the last established fire department in the county, with one of the largest response areas.

Dominic Orlando, Lead Instructor for SCC's program say the donation goes a long way with training firefighters at the academy. "The turnout gear that was donated by Taylor's Bridge FD will allow students to train in gear without fear of damaging their departments gear," says Orlando. "It will also benefit those students that are not affiliated with a fire department and cannot afford to rent or purchase gear to have a set of gear they can use during training events."

The donation came just after another major donation to the academy. Last week, the Ridge-way Fire Department in Norlina, North Carolina, donated a fire truck to the program. The truck is a 1985 GMC and was the first truck the department purchased as an incorporated department in 1985. Cadets from the college's Fire Academy were on hand to pick up the truck.

"We are very thankful for this donation of turnout gear as we grow the SCC Fire Academy," says Amanda Bradshaw, Dean of Workforce development and Continuing Education at the college. "This donation represents the spirit of community and belief that we are working to improve our volunteer departments together. We always welcome donations!"

SCC's Fire and Technical Rescue programs prepare graduates for a career in Fire Service and/or to support local volunteer agencies. SCC serves as the North Carolina Department of Insurance Delivery Agency for Sampson County encompassing Firefighter, Driver Operator, Aerial, and Technical Rescue Specialties. Any fire department wishing to donate items to help build the skills of future firefighters is asked to contact Aleta Whaley at 910.900.4018 or at awhaley@sampsoncc.edu.



US Congressman David Rouzer visited the University of Mount Olive Kornegay Student Farm discussing opportunities for students pursuing an education in agriculture. (L-R): University of Mount Olive President Dr. David Poole; James Johnson, a junior agricultural education from Johnston County; Mackenzie Hall, a junior animal science major from Davidson County; Congressman David Rouzer; and Austin Rash, a junior agricultural education major from Iredell County.



US Congressman David Rouzer recently visited the University of Mount Olive to discuss opportunities for students pursuing an education in agriculture. (L-R): US Congressman David Rouzer, Director of the Lois. G. Britt Agribusiness Center and Chair of the UMO Division of Agriculture Dr. Sandy Maddox, Special Assistant to the President Dr. Barbara Kornegay, and University of Mount Olive President Dr. David Poole.

3 Tips for a Successful 2019 and Beyond



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

The demands of today’s always-connected culture can make finding balance in life nearly impossible. Between work, school and extracurricular activities, schedules can be crazy, and setting aside time to exercise is often difficult.

For Performance Enhancement Specialist Emily Hutchins, balance is key to seeing hard work turn into lifelong, healthy habits.

“Whether my clients are striving to lose those last couple pounds or completing their 100th marathon, the most important thing to me is that they’re on track to a long life of great health,” Hutchins said.

To help build easy, long-term fitness habits and set yourself up for a successful year of healthy living, Hutchins recommends these tips.

Get Real

Whether trying a new workout class, joining a local gym or training for your first marathon, set an attainable fitness goal you have confidence in. Finding a workout plan you enjoy or a friend to hold you accountable can help establish a routine. While falling into old habits can happen as the year goes on, setting realistic intentions can help you stay on track and avoid excuses.

Recover Smarter

Your journey to better health doesn’t end at the finish line or when you get in your car after a fitness class. In fact, what you put into your body post-workout can be a critical piece of your fitness path and help prepare you for your next workout so you can keep working toward your goals throughout the year.

Hutchins recommends low-fat chocolate milk after a tough workout to help repair, rebuild and refuel muscles. With natural, high-quality protein to build lean muscle, fluids and electrolytes to replace what you lose in sweat, calcium for strong bones and the right carb-to-protein ratio to refuel exhausted muscles, chocolate milk is the real deal for real recovery.

Relax and Unwind

Make sure to give yourself a break, relax and unwind, too. It is important to refuel both your body and mind for balance in the midst of a busy schedule. Reset with something you love to do like cooking or curling up with a good book. This can help you recharge to take on the next day and the next workout.

It takes real work day-in and day-out to build healthy habits that can benefit you long-term. Setting goals, recovering properly and taking care of your mind and body can jumpstart a better and stronger you. For more information on the benefits of recovering with chocolate milk, visit builtwithchocolatemilk.com.

Choosing the Right Doctor for You and Your Family

What matters to you when finding a doctor to treat you or your family members?

A recent survey commissioned by the American Board of Medical Specialties found that four out of five people ranked Board Certification as an important factor when selecting a doctor, second only to whether the doctor is covered by their insurance.

Choosing a new doctor is an important decision that nearly everyone experiences at one time or another, whether it’s finding a new family physician or pediatrician after a move or searching for a specialist after being diagnosed with a condition such as heart disease, diabetes or cancer.

When selecting a physician, you want to know the doctor you choose is qualified and that you and your family will receive the best care. Board Certified doctors hold themselves to a higher standard and have demonstrated their knowledge and expertise in their specialty. This higher standard has been found to be important to patients.

“Choosing a doctor is one of the most important decisions you’ll make regarding your health,” said Richard E. Hawkins, MD, president and chief executive officer, American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), the leading not-for-profit organization overseeing physician certification in the United States. “Today’s patients have a greater expectation for quality. Board Certified physicians offer people confidence that their doctor has the specialized knowledge, skills and clinical judgment to provide the high-quality care they expect and deserve.”

What is Board Certification?

Board Certification is recognized as the premier standard and assessment system for specialty and subspecialty expertise in medical, surgical and hospital disciplines.

- Board Certified doctors are experts in their specialties. Doctors who choose to be Board Certified are required to demonstrate their specialized knowledge in their area of practice.
- Board Certified doctors have met a higher standard. To be Board Certified, doc-



tors successfully complete extensive training and assessment beyond that of their non-Board Certified peers.

- Not all doctors are Board Certified. Board Certification is voluntary, and more than 880,000 doctors in the United States are ABMS Board Certified in 40 specialties and 87 subspecialties.
- Find out if a doctor is Board Certified. This simple search tool allows you to check if your doctor, or one you are considering, is Board Certified. CertificationMatters.org, a website of ABMS, also features information about how doctors earn Board Certification, its importance to quality care and why the credential matters. Additional resources include links to prominent health care and consumer advocacy organizations.

To find a Board Certified doctor near you, visit CertificationMatters.org.



By: Erin Ellis, RN

WIC is a federal funded program that serves pregnant and postpartum women, infants and children up to age 5 years.

The WIC program provides a combination of nutrition counseling and education, supplemental foods, breastfeeding promotion and support, and referrals to health care.

Studies have shown that the WIC program plays a vital role in improving birth outcomes. Pregnant women on WIC have fewer premature births, lower incidents of low birth weight babies, as well as, fewer infant deaths. Other studies have shown improved diet outcomes in children and their parents, infant feeding practices, regular schedule of immunization rates, and improved cognitive development for young children whose mothers participated in the WIC program.

This program is separate from food stamps and only nutritious foods are offered such as: fruits, vegetables, whole grains, yogurt, and low fat milk.

North Carolina WIC Programs have moved from a paper based method of WIC benefit issuance to an electronic benefit transfer system (eWIC). Instead of paper food instruments, WIC food benefits are issued into an electronic benefits account

at the local WIC clinic. Families use their eWIC card and PIN to access their food benefits at authorized vendors. Each family is issued one card, except foster children receive their own eWIC card. Participants buy only the foods they need when they shop. A receipt is given that shows the account balance and the dates to buy their WIC foods. Clients are also able to use an app on their phone to see if foods are WIC approved. Sampson County is currently using eWIC.

