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SAMPSON COUNTY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

The Sampson Weekly

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 9



www.thesampsonweekly.com

Week of February 28-March 5, 2020

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WEATHER

Fri Partly Cloudy

0%

Hi: 54° Lo: 33°

Sat Sunny

0%

Hi: 51° Lo: 27°

Sun Partly Cloudy

0%

Hi: 56° Lo: 37°

Mon Partly Cloudy

10%

Hi: 66° Lo: 54°

Tues Partly Cloudy

10%

Hi: 73° Lo: 63°

Wed Rain

40%

Hi: 75° Lo: 60°

ALIVE AFTER FIVE CELEBRATES 10th ANNIVERSARY JIM QUICK AND COASTLINE TO KICK-OFF CONCERT SERIES



Alive After Five is a Standing Committee of the Sampson Arts Council, a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to enrich the cultural lives of the citizens of Sampson County by nurturing and supporting excellence in the arts; promoting, presenting and encouraging educational arts activities; increasing the local economic impact of the arts; and otherwise enhancing the growth and appreciation of the visual, literary and performing arts. Sampson County, Clinton, NC. The Alive After Five Committee (AA5)

ALIVE AFTER 5, see P. 3

Sampson County Educators Nominated for National LifeChanger of the Year Award



Natascha Faircloth



Geoffrey Tart

February 26, 2020 – Newton Grove, NC – Hobpton High School band director Geoffrey Tart and Lakewood High School FACS teacher Natascha Faircloth have been nominated for the 2019-20 national LifeChanger of the Year award.

Tart was nominated by his former student, Sarah Todd, for his work to motivate students and provide them with every opportunity available. He takes time to cultivate a working knowl-

EDUCATORS, see P. 4

Dr. Bracy Honored as NCASCD 2020 Distinguished Educator of the Year



Vice Chairman Darryll Warren presents Sampson County School Superintendent Dr. Eric Bracy with award

On Monday night at the Sampson County School Board meeting, Dr. Linda Jewel Carr and School Board Vice Chairman Darryll Warren recognized Dr. Bracy for receiving the NCASCD 2020 Distinguished Educator of the Year Award. Dr. Bracy has a documented history of success possessing excellent leadership skills. NCAE Superintendent of the Year 2017; Southeast Education Alliance Superintendent of the Year 2017; and a nominee for the A. Craig Phillips Superintendent of the Year Award 2017-2018.

The Distinguished Educator Award is presented to a member of the association who has made significant contributions in the areas of curriculum and instruction as a teacher or administrator as attested by (a) innovative program initiation, (b) improved or increased achievement or performance of students, and (c) a demonstrated increase in the efficiency and effectiveness with which fiscal, human, and/or physical resources are used.

Dr. Eric Bracy grew up in the northeastern town of Weldon, NC in Halifax County. His parents were both educators, with his mom teaching for 40 years and his father working in administration for the school system. After high school, Bracy attended NC Central University where he received his BA degree. He then received his Masters from Virginia State University and his ED. D from Nova Southeastern University.

Dr. Bracy began his career in education as a 4th grade teacher in North Hampton County. Bracy has also been an Assistant Principal and Principal at the elementary level prior to joining the central office at Durham County Schools. His last position before joining Sampson County Schools was Superintendent of North Hampton County Schools where he began his career. Dr. Bracy began leading Sampson County Schools in February of 2014.

Since moving to Sampson County, **BRACY, see P. 3**

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

LOCAL NEWS

Board of Election Vote to Start Saying a Prayer and Reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at Each Meeting



On Tuesday, the Sampson County Board of Elections held their monthly absentee meeting. At the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Dwight Williams was sworn in as the newest board member, replacing Quincy Edgerton. Present Board Members include Dwight Williams, Charlotte Murphy, Chairman Horace Bass, GH Wilson and Danny Jackson.

Open issues that were discussed included the counting of Absentee-By Mail Ballots which ended last Thursday with 449 ballots cast.

When the meeting was opened up for Public Comment, Sampson County Commissioner Jerol Kivett and his wife Telia, SC Republican Party Chairperson asked the board why they did not recite the Pledge of Allegiance or say an opening prayer. Board member Danny Jackson stated that he had never remembered the board doing those things, but he was ok



Recently appointed Board of Election member Dwight Williams takes the Oath of Office, administered by Tammy Cashwell. Holding the Bible is Horace Bass.

with the addition to the meeting. Chairman Horace Bass noted that he was also in favor of the suggestion. With more discussion and agreement from Board members Charlotte Murphy and GH Wilson, Danny Jackson made the motion and Chairman Horace Bass seconded the motion to start each Board of Election meeting with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Miss Hobtton Pageant to be Held on February 29th



The Miss Hobtton High School Scholarship Pageant will be held on Saturday, February 29 at 6:00 pm. Samantha Britt, Miss Hobtton 2019 will be crowning her successor out of our six contestants. All tickets will be \$10 and we will have a special guest, Miss North Carolina 2019 Alexandra Badgett in attendance.

Pictured from left to right: Ellington Tart, Baylor Harris, Kenly Montes, Samantha Britt- Miss Hobtton 2019, MarTichia Parker, Abigail Simmons and Lily Askew.



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Cat Fish with 2 sides and drink \$7.99
Chicken Tenders with 2 sides and drink \$7.99
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ALIVE AFTER 5, cont. from P. 1

along with the Sampson Arts Council, City of Clinton, and the County of Sampson today announced the 10th Anniversary Season of the hugely successful AA5 Concert Series. In celebration of this milestone, the AA5 Committee announced that five FREE-to-the-PUBLIC concerts will be presented that are sure to draw concertgoers from Sampson County and beyond.

The schedule of performances includes a “who’s-who” of bands that will perform a variety of musical genres including Beach, R&B, Country, Dance and Top 40. Bands for the upcoming season include: JIM QUICK & COASTLINE (May 21st); CAT 5 Band (June 18th); SPARE CHANGE (Aug. 20th); and THE ENTERTAINERS (Sept 17th). On Friday, (October 9th), a special concert featuring THE BAND OF OZ will be presented to support the 2020 Cycle NC Mountains-to-the-Coast Bike Tour that includes an overnight stay in Sampson County. Cycle NC selected the Sampson County Convention & Visitors Bureau to serve as a host for their annual event! It is anticipated that this event will attract over 1,400 visitors to Sampson County across the United States. FMI Visit: www.visitsampsonnc.com.

Kicking off the season on Thursday, May 21st, is Jim Quick and Coastline. For Over 25 years, Jim Quick and Coastline, like their namesake the Atlantic Coastline Railroad, have been traveling the “tracks” of the southeast, and connecting with the hearts of loyal “Coastline Crazyes.” Pulling from the threads of Soul, Blues, R&B, and Americana, Jim Quick and Coastline weave together their own genre of music known as Swamp Soul. Delivered with precision by front man Jim Quick and his band, this group captures the true, honest spirit of traditions born and bred in the small southern towns of America. These five musicians, whose talents have landed them numerous awards in the industry, bring this indigenous music to life in the most genuine way possible. The band currently performs an average of 250 concerts per year, with an always growing fan base that is as diverse as the music of the band itself. Jim Quick has earned many accolades and has been named both Entertainer and Songwriter of the Year by the Carolina Beach Music Awards (CMBA).

Making their first appearance in the AA5 Series on June 18th is the CAT 5 Band. CAT5 consists of five individuals who bring a world of talent to the stage every time they perform. Band Members include Jerry West who was a longtime member of the Band of Oz and who also performed with the 1980’s rock-band Sugar Creek. With multiple Cammy Awards including “Vocalist of the Year” and “Instrumentalist of the Year” under his belt, West is best known for his amazing vocals on hit songs including “Somewhere Over The Rainbow” and “Build Me Up.” Other band members include CBMA Instrumentalist Of The Year Award winner, Camron Dudley, (Vocals, Drums, Percussion) formally of the Jim Quick and Coastline band; Glen Tippet, (Vocalist, Multi-Instrumentalist) who has earned Multiple Cammy Awards including two Instrumentalist of the Year Award in 2008 and 2015; Hugh Blanton, (Vocals & Bass Guitar) also a Multi Cammy Award Winning artist, and recipient of 2017 Song of the Year, while performing with the Breeze Band; and rounding out this stellar line-up of artists is Tim Sidden (Vocals, Keyboards, Harmonica) who performed with the Band Hip Pocket for over four years, who in 2018, released the song “Carolina Queen” which went Number “1” in the Beach Music World and Spawned the creation of its own merchandise including shirts, mugs and other Items

Spare Change, one of the Carolinas’ most well-known and respected party bands will take the stage On Thursday, August 20th. With a diverse playlist Spare Change becomes an instant crowd sensation everywhere they perform. From rock, country, beach, funk, rap, current Top 40 hits, and classic rock, Spare Change is sure to play a favorite song of every person in attendance. Comprised of five singers (including a female), a rapper, a trumpet player, and even an electric violinist, their range and versatility is unmatched. Spare Change is famous for their ability to switch gears, sounding like a Nashville country band one minute, a funky groove band the next, and an 80s hairband after that, all with equal comfort and authenticity. Choreographed dances, audience participation, and non-stop motion on stage help drive an energy level that will leave the crowd happily exhausted by the end of the night.

On Thursday, September 17th, The Entertainers will make their debut performance in the AA5 Concert Series. In 1980, THE ENTERTAINERS scored their first regional smash hit with LIVING FOR THE SUMMER, a song that propelled the group to the forefront of beach music, which led to The Entertainers playing the finest clubs along the Grand Strand of Myrtle Beach, and in clubs and music festivals from Virginia to Florida. During the Third Annual Beach Music Awards in 1988, THE ENTERTAINERS were nominated for both the Group of the Year and Single of the Year. The group’s second album, DON’T LET YOUR LOVE GROW COLD, won Album of the Year honors. In 1991, after sixteen years with the Catalinas and eleven years with the Embers, Johnny Barker, (Keyboard and Vocals) became a partner with Earl Dawkins as co-owner of the group. Barker, a noted musician and writer in the beach music industry, lists credits such as: Love Me, Always In Love, Facts of Love, and the fourth most popular beach music song of all time, Summertime’s Calling Me, a song that spawned a new generation of beach music dance styles and tempo changes. Ear Dawkins, the founder of The Entertainers, as well as lead singer/front man, co-wrote the group’s first regional hit, “Livin for The Summer.” Dawkins also appeared as a Male Vocalist contestant in 1985 on “Star Search.” Other band members include: Beaver Robinette, (Sax and Vocals) who is a graduate of Appalachian State University with a degree in music. Beaver also plays trumpet and flute and teaches in the North Carolina school system. His energy and soulful sax solos are always present; Eddie Brooks (Drums, Vocals) has been singing and playing drums for well over twenty years. With strong vocals, an easy to dance to beat, and spectacular solo ability Brooks is easily set apart from the rest; and rounding out this powerhouse group is Benjie Weaver (Guitar & Vocals) whose guitar playing, unique vocal talents, and friendly stage presence make him one of the most popular musicians around.

