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SAMPSON COUNTY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

The Sampson Weekly



VOLUME 12, ISSUE 09

Week of February 26-March 4, 2021

www.thesampsonweekly.com

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Faith Page 6



Nascar Page 16

Town of Garland Offering \$500 Reward for Information About Breaking and Entering



On February 18th, sometime in the early morning hours, the Town of Garland shop was broken into. Along with many power tools and a variety of equipment, both Town Trucks were also stolen. The trucks are 2016 Dodge Rams, 2-wheel drive, white, with the blue logo on each door. According to town officials, "However we have reason to believe the town

REWARD, see P. 3

MISSING SAMPSON COUNTY MAN



On Monday, the Sampson County Sheriff Department put out a Missing Persons Bulletin. According to the report, David Van Alphin, age 35, was last seen on February 2, 2021 at 9am on Elwood Road at a Hog Farm. He was wearing coveralls and rubber work boots.

Alphin is a 35-year-old male with blue eyes. He is 5' 4" tall and weighs approximately 110 pounds with blonde hair.

A white unknown SUV was reportedly seen in the area of the farm just prior to David "Van" Alphin going missing, but it is unknown if there is a connection at this time. According to the Missing Person Bulletin,

the family reported him missing to the Sampson County Sheriff's Office on February 22, 2021.

Anyone with information on the location of David "Van" Alphin is asked to contact the Sampson County Sheriff's Office at (910) 592-4141 or their local law enforcement agency.

Governor Cooper Announces Easing of COVID-19 Restrictions as North Carolina Trends Stabilize



Key indicators used to guide decisions throughout pandemic show state's trends are moving in the right direction

RALEIGH: As North Carolina's numbers continue to show improvement and vaccine distribution increases, Governor Roy Cooper announced Wednesday that the state will carefully ease some of its COVID-19 restrictions. Executive Order No. 195 will take effect February 26th at 5 pm and will expire March 26th at 5 pm.

"Today's action is a show of confidence and trust, but we must remain cautious. People are losing their loved ones each day," said Governor Cooper. "We must keep up our guard. Many of us are weary, but we cannot let the weariness win. Now is the time to put our strength and resilience to work so that we can continue to turn the corner and get through this."

"Keep wearing a mask, waiting 6 feet apart, and washing your hands. We've seen in the past how fragile progress can be, so we need to keep protecting each other while we get everyone a spot to get their shot," said North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D.

Today's Executive Order lifts the Modified Stay at Home Order requiring people to stay at home and businesses to close to the public between 10 pm and 5 am. The number of people who may gather indoors will increase from 10 to 25, while 50 remains the limit for outdoors. The curfew on the sale of alcohol for onsite consumption will be moved from 9 pm to 11 pm. Some businesses, including bars and amusement parks, will now be open for patrons indoors as they adhere to new occupancy restrictions. Many businesses, venues and arenas will have increased occupancy both indoors and outdoors.

Executive Order No. 195 has two general categories of occupancy restrictions: 30% capacity and 50% capacity. Because indoor spaces have a higher risk of spread for COVID-19, indoor facilities in the

RESTRICTIONS, see P. 3

WEATHER

Thur Partly Cloudy 10%
Hi: 51° Lo: 35°

Fri Rain 90%
Hi: 40° Lo: 37°

Sat Sunny 10%
Hi: 46° Lo: 24°

Sun Sunny 10%
Hi: 47° Lo: 29°

Mon Showers 90%
Hi: 63° Lo: 32°

Tues Sunny 10%
Hi: 56° Lo: 34°

WEEKLY VERSE

A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 18:24

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LOCAL NEWS

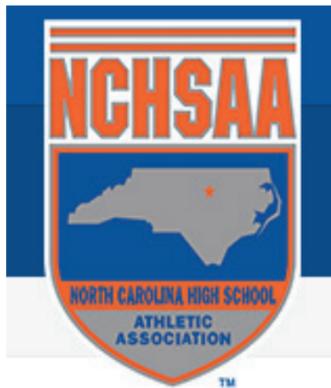
Contractor Nation Inks Deal with North Carolina Partner, Expands Footprint in the South



Christopher Reeves, Founder and President of Southeast Foundation & Crawl Space Repair, with Larry Janesky, CEO and Founder of Contractor Nation.

CLINTON, NC – Contractor Nation has acquired one of its highest-performing dealerships, expanding its presence in the Southern United States and strengthening its position as the original and leading network of home services contractors in the country.

NCHSAA Statement on eased spectator restrictions



A statement from Commissioner Que Tucker of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA):

“The NCHSAA is grateful for the improvements in the state’s COVID-19 metrics. These improvements provide the opportunities for North Carolina’s students to return to the classroom in many cases and resume the optimal learning environment that in-person learning provides. We are also excited for the opportunity to allow parents and some fans from the community the opportunity to attend sporting events in-person to support their loved ones.

This has been a difficult year, and we know that the limitations have had particularly harsh effects on student-athletes and their families. We are ready to allow some sense of normalcy for these groups, and thankful that we have reached this point as a state. However, we want to do our part to make sure that this step forward does not lead to a step backwards. Simply put, we cannot afford further setbacks.

On behalf of our student-athletes, our coaches, and athletic administrators, we ask citizens across our state to support their local high school teams by following the Governor’s and DHHS’s guidance which continues to be designed to limit the spread of COVID-19. As we begin relaxing some restrictions on spectators, please diligently work together to keep these opportunities available for student-athletes and spectators by wearing a mask, maintaining social distance and washing your hands regularly. If we continue to work together and respect those around us by following these simple steps, we are confident that our state will defeat this pandemic.”

Contractor Nation has acquired Southeast Foundation & Crawl Space Repair of Clinton, NC, an award-winning provider of home improvement services, and plans to enlarge Southeast’s service offerings to include roofing and the Gutter Shutter gutter system.

“Southeast has been providing the highest quality products and services to homeowners in its service area for years and this will continue,” said Contractor Nation Founder and CEO Larry Janesky. “We’re going to accelerate growth of the business so we can serve even more homeowners, create more jobs and have an even bigger economic impact on the community.”

Southeast President and Founder Christopher Reeves, who has been a member of the Contractor Nation network since 2010, called the deal “the right thing to do.”

“Passing the baton to Larry and the Contractor Nation team is a great decision for me, my family, my team and the community,” Reeves said. “Contractor Nation helped me create this successful business and I know they will create even more success now for others.”

Southeast provides foundation and crawl space repair, basement waterproofing services, concrete leveling and humidity control.

Contractor Nation is the original and most successful network for home services contractors in North America. Larry Janesky started in the home improvement and home services industry 33 years ago when he founded Connecticut Basement Systems, a basement waterproofing company, which has since expanded into basement finishing, crawl space retrofits and other services. Since then, the company has significantly expanded and become the state’s dominant provider, performing work in more than 85,000 homes. In 1990, while still running Connecticut Basement Systems, Janesky launched networks for basement waterproofing, crawl space repair, and structural repair. These networks, as well as other companies, have become part of the Contractor Nation network, which is committed to creating even greater success for home improvement and home service businesses across North America.

The businesses and networks in Contractor Nation include Basement Systems, CleanSpace, Total Basement Finishing, Dr. Energy Saver, Attic Systems, Treehouse Internet Group, The School of Entrepreneurship, More-House Finance, Supportworks, National Radon Defense, Klaus Roofing Systems, Gutter Shutter and The Junkluggers.



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RESTRICTIONS, cont. from P. 1

30%-occupancy category may not exceed two hundred fifty (250) people per indoor room or indoor space.

30% Capacity Limit (may not exceed 250-persons in indoor spaces)

- Bars
- Meeting, Reception, and Conference Spaces
- Lounges (including tobacco) and Night Clubs
- Indoor areas of Amusement Parks
- Movie Theatres
- Entertainment facilities (e.g., bingo parlors, gaming establishments)
- Sports Arenas and Fields*
- Venues*

Indoor event venues with more than 5,000 seats may be excepted from the 250 person limit if they follow additional safety measures up to 15% capacity.

50% Capacity Limit

- Restaurants
- Breweries, Wineries, Distilleries
- Fitness and Physical Activity Facilities (e.g., gyms, bowling alleys, rock climbing facilities)
- Pools
- Museums and Aquariums
- Retailers
- Outdoor areas of Amusement Parks
- Salons, Personal Care, Tattoo Parlors

Safety protocols such as masks, social distancing and frequent handwashing will continue to be important as people adjust to the new order, health officials said.

Wednesday marks the first day of eligibility for teachers to receive vaccination as the state begins to expand access to group 3 essential workers. Due to manufacturers' shipping delays caused by inclement weather, DHHS continues to work with providers to administer both last week's shipment and this week's shipment this week and continue to exhaust first dose supply before next week's shipment arrives.

Dr. Cohen also provided an update on North Carolina's data and trends.

Trajectory in COVID-Like Illness (CLI) Surveillance Over 14 Days

-North Carolina's syndromic surveillance trend for COVID-like illness is decreasing.

Trajectory of Confirmed Cases Over 14 Days

-North Carolina's trajectory of cases is decreasing.

Trajectory in Percent of Tests Returning Positive Over 14 Days

-North Carolina's trajectory in percent of tests returning positive is decreasing.

Trajectory in Hospitalizations Over 14 Days

-North Carolina's trajectory of hospitalizations is decreasing.

In addition to these metrics, the state continues building capacity to adequately respond to an increase in virus spread in testing, tracing and prevention.

Testing

-Testing is widely available across the state.

Tracing Capability

-There have been more than 716,610 downloads of the exposure notification app, SlowCOVIDNC.

Personal Protective Equipment

-North Carolina's personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies are stable.

On Monday night at the Sampson County Board of Education meeting, Clerk of Court Chris Fann swore in the new Superintendent for Sampson County Schools, Dr. David Goodin. He was accompanied by his wife Michele Goodin.

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

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

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

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

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

Dr. Goodin released the following statement about accepting the position: "I look forward to serving the community of Sampson County through these unprecedented times. Having grown up in Cumberland County NC, being a part of the Sampson County School District is like coming home after being away for 40

REWARD, cont. from P. 1

emblems may have been painted over. At this time, there have been leads, but no arrests."

The Garland Mayor and Commissioners are offering a reward of \$500.00 to anyone providing information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for this crime against the town. You may contact Garland Town Hall at 529-4141 and the Sampson County Sheriff Department at 592-4141. If you have information which leads to the arrest, you may remain ANONYMOUS.

Lt. Marcus Smith stated that one of the trucks was found and returned to the town. Lt Smith stated, "A hog farm worker went into work at a hog farm on Belvoir School Rd and discovered the town's truck abandoned on the property and contacted the Sheriff's Office. After contacting the town, it was discovered that two trucks had been stolen from inside a locked fenced-in area at city hall. The investigation is still on going and we are seeking information from anyone who may have knowledge of the incident. One truck was recovered as mentioned, but the other truck has not been located. The missing truck is a 2016 white Dodge Ram with black bumpers. Anyone having information is encouraged to contact the Sheriff's Office."

According to the Incident Report, the Town of Garland reported a Burglary/ Breaking & Entering, Destruction/Damage /Vandalism of Property- stolen 2 town trucks valued at \$40000, Stihl chainsaw \$400, lawn edger \$400, trimmer/weed eater \$300, Herman Nelson Heater \$378, Briggs and Stratton Pressure Washer \$400, stick welder \$100, chainsaw \$400, lawn edger \$400, battery charger \$139, air compressor \$150, Sawzall/Drill kit \$263, blower \$230, generator \$650, metal detector \$60, hydrant wrench \$87, 48" cabinet \$309, 6 gallon vacuum \$38, pressure washer hose \$34, safe key box \$19, 232 piece tool ser \$100, misc. hand tools, trash pump 328 GPM \$950, rapid wrench \$35, damage to padlock \$25, chain \$50.

Garland town officials made a plea on Facebook asking anyone with information to come forward. "This event has devastated our town financially and we encourage anyone with information to please call."

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Sampson County School Swears in New Superintendent



Clerk of Court Chris Fann administers Oath of Office to the new Superintendent for Sampson County Schools, Dr. David Goodin. Also pictured is his wife Michele.

years. It is my honor and privilege to serve as your next Superintendent. Together we will strive to bring to Sampson County children the best educational experience possible. Together we can and Together we will."

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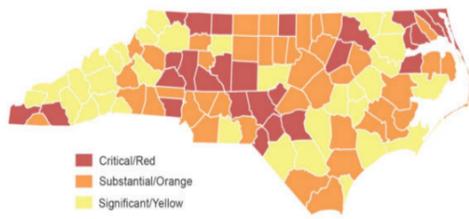
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LOCAL NEWS

COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINICS SCHEDULED

NC Counties by Tier: Data from January 31 through February 13, 2021



COVID-19 TESTING REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 26, 2021

Total Number of Tests Reported to Date: 18,391
 Positive Test Results: 6,922 (103 additional since 2/25 report)
 Negative Test Results: 11,469
 COVID Reported Deaths to Date: 91 (no additional since 2/25 report)

Vaccination Events – We are particularly interested in reaching childcare workers at this Saturday event. -February 27th (Sat)– Drive Thru Vaccination Clinic for Childcare and Grade School Employees
 -Sampson County Expo Center, 9 am – 4 pm

A first dose vaccination event for childcare and grade school employees. Participants are encouraged to bring their teacher IDs or other form of employee identification. Vaccines will be available as supply allows to childcare and school employees who have not received any vaccine within 14 days of the event.

COVID-19 TESTING REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 22, 2021

Total Number of Tests Reported to Date: 17,948
 Positive Test Results: 6,731 (39 additional since 2/19 report)

Negative Test Results: 11,217
 COVID Reported Deaths to Date: 89 (1 additional since 2/19 report)

COVID-19 TESTING REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 23, 2021

Total Number of Tests Reported to Date: 18,070
 Positive Test Results: 6,770 (39 additional since 2/22 report)
 Negative Test Results: 11,300
 COVID Reported Deaths to Date: 90 (1 additional since 2/22 report)

The county held a Drive Thru Vaccination Clinic on Wednesday February 24th for second dose administration. The clinic was held at the Sampson County Expo Center, 9 am – 4 pm. Second dose administration is guaranteed for those persons 65+ years of age who received their first dose vaccine on January 23rd.