To apply for WIC the applicant must meet all of the eligibility requirements, which includes: Categorical, Residential, Income, and Nutrition Risk. WIC is an equal opportunity provider.

WIC is so much more than people realize, the nutrition education and healthy foods that are provided really give children a healthy start in life, which is so important. “Good food and good advice”, that’s what WIC is all about.

The WIC Program is available at the Sampson County Health Department at 360 County Complex Road Suite 200 Clinton, NC 28328. You may apply Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm. For more information about WIC or to make an appointment please call (910) 592-1131.



Dr. Kim Grigsby-Sessoms
Internal Medicine

Accepting New Patients

Sessoms Medical Associates

Home Town Care From Home Town Folks
Serving Clinton, Rose Hill, and Fayetteville



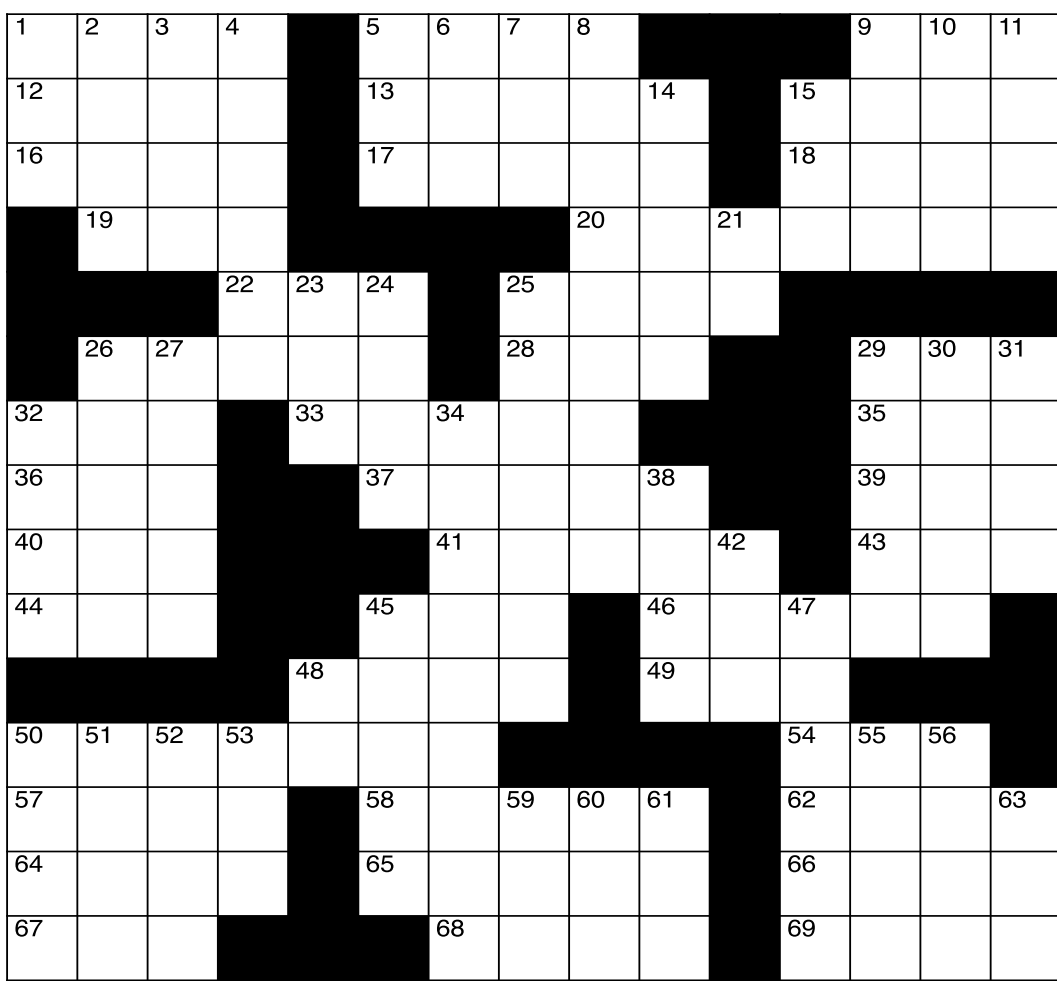
Dr. Rodney Sessoms
Internal Medicine

Rose Hill Office
102 SW Railroad Street
Rose Hill, NC
910-282-0330

Clinton Office
500 Beamon Street
Clinton, NC
910-596-2800

Fayetteville Office
414 Owen Drive
Fayetteville, NC
910-779-2564

Crossword Puzzle

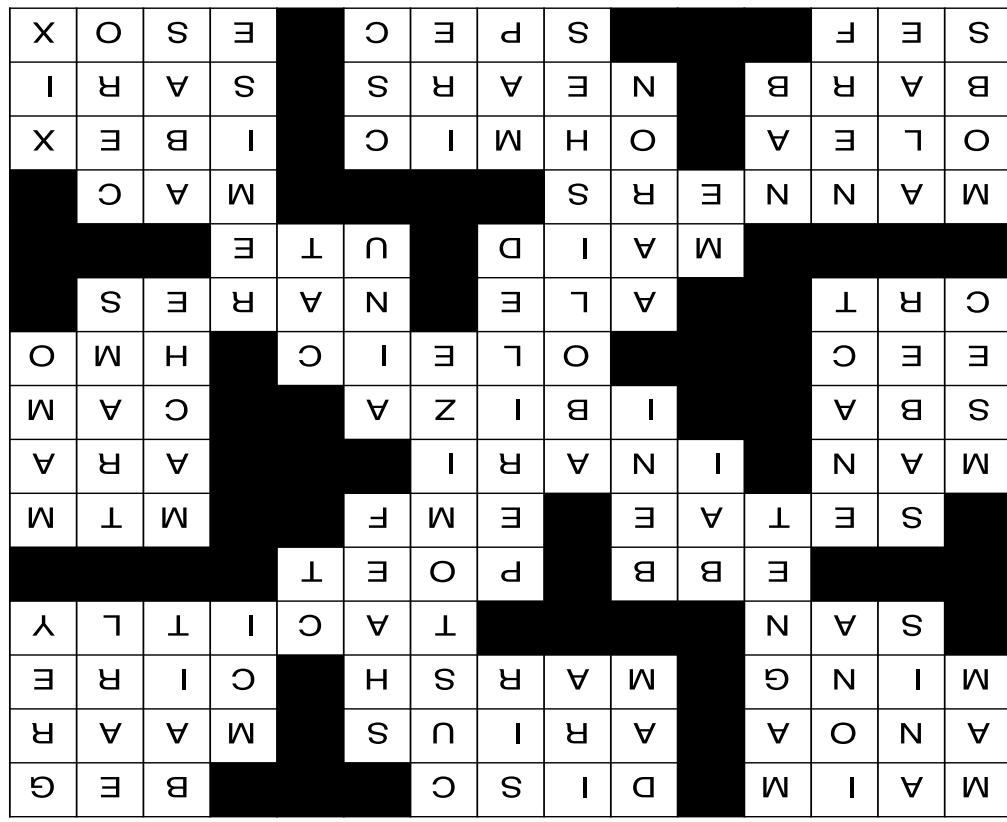


CLUES ACROSS

1. Wound seriously
5. Record
9. Earnestly entreat
12. Dwarf buffalo
13. Manilla sea catfish genus
15. Picasso's mistress
16. Chinese dynasty
17. Wet spongy ground
18. Wax glazed finish fabric
19. Diego or Francisco
20. In an implied way
22. Outward flow of the tide
25. Writer of poems
26. Stalks of a moss capsule
28. Electromotive force
29. "Phyllis" production Co. (abbr.)
32. Adult male human
33. Finnish island studded lake
35. Coach Parseghian
36. Helps little firms
37. 3rd largest Balearic Island
39. Disk to convert circular into linear motion
40. Old world, new
41. Acid from oil
43. Health Maintenance Organization
44. Cathode-ray tube
45. Brew
46. Nostrils
48. A female domestic
49. S. W. Shoshonean
50. Social deportment
54. A rubberized raincoat
57. Olive genus
58. About ohms
62. Wild goat with backward curved horns
64. Sharp point projecting backwards
65. Approaches
66. Indian frock
67. Search engine friendly
68. Description of design criteria
69. Pickerel genus