Closing out the season on Friday, October 9th is the “always-popular-back-by-demand” Band of Oz who will take the stage for their 10th appearance in the series history. The Band of Oz has made an exceptional name for itself throughout the Southeast performing at many top clubs, as well as, countless corporate and private events and has received top reviews all along the way. The group has been a guest on nearly every major beach music festival in the Carolinas, Virginia, and Georgia and have been the winners of numerous Cammy Awards from the Carolina Beach Music Association. The Band of Oz remains one of the most successful and hottest bands in the Southeast. The band is comprised of a dynamic eight-member group featuring a full horn section. Wherever they travel, they always energize audiences and keep the dance floor packed. In addition to performing many of their # 1 hit songs, they offer the very best in beach, R&B, and Motown; as well as a mix of today’s most popular dance and top 40 hits.

The AA5 Committee is currently seeking sponsors for the 10th Anniversary Season. Committee Member, Ross Kimbro stated, “Sponsors are the key component that have allowed us to provide this wonderful opportunity for the residents of our community. We encourage and invite businesses and individuals to join us today by becoming a sponsor. Being an AA5 Sponsor has many perks including: Sponsor Reception Tickets, Parking Passes, T-shirts, as well as, recognition on event signage and being promoted via the “Bright Board” digital display during each concert. The most significant benefit is the personal satisfaction that comes from supporting events that will bring our community together for evenings of music, dancing, fellowship and family fun!”

Committee member Darrell Jones stated: “Since the inception of the AA5 Concert Series, we have able to present 46 free public concerts for our community and this would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors.” “Alive After Five Summer Concerts are family-friendly events that are fun and entertaining for all ages. Each concert provides attendees with the opportunity to catch up with neighbors and old friends; as well as serving as a venue for meeting newcomers to the community,” stated Committee member, Cody Smith. Food vendors and exhibitors will be on hand offering attendees various food and beverage options. Attendees will also can visit with many of the local

businesses that sponsors the series.

Alive After Five Committee members include: Kara Donatelli, Tom Hart, David Jenkins, Darrell Jones, Ray Jordan, Ross Kimbro, Cynthia Roberts, J.W. Simmons and Cody Smith.

All concerts are held at the Clinton City Market located on Lisbon Street, Clinton, NC, and are presented FREE to the public. Clinton City Manager, Tom Hart stated, “The City of Clinton appreciates the excitement that Alive After Five series generates and how much it contributes towards enhancing the quality of life for the residents of Clinton and Sampson County.”

Event attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and sunscreen. No coolers or pets are allowed. To become a sponsor, contact any committee member or contact Ray Jordan via email at rjordan@sampsonexpocenter.com or call 910-592-6451. The deadline to become a sponsor is Friday, April 3, 2020. For more additional information visit: www.aliveafterfiveclintonnc.com.

Alive After Five Calendar of Events

Event Location: Clinton City Market, Lisbon Street, Clinton, NC

FREE TO THE PUBLIC



JIM QUICK & COASTLINE
Thursday, May 21, 2020, 6:00-8:45 pm

Over 25 years in the making, Jim Quick and Coastline, like their namesake the Atlantic Coastline Railroad, have been traveling the “tracks” of the southeast, and connecting with the hearts of loyal “Coastline Crazyes.” Pulling from the threads of Soul,

Blues, R&B, and Americana, Jim Quick and Coastline weave together their own genre of music known as Swamp Soul. Delivered with precision by front man Jim Quick and his band, this group captures the true, honest spirit of traditions born and bred in the small southern towns of America.

CAT 5 BAND
Thursday, June 18, 2020, 6:00-8:45 pm

CAT 5 features five musicians who have years of “stage time” and musical chops that will not disappoint. Members of the CAT 5 Band have earned numerous CBMA Awards and possess the experience and energy to keep concertgoers on the edge of their seats while performing the best of beach, R&B, country and Top 40 hits.



SPARE CHANGE
Thursday, August 20, 2020, 6:00-8:45 pm

Spare Change is one of the Carolinas’ most well-known and respected party bands. With their diverse playlist they become an instant crowd sensation everywhere they perform. From rock, country, beach, funk, rap, current Top 40 hits, and classic rock, Spare Change is sure to play a favorite song of every person in attendance. Comprised of five singers (including a female), a rapper, a trumpet player, and

even an electric violinist, their range and versatility is unmatched.

THE ENTERTAINERS



Thursday, September 17, 2020, 6:00-8:45 pm

From the group’s beginning, the goal of THE ENTERTAINERS has been to create an unmatched sound, coupled with high-energy choreography rarely seen in the Carolinas. Added to this fine-tuned precision unit are the ultimate in sound system

technology, concert lighting effects, and quality wardrobe design.

“Cat5 Band” A group of professional musicians that have come together with a common purpose to provide the best music possible to audiences all over the country.

THE BAND OF OZ



FRIDAY, October 9, 2020, 6:00-8:45 pm

The Band of Oz consists of a dynamic eight-member group complete with a full horn section. Wherever they travel, they always energize audiences and keep the dance floor packed. In addition to performing many of their # 1 hit songs, they offer the very best in beach, R&B, and Motown; as well as some of today’s most popular dance and top 40 hits.

BRACY, cont. from P. 1

Dr. Bracy has been an integral member of the Sampson County community. He currently serves on the following Board of Directors: State Employees Credit Union (SECU), Clinton Chamber of Commerce and UCare the domestic violence shelter in our area. Dr. Bracy is an active Rotarian in the Rotary Club of Clinton and lives by the moral code of Rotary International, which reads “of the things we think, say and do”-

- Is the truth?
- Is it Fair to all concerned?
- Will it build Good Will and Friendships?
- Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?

According to Dr. Carr, “The strength in his leadership revolves around being a student-centered educator who has a vision of success for all students and believing that building positive relationships through cultural competencies is paramount in promoting student success. Dr. Bracy is a data driven leader and has high expectations for each and every staff member, student and parent. Never satisfied Dr. Bracy seeks opportunities to grow our educational leadership team. He leads by example and being present in crucial conversations around the work of equity in education.”

EDUCATORS, *cont. from P. 1*

edge of music theory, instruments, and classroom management.

“Geoffrey is an outstanding teacher and mentor,” said Heather Lockamy, a former student. “He taught me so much more than music. His passion for his students and guidance on and off the field helped me to become a strong leader. He deserves this award and many more.”

Faircloth was nominated by her principal, John Goode, for going above and beyond to show new ideas and perspectives to her students. She was inspired to become an educator while working with children with behavioral issues. She felt emotionally connected to the children, and she wanted to do everything possible to make sure they thrived and survived in their environment.”

“Each year, we hear from countless students who speak of the hope, encouragement, and courage they gain from their time with Ms. Faircloth,” said Goode. “It is for this reason that we believe she is deserving of this recognition.”

About Natasha Faircloth

Ms. Faircloth states that prior to finding her true calling in education, her journey started after graduating from Clinton High School in 1996. She pursued a degree in business administration from Fayetteville State University, with a minor in Banking and Finance. After graduating, she began working at the State Employees ‘Credit Union phone center in Raleigh NC. She wasn’t completely satisfied and wanted more social interaction with the public. Months later, she joined the American General Finance Company, where she continued building her career. Even though she gained more experience and was eager to help people, something was still missing.

Two years into her career as a Loan Officer, Ms. Faircloth was approached in a general conversation about working with children with possible behavior issues. This job gave her the flexibility to work one on one in the community as a mentor to children and their families. At this point, she would assist in supporting children struggling with social, emotional, and extreme behavioral issues in the home, community, and school. She had never thought about the possibility of supporting children as a CBS professional (community-based professional). Most of the children were aged 5 to 18 and lacked social skills, so as a one-to-one professional, she supported their engagement in community settings.

Ms. Faircloth found herself emotionally connected to these families and children. These children and their plights occupied her heart and mind. She wanted to do everything possible to make sure they thrived and survived in their environment because their environment -in her eyes - should not define who they were.

After five years, Ms. Faircloth found herself working for the Partnership for Children of Sampson County as a Parents as Teachers educator. She also worked for Charles E Perry Elementary School in Sampson County School System as a teacher assistant in the Exceptional

Children Department. SCPFC was an amazing experience for her. She was given the opportunity to connect with families on a more intimate level. She assisted parents, grandparents and foster parents with understanding young children.

Sometimes, parents did not understand how their children developed on all domains starting with physical, motor, cognitive, and language development. Ms. Faircloth provided home visitation services to assist parents in recognizing and supporting their children’s overall development. She promoted literacy awareness in the home, by providing stimulating activities that encouraged parents to create, as well as games that fostered relationship-building and created an environment that allowed children to explore. One of the most powerful moments she recalls was a parent talking to her about what their children have begun to do at each stage of development.

Within the organization, Ms. Faircloth was given the task of working with pregnant teenagers in Sampson County. She wanted to help these young girls understand the importance of raising a child who is both socially and emotionally stable, even with their youthful perspective. She encouraged them daily to do and be better for their child and themselves. Ms. Faircloth felt like she found her purpose in life - to continue to inspire, encourage, provide support, and build positive relationships with her students. She strives to give hope to those who are hopeless.

Over the years, she has seen many broken children. She has seen children who were physically and psychologically abused. She always tells her students that they have a voice, and they are not defined by their zip code, race, or religion. They are so much more, and they are enough.

“Each year, we hear from countless students who speak of the hope, encouragement, and courage they gain from their time with Ms. Faircloth,” said Goode. “It is for this reason that we believe she is deserving of this recognition.”


About Geoffrey Tart

Geoffrey Tart is a graduate of Emmanuel College in Franklin Springs, GA and received his Bachelors in Music Education from Western Carolina University located in Cullowhee, NC. He was Hobbton High School’s Teacher of the Year for school year 2012-2013 and was also awarded the coveted North Carolina Long Leaf Pine Award from former Governor Beverly Purdue for his volunteer efforts in North Carolina.