At Wednesday's Drive Thru Clinic over 1300 people were vaccinated thanks to the Sampson County Health Department, SCC Nursing students, Sampson County Emergency Management, Clinton Police Department, the Sampson County Agri-Expo Center, CCNC and DSS.

COVID-19 TESTING REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 25, 2021

Total Number of Tests Reported to Date: 18,181
 Positive Test Results: 6,819 (49 additional since 2/23 report)
 Negative Test Results: 11,362
 COVID Reported Deaths to Date: 91 (1 additional since 2/23 report)

According to the COVID-19 County Alert System, Sampson

County has dropped down to the yellow level which still means Significant Community Spread but not Substantial or Critical Spread. Sampson County metrics for the last update were 452.3 for the 14-day case rate per 100,000 and 6.2% 14-day percent positive rate with low Hospital Impact. Sampson County however has been in the Critical/Red are previously.

“With North Carolinians continuing to follow the 3Ws and more than one million people in the state having received at least a first dose of vaccine, we are slowing the spread and saving lives,” said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D. “Let’s keep it up.”

North Carolina has been recognized for its data quality throughout the pandemic. Most recently this past week, Bloomberg News scored North Carolina as best in the nation on vaccine race and ethnicity data quality, reporting the data for nearly 100% of people vaccinated in the state. North Carolina has embedded equity in all aspects of vaccine operations, including how vaccine is allocated in the state. Vaccines are distributed to all 100 counties, with increases to counties with higher numbers of historically marginalized populations that are 65 and older. The state also sets aside a portion of its allocation to support events that increase access in underserved communities and engage historically marginalized populations. These actions are having an impact. The week ending on Feb. 14, 23% of first doses administered in the state have gone to the Black/African American population, up from 13% the week of Jan.18.

CRIME

CRIME REPORTS

02-17 Melanie Mishoe, 44, Clinton. Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle. Bond \$500. Trial Date 03-29-21
 02-17 Theresa Monique Sinclair, 29, Roseboro. Misdemeanor Breaking and Entering, Injury to Real Property. Bond \$3500. Trial Date 04-08-21
 02-17 Ariana Bell, 21 Clinton. Cyberstalking. Trial Date 03-29-21
 02-17 Ellen Marie Treadwell, 38, Clinton. Cyberstalking. Trial Date 03-29-21
 02-17 Dustin OBryan Edwards, 25, Clinton. Order for Arrest. Bond \$2000. Trial Date 05-04-21
 02-17 Autumn Cheyenne Barefoot, 23, Dunn. Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Bond \$500. Trial Date 04-29-21
 02-17 Antonio Jerome Murphy, 25, Turkey. First Degree Murder, Aid and Abet Armed Robbery, Assault with Deadly Weapon with Intent to Kill Inflicting Serious Injury, Possession of Firearm by Felon, Felony Probation Violation, Child Support. Trial Date 03-01-21
 02-17 Dylan Michael Sullivan, 23, Roseboro. Assault on a Female. Trial Date 03-30-21
 02-18 Rodney Lewis, 60, Clinton. PWISD Heroin, Maintain a Vehicle for CS, Alter/Steal/Dest Criminal Evidence, RDO, Possession of Meth. Bond \$27500. Trial Date 03-19-21
 02-18 Bret Matthew Burkett, 25, Dunn. Violation of a Domestic Violence Order. Trial Date 05-25-21
 02-18 Rodney Tilden Brown, 45, Clinton. Assault on a Female. Trial Date 03-09-21
 02-19 Debra Jean Guy, 58, Goldsboro. Violation of Court Order. Bond \$10000. Trial Date 04-13-21
 02-19 Joanne Oates, 62, Clinton. Order for Arrest. Bond \$10000. Trial Date 03-24-21
 02-19 Michael Lutrell Miller, 50, Clinton. Stalking. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 04-19-21
 02-19 Kyle Daniel Indelicato, 20, Garland. Breaking & Entering Building. Bond \$2500. Trial Date 02-23-21
 02-19 William Joeseph Seymour, 25, Hope Mills. (CS) Assault and Battery. 02-19 Laurie Seymour Akers, 47, Fayetteville. (OFA) Solicit Prostitution. Bond \$5000. Trial Date 05-03-21
 02-19 Kenneth Evans, 51, Clinton. MO Possess Cocaine, MO Driving While License Revoked. Bond \$2500. Trial Date 03-19-21
 02-20 Tobias Jajuan Stuart, 20, Roseboro. DWLR. Trial Date 06-07-21
 02-20 Javius Nakeen Arnette, 21, Clinton. Possess Marijuana. Trial Date 06-07-21
 02-20 Jalen Hobbs, 20, Clinton. Carry Concealed Weapon, NOL, Window Tint Violation. Trial Date 06-07-21
 02-22 Cynthia Shuree McLellan, 26, Clinton. Domestic Assault with a

Deadly Weapon. Trial Date 04-13-21
 02-22 Bobbie Carr Smith, 65, Clinton. CS- Worthless Checks. Trial Date 05-11-21
 02-20 Anthony Bryan Chesnutt, 21, Dunn. Possess Marijuana, Possess Paraphernalia. Trial Date 05-13-21
 02-20 Qontishua Sharmaine Brown Lewis, 27, Saint Paul. Larceny of Motor Vehicle.
 02-20 Shatasha McMillan, 20, Saint Paul. Fail to Return Rental Property. Trial Date 03-15-21
 02-20 Cassidy Nicole Winters, 23, Dunn. Possess Drug Paraphernalia. Bond \$500. Trial Date 05-27-21
 02-20 Jessica Lynn Tew, 36, Clinton. Order for Arrest. Bond \$20000. Trial Date 04-16-21
 02-20 Jeremy Dail Royal, 37, Clinton. Order for Arrest. Bond \$10000. Trial Date 03-24-21
 02-20 Whitney Fifi McDonald, 32, Clinton. Obtain Property False Pretense. Bond \$4500. Trial Date 03-22-21
 02-20 Jesse Lee Bard, 34, Turkey. Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle. Trial Date 03-18-21
 02-20 Lela Thornton, 28, Newton Grove. FTA. Bond \$200. Trial Date 03-17-21
 02-20 Joshua Lane Fail, 28, Newton Grove. Communicating Threats, Resisting Public Officer, Assault with a Deadly Weapon Minor Present, Child Abuse. Bond \$5000. Trial Date 04-21-21
 02-20 James Shaquille Devone, 25, Decatur. Littering Not 15>lbs. Trial Date 03-15-21
 02-20 Nicholas Clint Brigman, 28, Godwin. Communicating Threats, Assault on a Female. Bond \$2500. Trial Date 04-20-21
 02-20 Tempestt Sherrie Miller, 29, Greensboro. Order for Arrest. Bond \$350. Trial Date 04-15-21
 02-20 Zachary Tanner Thorton, 27, Clinton. Communicating Threats. Bond \$500. Trial Date 06-08-21
 02-20 Dalton Colt Smith, 28, Dunn. Order for Arrest. Bond \$20000. Trial Date 03-22-21
 02-21 Vanessa Marie Hollister, 31, Fuquay Varina. Possess Heroin, Possess Meth, Possess Drug Paraphernalia, Simple Possession Schedule II Controlled Substance, Possession of Schedule I Controlled Substance. Bond \$6500. Trial Date 03-05-21
 02-21 Samaria Nicole Cardenas, 20, Clinton. Possess Meth, Simple Possession of Schedule VI CS. Bond \$2500. Trial Date 03-05-21
 02-21 Wornell Brothers, 37, Roseboro. Possess Weapon Mass Destruction. Bond \$5000. Trial Date 03-22-21
 02-21 Felishia Nicole Dashner, 33, Clinton. Order for Arrest. Bond \$2000. Trial Date 03-10-21
 02-21 Eva Michelle Sanchez, 37, Autryville. Simple Possess Marijuana, Possess Marijuana Paraphernalia. Trial Date 05-21-21
 02-22 Kyler Bradley Kearley, 21, Clinton.

DV Protection Order Violation, Order for Arrest. Trial Date 03-12-21
 02-22 Jonathan Lewis Jones, 37, Turkey. Indecent Liberties with Child, Sell or Deliver Controlled Substance Minor >13<16, Crime Against Nature. Bond \$500000. Trial Date 03-05-21
 02-22 Michael Kevin Moore, 18, Rose Hill. Simple Possession Schedule VI, Possess Marijuana Paraphernalia, Conceal Carry. Trial Date 06-17-21
 02-22 Ricky Eldridge Bunce, 44, Stedman. Possess Meth, Possess Drug Paraphernalia. Bon \$7500. Trial Date 03-19-21
 02-22 Gary ONeil Williams, 52, Garland. AWDW. Bond \$500. Trial Date 04-27-21
 02-22 Kyler Bradley Kearley, 21, Clinton. DV Protection Order Violation. Trial Date 03-17-21
 02-22 Bret Matthew Burkett, 25, Dunn. DV Protection Order Violation. Trial Date 05-25-21
 02-22 Rodney Lewis, 60, Clinton. Sell/Deliver Heroin, Sell/Deliver Sch III Controlled Substance. Bond \$50000. Trial Date 03-05-21
 02-22 Dustin OBryan Edwards, 25, Clinton. Order for Arrest. Bond \$70000. Trial Date 03-22-21
 02-22 Eddie Shane Wilson, 44, Godwin. Embezzlement. Bond \$5000. Trial Date 02-26-21
 02-22 Darrell Wayne Royal, 33, Salemburg. OFA- Release Order. Bond \$10000. Trial Date 05-25-21
 02-23 Hykeem Shammah-Rayquan Raines, 20, Dunn. Carrying Concealed Gun, Fictitious Info to Officer, No Operators License, Contributing to Delinquency of a Minor, Possession of Marijuana Paraphernalia, Possess Marijuana over ½ oz to 1 ½ oz. Bond \$750. Trial Date 04-06-21
 02-23 Bobby J Parker, 28, Newton Grove. PWISD Marijuana, Maintain Vehicle Dwelling, Possess Paraphernalia. Bond \$2500. Trial Date 03-19-21
 02-23 Jareem David Lovette, 20, Warsaw. Carry Concealed Weapon. Trial Date 05-20-21
 02-23 Sami Hafez Ahmed Albarati, 19, San Fran. Felony Possess Sch I, Felony Possess Sch VI, Possess Marijuana Paraphernalia. Bond \$15000. Trial Date 03-05-21
 02-23 David McNeil Melvin, 35, Roseboro. Consp B&E Felony/Larceny. Bond \$2500. Trial Date 03-05-21
 02-24 Agie Rich II, 41, Roseboro. DWI, DWLR Aft Impaired Rev Notice, Fail to Maintain Lane Control. Bond \$2500. Trial Date 06-07-21
 02-24 Dominic Lamar Rayner, 19, Clinton. DWI, Consumption of Alcohol under age of 21. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 03-08-21

INCIDENT REPORTS

02-17 Lawrence Bernstein reported a Burglary/Breaking & Entering- stolen purse \$100, keys \$30, Crown Royal \$27.
 02-17 Harold Strickland reported Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property- stolen car \$600, damaged van \$500, damaged car

\$500,
 02-18 Town of Garland reported a Burglary/Breaking & Entering, Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property- stolen 2 town trucks valued at \$40000, Stihl chainsaw \$400, lawn edger \$400, trimmer/weedeater \$300, Herman Nelson Heater \$378, Briggs and Stratton Pressure Washer \$400, stick welder \$100, chainsaw \$400, lawn edger \$400, battery charger \$139, air compressor \$150, Sawzall/Drill kit \$263, blower \$230, generator \$650, metal detector \$60, hydrant wrench \$87, 48” cabinet \$309, 6 gallon vacuum \$38, pressure washer hose \$34, safe key box \$19, 232 piece tool set \$100, misc hand tools, trash pump 328 GPM \$950, rapid wrench \$35, damage to padlock \$25, chain \$50.
 02-18 Jonathan Jackson reported Theft from Motor Vehicle- catalytic converter.
 02-18 Tracy Tyndall reported Motor Vehicle Theft- automobile \$5000, jewelry \$200, money \$280.
 02-18 Macie Brewington reported Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property- damage to auto \$500.
 02-18 Jonathan Bryant reported Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property- automobile \$1000.
 02-19 Barbara Butler reported Damage to Property- vehicle ABS wire damage \$1000.
 02-20 Bill Harris reported Larceny structure/other dwelling \$1200.
 02-20 John Bordeaux reported Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property- back glass automobile \$500.
 02-21 Victoria Bogan reported Damage to Property- dwelling \$150, automobile \$500.
 02-20 Spec Hoffman Rental & Leasing reported Larceny of Motor Vehicle- automobile \$5000.
 02-22 Dubose Steel Incorporated reported Motor Vehicle Theft- forklift \$5166.
 02-22 Antonio Maldonado Osorio reported All Other Larceny- money \$1000, cell phone \$480.
 02-22 Ada Moore reported Breaking and Entering Residence- stolen credit and ID cards.
 02-23 Sady Mendoza reported Damage to Property- windshield \$350.
 02-23 Andreais Bronson reported Larceny of Canine- dog \$1000.
 02-24 Tiffany Pope reported Larceny-purse \$40, money \$450, checkbook.
 02-24 Walmart of Clinton reported Larceny- pending inventory.