CLUES DOWN

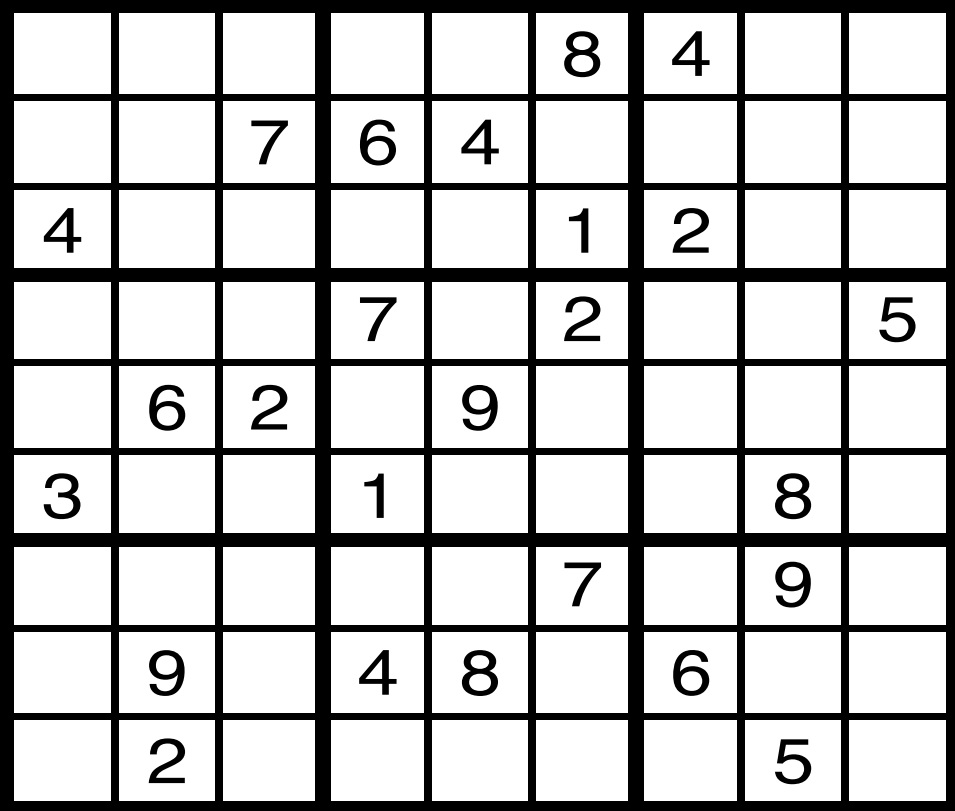
1. Another word for mother
2. Cuckoos
3. New Rochelle, NY college
4. Attracts iron
5. River obstruction
6. Militant N. Ireland organization
7. Title of respect
8. Make to specifications
9. Food on a fish hook
10. Br. peer above a viscount
11. Western author Zane ___
14. Allied H.Q.
15. Defunct phone company
21. Connecticut
23. NY Times political writer Matt
24. Bolivian river
25. Endangered
26. Heavy cavalry sword
27. Make into law
29. Papier-___, art material
30. Streetcars
31. Extinct black honeycreepers
32. Millisecond
34. Gets rid of
38. Indigenous race in Hokkaido
42. Feline mammal
45. Moses' older brother
47. Relinquish a claim to
48. Of I
50. Disorderly crowds
51. Wings
52. Ball for safe indoor play
53. Snatch
55. Arabian outer garments
56. Scomberomorus regalis
59. A diagram of the Earth's surface
60. Anger
61. Reciprocal of a sine
63. Nineteen



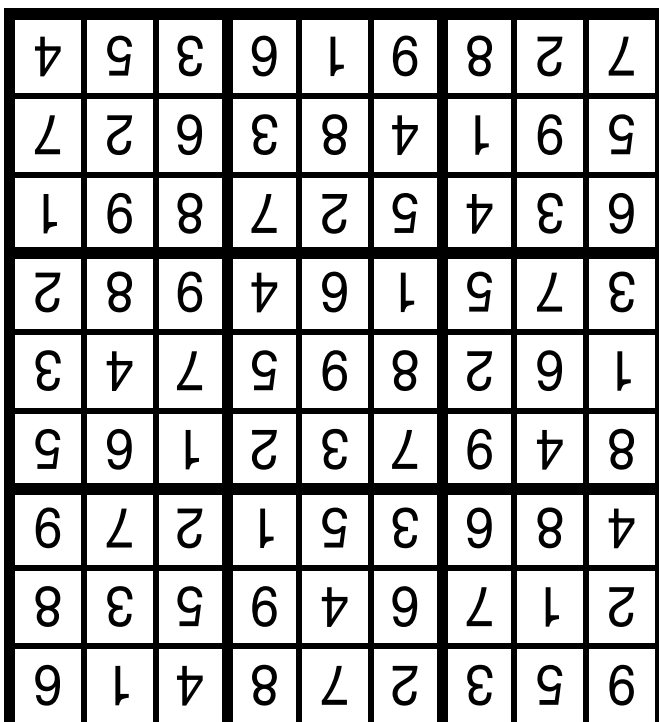
SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

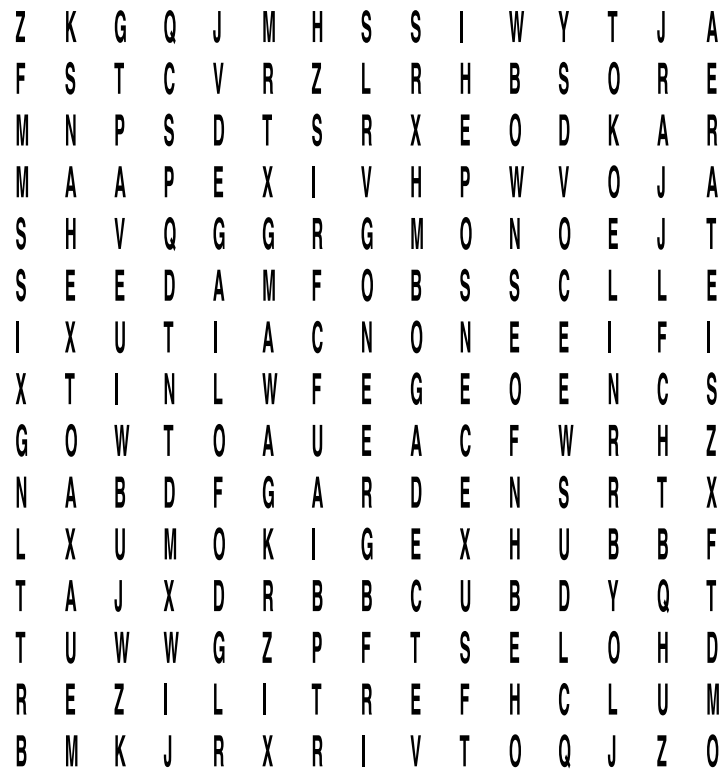
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test.