Tart is the Band Director at Hobbton High and Middle School and has held that position since 1999. The Band was nominated By US Senator Thom Tillis in April 2019 and notified in May of 2019 that they would be performing in the 2020 National Memorial Day Parade held in Washington DC.

Under Tart’s leadership, the band has won many national awards, including: “the Concert Band has received many Excellent and Superior Ratings through the North Carolina Band

EDUCATORS, see P. 5



Come out and vote for Eugene Pearsall

House District #21 Wayne - Sampson

EARLY VOTING: February 13, 2020 - February 29, 2020

ELECTION DAY: March 3, 2020

A WORKING MAN FOR THE PEOPLE


EUGENE SUPPORTS:

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

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

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

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LEADERSHIP AND COMMITMENT

House of Representatives District 21

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We Should Know . . .



Erick Herring with J.W. Simmons host of We Should Know

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

The topic for this week’s show is Emergency Management Services in Sampson County, and the guest is Erick Herring, Operations Chief with Emergency Management Services.

Erick Herring started working as a volunteer with EMS Fire & Rescue in 1989 and has progressed within the department to a full-time, paid employee serving as the Supervisor and currently Operations Chief for Sampson County’s Emergency Management Services. In his current role Herring supervises all paid county EMS units; and Erick has over 30 years of experience with both volunteer and paid EMS giving him a broad range of experience. JW Simmons begins the show stating that over the years there has been an evolution of expectations for on-site emergency management treatment. When Herring started 30 plus years ago, emergency management was totally different than today.

“It was,” says Erick Herring. “When I started out as a volunteer, I started at the EMT Basic level. And EMS in general is in its infancy as far as growing compared to fire or law enforcement. But over the last 15 or 20 years we have actually really upped our game so to speak in Sampson County and moved from an EMT Basic level, advanced to the EMT Intermediate level up to our current level which is EMT Paramedic level. Paramedic level being the highest pre-hospital care that can be provided in the state of North Carolina.”

Simmons says that everyone should also understand that the initial training to be certified is just the beginning with ongoing training to continue to be certified. “There are,” says Herring. “The State of North Carolina sets a standard set of protocols that we have to at least meet. Each agency can go in and tweak the protocols somewhat to their system and add some certain things to it. So, every level, whether you’re EMT Intermediate level, Advanced Intermediate or Paramedic level you have a certain set of guidelines that the state allows you to operate off of.”

Next Simmons suggests that someone in rural Sampson County would be getting the same level of care as someone in a major metropolitan area such as Charlotte or Raleigh within

blocks of a major hospital. “That is correct,” says Herring. In little old Sampson County, you’re going to get the same level of Paramedic skill treatment sets that they get in Wake County, Raleigh, Charlotte. It’s a standard set of skills across the state so you’re going to get the same treatment.”

Simmons says that just 20 years ago EMS would put someone in a vehicle and rush them to the hospital, but that has completely changed now. “It has,” says Herring. “When I first started our goal was to see how quick we could get someone in the back of the ambulance, how quick we could get them to the hospital for the emergency room physicians to start their treatment.”

“Today, its completely changed. At the Paramedic level we can do a lot of things that the emergency room physician can do as far as medications and skill sets. So, we’re going to spend that extra time on scene to go ahead and start that treatment plan for the patients. We don’t have to rush as fast to get them to the hospital because we can start treatment where 25 or 30 years ago there was not a lot of treatment, we could provide other than just basic life support measures.”

“Now, at the Paramedic level we’ve got an array of medications and skills that we can go a head and start treating a patient so, we’ll sit on scene a lot longer now than what we use to, to get that treatment started.”

Simmons states that years ago he noticed the terminology start to change in the EMS field where once if someone needed to get to the hospital they would call the Rescue Squad, however today that piece of EMS has evolved over to Fire and Rescue while EMS has evolved more in the medical direction.

“It has,” says Herring. “Rescue is pretty much defined like you said, getting someone out of a car that’s been in a motor vehicle accident where their pinned in or a grain bin rescue operation. Maybe a trench operation or high-level rescue operation.”

“EMS over the years has evolved where EMS used to perform those functions. Now, we see more and more our Fire Departments performing those functions and our EMS agencies are focused more on just patient care. In Sampson County, predominately our Fire Departments provide our vehicle extrication and our rescue stuff. Sampson County EMS, the only thing that we do is patient care. We don’t do any type of rescue functions.”

To clarify, Simmons says that when someone see a fire truck pull up, they would be wrong to think they will start pulling out IV lines to treat a patient. Their job is strictly to get that patient available to EMS to deal with them from a Paramedic point of view.

“That is correct,” states Herring. “In a lot of situations, we have to work hand-in-hand with our fire partners. Whether it’s a motor vehicle accident with someone pinned in and they’re doing extrication, simultaneously we may go a head and start treatment if we can, if we can gain access to the patient. But they are doing the extrication part and we take over the treatment part once we get the patient extricated.”

“We are utilizing our fire departments a lot more now a days in our cardiac arrest calls. We dispatch them and they’re helping to do CPR. So, its been ever changing over the last 15 or 20 years as we advance and try to stay ahead of the ball so to speak.”

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

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

EDUCATORS, cont. from P. 4

Masters Concert Music Performance Assessment. The Concert Band also traveled and performed in Virginia (3 years ago) to compete with other schools from New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, and Ohio. Hobbton High School Concert Band did not only do well in the class, but also was awarded Top Overall Concert Band to perform! (14 bands) Throughout the past year many students have been a part of All District, All Stat and many Honor Bands.”

The Hobbton High School Marching Band received the first Grand Champion 2011. The marching band has won numerous class placements and many individual awards. Since 2011 the Marching Band has been a 7-time Grand Champion Marching Band.

According to former student Sarah Todd, “I have known Geoffrey since his first year of teaching. My father was his mentor teacher when he first began,” said Todd. “He was my middle and high school band director. He works extremely hard to motivate his students and to give them every opportunity he possibility he can. Geoffrey is partially responsible for my decision to become a general music teacher. He took his time to cultivate my working knowledge of music theory, instruments (woodwind, brass, and percussion), and classroom management. In turn, I can work better with my own students over 20 years later!”

About LifeChanger of the Year

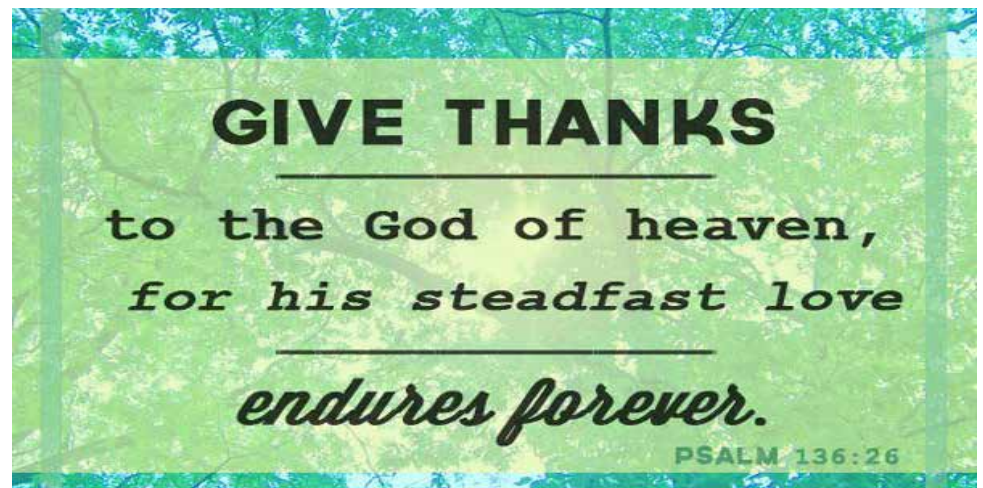
Sponsored by the National Life Group Foundation, LifeChanger of the Year recognizes and rewards the very best K-12 educators and school district employees across the United States who are making a difference in the lives of students by exemplifying excellence, positive influence and leadership.

Each school year, LifeChanger of the Year receives hundreds of nominations from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Seventeen individual LifeChanger of the Year awards will be given during the 2019-2020 school year.

- (1) Grand Prize Winner – will receive \$10,000 to be shared with their school/district.
- (4) Grand Prize Finalists – will receive \$5,000 to be shared with their school/district.
- (10) LifeChanger Award Winners – will receive \$3,000 to be shared with their school/district.
- (1) Spirit Award Winner – This award is given to the nominee whose community demonstrates the most support for their nomination. The winner will receive \$5,000 to be shared with their school/district.
- (1) Spotlight Award Winner – This award is given to a nominee in a specific discipline each year. For 2019-20, the Spotlight Award will be given to a nominee who has made a proven impact on school safety. The winner will receive \$5,000 to be shared with their school or district.

Winners are announced via surprise award ceremonies held at their schools. The grand prize finalists will also be honored at a national awards ceremony in April 2020 in Florida, where the Grand Prize Winner will be revealed.

- Winners are chosen by a selection committee comprised of former winners and education professionals. Nominees must be K-12 teachers or school district employees. To be considered for an award, nominees must:
- Make a positive impact in the lives of students
 - Enhance their school or district’s atmosphere, culture and pride
 - Demonstrate exemplary leadership at the school and/or district level
 - Possess a proven record of professional excellence
 - Show commitment to building a nurturing environment that supports learning
 - Adhere to the highest moral and ethical standards





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17

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

MAY

7

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

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6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Bellamy Center (500 Pierce Street)

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

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

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Mary Brown- A Life of Service



At the 2020 Martin Luther King Luncheon, held at the Sampson Agri-Expo Center, two local residents were honored with the MLK Image Award. The two recipients for 2020 were Ms. Mary Brown and Mr. Sherrill Allen.

Both recipients were surprised at the award announcements. Brown was recognized by Dr. Ted Thomas and Allen was recognized by Mrs. Patty Cherry. In this week’s tribute to Black History Month, we would like to showcase Mrs. Mary Brown.

Life of Service Ms. Mary Brown

Mary Brown, a Garland resident, has been active in Sampson County and public service since she was a young girl. She is known as being a woman of character, with charm and grace. Mary Brown forged a path for herself during hard years for African Americans, especially hard for African American women.