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

NC Feral Swine Task Force receives \$2.6 million in grants

By Heather Overton



The Feral Swine Task Force has received more than \$2.6 million in grants to help combat the feral swine problem in six North Carolina counties. Grants include \$620,000 for Sampson County North, \$750,000 for Sampson County South and \$1.25 million for the Five County Feral Swine Trap Grant. The grant programs will run through August 2023. More information can be found online at www.ncferalswine.org

Summary of Talking Points:

- Each year feral swine cause about \$1.5 billion in damages to agricultural crops, landscaping and historic sites nationwide. They also carry diseases that pose significant risk to livestock, humans and pets and compete with our native wildlife for resources.
- For the past several years the NC Feral Swine Task Force has been holding listening sessions to better understand the growing issue of feral swine in the state. The task force meets quarterly to discuss effective strategies to eliminate feral swine across North Carolina.
- This group includes representatives from the NCDA&CS Veterinary and Soil

and Water Conservation divisions, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, NC State Cooperative Extension, NC Division of Public Health and the USDA.

- Part of the work of the task force is to gain better insight into the scope of our state's feral swine problem. Recently, the task force has received three grants aimed to help develop resources to protect our resources and start controlling the feral swine population.
- The USDA grants were part of the most recent Farm Bill and focus on Sampson, Anson, Davie, Haywood, Montgomery and Randolph counties.
- Sampson County is the center of the pilot feral swine eradication program that will help guide future management efforts across the state.
- Landowners are working with professionals to learn where feral swine occur, measure the damages they cause and to develop effective removal strategies.
- Sampson County was selected as a pilot county because of frequent feral swine sightings and crop damage. The county also includes numerous agricultural and livestock operations, including many of our commercial swine operations.
- For this pilot program to be successful we need landowner cooperation. Landowners can expect to work with feral swine management specialist to assess damages, place and maintain traps and remove feral swine from their property. Landowners can register for the Sampson County Feral Swine Project online at www.ncferalswine.org.
- The website also allows anyone to report feral swine sightings or damage. These reports can be from any county and will help the task force better map sightings and damage that occur across the state.
- An additional grant of \$1.25 million will be used for the Five County Feral Swine Trap Grant. Counties included in this grant program are Anson, Davie, Haywood, Montgomery and Randolph.
- Grant funds will be used to purchase 50 traps, trail cameras and drones for use by landowners in these counties. The goal is to have the traps purchased this year so landowners can begin to sign up as early as late summer on the Feral Swine Task Force web site. The goal is to have 10 traps available to each county in the program for use.
- We are excited about the development of real solutions to help our state's feral swine problem. Although these initial grants focus on six counties, the ultimate goal is the development of strategies that can be implemented statewide.

NCDA&CS regional agronomists provide Eastern NC crop update

By Heather Overton



NCDA&CS agronomist Don Nicholson checks out a tray of tobacco seedlings ready for planting in this older photo.

Eastern North Carolina is home to many large farm operations and is critically important to our ag industry. If you look at our top 10 agricultural counties in farm cash receipts: Duplin, Sampson, Union, Wayne, Bladen, Robeson, Wilkes, Anson, Bertie and Pitt – all but three are in Eastern NC.

It goes without saying that field conditions are extremely wet right now, with more rain projected to be on the way.

Most of our agricultural research stations record and report weather data to the National Weather Service daily. The Tobacco Research Station in Oxford, which is north of Raleigh, reported 2020 as its wettest year ever recorded in the 100 years it's been recording weather data.

So far, 2021 is shaping up to be a wet year, too. Last February a portion of Eastern NC was experiencing abnormally dry conditions. This year that is just not the case.

The NCDA&CS Agronomic Services Division regional agronomists provide on-site consulting services to help growers. Region 7 agronomist Don Nicholson and Region 9 agronomist Brad Thompson provide an update on agriculture in Eastern North Carolina below.

Field crop report from Don Nicholson:

Tobacco:

The conditions are such that there has been no tillage

work done in preparation for tobacco land fumigation, although we are still a few weeks away from that time to become critical for keeping transplanting on time. Most growers along and east of U.S. 1 generally try to begin fumigation and bedding around the first to the middle of March to observe the waiting period for the fumigants. Most growers think that if the rain ceased right now that it will be at least two weeks before most fields could be tilled.

Tobacco greenhouses either have been sown or will be sown in the next week or so. It would be advantageous to have some sunny, "bluebird" days after seeding to foster adequate, even germination.

Wheat and Small Grains:

The timing for wheat and other small grains could not be much worse than right now with all the rain. Field conditions have been so saturated that almost zero nitrogen has been applied to the crop. The wheat that looks decent right now either had animal waste (chicken or turkey litter) or had 25-30 lbs. of nitrogen applied earlier, before the wet weather set in. Wheat that has had no additional nitrogen applied is looking pretty poor, with very few tillers at this stage of development.

Without enough tillers, I'm afraid that most late-planted wheat, and unfertilized wheat planted on time, has become cover crop that will not be worth the cost of fertilizing at this point. Some growers will opt to try with the idea that even if the crop does not respond favorably to the addition of nitrogen, then they will treat it as cover, terminate it and plant corn so that the nitrogen is not wasted. Conditions will have to improve greatly for any of our small grains to be successful.

Horticultural Crop report from Brad Thompson:

The winter of 2020-21 has been favorable for many horticulture crops. The only factor that has had a negative impact is the rain. Rainfall has been above average which has depleted any nutritional resources left in the soil from the 2020 growing season.

Growers will be starting from zero regarding plant fertility once the 2021 growing season gets started and this has some growers on edge as they are already seeing nitrogen fertilizer and fuel prices increase. However, in terms of normal in a non-normal world, this winter has been more normal than the previous three in terms of temperature, which is very beneficial to the plant physiology of many horticulture crops.

Summary for each horticultural crop:

Strawberry – The strawberry crop was planted timely in the Fall of 2020, and most growers saw plenty of warmth to get the plants established and put on good growth before the plants shut down for the winter. As of right now, many growers have row covers pulled to protect the crop and add some insulation for heat. However, those who have plants under row covers will be pulling the row covers off during the next two to three weeks for plant clean up prior to the plant beginning to push out

new vegetative growth and flower production. The area of concern for most growers this year, and honestly most years, will be disease pressure, especially if the weather continues to be wet and dreary. It is too early to tell how the crop will be overall, but overall plant growth looks good, and most growers are pleased with how their strawberry plants are looking right now.

Peach – The peach industry is looking for a rebound from 2020. Last year there were many growers that had an average crop, some others that had a below average crop, and then some with barely a crop at all. However for 2021, the winter has been extremely favorable for the peach growers. January and February have so far been more normal in terms of temperatures which is beneficial for peaches. Peach trees are still dormant, and the growers are pleased with not having to start worrying so early about freeze events that will impact this year's flower buds.

Blueberry – The blueberry crop is optimistically shaping up to be good for 2021. The abundance of rain did reduce berry quality in 2020 and some growers are a little concerned right now about their plants dealing with the amount of rain they have received, which has resulted in water standing in some fields. However, most growers have pruned their blueberry plants and the plants look good overall. It is too early to tell how the crop will fair but as of right now, the growers are pleased with what they are seeing in the field. Blackberry and raspberry crops for 2021 are also looking to be good for now, too. The biggest concern for growers right now is if the weather does not change much going into the growing season.

Muscadine grapes – There is not much to report regarding muscadine production as of now. Most muscadine growers have finished or will be finishing up pruning within the next two weeks. The vine growth was good in 2020 and the plants seem to be healthy in dormancy. Many muscadine growers are hoping for another good year like 2020 in 2021. Production and sales increased in 2020, and more consumers are looking to purchase more muscadine grapes than they have in the past several years.

Greenhouse vegetables – Greenhouse tomato and pepper production in Region 9 has been slowed lately by the weather conditions we are experiencing; mainly lack of sunlight. Plants prior to this current weather trend were producing well and quality was very good. The growers are experiencing increased costs in fuel and electricity due to the cold weather and having to run heaters and fans more often. Disease pressure has been minimal and the only insects that have posed problems are spider mites. Otherwise, the crops are doing well for mid-February. According to the growers, marketability has not been a problem and consumer buying has stayed consistent. Overall, the crop at this point is in good shape and growers are beginning to shift their focus on growing transplants for spring planting.

FAITH

Yes, We All Need Help

“Be kind whenever possible, and it is always possible.”



BE KIND
TO
- ONE ANOTHER -
Eph 4:32

The following story is by an unknown author, and it speaks to all of us, this message is for all of God's creation.

"I was parked in front of the mall wiping off my car. Coming my way from across the parking lot was what society would consider a bum. From the looks of him, he had no car, no home, no clean clothes and no money.

There are times when you feel generous, and then there are other times that you just don't want to be bothered. This was one of those, 'don't want to be bothered' times. "I hope he doesn't ask me for any money," I thought to myself. He didn't.

He just came and sat on the curb in front of the bus stop, but he didn't look like he could have enough money to even ride the bus. After a few minutes he spoke. "That's a very pretty car," he said. He was ragged, but had an air of dignity around him.

I said, "Thanks," and continued wiping off my car. He sat there quietly as I worked. The expected plea for money never came. As the silence between us widened, something inside me said, "Ask him if he needs any help?" I was sure he would say "Yes".

"Do you need any help?" I asked. He answered in three simple words that I shall never forget. We often look for wisdom in great men and women. We expect it from those of higher learning and accomplishments. I expected nothing from this man but an outstretched grimy hand. His answer took me completely by surprise. "Don't we all?" he said.

I was feeling high and mighty, successful and important, above a bum in the street until those three words shook me to the core. "Don't we all?"

I needed help. Maybe not for bus fare or a place to sleep, but I needed help. I reached in my wallet and gave him not only enough for bus fare, but enough to get a warm meal and shelter for the day. Those three little words continued to resonate in my heart.

Maybe that man was just a homeless stranger, or maybe he was more than that. Maybe he was an angel, a messenger sent by God to minister to me – a soul who was too comfortable in himself."

Catherine Register, a long-time friend of mine from Rose Hill sent the above article to me, and in her words gave it the perfect wrap-up:

"Yes, we all need help. We all can benefit from encouragement and a smile. Remember this as you meet people on the street, at the restaurant, at a funeral, at church, or anywhere else. Perhaps they, too, need help or a kind word or a pat on the back. Pray for God to open your eyes to see how you might help and encourage others."

In words of Christ: *"Assuredly I say unto you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these, My brethren, you did it to Me."* Matthew 25:40

Thank you, Catherine for sharing that with me. I am reminded of an old maxim that I use often, in fact it occurs to me wherever I go: **"A Stranger is only a Friend you have never met."** I encourage you to ponder that for a time...and then try it!!

I have no idea who introduced me to life from this perspective, but I firmly believe that as we go about the 'everyday' of our lives, every person we encounter wears an invisible sign near their heart that says: "Make Me Feel Loved." Perhaps the sign cries "Make Me Feel Special," maybe it could read "Make Me Feel Worthy." Isn't that the way Jesus lived out his short time on this earth? Actually, that is what Christ's life on this earth was all about, my friends. He loved you so much that he had rather come in human flesh, die on the cruel cross, and go through hell for you, than spend eternity in Heaven without you! Remember, Jesus suffered, died, and rose from the grave for YOU! And...He would have done it all if you had been the only person who ever lived! Now that should really make you feel special, that should remove any doubt of your worth, and certainly should make you feel LOVED beyond measure! The good news of Christianity is that the immeasurable LOVE of Jesus Christ is ours simply for the acceptance.



Martha M. Pierce

Yes, we all need help!

What Makes You Happy?



happy

Psalm 1:1-2, "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night."

I can recall growing up hearing adults say, "If you lie down with dogs, you get up with fleas." As a kid I wondered what exactly they meant by that statement. Little did I know that statement came from John Webster in his 1612 play "The White Devil." Act five, scene one, line 170: "For they that sleep with dogs, shall rise with fleas." This quote has a large almost universally agreed meaning of "You should be cautious of the company you keep. Associating with those of low reputation may not only lower your own, but also lead you astray by the faulty assumptions, premises and data of the unscrupulous." However, when you read the first recorded Psalm you discover this idea was present long before 1612.

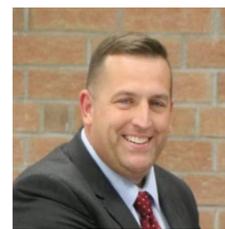
The psalmist shows the slow decline of a person's spiritual condition based on those they associate with. He stated that we can be happy if we are not walking in the counsel of the ungodly. Who do you turn to when you need advice? Is it a parent, friend or coworker that you call upon when you desire guidance? Believe it or not there are some folks that don't have your best in-

terest in mind. They enjoy telling others about your pains, problems and phobias. **Proverbs 13:20** states, "Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm." Ungodly advice can destroy families and friendships overnight.

The psalmist also says we will be happy if we are not standing in the path of sinners. A path speaks of a way or direction one chooses to travel. The righteous individual is not traveling in the same direction as sinners. **Psalm 16:11**, "You reveal the path of life to me; in your presence is abundant joy; in your right hand are eternal pleasures." True happiness comes from knowing that we are on the path that leads to eternal joy in Heaven. The great news of the gospel is that if we find ourselves on the path of sinners we have a detour called Jesus Christ. Anyone can exit from the path of sin, but only Jesus can bring us to God the Father.

The psalmist then states happiness comes if we avoid sitting in the seat of scoffers. The scoffer loves to sit and criticize the people of God and the things of God. We will never be happy by sitting on the sidelines and listening to the voices of the scoffers. **2 Peter 3:3**, "Knowing this first of all that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires." Scoffers never have a real solution to the problems of our world only sarcastic remarks to those that will listen. The more we are around scoffers we slowly adapt to be more like them. The apostle Paul said in **1 Corinthians 15:33**, "Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." Our friends can influence the way we think, our decisions and even sometimes what we do. One of the best ways to break free from friends that cause us to compromise is to spend more time with God and less with scoffers.

We all want to be happy, but true happiness will only come from knowing and obeying God's Word. This week I encourage you to examine your spiritual walk, standing and sitting because it does make a difference to your joy. There might be people that you need to subtract from your life because they are destroying your chance for true happiness. I guess the best way to avoid getting fleas is to elude lying down with dogs that have them.