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



Word Search — Lawn & Garden



- Aerate
- Flowers
- Green
- Lawn
- Shovel
- Compost
- Foliage
- Hose
- Mulch
- Shrubs
- Fertilizer
- Garden
- Irrigation
- Seed
- Trees

Revival

Peters Creek Baptist Church
13176 Peters Creek Church Rd.
Roseboro, NC

Speaker: Rev. Dean Bays
Sacramento, California



March 3-5
Sunday 11am & 6:00pm
Monday-Tuesday 7:00pm

CRIME

Arrest Reports

02-14 Heather Ann Mazingo, 28, Wilson; Violation of Court Order; Bond \$505; Court Date 04-02
 02-14 Angel Dawn Kirkland, 27, Clinton; Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle, Domestic Criminal Trespass; No Bond; Court Date 02-14
 02-14 William Maurice Moore, 20, Roseboro; Resist, Delay, Destruct, Weapon Law Violations, Drug/Narcotic Violations; Bond \$150000; Court Date 02-22
 02-14 Robert Allen Boone, 44, Roseboro; Misdemeanor Conspiracy, Misdemeanor Larceny, Poss/Sell Nontaxpaid Alcoholic Beverage, Possession of Stolen Goods/Property; Bond \$1000; Court Date 03-25
 2-15 Samaria Nicholle Cardenas, 18, Clinton; DWLR; Court Date 03-12
 02-14 Maria Darden Hicks, 36, Roseboro; OFA-FTC Child Support; Bond \$400; Court Date 03-12
 02-14 Jackie Lynn Gregory, 29, Dunn; Possess Stolen Motor Vehicle; Bond \$2000; Court Date 03-13
 02-15 Ashley Michell Stanley, 30, Godwin; DWLR; Court Date 03-19
 02-14 Orlando Javonne Bell, 21, Clinton; No Operators License, Speeding; Bond \$200; Court Date 05-08
 02-14 Johnny Brandon Pope, 36, Roseboro; Child Support, Injury to Personal Property, Unsafe Tire, DWLR Not Impaired Rev; Bond \$6000; Court Date 03-05
 02-14 Kenneth Jams Upton, 23, Roseboro; Order for Arrest; Bond \$500; Court Date 03-05
 02-14 Ray Demont Rogers, 39, Clinton; Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon, Assault on a Female; Secured Bond \$75000; Court Date 03-01
 02-14 Ray Demond Rogers, 40, Clinton; Common Law Robbery; Secured Bond \$4500; Court Date 03-11
 02-14 Mildred Michelle Suggs, 37, Clinton; AWDW Serious Injury, RDO, Misdemeanor Larceny, Breaking or Entering; Secured Bond \$22000; Court Date 03-25
 02-14 Kiara Bianca Smith, 26, Warsaw; Simple Poss Sch VI, Possess Marij Par-

aphernala, ; Secured Bond \$500; Court Date 03-13
 02-14 Curtis Lee Watson, 46, Garland; Failure to Comply; Bond \$490; Court Date 03-11
 02-15 Jenifer Faye Williams, 46, Knightdale; Fail to Comply; Bond \$265; Court Date 02-28
 02-16 Anthony Antonio Hargrove, 48, Clinton; Hour Hold
 02-17 Thomas Junior Bell, 39, Clinton; DV Protective Order Viol; No Bond; Court Date 03-12
 02-17 Tracie Whitmire Matroo, 47, Clinton; WFA/Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle; Written Promise; Court Date 02-28
 02-17 James Dustin Grady, 34, Mt. Olive; 24 Hour Hold
 02-18 Arthur Lee Ruffin, 57, Clinton; Indecent Exposure; Secured Bond \$1000; Court Date 03-19
 02-18 Emanuel Ramon Howard Jr, 20, Clinton; Speeding, DWLR Not Impaired Rev, Expired/No Inspection, Expired Registration Card, Poss/Disp ALT/FICT/REVD, No Operators License, Unsafe Movement; Secured Bond \$2000; Court Date 03-04
 02-18 Richard Allen Simms, 31, Fairmont; Shoplifting; No Bond; Court Date 04-16
 02-18 Michael Gabrielle Evans, 27, Rose Hill; Misdemeanor Probation Violation; Secured Bond \$30000; Court Date 03-05
 02-18 Dshawn Quantrell Oates, 23, Clinton; Assault on a female; No Bond; Court Date 03-12
 02-18 Jireh Lineer Smith, 18, Clinton; Possess Marijuana; Court Date 04-01
 02-18 Rashanaye Dominique Franks, 26, Clinton; Misd Larceny; Secured Bond \$1000; Court Date 03-07
 02-18 Chyna Simone Chestnutt, 22, Roseboro; Fail Return Hired MV>\$4000; Bond \$5000; Court Date 02-27
 02-18 Joe Efrin Medina, 31, Clinton; Misdemeanor Probation Violation-FTA, Fail to Comply-FTA; Bond \$965; Court Date 03-13
 02-18 Christopher Geraldo Johnson, 36, Garland; OFA-FTC-Child Support; Bond \$1000
 02-18 Santos Alirio Montalban, 45, Clinton; No Operators License; Court Date 04-01
 02-18 Barry Demetrious Artis, 40, Clinton; Assault on a Female; Court Date 03-12

02-19 Shane Alexander Lewis, 22, Clarkton; FTA- Possess Marijuana up to a 1/2 oz; Bond \$1000; Court Date 03-20
 02-19 Donnie Ray Lewis, 44, Roseboro; OFA-FTA Speeding; Bond \$500; Court Date 03-13
 02-19 Saul Gonzalez Nota, 21, Harrells; Misdemeanor Probation Violation; Bond \$20000; Court Date 03-04
 02-19 Tavis Rachae Autry, 35, Clinton; Trespass, Injury to Personal Property, Assault on a Female; No Bond; Court Date 03-12
 02-19 Refugio Rojas Hernandez, 19, Clinton; Simple Assault; Court Date 02-28
 02-19 Rolanda Lee Mullis, 42, White Oak; Rear Lamp Violation, Expired Registration Card; Court Date 03-14
 02-19 Shane Alexander Lewis, 22, Clarkton; FTA- Possess Marijuana u to 1/2 oz; Bond \$1000; Court Date 03-20
 02-19 Joseph Brandon Whaley Fussell, 27, Roseboro; Operate Veh No Ins, Fict/Alt Title/Reg Card/Tag, Expired/No Inspection. DWLR Impaired Rev; Bond \$1000; Court Date 03-18
 02-19 Jesse Lee Bard, 32, Dunn; Assault on a Female DV; No Bond; Court Date 03-05
 02-19 Michael Tyler Bradshaw, 31, Turkey; Fictitious Info to Officer, Speeding, Larceny; Bond \$1500; Court Date 03-14
 02-19 Emma Faye Liebengood, 41, Clinton; WFA-Aid & Abet Larceny; Bond \$500; Court Date 03-14
 02-19 Mitchell Floyd Tyndall, 28, Dunn; Speeding; Bond \$500/Court Date 03-07
 02-20 Matthew Justin Moore, 25, Garland; Misdemeanor Larceny; No Bond; Court Date 03-12
 02-20 Dustin Wade Leonardo, 25, Clinton; Communicating Threats; No Bond; Court Date 03-19
 02-20 Marion Roy Hales, 31, Autryville; Possession of Stolen Property; No Bond; Court Date 04-18
 02-20 Jose Pedro Gonzalez, 44, Godwin; Trespassing; No Bond; Court Date 03-12
 02-20 Eric Keith Terrell Merchison, 28, Faison; Fail to Comply; Bond \$490; Court Date 03-21
 02-20 Shane Earl McKoy, 25, Clinton; DWLR, Operate Veh No Insurance, Fail to Comply w/ Monies; Bond \$865; Court Date 02-28
 02-20 Shameka Sarah Beckett, 25, Warsaw; No Operators License; Court Date 03-25