Raised in the farming community known as Riley Town, just a little north of Garland, Mary Brown attended the all black, Garland Colored High School. In 1957, the all black Clear Run High School opened. Like so many other all black schools built in the later part of the 1950’s, Clear Run was an attempt to side-step the US Supreme Court’s 1954 Brown vs Board of Education decision.

But Mary Brown and her classmates weren’t concerned with attempts to side-step the ruling... They were excited to be going to a new school. “To not have to brownbag lunch every day”, starts Brown, “and to have a cafeteria to eat lunch in! Or to have a gymnasium and play sports inside... No, we were excited about our new school. We didn’t know the politics of why we were getting a new school, we were just excited about getting a beautiful new place...that was our prospective as teenagers.”

School, like most other aspects of Mary Brown’s life, would be a place where Brown would excel. Brown graduated from Clear Run in 1959, and that same year she became a freshman at Winston Salem Teachers College. “There were 30 people in my graduating class, and

more than half of them went on to college.” Brown adds, “My father and mother were landowners and farmers, but the Boykin side of the family were predominately educators. So, it was expected that I would go to college. This was instilled in me at a young age.”

The Boykin name is almost synonymous with education in the Garland area, at least for African Americans coming of age during the 50s and 60s. In those days, for African Americans, an education was an important ideal that required great sacrifice. It would often require children to walk many miles to attend school, and for those children living in rural areas, they would often have to move-in with relatives if they wanted to attend high school.

But in Garland, the African American community banded together, andw raised money to build the Garland Colored High School. Mary Boykin Brown’s great uncle, Thomas Jefferson Lee Boykin would be instrumental in that effort. “He lived 8 months, I think, after the school was founded. My uncle, Joseph Boykin, became the school’s first principal”, added Brown.

Not one to be held back, Mary Brown, like so many others of the day, would continue to strive for a better way of life. Brown would go on to continue her education, and after completing her Bachelors in Nursing at Winston Salem Teachers College, Brown would head to New York to work; but furthering her education would remain important to her. “Long Island University, in Brooklyn, NY, is where I got my graduate degree, a Masters in Community Mental Health... Maybe that’s why I love community so much.”

Brown would return to her native Sampson County after spending 15 years in New York. And Brown would have two children, Franklyn Brown Jr. and Franita Brown Barksdale. She would also become grandmother to 2 grandchildren, Mycah Gaylord and Zoe Barksdale.

Brown worked at Mary Gran and then began what would become a 36 year-long career at Sampson Com-

munity College. “I started at Sampson in 1977 and taught full time until 2004. And I taught part-time from then until 2013,” says Brown. “If I were to guess, I’d say I taught over 600 students during that time.”

Brown retired from Sampson Community College as Director of Nursing. And, the little girl for Garland, who would graduate from an all-black high school, would grow into a strong woman dedicating her life to the education of others. “Did I ever think when I graduated high school in 1959 that I would ever teach white children...? Absolutely not”, laughs Brown. “But you know what I have found – when you’re good at what you do – color disappears.” Brown credits her teaching experience at Harlem Hospital for helping her to acclimate so well at Sampson Community College. In 2011, the Mary B. Brown Simulation Lab was dedicated in her honor at Sampson Community College.

Constantly striving to make her corner of the world a better place, Brown served for 8 years on the Garland Town Board (also as mayor pro tem for the board) and for 29 years on the Sampson County Board of Education. She also served as Chairperson for the Duplin/Sampson Group Home. She has been an active part in the Garland community volunteering in any capacity she can, whether it be Garland Community Day, the Easter Celebration, NC STEP and helping to write grants to financially benefit the town’s people. She is currently serving on the Sampson Community College Foundation Board and the Duplin/Sampson Group Home Board.

One can see that there is no “retirement” any time soon for Ms. Mary Brown who loves helping others and making a difference.

In recent years Mary B. Brown’s hard work, dedication and love for community has been acknowledged in many ways. She has been honored by her alma mater, now known as Winston Salem State University, with the Clarence “Big House” Gaines Unsung Hero Award. The award, which Brown received in 2012, recognizes former graduates who have excelled in their respective disciplines, and honor outstanding community leaders.

Also, in 2012, Mary Brown was awarded one of North Carolina’s highest honors when she received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by then Governor Beverly Perdue. The Order of the Long Leaf Pine is presented to individuals who have a proven record of extraordinary service to the state of North Carolina. Contributions to their communities, extra effort in their careers, and many years of service to their organizations are some of the guidelines by which recipients are selected for this award.

When asked how she reconciles that little girl from Garland with the woman she is today, Brown says, “You decided – somewhere it was instilled in you – that regardless of economics, regardless of my skin color, if I put forth an effort, then anything is possible. And that perspective has to be ingrained in you, taught to you, and tied to your Christian belief, that with God, all things are possible.”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stated that he had, “a dream” that one day his children would live in a nation where they would be judged, not by the color of their skin, but “by the content of their character.”

In all honesty, if we were to really judge Mary Brown by the content of her character, we would find her to be an example for all to follow. Regardless of race, regardless of sex, regardless of age, Mary B. Brown has excelled at life, by loving others, with true grace and superb charm.

What's Happening

By Angela Martin

at **SCT**



The Little Mermaid is busily being prepared for your enjoyment and we are thrilled to be able to produce this fun-filled adventurous production to our audiences. The production will take place - April 24-26 and May 1-3 and will feature over 90 people from our community. Two of our cast members are playing the two diabolic side-kicks to Ursula the Sea Witch - Flotsam and Jetsam. The characters are being portrayed by Marcelle Powell and Tangie Langston. Marcelle is recently retired from Sampson County Schools as a Math Teacher and is currently working part time at Midway High School as a Math Teacher. She is married to Doug and they have one daughter, Caitlin Joyner. Marcelle has been in numerous productions including, Mary Poppins, Cats and Little Women. Tangie Langston is the wife of Michael Langston and is the mother of Logan and Landen (who is also our sound technician for this production). Tangie last appeared in Fame and we are thrilled to have her back on the stage. Both Marcelle and Tangie are fantastic singers and actresses and we are so happy to have them on the stage with us. Our production is also being sponsored by David H. Hobson - Attorney at Law and is directed by Angela Martin.

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The story of Buck, a big-hearted dog whose blissful domestic life is turned upside down when he is suddenly uprooted from his California home and transplanted to the exotic wilds of the Alaskan Yukon during the Gold Rush of the 1890s

Fri 7:30p

Sat-Sun 2:00p 5:00p 8:00p

Mon-Wed 6:30p



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

NOW SHOWING

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

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

Fri 6:15p 8:15p

Sat-Sun 1:30p 4:30p 7:30p

Mon-Wed 6:30p



BIRDS OF PREY AND THE FANTABULOUS EMANCIPATION OF ONE HARLEY QUINN

NOW SHOWING

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

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

Fri 7:00p

Sat-Sun 1:30p 4:30p 7:30p

Mon-Wed 6:30p



BAD BOYS FOR LIFE

NOW SHOWING

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

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

Fri 7:00p

Sat-Sun 1:30p 4:30p 7:30p

Mon-Wed 6:30p



THE INVISIBLE MAN

NOW SHOWING

Rated R for some strong bloody violence, and language

Trapped in a violent, controlling relationship with a wealthy and brilliant scientist, Cecilia Kass (Moss) escapes in the dead of night and disappears into hiding, aided by her sister, their childhood friend, and his teenage daughter.

Fri 7:00p

Sat-Sun 2:00p 5:00p 8:00p

Mon-Wed 6:30p

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FLASH IN THE PAN

The art of Potato Thing

There’s a trick to creating the most perfect, golden goodness

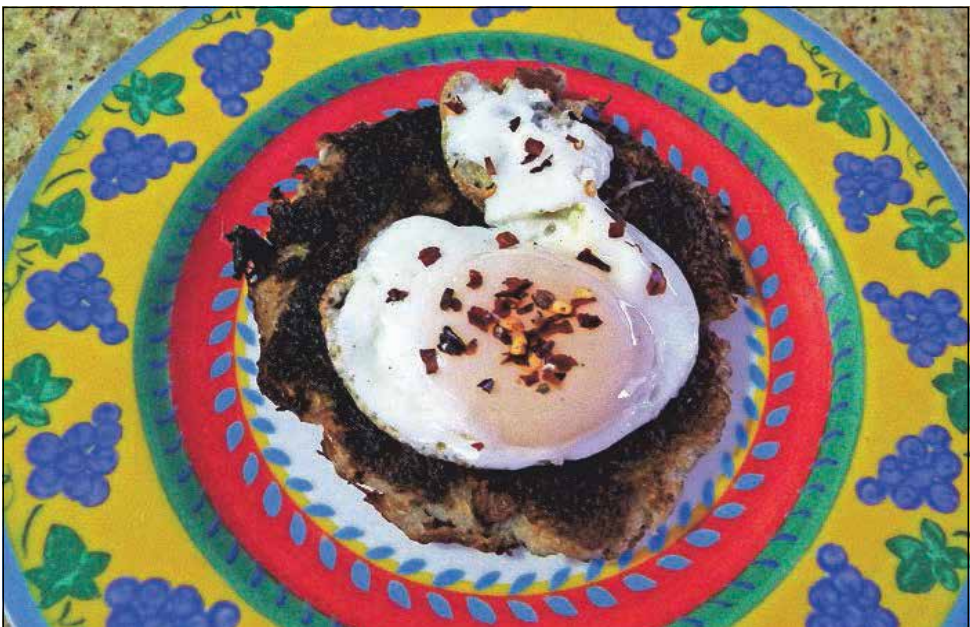
By Ari LeVaux
More Content Now

This “potato thing” sizzled into my life when my 6-year-old son decided to cook a potato. He grated a spud, heated oil in a pan and added the tangle of potato shreds, and had the sense to leave the pan on low heat before getting distracted, which might be the only reason he managed to cook Potato Thing. The human urge to mess with things unnecessarily may have no greater stage than the kitchen. Potato Thing prefers to be left alone. Until it’s time to flip.

I was in the kitchen at just the right time to flip this sizzling disk that smelled of gold. Gazing at the browned side now facing up, I saw the bright, greasy matrix of crunchy potato fibers that I had been smelling. We gathered ‘round the pan, attracted by the smell. When the other side was done, we feasted on the tater tot-like magnificence of a crispy exterior and its pillowy center.