Rev. Ken Smith
Atkinson Baptist
Church

HOME HELP



TIP OF THE WEEK Set yourself up for success before sanding your floor

DIY refinishing hardwood floors is hard, time-consuming and unforgiving work, so it's important to put your best foot forward to avoid making mistakes that will show. Sanding is the first step. Here's how BobVila.com suggests starting the project:

- **Begin by selecting DIY-friendly sanding equipment.**

"Random orbital sanders are the best choice for do-it-yourself hardwood floor refinishing," says BobVila.com. "They take longer to remove old finishes than drum sanders, but they do not require a lot of experience to use and are less likely to damage your wood floor. With a random orbital sander, you can move with or against the wood grain."

- **When operating the sander, take care to always keep it level.** Sanders, even orbital ones, can get away from you if you're not careful, causing sander marks.

- **Equipment can be bulky and heavy, so be careful lifting it to avoid injury and damage to your floor.** While on the topic of safety, remember to wear protective gear, such as a dust mask or respirator as well as ear and eye protection.

- **Once you've got your equipment, it's time to clear the floor.** Remove furniture, rugs and other items in contact with the hardwood floor you will be sanding and refinishing.

- **After you've sanded the area, clear the entire floor of dust and debris before applying the new finish.**

GARDENING Important tomato temps

Better Homes and Gardens says the ideal temperature for ripening tomatoes is 68 to 77 degrees F. Above 85 degrees, it's too hot for tomato plants to produce lycopene and carotene, which give the fruit its color. If temperatures consistently drop below 50 degrees, however, green fruits will not ripen. Tomatoes that have a little color change can be brought inside to finish ripening.

CLEANING Remove humidifier buildup

Mold and bacteria can easily breed in the water in a normal humidifier.

Here's how Good Housekeeping recommends dealing with nasty buildup:

1. "To clean, pour two cups of undiluted white vinegar into the water tank and swish it around until wet."

2. "Place the vinegar-filled tank on the base and allow it to drain into the reservoir for 15-20 minutes."

3. "Empty it and use a small brush to scrub crevices, removing remaining buildup."

More Content Now



Filling my grocery cart with *spring*

Add some cheery ambiance with pretty primroses

Carole McCray

More Content Now
USA TODAY NETWORK

I am mesmerized by primroses as I veer my grocery cart by the produce section. Cheerful blooms of primroses in golden yellow, fuchsia pink, creamy white and deep wine entice me to fill my cart. So I do and find they are a beacon of spring not far away. They generally appear in February or March and help brighten the gray days of winter.

Primroses add a cheery ambiance to the indoors. They must be treated as a short-lived houseplant if you choose to enjoy primroses inside your home. Proper caring for primroses indoors is important for the survival of the plant.

Here are some tips to keep your harbinger of spring happy until you plant it outdoors:

- Primroses prefer bright or indirect light.
- Keep the soil moist. This is important since indoor primroses tend to suffer from root rot.
- Water once the top of the soil feels dry to the touch.
- Give your primroses some humidity. Place the plant on a humidity tray filled with pebbles.
- Primroses like temperatures below 80 degrees F. Ideally, temperatures for indoor primroses are around 50 to 65 degrees F.
- Fertilizing is not necessary while the plant is in full bloom.
- Pinch off old blooms to promote extended bloom time.

Most primroses do not bloom the second time while indoors, but the plants can be set outside during the warmer months. Sometimes primroses will produce flowers again once the plant is set outdoors in a shaded area. Primroses outdoors in zones 8-10 should always be in a shaded spot since they prefer a woodland type of climate. Sometimes they will go dormant in the summer. In colder climate zones, primroses will need to be brought



Bluestone Primula Belarina Pink Ice (top right) You and Me Blue (center) and Valentine Again (bottom right). [BLUESTONE PERENNIALS COURTESY PHOTOS]

indoors for repeat blooms.

Though noted as short-lived houseplants, primroses are worth the time to grab a few the next time you eye them up at the grocery store. I hope primroses capture your attention as they did this week for me with their cheerful nod to spring.

Carole McCray resides in Cape May, New Jersey, and is an award-winning garden writer who has been writing a monthly garden column, The Potting Shed, for regional newspapers for nearly 20 years. Her articles have been published in The Christian Science Monitor Newspaper, Coastal Living Magazine, Cape May Magazine, Growise Garden Guide and Ideals Magazine. She won the Garden Writer's Association Award for newspaper writing for The Christian Science Monitor Newspaper.



DEAR MONTY

How to check if your home is overpriced



Richard Montgomery

Reader question: We have had our home for sale on and off for some time. We have tried it ourselves, and we have hired real estate agents to no avail. This time, we are going on four months now. In the past, we felt that our house didn't sell because it's unique. Our agent says it just takes the right buyer, and the \$450,000 price is right. How can we check if the price is OK ourselves?
Monty's answer: No home has an exact price

but instead has a range of value. The more unique a home, the fewer comparable sale comparisons. The fewer comparable sales comparisons, the wider the range of value. Home sellers are more prone to misjudge their home's value because they lack appraisal experience and the emotions homeownership brings.

Self-evaluate price

- **Drive by the comparables.** Are the sales genuinely comparable? The identical home may be miles away and contain the same amenities and be the same size on paper, so it presents as a good comparable. But a paper description leaves many unknown facts.

These unknowns are why fee appraisers are required to drive by the comparables. Real estate agents are not required to perform a drive-by.

- **Are you placing value on improvements that don't count?** Many improvements add little or no value on resale. Solar panels, extensive landscaping, roofs and swimming pools are typically improvements that may not increase and even detract from a home's worth.

- **Does the uniqueness add value?** Or is it a hindrance to the sale? A variety of ideas, like floor plans, odd design, building materials and more, can substantially reduce a home's marketability. Consider whether the uniqueness is as valuable

as you give it credit.

- **Determine what your home would cost new.** Suppose a buyer can replicate your home brand-new for less than you are asking. In that case, it will likely sit unsold until you reduce the price or accept a reasonable offer.

- **Does your supporting cast support your contention?** If your home is the only 5,000-square-foot home in a 1,800-square-foot neighborhood, expect to make an adjustment. If a facility that creates noise or odor is nearby, there may be resistance unless the buyer works at the facility. If your next-door neighbor has neglected their house, or keeps junk cars in the backyard, many prospects will reject your home.

FOOD

GREAT GAME DAY GRUB

FAMILY FEATURES

While you may not be able to enjoy game day with thousands of your closest friends at the stadium this year, that doesn't mean you can't still enjoy tailgate-worthy grub at home with a smaller group of friends and loved ones.

Step up your home-gate with an appetizing pre-game lineup featuring customized hot dogs and bratwursts as the main course with other plate-filling appetizers on the side to keep the noshing going right up to game time like bacon-wrapped potatoes, sweet cinnamon churros and a savory take on guacamole.

Find more game day recipes worth cheering about at Culinary.net.

Build-Your-Own Brat Bar

A simple and tasty main course, hot dogs and bratwursts are mainstays on game day and can be easily topped and customized to match each guest's taste buds, regardless of age. Consider setting out a variety of garnishes and topping options such as these:

- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Relish
- Onions
- Chili
- Nacho cheese
- Shredded cheese
- Jalapeno peppers
- Diced tomatoes
- Sauerkraut
- Cole slaw
- Pickle spears
- Barbecue sauce
- Sriracha



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

A Bacon-Wrapped Winner

Creating a mouthwatering game day spread is all about teamwork, and it's hard to find a better set of teammates than crispy bacon and potatoes.

Take one to the house with these Pigskin Potatoes that cut down on prep time and cleanup as an easy-to-eat finger food that can be made in advance. Just prep the potatoes and wrap with bacon a day or two ahead of time then throw in the oven an hour or so before kickoff.

Your base ingredient in these tasty, touchdown-worthy snacks, Wisconsin Potatoes, are low in calories, high in fiber and a source of vitamin B6, potassium, vitamin C and antioxidants.

Find more game day inspiration at eatwisconsinpotatoes.com.

Pigskin Potatoes

Recipe courtesy of The Little Potato Company on behalf of Wisconsin Potatoes

Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 44 minutes
Serves: 8

- 1 1/2 pounds Boomer Gold Little Potatoes
- 6 ounces plain cream cheese, at room temperature

- 1/3 cup orange cheddar cheese, finely shredded
- 3 tablespoons fresh chives, finely chopped
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- jalapenos, to taste (optional)
- 1 pound bacon, thinly sliced, rashers cut in half

Preheat oven to 400 F.

Boil potatoes until fork tender, approximately 15-20 minutes. Cut in half and allow to cool.

In bowl, use spatula to combine cream cheese, cheddar, chives, salt, pepper and jalapenos, if desired.

Once potatoes cool, spread cream cheese on one half of each cut potato and sandwich using other half. Wrap each potato using half rasher of bacon around cut middle to secure cheese filling.

Bake on middle rack 10 minutes to allow bacon to set. Flip and bake 10 minutes.

Turn oven to broil. Broil 2 minutes, turn and broil 2 minutes until bacon reaches desired crispiness.

Tip: Bacon-wrapped potatoes can be made ahead of time and kept in refrigerator until ready to bake.



Photo courtesy of C&H Sugar

Churros

A Sweet Cinnamon Snack

Sweet, handheld snacks make for perfect teammates while watching a game at home, and these Churros are an ideal example of a quick, fun bite that's made with ease.

Requiring less than an hour in the kitchen, they can be made in short order without missing your favorite team's first play. Lightly coated with fresh cinnamon and flavored with C&H Golden Brown Sugar, these deep-fried delights are as simple to make as they are delicious.

Find more home-gating recipe ideas at chsugar.com.

Churros

Prep time: 20 minutes

Cook time: 20 minutes

Yield: 45 churros

- 1 1/4 cups water
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter
- 2 teaspoons C&H Golden Brown Sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 3 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 3 cups canola oil, for frying
- 1 cup C&H Granulated Sugar
- 2 tablespoons ground cinnamon

In medium saucepan over high heat, combine water, butter, sugar and salt; bring to boil.

Reduce heat and add flour. Using wooden spoon, mix vigorously until mixture forms into dough. Remove from heat.

While stirring, gradually add eggs into dough. Mix well. Place dough in pastry bag fitted with large star tip.

In heavy pot over medium-high heat, heat oil until it reaches 365 F. On plate, mix granulated sugar and cinnamon; set aside.

Squeeze churro dough in 4-inch strips into hot oil. Fry 5-6 churros in batches until golden brown, about 2 minutes per side. When ready, transfer to plate lined with paper towels.

Roll churros in sugar-cinnamon mix.

A Tasty Take on a Tailgate Favorite

Even at home, game day means good times with friends and family while enjoying moments together watching your favorite teams. A menu full of flavorful favorites takes the experience to another level, and tackling your spread by starting with a tasty dip is a sure way to fire up the crowd.

No tailgate or home-gate is complete without fresh guacamole made with the Avocados From Mexico brand. Because they're always in season, you can enjoy guac during your favorite sporting events and beyond.

Take it to the house with a twist on a game day classic by testing out this Bacon Chipotle Guacamole, a tailgate-worthy snack loaded with crowd-pleasing flavor. Because it's such a fan-favorite, you might find yourself making another round at halftime.

To find this recipe and more ways to take your tailgate to new heights, including more than 200 guacamole recipes to choose from, visit avocadosfrommexico.com.

Bacon Chipotle Guacamole

- 3 Avocados From Mexico, halved, pitted and peeled
- 3 tablespoons shallot, minced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 cup cilantro, finely chopped
- 1 lime, juice only
- 8 ounces applewood smoked bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1/2 cup tomatoes, small diced
- 2 canned chipotle chiles, finely chopped
- ground cumin, to taste
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste

In large bowl, mash avocados with shallots, garlic, cilantro and lime juice to desired consistency. Fold in bacon, tomatoes and chipotle chiles until well combined. Season with cumin, salt and pepper, to taste.



Photo courtesy of Avocados From Mexico

Bacon Chipotle Guacamole



Photo courtesy of The Little Potato Company

Pigskin Potatoes

EDUCATION

Student Shares Benefits of the Sampson Promise



Written by Olivia Gillespie – Foundation Intern, Spring 2021

It is yet that time again when students are starting to apply to scholarships, and the due date for the Sampson Community College Foundation Scholarships is just around the corner. SCC student Allison Brown was in this same position two years ago.

Brown graduated from Hobbton High School in 2019 and decided to attend Sampson Community College (SCC) to start working on her Associate in Arts degree. She knew that as the youngest of six children, she needed to do her best to find help with affording college. This where the Sampson Promise came in.

The Sampson Promise is a tuition-guarantee program offered by SCC. This program was created in 2019 and ensures that recipients have the tuition and fees that are not covered by financial aid and scholarships are paid. The Sampson Promise program covers up to four semesters of study for SCC students.

In addition to receiving the Sampson Promise, Brown says the support of her family has helped her during her educational journey.

She stated, “I am thankful for my parents and what they have given me. I am thankful for how they have helped throughout my high school years to get to my college years.”

Currently, SCC has admissions agreements with four North Carolina universities that allows SCC graduates to transition smoothly into the universities. This is the route that Brown will be taking when she graduates from SCC in May by taking advantage of the UNCW Pathway To Excellence. Brown plans on transferring to the University of North Carolina Wilmington to major in Elementary Education.

Director of Financial Aid and Veteran Services, Marleen Powell shared, “The Sampson Promise Scholarship is a great opportunity for High School Seniors who have an unmet need regarding their tuition and fees. This unmet need could stand between a student’s ability to attend college and compete their educational goals. The Sampson Promise Scholarship removes the unmet need obstacle for tuition and fees and allows the recipients the opportunity to stay focused on what is most important. Successfully meeting their educational goals!”