Incident/Investigation Reports

02-14 Shooting into an occupied dwelling report on Ezzell Road in Clinton
 02-15 Shannon Clark reported Damage to Car in Roseboro
 02-15 Marivel Escalante reports a Larceny of 6 Husky Puppies in Clinton
 02-15 Sampson County Adult Day Health Care reported Larceny of wrought iron bench, 250 ft hose, garden hose hanger, wheelbarrow in Clinton
 02-17 James Dustin Grady reported Larceny of cell phone/case, wallet, debit cards, checks, drivers license, cash in Clinton
 02-18 Rocio Paz Chavez reported Larceny of Brown Wallet, Soc Sec Cards, Debit Card, Currency, Drivers License in Clinton
 02-18 Emma Williams reported Handgun Stolen in Clinton
 02-18 James Baker reported Robbery in Newton Grove of portable electronic communications, money
 02-18 WalMart reported Shoplifting of Interceptor Tactical Boots in Clinton
 02-19 Tony Coats reported Larceny of Security Cameras in Roseboro
 02-20 TriCor International Corporation reported a Breaking and Entering in Clinton
 02-20 Bonnie Lewis reported a Larceny in Clinton of laptop, charger and money counter for blind person
 02-20 Willa Dean Autry of Clinton reported Larceny of Automobile and License Plate
 02-20 Jesus Miguel Perez of Clinton reported Larceny of NC License Plate
 02-20 Jose Zuniga of Clinton reported Larceny of Watch
 02-20 Ramon Alejo reported Burglary/Breaking & Entering. Stolen Playstation One, Firearms, and Television

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

Sampson County VITAL STATS

Deaths

- Rosa Lee Byrd
- Francisco Medellin Cruz
- James M Faison
- Gertie Pearl Herring
- John Larry King
- Gladys Maverine Royal
- Dorothy Simmons
- Helen Pearlina Turner
- Antonia Vaught

Marriage Certificates

- Joseph Alexander Wiggins to Cleara Lubertha Smith
- Ethan Howard Hayes to Bonnie LouAnn Massengill

Births

- Devante Lajuan Foster Jr born on February 7, 2019 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Devante Lajuan Foster and Monica Lasha Smith
- Matthew Conan Thompson Jr born on January 26, 2019 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Miesha Elvino Jordan
- Sophia Sanchez born on January 27, 2019 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Agustin Sanchez Calvillo and Blanca Flor Villegas Luviano
- Kierra Lee Stephens born on January 27, 2019 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Amos Lee Stephens and Abigail Lynn Eaglen
- Masiah Zane Murphy born on February 1, 2019 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Natalia Samone Murphy
- Prince Montrell Whitted born on February 5, 2019 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to DaRon Montrell Whitted and Moniquea Shoquan Smith
- Mabiel Jared Chevez Garcia born on February 10, 2019 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Dixi Mabiel Chevez Bonilla and Brenda Garcia Soto
- Ethan Lopez Trujillo born on February 8, 2019 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Jose Alberto Lopez Figueroa and Elia Trujillo Pelayo
- Dakota Lee Carter born on February 9, 2019 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Andrew Devin Cater and Majesta Lee Carter
- Olivia Suezanna Howard born on February 10, 2019 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Jonathan Devern Howard and Hillary Michelle Drew
- Elvis Jared Jimenez Trochez born on February 11, 2019 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Elvis Orlando Jimenez and Mauda Famely Trochez
- Ka'Lani Jalei Oates Bolden born on February 11, 2019 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Ricardo El Amin Oates Bolden and Ny'Kiera Taniek Parker
- Mauricio Ricardo Martinez Miranda born on February 12, 2019 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Marco Antonio Martinez and Sindy Regina Miranda Nunez

Land Transfers

- Kermit W Newman Jr, Laurie Newman, Ronald Webster Newman, Sharon K Newman to Belvoir Farms Inc- 12.5 Acres Belvoir
- Samantha Lynne Bryant/FKA, Christopher E Pritchard, Samantha Lynne Pritchard to Betty Sue Dunn- 2 Tracts Turkey
- Jefferson Baggett Strickland, Sue H Strickland to David J Mixon, Liane E Mixon-Honeycutt
- Nicholas G Gooden to Triangle East Timber Company Inc- 2 Tracts Franklin
- Connie M Carr, Milton Douglas Carr to Edward Harold Carr- 0.98 Acres North Clinton
- Jackie Allen King, Mary King, Carl Westbrook, Daisy Westbrook to Rosalina Josefa Ruiz Diaz, Noe Joel Fugon Garay- Lot 1 1.51 Acres South Clinton