Since then, I’ve been seeing Potato Thing everywhere. Even the gas station the other morning, when my hunting buddy got back into the car with a so-called “Potato Triangle” that looked familiar, or the local greasy spoon, which serves this side called “hash browns.”

The kids kept asking me to make it again, and I tried, but couldn’t recreate the magic of that original thing.



Potato Thing doubles nicely as a piece of toast. [ARI LEVAUX]

At the farmers market, where so much important information is shared, Big Nancy set me straight on Potato Thing, or “fries,” as she calls them.

“You need a really hot pan,” the potato grower said, nodding understandingly when I told her about my troubles.

“You know how to make Potato Thing?” I asked, eagerly.

“It’s pretty much the only way I eat spuds.”

For the next three weeks, I made Potato Thing. On weekends I’d visit Big Nancy at the market, buy potatoes and talk Potato Thing.

She recommends waxy potatoes like Huckleberry Gold, a purple skinned yellow-fleshed variety she sells, or its more common cousin the Yukon Gold. A lot of water gets released during the course of a batch, and Big Nancy covers her skillet with a tight fitting lid, which concentrates the steam and cooks the potatoes at a temperature that’s hotter than boiling water. Her cast iron lid collects water, which she

occasionally pours off.

When I make it, I squeeze out the water before frying. And that’s not the only way my Potato Thing differs from hers. But we are perfectly aligned in the most important part, where you just stand there and don’t do anything. No stirring. One flip. And it’s done.

Potato Thing

The quantities listed are for a single Potato Thing that will fill a 6-inch pan. You can grate and mix larger batches, and even use a larger pan, but keep the individual Potato Things small and manageable. Some cheese, egg or other goodies will add depth and contrast, not to mention protein, to Potato Thing.

For 1 6-inch Potato Thing

- 1 pound peeled potato
- 1 tablespoon high temperature fry oil (safflower and peanut are my favorites)
- ¼ teaspoon each salt and pepper
- Optional toppings: cheese, chile

flakes, jalapeno slices, egg

Grate the potato and save the small, French fry-sized piece that remains in your fingertips after you don’t dare grate any further. Squeeze out the water from the grated potato in a colander, as if making a snowball, and then transfer the potato to a bowl. Add the salt and pepper (and chile flakes, if you wish) and mix.

Pat the ball into a hockey puck-sized disk that fits on a spatula.

Heat the oil on medium/high. As it heats, add the potato end you didn’t grate, and adjust the heat to a temperature where the fry cooks gently, bubbling contentedly but not menacingly. That’s your cue that the oil is ready. Remove the small fry and add the puck of shredded potato.

Use a spatula, fork or even your fingers to shape the thing into a circle that’s about a half-inch deep. Press gently on the thicker parts, first in the center and then the edges, while pulling in the rim to keep it sharp. By this time it should be sliding in the pan like an air hockey puck. Put the lid on and hover nearby on alert. The minute you start to smell a hint of overbrowning, flip it.

If you look at the bottom and conclude you flipped it too early, you can re-flip it again later. For now, let the new side cook, lid on.

If it looks like it needs oil, add just a little, or some butter. When you smell brown, turn it down, and let it slowly cook home. Turning down the heat at the end allows time to add toppings like cheese, a fried egg or both.

Put the lid back on to melt the cheese. Serve hot. If it cools down, don’t despair. Re-fried in oil, Potato Thing reheats as well as any leftover, but more golden.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

TIP OF THE WEEK

Food safety tips for your Super Bowl party

As the Kansas City Chiefs and San Francisco 49ers prepare for Super Bowl LIV, so too will millions of party hosts. From chicken wings to pigs in a blanket to spinach-artichoke dip, buffet tables will be full of tasty fare, but the last thing on most people’s minds will be food safety.

Because of the potential for the spread of foodborne illness at a Super Bowl party, the U.S. Department of Agriculture recently released some recommendations to keep parties and party goers free of illness.

• **Frequent hand washing:** Wet your hands with running water; lather them with soap for a full 20 seconds; rinse and dry with a clean towel or paper towel.

• **Don’t wash poultry:** Avoid washing poultry products or meats prior to cooking. Researchers have found that washing poultry products or meat can increase the spread of germs and will not kill bacteria.

• **Cooking meat:** Officials recommend cooking whole cuts of meat until the internal temperature reaches 145 degrees with a three-minute rest time, while chicken wings should reach a temperature of at least 165 degrees.

• **Keep raw meats separate:** Keep raw foods (meat, poultry,

eggs and seafood) in separate plastic bags and cut on separate boards to avoid cross-contamination. Raw foods should also be kept away from other foods.

• **Close the buffet:** Food should not remain at room temperature for more than two hours. For hosts wanting to have food available longer, officials said to set out smaller portions and leave the rest in the fridge or oven until needed.

DRINK

Drinking tea lowers level of senior depression

According to a recent study by the National University of Singapore and Fudan University in Shanghai, researchers have found a link between regular tea drinking and lower levels of depression in seniors. Researchers also found, in a separate study, that tea might have properties that help brain areas maintain healthy cognitive function.

FUN FACT

Noodle knowledge

There are more than 600 pasta shapes produced around the world, according to the National Pasta Organization.

More Content Now



FLEUR DE LOLLY

You’ve never had salad like this



Laura Tolbert

Salads aren’t solely for hot summer days. They can be delicious at any time of year, especially when you add a variety of proteins and vegetables to make them hearty main course meals.

Pan-Fried Portuguese Sardines Over Roasted Red Potatoes and Mixed Salad Greens

Put aside every negative thought you’ve ever had about sardines. These beautiful whole sardines from Portugal were delicious served with roasted potatoes over mixed salad greens. I played the Mediterranean flavor profile heavily on this dish and added capers, Mediterranean seasonings, and lots of garlic and lemon.

This was a lovely meal, and I will be searching for new ways to use these little fish. The colors were so vibrant on a cold, gray day. It felt like a little bit of the Mediterranean was in my kitchen!

- 2 pounds red potatoes, scrubbed and cut into ½-inch-wide wedges
- 5 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil, divided



Pan-Fried Portuguese Sardines Over Roasted Red Potatoes and Mixed Salad Greens. [LAURA TOLBERT]

- 1 teaspoon kosher salt, divided
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning or Mediterranean seasoning blend
- 4 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons minced shallots
- ¼ teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1 large garlic clove, minced
- 1 to 2 pounds whole sardines (or you can substitute two 4.5-ounce cans of oil-packed sardines)
- 5 oz. of mixed salad greens
- 3 Roma tomatoes, chopped
- 2 tablespoons capers, drained
- Lemon wedges
- Freshly ground black pepper

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Lightly spray a baking sheet. Combine potatoes, 1 tablespoon olive oil and ½ teaspoon salt on the baking sheet and toss to coat the potatoes. Sprinkle with either Mediterranean seasoning blend or Italian seasoning. Bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes.

Stir potatoes and bake an additional 12 to 15 minutes until potatoes are tender and golden brown.

Combine 2 tablespoons olive oil, lemon juice, shallots, paprika, garlic and ¼ teaspoon salt in a large bowl, whisking until well combined. Add hot potatoes to the serving bowl and toss to coat.

Heat a large cast-iron skillet over medium-high heat. Pat sardines dry with paper towels and season with the remaining ¾ teaspoon salt. Add remaining 2 tablespoons oil to the skillet, swirl to coat. Add sardines to the pan, cooking 3 minutes per side or until crisp and done.

At this point, you may either plate individual servings or mound all the ingredients on a large platter and serve family style.

Place salad greens on the bottom of the plate or platter, add tomatoes and capers, spoon over potatoes and then top with cooked sardines.

Add a few grinds of black pepper and serve with lemon wedges.

Adapted from Cooking Light, September 2012

Laura Tolbert, aka Fleur de Lolly, has been sharing recipes, table decor ideas and advice for fellow foodies and novices on her blog, fleurdelolly.blogspot.com, for more than eight years.

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Mintz's Taylor Faircloth Ready For Future



explained. “My parents (Donald and Shannon) got me into it and at that time, my older brother (Bryson), was playing baseball and soccer so he probably had something to do with me getting involved with it too.”

Faircloth began her educational career at Spirit of Life (K-3), then she moved to Stedman (4-6) and then began going to Mintz Christian when she was in the seventh grade.

“Volleyball is my favorite,” the member of the LAVA travel volleyball team since eighth grade said. “I didn’t start softball until the eighth grade. I wasn’t really good at it, I just wanted to go out and have fun.”

The softball season has begun this week for the Lions and Faircloth says that the team is already looking promising. “From where I see it, we are looking pretty good,” she said. “So far...”

Although Faircloth has another year left of high school, she said she is planning on going to college. “I would like to attend UNC- Pembroke,” she said. “And I would like to play volleyball.”

When asked what she thinks she will study Faircloth says, “I will probably go into physical therapy assistant or radiology.”

But she knows leaving Mintz will be bittersweet. “It is definitely going to be difficult to leave,” Faircloth said. “I have made a lot of great friendships here.”

Faircloth said that she will miss her friends the most. “I will also miss playing sports,” she says. “My coach has had a big impact in my sports.”

The straight ‘A-B’ student, who says her favorite subject is English, says that she likes playing with her dog and going to her grandma’s house and ‘hanging out’ in her free time, when she does get some.

She also likes to hang out with her youth group at church.

In addition to her family - mother Shannon, father, Donald and brother Bryson - she said she would also like to thank her coach Dan Heinz. “He’s has helped me with my skills a lot,” she said. “Also, his daughter, Anna.

When Mintz Christian Academy’s Taylor Faircloth said she was ‘surprised’ when told she has been named this week’s Performance Auto/Sampson Weekly Star Athlete of the Week.

“It was a really surprise,” the 16-year-old, three sport standout (volleyball, basketball and softball) junior said Wednesday evening. “It makes me feel good that my coach thought about me enough to nominate me.”

Faircloth’s foray into sports came when she was about 5-years-old, when she started playing rec ball. “I played basketball, soccer and T-Ball,” she



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EDUCATION

Local Heroes Honored

At the Monday night Sampson County School Board meeting, School Board Vice Chairman Daryll Warren and School Board member Tim Register recognized the staff from Union Intermediate School, Taylor's Bridge Fire Department, Emergency Management, Sampson County Auxiliary Services Staff and Central Office Staff on their quick, professional response on January 13, 2020 when the gym roof collapsed from what has been determined to be a microburst.