When Brown began attending SCC, she had scholarships that were put towards her education. With the Sampson Promise, the amount of tuition and fees that was not covered by the scholarships that she received and financial aid, was covered by this program.

In order to qualify for the Sampson Promise you must have graduated from a public, private, or homeschooled Sampson County high school. Students must have a 3.0 unweighted high school GPA, be able to verify their North Carolina residency, and enroll full-time at SCC the fall after high school graduation.

When asked about the Sampson Promise application process Brown replied, “The application process was rather easy. I talked about my history at Hobbton High School and what I wanted to do at Sampson. I also talked about how Sampson would help me with this scholarship and my educational goals.”

In order to be considered for the year’s round of Sampson Promise applications students must apply to SCC by March 1. Applications for the 2021 SCC Foundation Scholarships year are due by April 15. The application for the Sampson Promise and more information about the program can be found on the SCC website.

Brown believes that the Sampson Promise is a great option for students because it allows you to save money especially if you cannot afford to attend a four-year university right away.

Brown is currently on her fourth semester with the Sampson Promise. Since receiving the help of the Sampson Promise she has maintained eligibility under the program. The eligibility that Sampson Promise students must follow include completing at least 12 hours each semester, maintaining a college GPA of at least a 2.5, and upholding the SCC Student Code of Conduct.

Through the Sampson Promise at Sampson Community College, Allison Brown was able to save money for her future endeavors in both her education and her career, all while preparing for her next steps at UNCW.

For more information about the Sampson Promise visit <https://www.sampsoncc.edu/foundation/sampson-promise/>.

SCC Psychology Instructor & Husband Establish Scholarship Fund



Paul and Lisa Recchuiti hope to empower students to pursue travel and their dreams, whether locally, nationally, or abroad. (Photo Credit/Cheyenne McNeill)

The Sampson Community College Foundation ended 2020 on a high note when three donors established brand new scholarship funds, with awards available to students as soon as Fall 2021. One of the donor families, Paul and Lisa Recchuiti, made their way to Sampson County from Pennsylvania. The couple named their scholarship the “Go Anywhere Scholarship.” Ultimately, they hope to help deserving Sampson Community College students reach their educational pursuits.

Paul and Lisa Recchuiti have only lived in North Carolina for ten years but call the area home, and hope to continue doing so. Lisa Recchuiti, who teaches Psychology at Sampson Community College, says Sampson County reminds her of the town where she grew up. The Recchuitis say that as children, their families both struggled financially. They hope to help relieve the financial burden for similar students.

“I’ve been teaching at community colleges in North Carolina for 10 years, and I know how hard the students work. If we can just relieve a little bit of that burden for someone and they can be more successful and more focused, then that’s what we want to do,” Lisa Recchuiti shared.

The Recchuitis, originally from Pennsylvania, named their scholarship the “Go Anywhere Scholarship.” Named for the Sampson Community College motto, “Begin here, go anywhere,” but is also a statement the couple has lived by. Before settling down in Sampson County, the couple lived in six other states and two foreign countries. They hope their scholarship inspires students to dream big.

Lisa Recchuiti commented, “I’m hoping students get inspired that they can go anywhere. You can go get a job in New York City or Los Angeles! You can go to another country!”

Lisa Turlington, Dean of Advancement and Executive Director of the Foundation, says that the Recchuitis commitment to Sampson Community College, despite moving from out of state, shows their commitment to the community and to education.

“It is heartwarming to see how Lisa and Paul have embraced Sampson County and the mission of community colleges. They both understand the importance of education as well as the challenges that many of our students face,” Turlington observed.

Ultimately, the Go Anywhere Scholarship is about providing access to students who otherwise may have been unable to afford an education. Paul Recchuiti says “Go Anywhere” serves as a reminder for students to pursue their dreams locally, simply because they have access to the scholarship.

“Go anywhere can just mean here! Go anywhere means anything that furthers yourself. It’s a cool and simple motto, but it means everything,” Paul Recchuiti stated.

The Recchuitis established the scholarship fund in memory of Diane Keel, Paul Recchuiti’s mother who, after humble beginnings, left her childhood home in Rocky Mount, North Carolina to attend the College of William & Mary in Virginia.

Whether students decide to begin working after earning their degree or continue their educational journey to pursue a bachelor’s degree, the Recchuitis say they are excited about the work being accomplished at SCC.

“Every one of these people can go on and do great things. If this scholarship helps people, then that’s awesome,” Paul Recchuiti remarked.

The Go Anywhere Scholarship is available for award as early as Fall 2021. Students can apply for this scholarship and others by April 15, 2021. For more information about the Sampson Community College Foundation and to apply for scholarships, visit [sampsoncc.edu/foundation](https://www.sampsoncc.edu/foundation).




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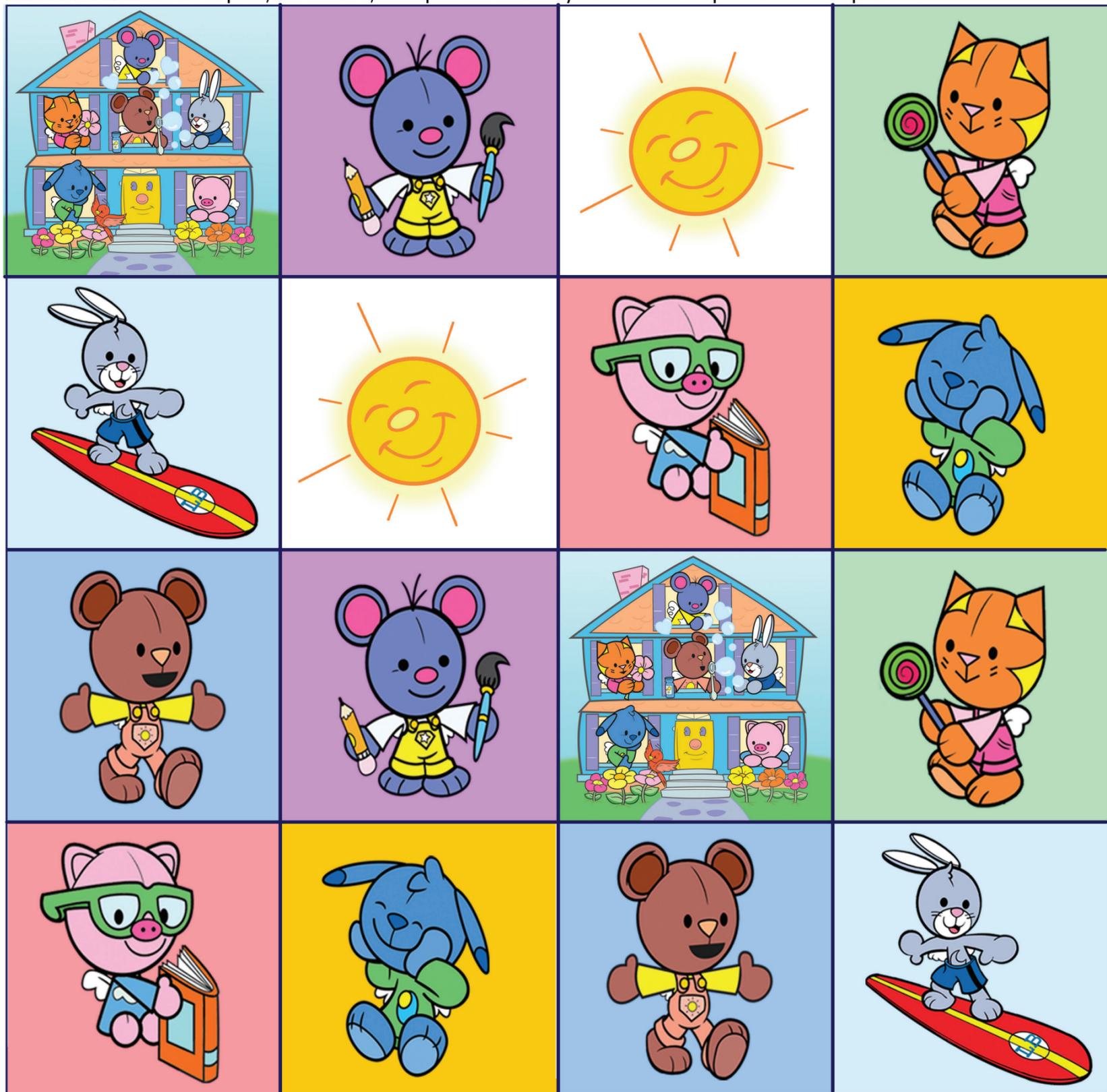
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MARDEROSIAN

Peace & quiet

Why less noise might help our ears but not our hearts or brains

Laura Williamson
American Heart Association News

Jack hammers. Buzz saws. Screaming toddlers. Barking dogs. Horns blaring from incessant traffic jams. Any of these can set nerves on edge, especially if you are subjected to the noise for hours, days or weeks on end.

It's more than aggravating. Studies show noise-generated stress is bad for the heart and brain. But pandemic-induced shutdowns and social distancing have led to substantially less noise generated by human activity over the past year, and researchers are looking at whether that could translate into human health benefits.

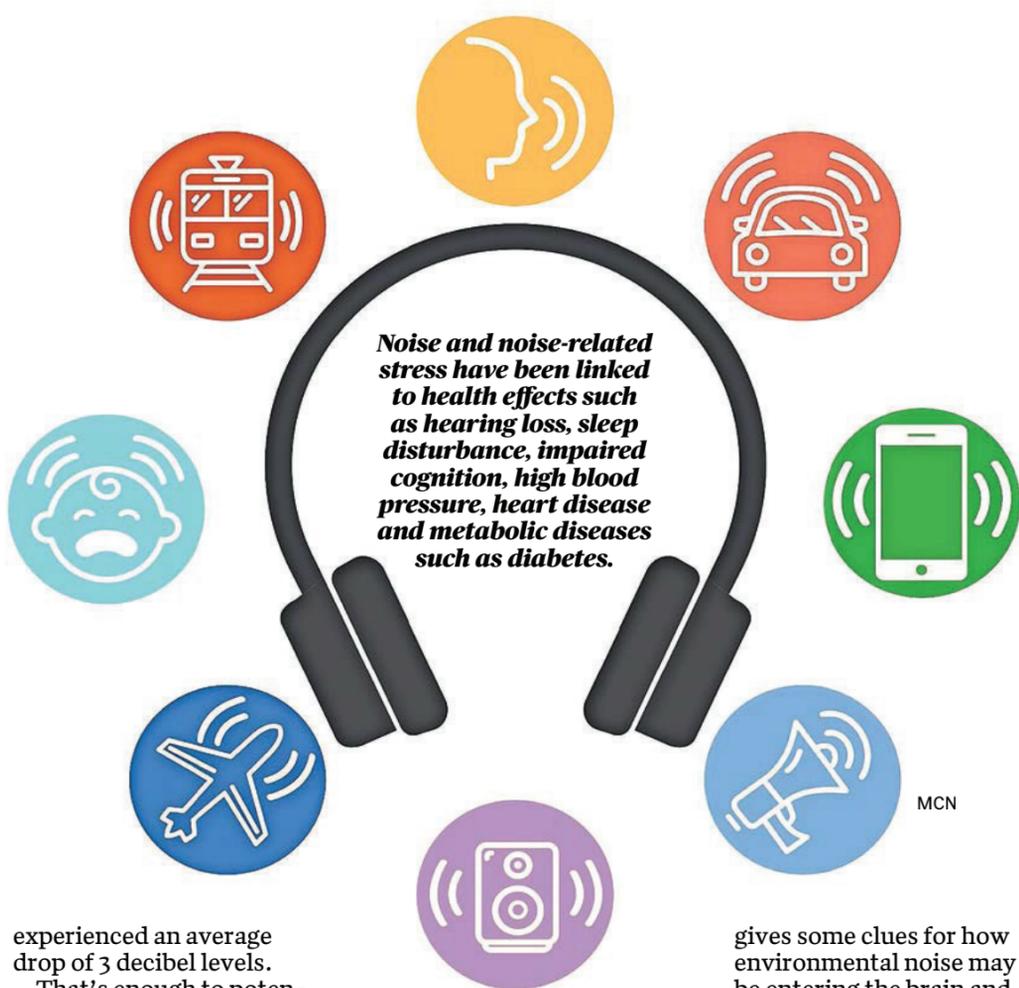
"We know that stress in a variety of forms is unhealthy. Noise is a type of stress we all encounter in our daily lives," said Dr. Michael Osborne, a cardiologist at Boston's Massachusetts General Hospital who has studied how noise enters the brain and harms the body.

Noise and noise-related stress have been linked

to health effects such as hearing loss, sleep disturbance, impaired cognition, high blood pressure, heart disease and metabolic diseases such as diabetes. A 2011 report from the World Health Organization estimated noise pollution in Western Europe annually robs people of more than 1 million healthy life years.

But over the past year, pandemic-related shutdowns, fewer people working outside the home and social distancing have greatly reduced human activity, lowering noise patterns across the globe. One study in the journal *Science* found shutdowns between March and May of 2020 cut the noise generated by human activity in half, resulting in the "longest and most coherent global seismic noise reduction in recorded history."

An ongoing study in all 50 states uses smartwatch monitors to track noise exposure. Initial data gathered during shutdowns last spring in California, Texas, New York and Florida showed a halving of environmental noise pollution in these states. Researchers found study participants



experienced an average drop of 3 decibel levels.

That's enough to potentially reduce adverse health impacts, such as hearing loss, said the study's lead investigator Richard Neitzel, an associate professor of environmental health sciences at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

For every 3-decibel rise in noise exposure, the risk for hearing loss increases substantially, Neitzel said. "If we can keep noise at a conversation level, below a daily average of 70 decibels, we can completely eliminate noise-induced hearing loss."

To determine how the drop in environmental noise may be affecting people, Neitzel and his team are asking participants to take regular hearing tests on their smartphones for

an analysis they expect to do later this year. They're also collecting data on heart rates and self-reported stress levels.