- Jordan Leigh Keene/FKA, Jordan Keene Williams, Timothy Allen Williams to Jarvis Clayton Smith- Lot 1 Phase One Grove Place Estates S Newton Grove
- Cape Fear Industries Inc to Megan M Fisher- Lot 4 0.24 Acres North Clinton "Wilcare Facilities Inc"
- William Troy Cashwell/EXR, William Moody Naylor Estate to William Troy Cashwell, Amanda Kaye Cashwell Schaffer- 2 Tracts Little Coharie
- Willis Carson Stewart to Debbie Stewart Schramm- 19 Acres Lot 6 of the Luther Parker Land Division Turkey
- Bonnie P King, Jerry M King to The Foundation for Good News Inc- Lot North Clinton
- Luella L Tew to Norman G Smith, Toni J Smith- 2 Tracts Honeycutts
- Amy P Byrd, Charles Lee Byrd to McPhail Properties LLC- Lot 43 1.17 Acres Honeycutt Landing Honeycutts
- Covington & Shaw LLC, Terrace P Miller/MBR/MGR to Dorothea H Miller, William R Miller- Lot 1 0.69 Acres North Clinton
- Oscar C Leach to Nicole Antwonette Daughtry, Ronnie Lee Daughtry Jr- Lot 19 4.39 Acres Newton Grove
- Gloria Jordan Hope to Ann Paola Ramos, Randy Lee Ramos- 2 Tracts Halls
- Linda J Spell, William Fulton Spell to Lonnie Paul Spell- Lot 2B 0.67 Acres Belvoir
- Leonard Dale Lewis to Sherry Lynn Price Lewis- Lot 1 2.54 Acres South Clinton
- Linda J Spell, William Fulton Spell to Ann W Spell, Cornelius Fulton Spell- 0.27 Acres Belvoir
- Erica F Sanchez, Maria Sanchez/By AIF, Sacramento Sanchez/By AIF to Maribel Dominguez- 0.55 Acres Lot 12 Rupert B Matthews Division Section Two Little Coharie
- Harold Henry Lamb, Linda M Lamb to H Henry Lamb/TR, Linda M Lamb/TR, Lamb Revocable Trust- 1.30 Acres South River
- Harold Henry Lamb, Linda M Lamb to Lamb Family Farm LLC- 56.16 Acres Tract 1 North Clinton
- H Henry Lamb, Harold Henry Lamb, Linda M Lamb to Lamb Family Farm LLC- 110 Acres South River
- Harold Henry Lamb, Linda M Lamb, Linda McClay Lamb to Lamb Family Farm LLC- 3 Tracts w/exceptions South River
- Harold Henry Lamb, Linda M Lamb to Lamb Family Farm LLC- 26 Acres South River
- Harold Henry Lamb, Linda M Lamb to Lamb Family Farm LLC- 0.63 Acres South River
- Amanda B Parker, Matthew Parker to William Ressie Cavanaugh, Elizabeth Dawn Smith- 0.34 Acres Turkey
- FSCI LLC, Fred J Smith Jr/MGR to Thomas S Melvin- 9 Tracts w/exceptions McDaniels
- Elaine M Robinson, Ervin Norman Robinson to Guillermo Sanmiguel Jr, Irma Elia Balderas Gayton Sanmiguel- Lot 68 Ferrell Lands Subdivision South Clinton
- DMB Partners LLC, Karen T Sutton/MGR, Mary Alice Williford to Lewis J Dew- Lot 16 Timberlake Subdivision Section Eight 0.90 Acres North Clinton
- Diane E Cousar, Thomas H Cousar Sr to Chris Christianson, Christina Christianson- Lot 71 Section Six Honeycutts
- John A Akins, Sylvia Johnson Akins/NKA, Sylvia A Johnson Herring to John A Akins, Sylvia Johnson Akins- 2.17 Acres Franklin
- Anne M Lewis, William D Lewis to William Earl Burch- 29.5 Acres Piney Grove
- Angela Renee Irwin Brewington/FKA, Angela R Tally, Jeffrey M Tally to Joshua Michael Nye, Joyce M Nye- Lot 31 Williams Lake Acres Subdivision
- Jeffrey Johnson, Sherrie Owens Johnson to Detrish Simpson, Lester Simpson- One Acre Lot 2 w/exceptions
- John M Britt, Sharon Rose Britt to Gregory F Bradshaw- Duplin and Sampson
- Joel Douglas Bullard, Susan Johnson Bullard to Christopher Joel Bullard and Loreto K Tessini- 2 Tracts Dismal
- Pamela W Hedgepeth, Ronald D Hedgepeth to Darryl Thomas Howard, James Kevin Howard- 38.33 Acres Dismal
- Candace Nichole Sherron, Jason Linwood Sherron to Candace Nichole Sherron, Jason Linwood Sherron- Lot 6B 1.70 Acres Plainview

OBITUARIES

ELIZABETHTOWN

Mr. Randy Munn Barnes 55 of 69 Randys Way, died Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at Bladen Co. Hospital in Elizabethtown, NC. Mr. Barnes was born July 26, 1963 in Bladen Co., the son of the late Lalon Barnes Sr. and Annie Thelma Shepard. He was the owner & operator of Randy Barnes Blueberries Farm in the White Lake Community and a farm manager at White Lake Blueberry Farm for almost 30 years. He was preceded in death by four brothers, Lalon Barnes Jr., Clyde Barnes, Sr., Henson Barnes, Patrick Adair, one sister, Doris Barnes Carter. Funeral service was held at 2:00 P.M. Sunday, February 17, 2019 at Colly Chapel Church by the Reverend Jim Woodruff and reverend Barry Helms. Burial followed in the Beards Chapel Church Cemetery. Mr. Barnes is survived by two daughters, Juanita B. Crawford & husband Robert of Johns Island, SC, Crystal Barnes of Elizabethtown, one son, Dylan Barnes of Wilmington, two brothers, Roger Barnes and wife (Luise) if Apex, Carl Barnes Sr. & wife Natalie of Garland, four sisters, Joanne Barnes Stevens & husband Tommy of Durham, Glorietta Barnes of Elizabethtown, Faye Barnes Dunaway of Wilmington, Amanda Barnes Griggs & husband Tony of Deltona, FL, 5 grandchildren, Destin Montgomery, Messiah Carr, Nasir Barnes, Cassidy Montgomery, Jaxson Crawford. Service Carter Funeral Home in Garland. www.carterfh.com.



SISTERS-Catherine Robinson of Mesquite, TX, Ambree Spearman, Linda Carr both of Clinton, NC and Callie Williams of Teaneck, NJ; **BROTHER**-Walter Williams of Teaneck, NJ; 6 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren. Visitation at Worley Funeral Home Friday, February 22, 2019, Public: 3 p.m. - 7 p.m., Family present: 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.



Missionary Baptist Church, Bladenboro, NC; officiated by Pastor Scott Johnson. Burial followed in the Thompson Cemetery. She is survived by daughters, Veronica Alexander, Monica Johnson, and Cynthia McKoy; a son, Jerry Thompson; sisters, Dorothy McCary and Lela Wells; brothers, Allen Singletary, Acie Singletary, Derry Singletary, and Phillip Malloy; 10 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. A visitation will be held Saturday, February 16, from 1 until 6 o'clock with the family being present from 5-6 o'clock at Summerville Mortuary.



CLINTON

Robert Lee Boone, 71, of 7496 US Hwy 421 N, passed away, Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at Wayne Memorial Hospital. Funeral service will be held at 2 PM, Saturday, February 23, 2019 at New Bethel Baptist Church with the Rev. Dennis Newton, Rev. Jerry Johnson and Reverend Terry Cummings officiating. The family will receive friends one hour before the service at New Bethel Baptist Church and at other times at the home. Robert, born in 1947 in Sampson County, was the son of the late Wilbert Boone and Margaret Bronson Boone. He was a painter and was raised Baptist. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by brothers, William C. Boone and George N. Boone, and sisters, Fannie L. Moore Hill and Mary Odessa Boone. Survivors include his wife of forty-two years, Patricia Ann Brewington Boone, sister, Brenda B. Buchanan of Cary, NC, and several nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Crumpler-Honeycutt Funeral Home, to offset the funeral cost. Online condolences may be made to www.crumpler-honeycutt.com. Arrangements are by Crumpler-Honeycutt Funeral Home, 118 Fayetteville St., Clinton, NC 28328



HARRELLS

Mr. Ernest "Tweet" Herndon 73 of 2088 Tomahawk Hwy. Harrells, NC died Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at North Chase Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Wilmington, NC. Arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Carter Funeral Home in Garland.



ELIZABETHTOWN

Mrs. Margaret "Jan" Peterson Brisson 75 of 1703 Greenwood St., died Sunday, February 17, 2019 at her residence. Mrs. Brisson was born March 07, 1943 in Sampson Co. the daughter of the late Herman Peterson and Margaret Morrison Peterson. A graveside service was held at 10:00 A.M. Wednesday February 20, 2019 at the Harrells Cemetery, in Harrells, NC. Mrs. Brisson is survived by her husband, James L. "Jimmy" Brisson, one son Cortney Brisson of Wilmington, one sister, Kim Johnson and husband Allen of Harrells, 2 grandchildren, Marley Brisson & Dylan Brisson. Service by Carter Funeral Home in Garland. www.carterfh.com.