Firefighters Hagan Thornton, Chris Register, Bailey Register and Colton Bullard receive a plaque of recognition for their hard work and quick response during a microburst that happened at the school on January 13th, causing the gym roof to collapse.



Jerry Cashwell, representing Sampson County Management, receives a plaque of recognition for their hard work and quick response during a microburst that happened at the school on January 13th, causing the gym roof to collapse.



Union Intermediate School principal Dondi Hobbs receives a plaque of recognition for the school's hard work and quick thinking during a microburst that happened at the school on January 13th, causing the gym roof to collapse. Hobbs also recognized school employees for their courageous efforts.



Sheriff Deputies Kennis Beatty, James Jones and Scott Hodges receive a plaque of recognition for their hard work and quick response during a microburst that happened at the school on January 13th, causing the gym roof to collapse. Also pictured is School Board member Tim Register.

Holden Reflects on Change at SRMC and SCC After 40 Years



Wanda Holden (at table, right) surrounded by friends from Sampson Community College after opening of Simulation Lab on February 19, 2020 (Courtesy Photo).

For years, Wanda Holden's commitment to the nursing profession has been evident to those who know her. From her dedication to her studies as a student at Sampson Community

College years ago, to her commitment to nursing at Sampson Regional Medical Center. Throughout her career, Holden has seen nursing grow and change over the years.

When Holden was in middle school, her mother went to Sampson Community College, called Sampson Technical Institute at the time, to become a Licensed Practical Nurse. In high school, Holden began to consider careers and knew she wanted to be a nurse. After hearing of her mother's experience at the nursing program at SCC, Holden knew exactly where she wanted to attend. She stated, "What I wanted in life was right here in Sampson County." She looked no further.

She expected nursing school to be rigorous, and she was right, but instructors created a welcoming learning environment in return. Holden reflected, "Our instructors expected a lot, but they gave so much more in return. They taught us in the classroom and then we would perform our skills in the clinical setting. SCC provided me with everything that I needed to succeed in my field."

Holden's former instructor, and former Director of Nursing at SCC, Mary Brown, said, "She was an outstanding student, very inquisitive, and always focused and still is."

After graduation from SCC in 1977, Holden began her career at Sampson Regional Medical Center (SRMC). Early in her career, she worked on the surgical unit, an experience she enjoyed. There she found mentorship, but also worked alongside her mother and physicians who shared their knowledge. Holden noted, "My early experiences in nursing established my foundation for my future in nursing."

For this reason, Holden became interested in earning her bachelor's degree in nursing. She began taking general education courses at night at SCC, while simultaneously working the 11 PM to 7 AM shift at the hospital. She would go on to complete her BSN at East Carolina University and graduate in 1983. Soon after, she became Nurse Manager of the Telemetry Unit, where she stayed until 2013.

Throughout her long career at SRMC, Holden has seen the field of nursing evolve. She remembers wearing the white uniforms, nursing cap, and wearing her hair off of her shoulders. Today, nurses wear scrubs and don't wear a cap. Holden says appearance may have changed, but the standards and teaching of nursing have remained steadfast. She remarked, "Even amidst the changes that have often been challenging for everyone, we have continued to serve our customers with expertise and compassion."

Holden spoke with pride as she recounted the changes SRMC has gone through over the years—including the addition of the Center for Health and Wellness, the addition of the Outpatient Diagnostic Center and the remodeling of the third floor.

Even when keeping up with ever-changing government and insurance regulations, she says the changes made have been "fantastic" for the hospital.

Wanda Capps, former Division Chair of Health Programs, and current Vice President of Academic Affairs said this of Holden, "With her long-standing commitment to SRMC and SCC, she has impacted, educated and supported nursing students and our graduates to succeed. More importantly she has role modeled the caring traits all nurse should possess."

Studying nursing at SCC allowed Holden to do her clinicals at SRMC. Meaning she was already familiar with the facilities when she was hired. Therefore, as a new employee, she could focus on nursing and providing quality care. Holden says she couldn't have done this anywhere else, especially not so close to home.

Now, as Infection Control Coordinator, a role she's served in since 2013, she knows that SCC set the foundation for her career. To others considering taking the first step at SCC, Holden says, "Go for it!!!"



Dream Believe Achieve

Tarheel ChalleNGe offers young men and women the opportunity to believe in themselves and therefore achieve in life.

To dream is to wish.

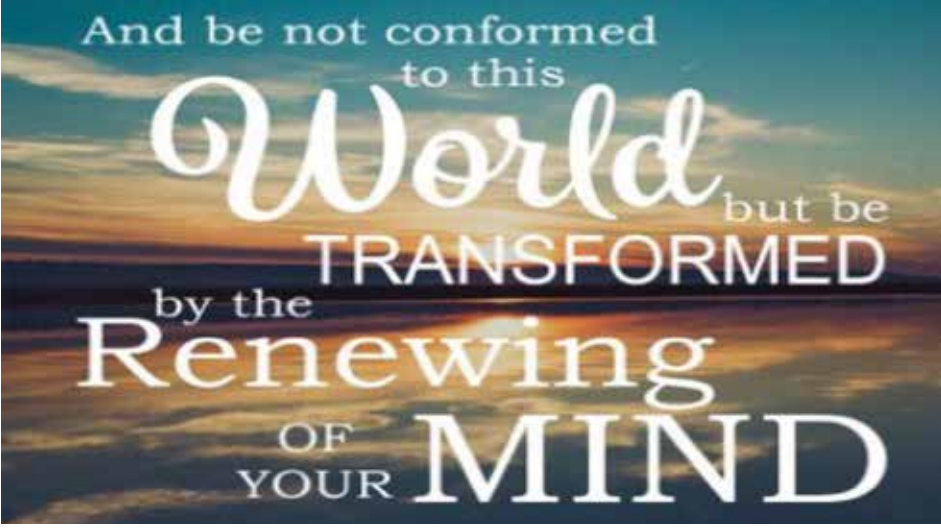
To believe is to know.

To achieve is to realize that dream!

Tarheel ChalleNGe

**PO Box 39 • 600 N. Main Street
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www.ngycp.org**

Christian Ethics and the Direction of the World



When you hear the word “ethics” there are a few places your mind might automatically go to. You may confuse the term with morality, you may think of a big handbook that your company gave you on your first day of the job, or you may think of governmental committees and panels. Those things certainly are related to ethics, but let’s dig deeper than that. Generally speaking, ethics is the principles or values that govern a person’s conduct. Indeed, it has a lot to do with morality, character, worldview and beliefs. Ethics seeks to answer the questions “How should I think about this situation” and “How can I justify my moral behavior?” For a Christian though, the notion of ethics runs deeper. Not only is it personal, but it’s universal. For believers, ethics is theology applied.

What does that mean exactly? It means that what you believe about God will direct the way you live. It will inform your choices, shape your opinions and manifest in your decision-making. It means when I find myself in a situation where I am tempted to steal from my company, that I don’t steal, not because the company handbook tells me it’s a fireable offense, but because I know that God sees me when others don’t and that God has said stealing is morally wrong.

For the ancient Greek philosophers, ethics was primarily philosophical reflection. The idea of virtue was the goal of ethics and I would submit that for most people, that Platonic idea is still the main driving force. For the Christian, ethics builds on virtue, but the goal should be conformation to image of Christ (Romans 8:29).

The problem with the Platonic view of ethics is that with every shift of culture, society’s virtues change. The good in the Platonic view of ethics is that it is compatible with the way Scripture views ethics – that is a duty-based system (deontological) at its core. For the Greeks, virtue was defined by what was best for society; therefore, society largely defined virtue. In the Biblical view, virtue is defined by what God alone says is right and wrong. Here the Catholic catechism is helpful: There are moral values: prudence, justice, temperance and courage; and theological values as given by the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 13: faith, hope, and love. The word virtue is synonymous with “good” – meaning, if you can live out these things, you are doing good for yourself and good for society. This goes back to Genesis 1.

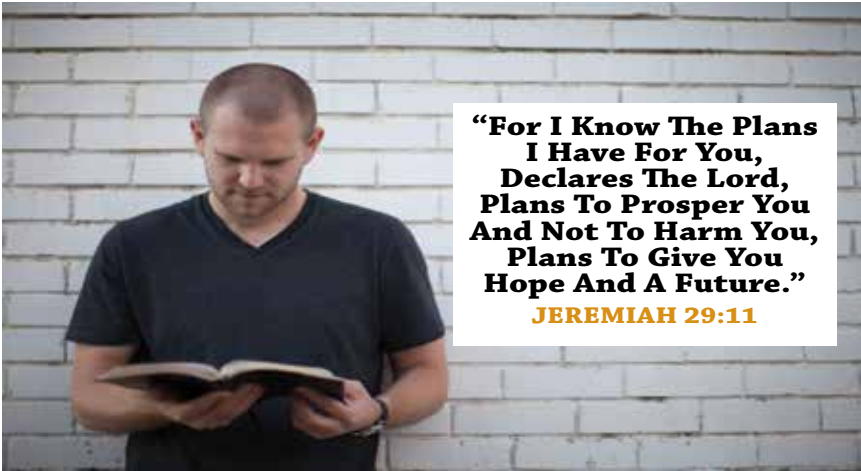
In Genesis 1, God made the world, stepped back and said “it is good.” This inherent goodness in creation is two-fold: it is structurally good and it is directionally good. Structurally, God made the earth to sustain life. We have air to breath, trees that produce oxygen, waters that provide refreshment and life. God made the earth in such a way that it is good for its inhabitants to live. But God also made his creation directionally good – that is, things are morally incorrupt and as they should be. In a perfect, sinless society like Eden, there would be no need for ethics. There are no morally questionable issues because there is no wrong; only right. There are no broken relationships, no actions of hate, and no questions of sexual ambiguity. When God created the world, everything was morally as it should be.

Christian ethics seeks to promote the world in the way that God created it: as it should be. For an array of different issues, we base our ethics on what God has revealed through His written Word. So when an unbelieving world doesn’t agree with our stances, it has little to do with us and more with what God’s unchanging law says. When virtues are based on what society says, virtues will always change. God’s Word remains steady and unchanging, and offers a more robust view of determining right and wrong, moral discernment, and judgment of character than an ever-changing culture.



Will Matthews

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Let The SON Shine!



Lord, I crawled across the barrenness
to You with my empty cup,
uncertain in asking for
a small drop of refreshment.