The benefits of better hearing could extend well beyond the ears.

A Lancet Commission report on dementia prevention notes hearing loss in midlife is one of the largest modifiable risk factors. Last summer, a study published in *Alzheimer's & Dementia* found just 10 decibels of additional neighborhood noise is associated with a 36% higher risk for mild cognitive impairment and a 29% higher risk for Alzheimer's disease.

Osborne's research

gives some clues for how environmental noise may be entering the brain and hurting the body: He found high levels activate the amygdala, a part of the brain involved in processing stress. High levels of activity in the amygdala were associated with an increase in inflammation.

While a quieter environment may result in some benefits, Osborne said other stressors associated with the pandemic could wipe out any health gains.

"It's the sum of the stress we are facing that impacts us," Osborne said.

That doesn't mean the damage can't be reversed, especially if people find ways to cope with added stresses, he said Osborne, who is studying whether mindfulness training might reduce disease.

HEALTH MATTERS

CONDITIONS 101
What causes insomnia, and what can one do about it?

Insomnia is a sleep disorder that can make it hard to fall asleep or stay asleep, or cause one to wake up too early and not be able to get back to sleep. Those with insomnia may still feel tired when they wake up. The condition can negatively affect health, energy level, mood, work performance and quality of life.

According to the Mayo Clinic, common causes of chronic insomnia include:

- Stress.
- Travel or work schedule.
- Poor sleep habits.
- Eating too much late in the evening.

- Mental health disorders.
- Medications.
- Medical conditions including chronic pain, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, asthma, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), overactive thyroid, Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease.

- Sleep-related disorders like sleep apnea or restless legs syndrome.

- Drinking caffeine, nicotine or alcohol late afternoon or evening.

The following healthy sleep habits can help prevent insomnia:

- Maintain a consistent bedtime and wake-up time every day (yes, weekends, too).
- Engage in regular physical activity, which helps promote a good night's sleep.
- Check the side effects of medications you're taking — they may be



contributing to insomnia.

- Try not to nap during the day.
- Avoid or limit caffeine and alcohol.
- Do not use nicotine.
- Do not consume large meals or beverages before bedtime.
- Develop bedtime rituals that help you relax.

NUTRITION STATION
Want to be healthy? Avoid pressed juices

Though they may seem healthy, some beverages are deceptively sugary. Juice has to be healthy, right? After all, it comes from fruits and vegetables! Unfortunately, pressed juice — often touted as healthy or helpful for weight-loss — can contain between 20 to 23 grams of sugar in a single cup and very little fiber, according to *Eat This, Not That*. In addition, those who drink pressed juices frequently are at higher a risk of developing fatty liver disease, heart disease and diabetes.

HEALTH STAT
95

According to the CDC, in lab tests, exposure to potentially infectious aerosols decreased by about 95% when people wore tightly fitted masks.

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TODAY'S WORKOUT

Single leg teaser works abdominals

Marlo Alleva
More Content Now
USA TODAY NETWORK

Everyone is on different levels when it comes to fitness. Many are just starting out, so their levels will be less intense and more focused on basic moves. Then there are those who are more seasoned, and need a little more intensity to keep the body ever changing for the good.

Luckily, most every fitness move and exercise has different variations to fit each individual. And many of those variations are simply by adding a lifted leg, arm, or position change.

Our move today is a single leg teaser. This exercise will be working your abdominals, but you will also be putting your balance to the test. All you need for this exercise is a flat surface.

Begin this move by lying on your back. Bend in the knees and placing both feet flat on the ground. Press your back into the floor by rotating in your hips and engaging your abdominals. Keeping your chest tall and a space in between your chin and chest, you will extend both arms straight up into the air over your chest.

Finding your center of gravity, lift and straighten one leg directly out from your body. And now, you are



Marlo Alleva demonstrates a single leg teaser. [ERNST PETERS/THE LEDGER]

ready to get moving.

Proceed to lift your upper body off the floor by contracting deeply in your midsection. Use your arms to reach high above you, and lift your extended leg at the same time. Focus on reaching for your toe.

Once you reach your deepest contraction and farthest reach, return to your starting point. Keeping a steady tempo with this exercise, continue into your next repetition immediately.

Keep your first set on the same leg. Taking a small break, continue in your next set, with the opposite leg extended.

Give yourself at least two or three sets on each

side. Aim for at least 10 repetitions per set.

This single leg teaser is similar to a basic crunch, but slightly intensified with the lifted leg and arms. If at any time you have discomfort while your leg is lifted, place it back on the ground and continue with your lifted arms.

This abdominal exercise is simple enough to perform anywhere, and great added into any abdominal routine.

Marlo Alleva, an instructor at Gold's Gym and group fitness coordinator at Fontaine-Gills YMCA in Lakeland, Florida, can be reached at faluvzpa@msn.com.

REVIEW

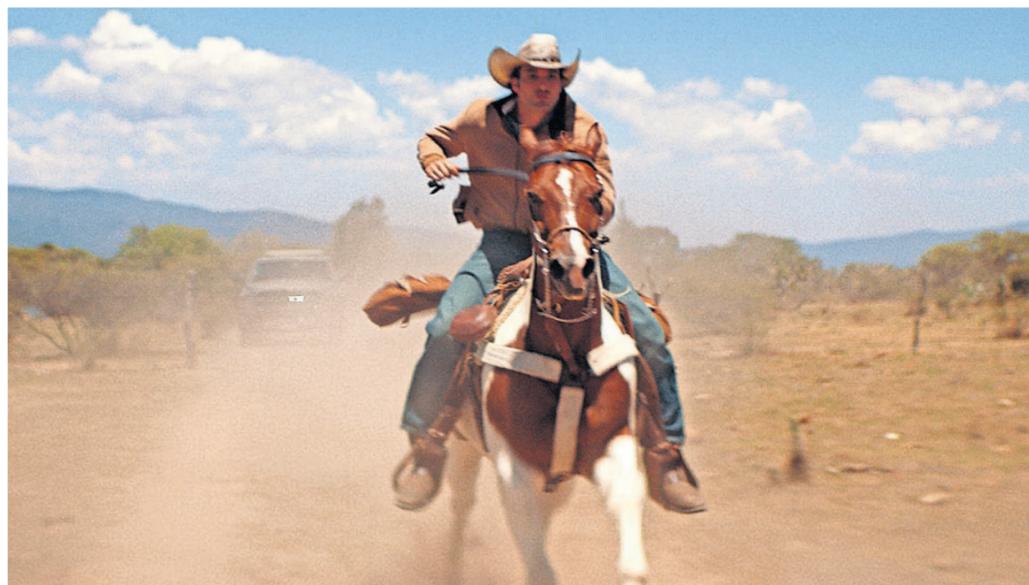
'No Man's Land' explores families, cultural differences

By Ed Symkus
More Content Now

There's a natural border in areas of southern Texas. It's the river known as the Rio Grande, and long stretches of it separate Mexico and the United States. But there are also some border fences north of the river, and myriad geopolitical regulations have resulted in a gap between the countries. The area, physically in the U.S., is unofficially known as No Man's Land.

It's the location of the Greer cattle ranch, where Bill and Monica Greer (Frank Grillo and Andie MacDowell) have raised their sons, Lucas and Jackson (Alex MacNicoll and Jake Allyn). They're a tight-knit, resilient family who love the land and have long endured the hard work it takes to keep everything going.

But times have changed. While Bill and Monica used to leave care packages for the few Mexicans coming north to find work, now there are hordes of them — some stealing Greer cattle, others running guns or selling drugs. Bill and Monica realize that their land is losing value,



Jake Allyn cowrote and stars in the story of a young man caught up in turmoil. [IFC FILMS]

that danger is everywhere, and they don't know what to do about it. But they're happy that Jackson is headed for college in New York, with hopes of someday playing ball for the Yankees. At least he has a chance to get away.

But the script has different ideas, and they're not filled with optimism.

A nighttime raid on the ranch by Mexican rustlers results in Bill and Lucas heading south to get their cattle back. Jackson is

forced to stay on the ranch.

At the same time, a small group of Mexicans are moving north, dreaming of a new life in America, led by well-meaning Gustavo (Jorge A. Jimenez), who has brought along his 8-year-old son Fernando (Alessio Valentini) and is accompanied by a troublemaking punk named Enrique (Andrés Delgado). At the moment those going south and those going north meet, Jackson has — against his dad's wishes

— joined them, tensions spike, a knife comes out, as do guns, accidents happen, Fernando is dead, and Lucas is gravely wounded.

From there until the ending, this dramatic and emotionally wrenching film slowly brings a few concurrent stories together. Texas Ranger Ramirez (George Lopez) must deal with the situation, and though he's a decent, honorable man just trying to do his job, everyone around him makes it difficult. Jackson goes on

'No Man's Land'

Written by Jake Allyn and David Barraza; directed by Conor Allyn
With Jake Allyn, Frank Grillo, Andie MacDowell, Jorge A. Jimenez, George Lopez, Alex MacNicoll
Rated PG-13

the lam, riding into Mexico, Gustavo is overwhelmed by grief over the loss of his boy; Enrique and his gang of thugs want to kill Jackson. Bill and Monica pray for Lucas to pull through and they worry about Jackson's welfare.

It's a balanced study of both families in turmoil, with the lawman trying to make things right. With terrific acting from all, and kudos going to Lopez and Jimenez, there's a stand-out moment that doesn't even involve words: a moving, heartbreaking scene in a hospital.

The script blends in some light moments of good luck and kindness but keeps them tempered by including brief, unsettling shots of Jackson imagining he sees the little boy, visions that haunt him. And don't forget the presence of vicious Enrique.

Everything comes to a head when most of the principal characters meet up at the climax, and the happyish ending is reached a little too conveniently. But it all works effectively as a thoughtful contemporary Western.

REVIEW

Family values lose their worth in violent gangster film

By Ed Symkus
More Content Now

"Brothers by Blood" is a story that encompasses family dynamics, extended-family dynamics, political and criminal power plays, revenge and the effects of emotional trauma on kids when they've managed to grow to adulthood.

Set in Philadelphia in the recent past (Donald Trump is seen on a TV, blathering about his presidential campaign) it's, in the large scheme of things, an exploration of a powder keg of competition between the Italian mob and the Irish mob over who will have control of construction sites in the city. Within that frame, it's about a family that's caught up in events related to that competition, that's ready to erupt into a war.

Sharing the spotlight as protagonists are the Irish cousins Peter (Matthias Schoenaerts) and Michael (Joel Kinnaman). Brought up in one household as kids, due to dire family circumstances, and often referred to as brothers, they are, as adults, two very different people. Peter is the calmer of the two, but usually appears to be off somewhere in his own world, lost in thought, lumbering around, looking for direction. He's had a rough past, but has become a decent person. It's a lot easier to describe Michael. He's a psychopath.

Michael is also in the roofing business, or at least that's what he tells

'Brothers by Blood'

Written and directed by Jérémie Guez
With Matthias Schoenaerts, Joel Kinnaman, Ryan Phillippe, Maika Monroe
Rated R

people. And Peter helps him out when he's asked to. There's no doubt that both are involved in shady dealings, that a pal of theirs is killed over them, and that Michael immediately wants revenge. But nothing specific is ever stated about their day-to-day affairs. The closest the script gets to that area is when Peter says to Grace (Maika Monroe), a family friend who has just returned to town to work in her brother's restaurant, "You know what we do," and she turns her eyes away, because she does know.

The film never bothers to explain how Michael turned out to be such a dangerous loose cannon (nor does it need to), but detailed flashbacks show what happened to Peter as a boy.

Michael is fast losing control over his plans to go up against the Italian mob, even though he's aware that they're far more powerful. In return, the Italians make sure Michael has to walk with a cane, which only angers him more.

Michael has a very short fuse, but the film has a long, slow-burning one. The story gets around to boxing and horse racing and more dastardly deeds, and it keeps getting darker, leaving viewers exhausted.

STAY TUNED

Secrets and lies in thriller 'The Sister'



Melissa Crawley

This week's debuts include an Israeli psychological drama, a painter who meditates on life, and an anxiety-filled thriller about how far a man will go to keep a secret.

Dispatches: Weekly TV news

- The multimillion-dollar Super Bowl ad war between Coca-Cola and Pepsi will not happen during this year's broadcast of the big game. Coke announced that it will not run any advertisements during Super Bowl LV, a decision that follows a similar one made by Pepsi, which has stated that it will focus on its yearly halftime show instead. (PepsiCo will run a commercial for Mountain Dew soda, however.)
- Disney+ announced its lead for the upcoming "Doogie Howser" reboot. Former "Andi Mack" star Peyton Elizabeth Lee will star as Lahela "Doogie" Kamealoha. Set in Hawaii, "Doogie Kamealoha, M.D." follows Lahela, a mixed-race 16-year-old girl who is balancing a medical career and teen life. The series is scheduled for release this year.
- Hasbro/eOne is looking to create a television series based on the fantasy role-playing game "Dungeons & Dragons"



Old secrets haunt Nathan (Russell Tovey) in "The Sister." [HULU]

and has tapped Derek Kolstad, the creator and writer of the "John Wick" franchise, to write and develop a pitch for a live-action show.

Contenders: Shows to keep on your radar

- Israeli series "Losing Alice" (Apple TV+) focuses on Alice (Ayelet Zurer), a 48-year-old filmmaker who is feeling irrelevant until she meets Sophie (Lili Kornowski), a young female screenwriter with a provocative script. Obsession and a dangerous desire for power and success soon lead Alice down a dark path.
- Past and present secrets threaten to destroy a married man in the U.S. debut of British thriller "The Sister" (Hulu). When an old acquaintance shows up on Nathan's (Russell Tovey) doorstep, he is forced to confront the worst night of his life — a long ago party that led to the death of a young woman — and decide how far he will go to keep a secret.
- In "Painting With John" (HBO) John Lurie, the co-founder of music

group The Lounge Lizards, practices his watercolor skills while sharing his thoughts on life. Think of it as an unscripted meditative painting class.