YORK, SC

Jo Ann Bradley Childers, 73, of York, SC passed from this life into the arms of her Savior on Sunday, February 17, 2019 after a long and fierce battle with cancer. All who knew her said that she was the strongest woman that they had ever met. Born in Hickory Grove, SC on January 22, 1946, Jo Ann was the daughter of the late Jasper "Jack" Bradley and Della C. Bradley. She was retired from the York County Tax Collectors Office. Jo Ann always had a smile on her face and her laughter was contagious. She had a great sense of humor and love for life. She loved reading her Bible and playing all sorts of cards and board games when her health would allow. Her passing has left a void in all of our hearts. She was a member of Haven of Rest Baptist Church where she was active in ministry until her health began to decline. After the passing of her husband, she moved to be with her daughter in Stedman, NC. While there, she attended Union Grove Baptist Church and came to love the members there as her own church family. She leaves behind to cherish many great memories: Daughters, Marilyn Barmette Walters and husband, Rev. Marc Walters of Stedman, NC and Deborah L. Childers of Hickory Grove, SC; Sons, Thomas Childers of Shelby, NC and David Scott Childers of York, SC; Granddaughters, Dr. A. Brooke Walters Pellegrino and husband, Dan of State College, PA and Nikki Manning McIntyre and husband, Jason of Clover, SC; Grandsons, David Alan Childers of Kings Mountain, NC and Austin Childers of York, SC; Great grandsons, Jack and Sam; Also, a very special niece that she loved like a daughter, Debbie Stewart of York, SC. In addition to her parents, Jo Ann was preceded in death by her husband and love of her life, David L. Childers; sisters, Cora Rena Bradley Harris, and Mammie Bradley Harris. Jo Ann requested that no formal service be held and in honoring those wishes, the family requests that in her memory, each of you live life to the fullest and cherish each day as if it were your last. The family would like to express a very special thank you to the staff of 3HC Home Health and Hospice who were angels in every sense of the word and to her extraordinary care giver during the last week of her life, April McMillan. Memorials may be made in memory of Jo Ann to Gideons International, 2939 Chesnee Highway, Spartanburg, SC 29307. Butler Funeral Home of Roseboro, NC is serving the family.



DUNN

Mr. Lester "Leck" Campbell Phillips, 88, of Dunn died Tuesday morning at his residence. He was born in Sampson County on August 25, 1930 to the late Floyd and Erma Hawley Phillips. He was preceded in death by his wife, Winifred "Wimp" Phillips, and two sisters, Avis P. Strickland and Sadie P. Beasley. Leck began working for H.P. Johnson Oil Company in 1959. In 1963, he ventured into trucking, winning state contracts to work on the completion of I-95 through most of North Carolina. He expanded his trucking operation to include hauling sand and gravel for Nello Teer Company. Leck started his trash hauling operation in 1968. He then built a nationally recognized waste management business that serviced locations from Florida to Alaska. He was a pioneer in the waste management business. In 2001, he was honored with the one of the highest awards given by the Occoneeche Council of the Boy Scouts, the Distinguished Service Award. He was a lifelong member of Spring Branch Baptist Church. A funeral service was held Thursday at 11 a.m. at Spring Branch Baptist Church by Rev. Michael Worley and Rev. Tim McQueen. Burial followed in the Church Cemetery. He is survived by two sons, Ray Phillips and wife Debbie, Bobby Phillips and wife Jennifer all of Dunn, a brother; Cephas "Zeke" Phillips and wife Sharon of Godwin, a sister, Mavis Fields of Dunn, four grandchildren; Marc Phillips and wife Courtney, Andy Phillips and wife Christina, Beth Greene and husband Patrick, Robert Phillips, II and wife Laura, nine great grandchildren; Christian, Curran, and Emily Greene, Trisden, Kensley, Finley and Sailor Phillips, Campbell and Caroline Phillips. The family received friends Thursday from 10 to 11 a.m. at Spring Branch Baptist Church, 2391 North Spring Branch Rd. Dunn, NC 28334.



MAGNOLIA

Minister Barbara Ann Draughton Smith, 55 of 2329 Trinity Church Road, Magnolia, NC (Waycross Community) passed on Saturday, February 16, 2019 at home. The funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time. ****Family are receiving Friends at: 956 Cartertown Road, Clinton, NC



HOPE MILLS, NC

Mr. Terry Wayne Sova, 63 of Hope Mills, passed away Saturday, February 16, 2019 at Duke University Medical Center. The funeral service was held at 2:00pm Wednesday, February 20, at Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, with Bishop Warren H. Barfield, Sr. officiating. Burial followed at Wiley Autry Cemetery. The family received friends from 12:00 to 1:45pm prior to the funeral service. He was born February 14, 1956 in Cumberland County to Vincent Anthony and Janie Estelle Autry Sova. He was preceded in death by his mother. He worked with Dupont for thirty years. He is survived by his wife, Wanda Sova; one daughter, Tara Sova (Benjamin Spitzer) of California; one step daughter, Leslie Kelly (Wesley) of Hope Mills; one step son, Marty Williford (Megan) of Hope Mills; father, Tony Sova of Autryville; one brother, Ronnie Sova (Rose) of Sanford; and five grandchildren, Kayleb, Wyatt, Forrest, McKinley, Clementine. Butler Funeral Home of Roseboro is serving the family.



CLINTON

Mrs. Marian A. "Boot" Williams Crumpler, 67 of 54 Harper's Glen Lane, Clinton, NC passed on Sunday, February 17, 2019 at UNC Hospitals, Chapel Hill, NC. The funeral service will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, February 23, 2019 at Mt. Zion AME Zion Church, Magnolia, NC (Delway Community) with Rev. Jimmy Melvin officiating. Burial in the Williams Family Cemetery, Magnolia, NC (Waycross Community). Mrs. Williams is survived by her DAUGHTER-Sheteta Crumpler of Raleigh, NC; SONS-Michael Crumpler of New York, NY and Corey Crumpler of Hackensack, NJ;

GARLAND

Mr. Aaron Lamb 80 of 6 1/2 Ferrington St., Newburgh, NY formerly of Garland Community died Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at his residence. Arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Carter Funeral Home in Garland.

SALEMBURG, NC

Mr. David Allen Sessoms, 58 of Salemburg, passed away Thursday, February 14, 2019 at his home. The funeral service was held at 2:00pm Thursday, February 21, at Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street with Reverend Bryan Strickland officiating. Burial followed at Salemburg Pentecostal Free Will Baptist Church Cemetery. The visitation was held from 6:00-7:00pm Wednesday evening at Butler Funeral Home. He was born July 8, 1960 in Sampson County to Randall and Mattie Elizabeth Riner Sessoms. He was preceded in death by his parents; and brothers, Bill Sessoms, Kenneth Sessoms. He worked as an automotive mechanic. He is survived by several cousins. Butler Funeral Home of Roseboro is serving the family.

SALEMBURG, NC

Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Faircloth, 63 of Salemburg, passed away Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at her home. The funeral service will be held at 2:00pm Sunday, February 24, at Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, with Rev. Ronald Davis and Rev. Bryan Strickland officiating. Burial will follow at Memorial Park, Dunn. The family will receive friends from 6:00-8:00pm Saturday evening at Butler Funeral Home. She was born September 17, 1955 in Harnett County to James and Elizabeth Tew Guy. She was preceded in death by her parents; and brother, Buddy Guy. She was a homemaker. She is survived by her husband, Roger Faircloth; children, Carl Robinson (Shannon) of Salemburg, Valerie Wright of Fayetteville, Brandon Bowers (Kendra) of Fairborn, Ohio; step children, Nicholas Faircloth of Clinton, Matthew Faircloth (Kim) of Dunn; and grandchildren, Taylor Averitte, Walter Robinson, Gregory Robinson, Benn Wright, Jacob Bowers. Butler Funeral Home of Roseboro is serving the family.