If only I had known You better,
I'd have come running with the bucket!
Author unknown

I had a memorable experience one beautiful morning as I was walking on the street in front of our home. God had given us a particularly beautiful sunrise that day, and as I walked down our driveway towards our shop the sun was just coming up over the building. However, I observed that the closer I got to the building the less I could see of the beautiful sunrise. Presently in the quiet of my heart, God whispered these words to me:

“The closer you get to whatever is between you and the SON, the less you see of HIM”

Many times since that morning I have praised my Lord for that awesome reminder that I must not allow anything to interfere with an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. I must be faithful in quiet time, meditation, soul-searching, Bible study, prayer and genuine rededication of the days I have left on this earth to His service. May I always arise with this prayer:
“Lord, show me this day - not what you want me to DO, but who you want me to BE - in your service - to someone who needs to see more of the SON! Amen.”

LORD, THANK YOU

Lord, thank you for this sink of dirty dishes.
We have plenty of food to eat, and are able to enjoy it.

Thank you for this pile of dirty, stinky laundry.
That means that we have more than enough nice clothes to wear.

And I would like to thank you, Lord, for these unmade beds.
They are so warm and comfortable, I know that many have no bed.

My thanks to you, for this bathroom, complete with all the splattered mirrors, soggy, grimy towels, and dirty lavatory.
It is so convenient and refreshing.

Thank you for this finger-smudged refrigerator that needs cleaning.
It has served us faithfully for many years. It is full of cold drinks and ice and enough leftovers for two or three meals.

Thank you, Lord, for this oven that absolutely must be cleaned today.
It has baked so many delicious things over the years.

Even though the first hour of my day is hectic, when socks are lost, toast is burned, tempers are short, my children are so loud.
Thank you, Lord, for my family, there are many who are lonely.

Even though our breakfast table never looks like the picture in magazines and the menu at times is not balanced, thank you, Lord,
for our food. There are many in the world who are hungry.



Martha M. Pierce

Even though I grumble and bemoan my fate from day to day, and wish my circumstances were better, thank you, Lord, for life-precious life.

May I be reminded that our days are so short, and they are so few!

Lord, how can we ever say enough thanks for Your Blessings on us!



CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY
DIVINITY SCHOOL
Presents

OVERTURE CHURCH MUSIC & WORSHIP CONFERENCE Sunday, March 15, 2020

featured guest composer Heather Sorenson
and combined worship choir.



Heather Sorenson entered the church music industry in her twenties, and her name quickly became a welcomed fixture in the publishing world. Diversity is the characteristic that makes Heather somewhat of an anomaly in the industry: she easily maneuvers both the traditional and contemporary genres of Christian music, often combining the two for a unique blend that has become her artistic fingerprint. Initially recognized for her skill as a pianist, Heather is now known for her compositions in choral anthems, solo piano collections, and orchestrations.

In the past several years, Heather has appeared multiple times at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and Constitution Hall. Although her career is sometimes on a big stage, Heather’s heart is leading the Church in worship, and she feels that her greatest calling is using her music to connect people with God.

Join Us for a Worship Concert at

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
408 COLLEGE STREET
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5:30pm

Sponsored by the Donnie M. Royal Foundation

For more information, contact Lauren McCollister at 910-592-8124.

Look (at this) before you leap

By Erika Enigk
More Content Now

If it seems like February is lasting longer than usual, guess what — it is! This year is a leap year, which makes the year (and this month) one day longer than usual.

Leaping

You've probably heard that a year is 365 days long, but that's not totally true. A year is actually about 365 $\frac{1}{4}$ days long. That's the amount of time it takes the Earth to go around the sun. It's too hard to have just $\frac{1}{4}$ of a day, so instead, we have one extra day every four years.

It wasn't always this way. In 45 BC, Julius Caesar created the system because it was simpler than what they'd had before, which was a year that was 355 days long and had an extra month every two years.

Leap Day is always Feb. 29. The reason is sort of complicated (the calendar looked a lot different in Julius Caesar's time), but the basic reason is that February was the last month of the year, so even though it seems weird now, adding a 29th day to it was actually just tacking one day onto the end of the year.

Special events

For most people, Feb. 29 is just an extra day and not all that special, but for some people it's a strange birthday. People who were born on Feb. 29 only get to celebrate on their actual birthday once every four years, so most people just celebrate on the 28th or on March 1 in the other years.

Other cool things happen during leap years, too. The Olympic Summer Games are always held during a leap year. And if you happen to live near Anthony, Texas, or Anthony, New Mexico, you can attend a special party for Leap Day.



FREEPIK IMAGES

Activity: Take a leap

Make the most of your extra day! What is something you always want to do (or say you'll do) and never get around to? Make Leap Day your day to do it. Leap Day is a Saturday, so you won't have school. Why not use the day to do something fun, like ice skating? Or surprise your parents and use part of the day to clean your room or make a card for someone. Maybe you can start to learn a new skill. Draw a picture of everything you did on Leap Day and keep it as a reminder to do something fun when the next one comes in 2024.

By Mark Marderosian

Watch our cartoons on batteryPOP.com



CRIME REPORTS

02-21 Brandy Nicole Jacobs, 32, Clinton. Shoplifting. Trial Date 04-13-20

02-21 Darrell Wayne Royal Jr, 32, Sablemburg. Second Degree Trespass. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 03-05-20

02-21 Frederick Culler, 22, Clinton. DWI. Trial Date 04-09-20

02-21 Cassandra Harding, 38, Clinton. DWLR, Expired Registration Tag. Trial Date 04-08-20

02-21 Erik Alberto Ramirez, 21, Clinton. Assault on Female. Trial Date 03-03-20

02-21 Tammy Sue Peterson, 48, Roseboro. Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Bond \$500. Trial Date 03-17-20

02-21 Erik Jason Davis, 34, Clinton. Canceel/Revok/Susp Certif/Tag – FTA, Expired Registration Card/Tag – FTA, Expired/ No Inspection- FTA, No Liability Insurance- FTA, DWLR Not Impaired Rev – FTA. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 03-18-20

02-21 Jessica Lee Kiger, 33, Turkey. Fail To Maintain Lane Control – WFA, Fail Maintain Lane Control – WFA, Reckless Driving To Endanger – WFA. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 04-06-20

02-21 John Lynwood White, 33. DWLR not Impaired, Communicating Threats, Domestic Criminal Trespass, Canc/Revok/Susp Certif/Tag. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 03-11-20

02-21 Dustin Jay Lee Coleman, 30, Dunn. FTA-DWLR Not Impaired Rev. Bond \$500. Trial Date 03-17-20

02-21 Priscilla Mae Cowan, 59, Clinton. Simple Assault, Communicating Threats. Bond \$200. Trial date 03-16-20

02-21 James Williams, 55, Clinton. Driving While Impaired- FTA, No Liability Insurance- FTA, Poss Opn CNT/ Cons Alc Psg Area – FTA, Drive Left Of Center- FTA, Expired Registration Card/ Tag – FTA, Operate Vehicle No Insurance – FTA, Reckless Driving to Endanger – FTA, DWLR Not Impaired Rev – FTA. Bond \$25000. Trial Date 03-16-20

02-21 Christine Michelle Woodall, 33, Clinton. Felony Probation Violation Out of County. Bond \$25000. Trial Date 03-18-20

02-21 Karen Kennedy, 29, Clinton. Interference – WFA. Bond \$500. Trial Date 03-16-20

02-21 Kristen N. Stoops, 38, Clinton. Fail return prop rent pur opt. Trial Date 03-19-20

02-21 Thaddeus Avance Henry, 41, Roseboro. Reckless Drvg-Wanton Disregard,

Driving While Impaired. Bond \$10000. Trial Date 03-17-20

02-21 James Williams, 55, Clinton. Driving While Impaired- FTA, Reckless Driving to Endanger – FTA, Drive Left Of Center- FTA, Expired Registration Card/Tag – FTA, DWLR Not Impaired Rev – FTA Operate Vehicle No Insurance – FTA, Poss Opn CNT/ Cons Alc Psg Area – FTA, No Liability Insurance- FTA. Bond \$25000. Trial Date 03-16-20

02-22 Gary Wayne Jacobs, 63, Fayetteville. DWI, Speeding, Possess Marijuana, Possess Schedule II. Bond \$750. Trial Date 04-13-20

02-22 Ralph Bailey Dale, 31, Dunn. FTA-Possess Marij Paraphernalia, FTA-Simple Possess Schedule VI CS. Bond \$1000

02-22 Thomas Edward Chancy, 30, Dunn. Speeding. Trial Date 04-08-20

02-22 Raymond Lindell Pope, 36, Clinton. Failure to Comply – FTC. Bond \$265. Trial Date 03-19-20

02-22 Johnny Edward Lucas, 28, Clinton. Assault on Female, Simple Assault. Trial Date 04-09-20

02-22 Jack Jones, 28, Clinton. Simple Possession of Schedule VI CS – FTA, Possession of Marijuana Paraphernalia- FTA. Bond \$500. Trial Date 04-16-20

02-22 Bobbie Alton Hall, 64, Mount Olive. Driving While License Revoked. Trial Date 03-16-20

02-22 Brantley Lewis, 60, Clinton. Possess Methamphetamine, Possess Drug Paraphernalia. Bond \$5000. Trial Date 03-06-20

02-22 Jeremy Carl Bishop, 44, Clinton. FTA- Possess Methamphetamine, FTA- Fail To Reduce Speed, FTA- No Operators License, FTA- Expired/No Inspection, FTA-DWLR Not Impaired Rev, FTA- Expired Registration Card/Tag, FTA- Possess Drug Paraphernalia. Bond \$15500. Trial Date 03-23-20

02-23 Christopher McCullen, 27, Newton Grove. Injury to Real Property. Bond \$500. Trial Date 03-30-20

02-23 James Richard Harper, 32, Clinton. Injury To Personal Property. Bond \$500. Trial Date 04-07-20

02-23 Roman Martise Singleton, 19, Newton Grove. Expired Registration Card/Tag – FTA, No Operators License- FTA. Bond \$500. Trial Date 03-17-20

02-23 Aaron Tyler Stephens, 24, Clinton. FTA-Expired/No Inspection, FTA-Poss/Disp Alt/Fict/Revd Dr Lic, FTA-Expired/No Inspection, FTA-DWLR Not Impaired Rev. Bond \$500. Trial Date 03-16-20