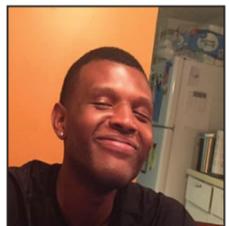
• The train that never stops is back for a second season. "Snowpiercer" (Jan. 25, TNT, 9 p.m. ET) picks up the action with a post-revolution Layton (Daveed Diggs) struggling to maintain a shaky peace as the train's new leader. Meanwhile, Melanie (Jennifer Connelly) is dealing with Mr. Wilford (Sean Bean), who is not only not dead but heading straight for them on a rival train; the shocking news that her daughter (also suddenly not dead) has become Wilfred's loyal protegee; and a surprising discovery that could change humanity's fate.

Melissa Crawley is the author of "Mr. Sorkin Goes to Washington: Shaping the President on Television's 'The West Wing.'" She has a Ph.D. in media studies and is a member of the Television Critics Association. To comment on Stay Tuned, email her at staytuned@outlook.com or follow her on Twitter at @mcstaytuned.

OBITUARIES



CLINTON
Emojeanne Maynard Balkcum, 96, of 1009 Lloyd Street, passed away peacefully Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at her home with her daughter by her side. Funeral service will be held at 2 PM, Saturday, February 27th at First United Methodist Church with Rev. T. R. Miller and Rev. Ed Gunter officiating. Interment will be in the Clinton City Cemetery. A walk-through viewing will be held from 1 PM – 5 PM, Friday at Crumpler-Honeycutt Funeral Home. Emojeanne was born on August 4, 1924 in Kentucky to the late William Ottis Maynard and Bessie Jones Maynard. She retired from Sampson County Schools and was a member of First United Methodist Church. She was a member of the C. Freeman Heath Sunday School Class and the Kathryn Mitchum Women's Circle. In addition to her parents she was preceded by her husband James Tyson Balkcum, and sisters, Evelyn Jernigan Howard and Ruth Denning. Survivors include children, James (Jim) T. Balkcum, Jr. and wife Dot, William Anthony Balkcum, Charles Mark Balkcum, Jeffrey Maynard Balkcum and Lauren J. Balkcum, four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Flowers are welcome or memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church 208 Sampson St., Clinton, NC 28328. Special thank you to 3HC Hospice Care for their loving kindness to our Mother, Debbie Cruse and Kim Garason. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.crumpler-honeycutt.com.



HARRELLS
Mr. Allen "Abe" Abraham Johnson, 26, of 118 Ollie Shaw Rd., passed away on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill, NC. Abe was born December 08, 1994 in Sampson County to Allen and Annie Johnson. He is preceded in death by his father: Allen Thomas Johnson. A funeral service was held at 12:00 P.M. (Noon) Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at the Light Church, 101 W. Broad St., Elizabethtown, NC, by the Pastor Cruz Smith officiating. Burial will follow in the Pickett-Johnson Cemetery off of Moon Johnson Rd., Rose Hill, NC. Abe leaves to cherish his memory his mother: Annie Doris Johnson of Harrells, NC, sister: Tania Tane' Shaw of Clinton, NC and brother: Bryan Tony Shaw of Savannah, GA. A viewing was held on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 from 1:00-6:00 PM at Carter Funeral Home in Garland.



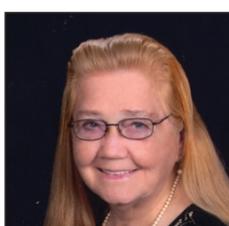
Clinton,
Bobby Lee Martin, 88, of 3325 Union School Road, passed away Sunday, February 21, 2021 at his home. A graveside service was held at 2 PM, Thursday, February 25th at Clinton City Cemetery with Chris McMillian officiating. A walk-through viewing was held from 1 PM – 4 PM, Wednesday, February 24th at Crumpler-Honeycutt Funeral Home. Bobby was born on October 3, 1932 in Halifax County, VA, and was the son of the late George Lillard Martin and Signora Robertson Martin. He was a member of Holly Grove Christian Church and retired with over forty years of service with J. P. Stevens Textiles. He was a US Marine in the Korean War. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his brother, Billy "Babe" Martin. Survivors include wife of 63 years, Nancy Osborne Martin, son, George "Lee" Martin (Amy) of Charlotte, granddaughter Delaney Martin, and grandsons Bennett Martin and Bryson Martin, and brother Cecil Martin. Memorials may be made to the charity of one's choice. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.crumpler-honeycutt.com.



CLINTON
Robert Allen Buck, 56, passed away on Friday, February 19, 2021 at Betsy Johnson Memorial Hospital in Dunn, surrounded by his loving family. Born on December 9, 1964, Robert was the son of the late Robert Birch and Carol Snelly. He was a member of Maple Grove Baptist Church and retired roofing contractor. He was a diehard UNC Tarheels fan and NASCAR fan, with Dale Earnhardt being his favorite driver. He also loved to go fishing every chance he got. He was a talented man and a "jack-of-all-trades" – from working on cars, to landscaping and giving anyone a helping hand. More than anything, Robert was a loving husband, Dad, brother and friend to many. He will be greatly missed. He leaves behind to cherish his memory, his wife, Marie Parker Buck; three daughters: Bridgett, Megan and Makenzie Buck, all of the home; and one son, Zachary Buck of Camp Lejeune; sisters: Alberta Le of Southern Pines; Emma Covington of Red Springs and two brothers: Tracy and Wayne Buck, both of Dunn; and several nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date and announced by Royal-Hall Funeral Home. Royal-Hall is honored to serve the Buck Family.



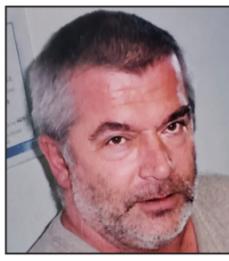
ROSEBORO
Mrs. Norma Jean Williams Fleming, 86 passed away on Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at Bethesda Health Care Facility. A graveside service will be held at 2:00 PM Saturday, February 27, 2021 at Roseboro Cemetery. A walk-through viewing will be held Friday, February 26, 2021 from 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM. Mrs. Fleming was a native of Cumberland County, the daughter of Harvey and Ruby Norman Cline. She was preceded in death by her parents, first husband, Willie Williams and second husband, Jim Fleming. She was a member Roseboro United Methodist Church and the Roseboro Rescue. She is survived by two sons, Eddie Williams and wife, Beth of Roseboro; and Ricky Williams of Raleigh; one sister, Janet Murray of Wilmington; and three grandchildren, Shelby, Stratton and wife, Chelsey and Cory. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Roseboro United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 8, Roseboro, NC 28382. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC.



ROSEBORO
Mrs. Ruth Williams Grantham, 86 of Roseboro passed away on Monday, February 22, 2021 at the Kitty Askins Hospice Center in Goldsboro. The funeral service was held at 3:00 PM Thursday, Feb. 25 at Harmony Baptist Church with Rev. Michael Hall officiating. Burial followed in the Calvary Tabernacle Pentecostal Free Will Baptist Church cemetery. The family will receive friends from 1:00 PM - 2:50 PM on Thursday at the church prior to the service. Mrs. Grantham was a native of Sampson County and the daughter of Arthur and Charlotte Holland Williams. She was preceded in death by her parents and husband, Leo Grantham. She was a retired cook for Gracie's Grill in Clinton. She is survived by a host of family and friends who will dearly miss her. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC.

AUTRYVILLE

Daniel Michael Hogan, Sr. 64 of 3695 Ernest Williams Road passed away on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center in Fayetteville. Born in Virginia to the late Claude S. and Martha Maxie Hogan, Daniel was a truck driver. In his spare time Daniel enjoyed dirt track racing, and western movies, he was a family man that loved to spend time with his wife, children and grandchildren. In addition to his parents he is also preceded in death by a sister Helen Hogan. A Memorial Service will be held at 2:00 pm on Saturday, February 27, 2021 at Hope Valley Hawkins Funeral Chapel, 1246 Hobbton Hwy. Clinton. Daniel leaves to cherish his memories: his wife: Darlene Hogan of the home, Children: Daniel Hogan, Jr. of Autryville, Robert Hogan of Greensboro and Jessica Heflin and husband James of Autryville, grandchildren: Michael Hogan, Timothy Hogan, Helen Hogan, Sara Hogan, Jasmyn Heflin, Jillian Heflin and Sebastian Hogan.



CLINTON
Margaret Elizabeth Jackson, 76, passed away on February 22, 2021, at her home. Margaret was born on January 9, 1945, to the late Oscar Bryant and Theola Strickland. For most of her life, she worked as a seamstress with a sewing company. Margaret was a faithful member of Spirit of Life Church of God for over 30 years. Margaret is preceded in death by, son: Edward Glen Jackson and siblings: Oscar Bryant, David C. Bryant, Charleton Bryant, Carly C. Bryant, Sameul E. Bryant, and Edna Tew. Funeral Services was held at 3:00 pm on Thursday, February 25, 2021 at Spirit of Life Church of God, 180 Overland Rd, Clinton with Bishop Darian Parker officiating, burial followed in the Tyndall-Spell Cemetery. Visitation will be held at Hope Valley Hawkins Funeral Chapel on Wednesday, February 24, 2021, from 6:00pm – 8:00pm. Margaret leaves to cherish her memories, son: Donald Mack Jackson of Roseboro, NC; siblings: Dixie Rebecca "Becky" Jackson and husband Astor of Clinton, NC, and Robert Leon Bryant Sr. of Jacksonville, NC, special friend: Mac Jackson of Roseboro, NC. Margaret Elizabeth Jackson will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.



CLINTON
Joyce Ann Johnson, 67, passed away on February 23, 2021, at her home in Clinton, NC. Born in Harnett County to the late Clifton Avery & Beulah Brown, Joyce was a faithful member of Carrs Chapel Church for 60 years. She loved her family and enjoyed spending time outside. Joyce is preceded in death by one brother Horace Avery. A memorial service will be held at 2:00pm on Saturday, February 27, 2021, at Carrs Chapel FWH, 1641 McDaniels Road Roseboro, NC, with Pastor Billy Bass & Rev. John Hobbs officiating, burial will follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends following the burial. Joyce leaves to cherish her memories, daughter, Sandra Mooring and husband Rex of Freemont, NC; siblings, Wilma Ann Tyndall & husband Ervin of Garland, NC, Jerry Avery & wife Judy of Clinton, NC, Carl "Buck" Avery & wife Sharon of Ammons, NC, Carolyn Stewart of Roseboro, NC, Kenny Avery & wife Margie of Seven Springs, NC, Ricky Avery & wife Terry of Clinton, NC, Donnie Avery & wife Kristy of Goodwin, NC, Judy Noland & husband Jeff of Wilmington, NC. Joyce also leaves to cherish her memories two grandsons, Clifton "Bo" Schneider and Clark Bubba Schneider, both of Dunn, NC.



SALISBURY
Mrs. Hideko Moore, 79 of 2602 Mooresville Rd. passed away Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at The Laurels of Salisbury in Salisbury, NC. A Graveside Service was held Wednesday, February 24, at 11:00 AM at the Clinton Cemetery with Rev. Charles Ray Jernigan officiating. Born in 1941 in Japan, Hideko was a loving wife. Hideko is survived by her husband, Ned Grant Moore of Salisbury; sister-in-law, Ruth Edwards of Salisbury; two nieces: Patsy Moore of Clinton and Betty Lou Echard of Salisbury; five nephews: Butch Williams of Carolina Beach, Steve Williams of Wilmington, Walt Moore of Portland, Oregon, Marion Moore of Clinton and Larry Edwards Salisbury. Royal-Hall is honored to serve the Moore Family.



SALISBURY
Mr. Ned Grant Moore, 86, formerly of Clinton, passed away at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, just five days after his wife, Hideko died. A Graveside Service with military honors was held Wednesday, February 24th at 11:00 AM at the Clinton Cemetery with Rev. Charles Ray Jernigan officiating. Born on December 1, 1934, Ned was the son of the late Ralph and Betty Gore Moore. He grew up in Sampson County, and was the youngest of four children. He retired from the United States Army Special Forces, receiving numerous medals and awards throughout his career. He was a dedicated and decorated soldier who was proud to be a Vietnam Veteran and loved his country. He adored his wife, Hideko and was a wonderful brother and uncle. "Uncle Ned" was a quiet man who enjoyed his solitude and quiet life, and enjoyed going to his mountain cabin for as long as he was able. He was loved by many and will be greatly missed. Ned is survived by his sister, Ruth Edwards of Salisbury; two nieces: Patsy Moore of Clinton and Betty Lou Echard of Salisbury; five nephews: Butch Williams of Carolina Beach, Steve Williams of Wilmington, Walt Moore of Portland, Oregon, Marion Moore of Clinton and Larry Edwards Salisbury. In addition to his parents and wife, Hideko, he was preceded in death by a sister, Beatrice Williams and brother, Walter Chancey Moore. Condolences may be sent by visiting www.royalhallfuneralhome.com. Royal-Hall of Clinton is honored to serve the Moore family.



AUTRYVILLE
Mrs. Faye Strickland Tew, 80, loving wife, mother and grandmother crossed the finish line to Jesus on Saturday, February 20, 2021. The funeral service was held at 3:00 PM on Tuesday, February 23 at Zoar Pentecostal Freewill Baptist Church with Rev. Kelvin Blackman and Rev. Randy Barker officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery. The family received friends from 2:00 - 2:50 PM on Tuesday at the church prior to the service. Mrs. Tew was a native of Sampson County, the daughter, of J. D. and Katie Dell Holland Strickland. She was preceded in death by her parents; and her husband, Max B. Tew. She was a beautician for many years at her business, Faye's Beauty Shop. She is survived by two sons, J. D. Tew and wife, Kellie and Robert Tew and wife, Madonna all of Autryville; sister, Margaret Butler and husband, Harold of Salemburg; five grandchildren, Mark Haggerty and wife, Misty, Brooks Haggerty, Erin Dowgiallo, Dylan Tew and wife, Jena and Daniel Tew; four



great grandchildren, Helena, Kelsie, Orion and Aurora. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in honor of Faye Tew to Zoar Pentecostal Freewill Baptist Church, 740 Zoar Church Road, Salemburg, NC 28385. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC.