HARRELLS

Mr. Ernest "Tweet" Herndon 73 of 2088 Tomahawk Hwy. died Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at NorthChase Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Wilmington, NC. Funeral service will be held at 11:00 AM Monday, February 25, 2019 at Keathern Baptist Church in Harrells, NC. Burial will follow in the church cemetery with full military honors. Mr. Herndon is survived by his wife, Linder F. Herndon two daughters, Andrea Rayner (Dylan) of Clinton, Crystal Ervin and fiancé Larzaris of Angier, NC, three sons, Derrick Ervin (Traci) of Riverview, Fla., Robert Herndon of Va, Eric Herndon of Va, two sisters, Wanda Cash (Marvin) of Tenn., Carolyn Fulbright of Oka. One brother, Waymon Cruell of Ok, 7 grandchildren & several great-grandchildren. The public will be received on Sunday, February 25, 2019 from 1:00P.M.-6:00P.M. with family present from 5:00P.M.-6:00P.M. Service by Carter Funeral Home in Garland.

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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 ken.willis@news-jrnl.com

SPEED FREAKS

A few questions we had to ask ourselves

Does Denny Hamlin's win signal a big year ahead for the No. 11?

GODSPEAK: Yes. He will attack the 2019 season with new vigor and confidence. Heck, his crew chief says they will win all 36 races this season.

KEN'S CALL: There's a chance that the No. 11 will have a big year, considering the team and driver, but it won't be due to a Daytona 500 victory. Daytona doesn't relate to anything else out there.

Will Atlanta tell the tale of the new "tapered spacer" engine package?

GODSPEAK: It will give everybody a good idea of what to expect this season. Las Vegas is targeted as the great aero/engine indicator.

KEN'S CALL: The smart people suggest we give it a few weeks before casting full judgement. Atlanta's worn track surface may negate any pack-racing tendencies of the new system.

FEUD OF THE WEEK

JOEY LOGANO VS. MICHAEL MCDOWELL:

MCDOWELL: On the final restart of the Daytona 500, McDowell elected to push Toyota's Kyle Busch rather than Ford's Joey Logano. McDowell is a Ford driver, too.

GODWIN KELLY'S TAKE: It's the Daytona 500 and every man for himself in the closing laps. "I just told (Logano) that my team doesn't pay me to push him to victory," McDowell said.

GODWIN'S PICKS FOR ATLANTA

WINNER: Kevin Harvick

REST OF TOP 5: Brad Keselowski, Kyle Busch, Joey Logano, Denny Hamlin

FIRST ONE OUT: Michael McDowell

DARK HORSE: William Byron
DON'T BE SURPRISED IF: Some drivers are not happy with the debut of the new aero/engine combination.

MOTOR MOUTHS PODCAST

There are no red flags in the pod.

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



ATLANTA

THREE THINGS TO WATCH

1. New package

Now that NASCAR has closed the book on the restrictor-plate era, we enter the tapered-spacer era at Atlanta Motor Speedway. The spacers are much like plates but the design gives drivers more throttle control. They will be used at every track over a mile in length this season, along with a high-downforce aerodynamic body. The objective is to create tighter racing.

2. It's early, but ...

OK, it's just one race into the season, but the Cup Series standings may offer a small peek of things to come. For instance, race winner Denny Hamlin and fourth-place finisher Joey Logano left Daytona as co-leaders in points, each with 52, followed by Kyle Busch with 45. Young guns Erik Jones



NASCAR hopes to see more close-quarters racing like this at tracks such as Atlanta and Las Vegas with a new aero/engine package. [NEWS-JOURNAL/DAVID TUCKER]

and Alex Bowman are fifth and sixth, respectively, after Race 1. Meanwhile, Martin Truex Jr. is 28th in points. Yikes!

3. The 'Big D'

Matt DiBenedetto, who left a struggling team with the hopes of improving his standing in the garage area, took the No. 95 Toyota to new heights

at Daytona, leading a race-high 49 laps in the family-owned, single-car operation. "This is such a great team and I know we can show them what we're doing here," DiBenedetto said. "They all took a heck of a chance on me. I'm glad we proved what we're here to do."

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

DAYTONA 500

THREE THINGS WE LEARNED

1. Unpredictable race

Just when you think you have things figured out, it all changes in the blink of an eye. The relatively calm Daytona 500 turned into a demolition derby over the last 17 laps of racing, producing two red flags for a pair of "Big Ones." Go figure.

2. Spread the wealth

Everybody left with a little something after Speedweeks. Chevrolet dominated qualifying. Ford won both Duel qualifying races and Toyota saved its best for last when Joe Gibbs



Cars get turned and sparks fly as the pack crunches together in Turn 3 late in the Daytona 500. [NEWS-JOURNAL/STEVEN NOTARAS]

Racing swept the top three finishing positions in the Daytona 500.

3. Biggest surprise

On NASCAR's wreck report Kyle Larson's No. 42 Chevrolet was listed in three separate incidents

during the 500. He somehow rallied back from those setbacks to score a stunning seventh-place finish. "My car is super beat up so to come away with a top 10 is pretty cool," he said.

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

QUESTIONS & ATTITUDE

Compelling questions ... and maybe a few actual answers

Is the Big One dead?

Oh, come on! Never. Much was made about the end of NASCAR's 31-year restrictor-plate era at Daytona/Taladega. We now entered the world of tapered spacers, and when explained to you by the smart people you realize it will accomplish much of the same horsepower-sapping as the plates. It allows a little better throttle response, which the drivers obviously like, but it'll still maintain the field-equalization personality of the plates. Which means heavy traffic. Which means drama and human nature. Which means the Big One lives!

Does the Big One actually expand?

We'll see. The new engine/aero package, some suggest, will bring plate-style racing to all of the mile-and-bigger tracks, starting this week at Atlanta. Maybe not quite as crazy, but crazier than we're accustomed to seeing. It's supposed to add dramatics, which TV audiences mostly crave. And in case you're new here, the TV audience is very, very important.

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

NASCAR CUP STANDINGS

1. Denny Hamlin	52
1. Joey Logano	52
3. Kyle Busch	45
4. Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	39
5. Erik Jones	35
5. Alex Bowman	35
7. Kyle Larson	33
7. Jimmie Johnson	33
9. Michael McDowell	32
9. Ty Dillon	32
9. Brad Keselowski	32
12. Ryan Preece	30
13. Chase Elliott	27
13. Kevin Harvick	27
13. Ryan Blaney	27
16. Clint Bowyer	26
17. Ryan Newman	25
17. William Byron	25
19. Austin Dillon	23
20. Matt DiBenedetto	21

WHAT'S ON TAP

CUP SERIES: Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500
SITE: Atlanta Motor Speedway (1.54-mile quad-oval)

SCHEDULE: Friday, qualifying (Fox Sports 1, 5 p.m.). Saturday, practice (Fox Sports 1, noon). Sunday, race (Fox, 2 p.m.)

XFINITY: Rinnai 250

SITE: Atlanta Motor Speedway
SCHEDULE: Friday, practice (Fox Sports 1, 3 p.m.). Saturday, qualifying (Fox Sports 1, 9 a.m.), race (Fox Sports 1, 2 p.m.)

GANDER OUTDOORS TRUCKS: Atlanta 200

SITE: Atlanta Motor Speedway
TV SCHEDULE: Friday, practice (Fox Sports 1, 4 p.m.). Saturday, qualifying (Fox Sports 1, 10:30 a.m.), race (Fox Sports 1, 4:30 p.m.)



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