PLAIN VIEW
Ms. Vira Coleman Tew, 92, of Plain View died Wednesday February 24, 2021 at The Carrolton of Dunn. She was born June 11, 1928 in Harnett County to the late Frank and Bessie Wicker Coleman. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Marlow Tew; and siblings, Louise Jones, Mozelle Jones, Esther Gates, Eva Byrd, and David Franklin Coleman. Ms. Tew worked for over 30 years as a Teacher's Assistant at Plain View Elementary School. She was a faithful member of Lee's Chapel Church. Ms. Tew loved to garden and share the harvest. She never wanted anything to go to waste. She loved watching birds and had a bird feeder on every corner. Most of all though, she loved her family. A graveside service will be held at 4:00 p.m., Saturday, February 27, 2021 at Lee's Chapel Williford Cemetery. Ms. Tew is survived by her son, Marty Tew & wife Pam, daughter, Ginger McCullen & husband Billy; grandchildren, Mark Tew, April Tew, Will McCullen & wife Hilary, Eli McCullen & wife Morgan, and Elizabeth McCullen; and great grandchild, Caden McCullen. A public viewing will be held Friday, 1 to 4 p.m. The family will not be present. Memorials may be made to Lee's Chapel Church, 4948 Plain View Hwy., Dunn, NC 28334. Arrangements by Skinner & Smith Funeral Home in Dunn.



PLAIN VIEW
Mrs. Lynette Tew Washburn, 84, went to be with her Heavenly family on February 22, 2021. Lynette was born on July 20, 1936 to the late Fred and Emma McCullen Tew. She graduated from Plain View High School and attended Atlantic Christian College. She retired from Pitt County Department of Social Services. She was preceded in death by her parents, Fred Tew and Emma McCullen Tew; husband Richard Washburn; a brother Freddie A. Tew, Jr.; two stepsons, Richard Washburn Jr., and Brian Washburn; and step grandson Kyle Murphy. She is survived by her stepson, William Washburn and wife Carol of Little Falls, NY; three stepdaughters, Lynne Venters of New Bern, Barbara Murphy and husband James of Windham, NH, Virginia Shaver and husband Thomas of Little s Falls NY; a sister-in-law, Joyce Tew and nieces, Suzanne Tew Keever, and Tiffany Tew Babb. For the past eight years, she resided on Timothy Road in the Plain View Community. She was very special and close to Sandra Jackson, Frankie Patterson, Peggy Autry, and D.S. McCullen. She was thought of as a very special aunt to many of her younger cousins. She had two special friends that were very dear to her; Betsy May and Celia Glover, who came to visit her often. Visitation will be held Tuesday, February 23, 2021 from 4 to 6 p.m., at Skinner and Smith Funeral Home of Dunn. Funeral services were held at Skinner and Smith on Wednesday February 24, 2021 at 11 a.m. Burial will follow at Lee's Chapel-Williford Cemetery. Arrangements are by Skinner & Smith Funeral Home in Dunn.

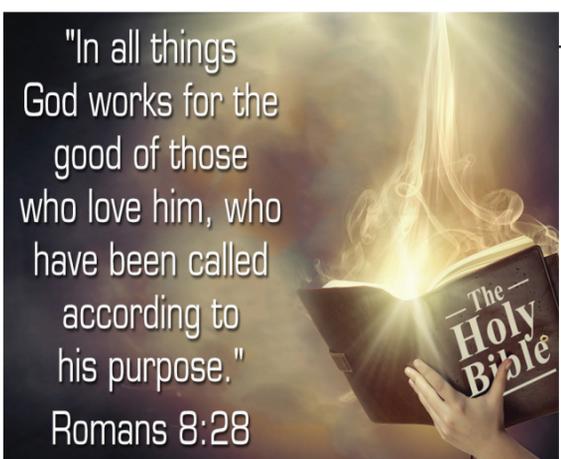


CLINTON
Mr. General Lee Williams, Jr., 69, of 213 Forest Trail, passed away Saturday, February 20, 2021 at UNC Hospitals, Chapel Hill, NC. The graveside service was held at 1 p.m., Friday, February 26 at the Howard Family Cemetery, Salemburg with Rev. Freddie Herring officiating. The burial followed the service. The public viewing was held Friday February 26 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Worley Funeral Home, Inc. Mr. Williams, Jr., is survived by his sisters, Redo Gilbert of Fort Worth, TX, Catherine Williams of Brooklyn, NC, Edwina Williams of Fayetteville, NC, Tammy Williams of Salemburg, NC and Donna Monroe of Roseboro, NC; brother, Jeffery Williams of Salemburg, NC. Online condolences may be sent to worleyfuneralhomeinc.com. Service will be live-streamed via Worley Funeral Home Facebook page.

CLINTON
Kenneth Allen Cook, 66, of 1380 Keener Road, passed away on Sunday, February 14, 2021, at his home. Born August 19, 1954, Kenneth is preceded in death by, his wife: CL, parents: Kenneth Cook & Rosie Aleene Westbrook, brother: James Cook and sister: Mary Dunay. A Memorial Service will be held at 1:00 pm on Sunday, February 21, 2021 at Hope Valley Hawkins Funeral Chapel 1246 Hobbton Hwy Clinton, NC 28328. Kenneth Cook leaves to cherish his memories, his son: Allen Cook of Clinton, NC.

ROSEBORO
Mrs. Maria Benitez Rebollar, 56 passed away on Saturday, February 20, 2021 at Wake Medical Center in Raleigh. The family received friends from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM Sunday, February 21, 2021 at Butler Funeral Home in Stedman; and from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM Monday at San Isidro Catholic Church. A Catholic Mass took place at 5:00 PM Monday, February 22, 2021 at San Isidro Catholic Church, 4733 Macedonia Church Road, Fayetteville. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 6535 Clinton Road, Stedman, NC 28391.

NEWTON GROVE
Mr. Danny G. Westbrook age 67, passed away January 25, 2021, at his residence with his family by his side. The Memorial Service will be held at the Hobbs Family Cemetery, Newton Grove with the Rev. Dick Westbrook officiating on February 28, 2021, at 2 p.m. Left to cherish his memories are his wife: Carol W. Westbrook of the home, sister; Brenda McLamb and husband Charles of Coats, and brother; Timmy Westbrook of Erwin. He was preceded in death by his parents; E.T. & Joyce Westbrook. Due to NC COVID Law, social distancing measures should be practiced at all times and a mask worn during all services. Online condolences may be made at; www.westanddunn.com. Services have been entrusted to West & Dunn Funeral Home, Newton Grove, North Carolina.



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NASCAR THIS WEEK

SPEED FREAKS

Michael McDowell and Christopher Bell? Which first-timer you like at Homestead?

KEN'S CALL: Chase Briscoe has won Homestead in Trucks and Xfinity. Keep that hood buckled down, and he's got a shot on Sunday.

DEAN'S DIRT: Tyler Reddick finished fourth in this sucker last season. I'm guessing they saved that engine.

How you like the Daytona Road Course now?

KEN'S CALL: It quickly grew on me and I rescind my request to run a shorter version of the course.

DEAN'S DIRT: As long as we bunch 'em up with 10 to go every race, it'll be just fine.

ZACH'S HOMESTEAD- MIAMI PICKS

Winner: Kyle Larson

Rest of top 5: Kevin Harvick, Chase Elliott, Kyle Busch, Alex Bowman

First one out: Joey Logano

Dark horse: Tyler Reddick

Don't be surprised if: Larson returns to his winning ways at a place he loves.

BY THE NUMBERS

3 Number of times a first-time winner has won the opening two races in a NASCAR season.

10 Races run at Daytona over the past two weeks.

26 Age of road-course winner Christopher Bell.

44 Laps led by Chase Elliott.

186 All-time wins for Joe Gibbs Racing.

DAYTONA MOTOR MOUTHS

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



THROUGH THE GEARS



Christopher Bell won his first Cup race Sunday, one day after young Ty Gibbs won in his Xfinity Series debut. DAVID TUCKER/DAYTONA BEACH NEWS-JOURNAL

The next wave is here, and more is on the way

Zach Dean

Daytona Beach News-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

NASCAR's youth movement was on full display this weekend — at all levels of racing.

Christopher Bell, 26, stole the show on Sunday, running down, catching, and then passing past champion Joey Logano to win his first Cup race in just his 38th start.

With 25-year-old Chase Elliott winning last year's championship, Bell winning Sunday, and an influx of talent at all three national series levels, it's clear now that the NASCAR young-guns are here. Time to make everyone feel old!

First gear

Yes, Bell caught and passed Logano because he was the one on fresh tires. But don't let that take away from the fact the Joe Gibbs racer had one of the fastest cars in the field on Sunday.

Bell challenged road-course ace Chase Elliott all afternoon, and, like Elliott, pitted late in the race. Both drivers started in the middle of the pack, but it was Bell who maneuvered his way through the field like a savvy veteran, eventually catching Logano.

Bell is only in his second full-time season, and is a 2017 Truck Series champion. He also made it to the championship race in both Xfinity seasons before moving over to Cup last year.

Now that he's in good equipment, look out.

Second gear

Bell stole the show on Sunday, but young Ty Gibbs was the star of the weekend.

The grandson of NASCAR team owner Joe Gibbs, 18-year-old Ty dazzled in Saturday's Xfinity race, making a daring four-wide pass in the waning laps to win in his first national series start.

"This is a dream come true," said an

emotional Gibbs, who became just the sixth driver to win in his Xfinity debut.

Gibbs has eight wins in just 28 ARCA starts, and is set to run a handful of Xfinity races this season along with his full-time ARCA duties.

Third gear

Gibbs outran defending series champion Austin Cindric to win Saturday's Xfinity race, but don't get it twisted: Cindric is the class of the Xfinity field.

The 22-year-old began his title defense with a win on Daytona's tri-oval in the Xfinity opener, and nearly made it two in a row over the weekend before his car got tangled with AJ Allmendinger's early in the race. Still, Cindric fought back with no right-front fender and nearly won, ultimately finishing second.

It won't be long before you see him on Sundays, either.

It's already been announced that Cindric will replace Matt DiBenedetto in the No. 21 Wood Brothers Ford in 2022.

Fourth gear

With Bell's win Sunday, and Michael McDowell's triumph in last week's Daytona 500, this is the third time in Cup Series history the first two races of the season were won by first-time winners.

Don't be surprised if the next first-timer is right around the corner.

Chase Briscoe, 26, is coming off a nine-win Xfinity campaign last season, and is in Clint Bowyer's old No. 14 for Stewart-Haas Racing. It won't be long before he's in Victory Lane.

Same can be said about 25-year-old Tyler Reddick, who had a sneaky good rookie campaign in 2020, along with Ross Chastain — the 28-year-old watermelon farmer who's running full-time in the No. 42 Chip Ganassi Chevy this year.

And then there's Bubba Wallace, 27, who's now in supposedly good equipment at the newly formed 23XI Racing. We'll get to see this weekend at Miami just how good that car can be.

Q&A

Your Road Course review?

Timely cautions bunching the field helped the show, but you can say that nearly every week. Following last August's NASCAR debut on the Daytona Road Course, there was concern about its excitement level. That began disappearing during the Busch Clash, and by the end of Sunday's race, you had to be enjoying it. There wasn't the wholesale sheet-metal carnage you see during a Daytona tri-oval race, but nearly every car had damage indicating the bare-knuckle racin' NASCAR was built upon.

What about its future?

Let's assume it remains on the schedule for the Busch Clash, and remains a viable alternative if further scheduling adjustments are needed. Also, this little corner of the NASCAR world has suggested in recent years that the Road Course might be a good home for Daytona's summertime race, and after seeing it twice this February, that suggestion still holds.

— Ken Willis

CUP STANDINGS

1. Denny Hamlin	104
2. Joey Logano	92
3. Kevin Harvick	83
4. Christopher Bell	82
5. Chase Elliott	79
6. Michael McDowell	75
7. Ryan Preece	74
8. Kurt Busch	65
9. Austin Dillon	64
10. Brad Keselowski	64
11. Cole Custer	54
12. Kyle Larson	53
13. Bubba Wallace	52
14. Martin Truex Jr.	47
15. Corey LaJoie	38
16. Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	38
17. Kyle Busch	35
18. Chris Buescher	34
19. Ryan Blaney	34
20. Ross Chastain	33



Points leader Denny Hamlin.
JASEN VINLOVE/USA TODAY SPORTS

WHAT'S ON TAP

Saturday, Feb. 27: Xfinity Series at Homestead-Miami (Fox Sports 1, 4:30)
Sunday, Feb. 28: Cup Series at Homestead-Miami (Fox, 3:30)
Friday, March 5: Truck Series at Las Vegas (FS1, 9 p.m.)
Saturday, March 6: Xfinity Series at Las Vegas, (FS1, 4:30)
Sunday, March 7: Cup Series at Las Vegas (Fox, 3:30)

KEN WILLIS' TOP 10 DRIVER RANKINGS

CHASE ELLIOTT Victim of circumstances	JOEY LOGANO Led late in both Daytonas	DENNY HAMLIN Leading the wrong laps so far	KEVIN HARVICK Not great, but steady start	BRAD KESELOWSKI The new Mr. Excitement	CHRISTOPHER BELL Btw, also led 32 laps in the 500	KYLE BUSCH Clash gift is highlight so far	ALEX BOWMAN Snuck out a 10th on road course	KYLE LARSON Will finish third at Homestead	RYAN BLANEY Stuck in traffic so far

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