02-23 Megan Chanmaine Williams, 40,

Clinton. Felony Probation Violation- FTA. Bond \$10000. Trial Date 03-24-20

02-23 Mack Ray Mitchell, 50, Harrells. Sexual Battery. Bond \$2000. Trial Date 03-03-20

02-23 Chrystal McLamb, 26, Clinton. Failure to Secure Passenger Under 16- FTA, Canc/Revok/Susp Certif/Tag – FTA, Expired Registration Card/Tag – FTA, Expired/No Inspection- FTA, DWLR Not Impaired Rev – FTA, Operate Veh No Insurance- FTA. Bond \$3000. Trial Date 03-18-20

02-23 Conrado Hernandez Lopez, 38, Clinton. NOL. Trial Date 04-08-20

02-23 Jonatan Marlon Mendez, 31, Clinton. NOL. Trial Date 04-08-20

02-23 Carlos Rodriquez, 30, Clinton. NOL. Trial Date 04-08-20

02-23 Gloria A Velasquez, 40, Clinton. NOL. Trial Date 04-08-20

02-23 Rosella Vicente- Mazariegos, 48, Clinton. Littering 15-500 lbs. Trial Date 03-03-20

02-23 Steed McPhail Kirven, 35, Clinton. Damage to Property, Simple Assault. Bond \$2000. Trial Date 04-14-20

02-25 Holly Ann Flores, 28, Clinton. Expired Registration, Displaying Revoked License Plate, Borrow License Plate, DWLR, Fictitious License Plate. Trial Date 04-02-20

02-25 Zachery Thomas Maynard, 29, Sablemburg. Fictious Tag, No Insurance, DWLR-Not Impaired Rev, Borrow License Plate, Expired Tag. Trial Date 04-02-20

02-25 Rhonda Kaye Williams, 24, Roseboro. DWLR, Possess Meth, DWI, Possess Drug Paraphernalia. Bond \$15000. Trial Date 03-23-20

02-25 Angel Dawn Kirkland, 28, Dunn. Forgery of Endorsement, Forgery of Instrument. Bond \$2500. Trial Date 03-20-20

02-25 Jacinto Arias Cruz, 30, Clinton. NOL, Driving Under the Influence, Resisting Public Officer. Bond \$1500. Trial Date 04-16-20

02-25 Tammy Bowden, 58, Clinton. Assault on Female. Trial Date 04-02-20

02-25 James Dexter Barrett, 57, Harrells. Possession of firearm by felon, Possession of cocaine. Bond \$30000. Trial Date 03-11-20

02-26 Joy Michelle Englehart, 41, Roseboro. Order for Arrest. Bond \$500. Trial Date 03-10-20

02-26 Timothy Derrick Starling, 42, Turkey. Poss Opn Cnt/Cons Alc Psg Area, CON MTBV/UNWN OFF-PREM PERMIT. Bond \$500. Trial Date 03-20-20

02-26 Ashley Marie Smith, 34, Clinton. Order for Arrest- FTC-Child Support

02-26 Charlie Lofton, 40, Clinton. Order for Arrest- FTC-Child Support. Bond \$1050.

02-26 Kinston Poole, 24, Clinton. Cyberstalking. Bond \$500. Trial Date 03-24-20

02-26 Joseph Michael Phillips, 29, Newton

Grove. Assault on a Female. Trial Date 03-17-20

02-26 Brettany Rene Ryals, 22, Dunn. Firearm By Felon, CCW. Trial date 03-06-20

02-26 Pamela Huerta Ponce, 26, Clinton. Misdemeanor Larceny, Identity Theft. Bond \$2000. Trial Date 03-02-20

02-26 John Dale Davis, 29, Beulaville. Possess Drug Paraphernalia, Carry Concealed Weapon, Possess Methamphetamine. Bond \$7500. Trial Date 03-20-20

INCIDENT REPORTS

02-21 Dollar General of Clinton reported Shoplifting- Infant pants, purse, sticker book valued at \$16.00.

02-22 Kelly Marie Paquin of Roseboro reported All Other Larceny- cell phone valued at \$165.00.

02-22 Claude Ray Parker of Newton Grove reported Injury to Real Property- damaged door \$300.00.

02-23 Eric Lee Lane of Dunn reported Larceny of Motor Vehicle- Blue Honda \$6000.00.

02-23 Carlena Velez of Roseboro reported Damage to Property- Screen door \$300.00.

02-23 Michael Ross Kirven reported Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property, Simple Assault. Damage to auto \$500.00.

02-23 Moses Williams Jr of Clinton reported Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property- damage to vehicle \$200.00.

02-25 Mar-Cel Co Inc of Clinton reported Motor Vehicle Theft- Dirt Bike \$1499.00.

02-25 Delicia Jefferson of Clinton reported Damage to Property- exterior door \$200.00.

02-25 Angel R Jones of Clinton reported Breaking and Entering Residence- stolen shirt \$10.00.

02-25 Eugene Pearsall reported Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property- camping tent valued at \$200.00.

02-25 Quan'dasia Maronda Smith of Roseboro reported Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property- automobile \$900.00.

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

Sampson County VITAL STATS

Deaths

-Maggie Joyce Bennett

-Sherry Deneen Baggett

-Ricky Thomas Dale

-Stephen Dieter

-Betty Doris Hairr

-Francis Evon Jernigan

-Lena Pearl Langley

-Sandra Louise Mitchell

-Marjorie Aslena Shaw

-Ethel Mae Vann

-Peter Jerome Williams

Marriage Certificates

-Antonio Ruiz Jay to Amy Lorraine Knowles

-Auston Edward Spell to Karen Lee Johnson

-Peter Darby Lynch to Kelly Adele Faircloth Spell

-Kayla Marie Parker to Hannah Evelyn Wolf

Births

-Luna Zamarron born on February 9, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Samantha Nereyda Crespo

-Carlos Isai Martinez Perez born on February 12, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Jose Alfredo Martinez and Mayra Emilia Perez Trejo

-Taelyn Rae’ Rouse born on February 12, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Teauanna Shanae’ Kiyah Dumpson

-Aliany Mileisha Lopez Delcid born on February 13, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Cristhian Josue Lopez Franco and Fatima Abigail Delcid

-Audrey Lee Gurley born on February 16, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Corey Alan Gurley and Michaela Faith Harris

-Briggs Lakee Brewington born on February 17, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Bradley Lakee Brewington and Barbara Michelle Hunter Brewington

-Jewel Janae Peterson born on February 17, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Jania Laraye Highsmith

Land Transfers

-Goodwin Acres Inc to Lorena Otero- Lot 2

-Billy L Kersey, Robin L Kersey to Javier Bautista Ocampo, Silvia Bustista Ocampo, Hector Lopez Santos- Lot 26 1.37 Acres Piney Grove

-Sammy S Isenhour to James Daniel Isenhour- 2 Tracts w/exceptions Westbrook and Mingo

-HG Group of NC LLC, Jeremy Tyndall/MBR/MGR, Larry Tyndall/MBR/MGR to Isidro Mendez, Maria Estrellita Ruiz Sotelo- Lot 4 0.71 Acres Dismal

-Ignacio J Chavez, Hazel E Smith to Allyson Renee Moore- 2.07 Acres Tract 2 Franklin

-Mary A Williamson, Michael L Williamson to DOT- 3.895 Acres South Clinton & 6.445 Acres South Clinton

-Larry Travis Drennan to Tracey James Harris- 4.27 Acres First Tract w/exceptions Little Coharie

-Erica McCray Lane Taylor to Trinity Wayne Tyler- Lot 2 1.34 Acres Herring

-Amanda L McCullen, Charles R McCullen, Luna Geniece McCullen, Ronald N McCullen to Charles S McCullen, Taylor Lee McCullen- 126 Acres w/exceptions Little Coharie

-Robert Bryce Yow to Robert Bryce Yow Revocable Trust, Robert Bryce Yow/TR-Lot No 1 Coharie Hills Subdivision North Clinton & Lot No 3 Section C Fox Lake Subdivision South Clinton

-Kimberly Best Teachey to Angela Kaye Britt Pfennig, Scott Davis Pfennig- 2.00 Acres Piney Grove

-James E Graham to Joseph Fermun Bryant, Anthony Whitted- 1.0 Acres Belvoir

-Allyson Caison, Earl Fitzhugh Caison II, Marcia Lynette Caison, Nan F Caison, Walter Burris Caison to Lynette C Caison- Lot 23 County Club Acres Subdivision First Section North Clinton

-Ignacia Garcia Benitez to Maria Isabel Lopez Mota- Lot 1 and 2 1 Acres Each Alpine Square Subdivision Franklin

-D&R Investments Inc to Howard Bros Farms LLC- 17.476 Acres Tracts 2 and 4 w/ exceptions Dismal

-John M Davis, Lisa M Davis to Howard Bros Farms LLC- 1.65 Acres Dismal

-Bradley Dilday, Hannah Dilday to Matthew D Stone, Sarah C Stone- 0.64 Acres Lot 57 Country Club Acres Subdivision Second

-Donnie K Barefoot, Nancy S Barefoot, Carolyn S Fowler, James Terry Fowler, Lois Sue S Lucas, Lois Sue Stewart Lucas, Marshall Lucas, Donnie Neal Stewart/By AIF, Rodney Neal Stewart/AIF, Lois Sue Stewart Lucas to Ashley D Rebarker- 1.059 Acres

-Donna C Johnson, Ronnie L Johnson to Sessoms Southern Swine LLC- 2 Tracts McDaniels

-Carol W Johnson, Tony Lee Johnson to Ramon Endara Zarate, Jenny Angelina Loaiza Silverio - Lots 1 and 2 Block B Oakland Terrace Subdivision

-Diane J Jackson/WATA, JW Jackson, Linda Dianne Jackson to JW Jackson, Linda Dianne Jackson- 1.80 Acres of Dianne J Jackson Lot

-Humberto Berrones, Lucila Berrones to Javier Soto Flores- Tract 1 & 2 Lisbon

-Rainy Day Holdings LLC, Carl M Rogers/MGR to Dubose National Energy Services Inc- 3 Tracts w/exceptions

-Lisa Kay Long, Terry Wayne Long to Raymond Brown, Hanna Wise- 3 Tracts w/ exceptions

-Internal Revenue Service, JEG Construction Inc, South Atlantic Collection Area to Logan J Johnston- 5.65 Acres

-Lynell A Martin to Christopher E Martin Jr- Lot Sampson

-Clinton Mechanical Contractors Inc to Roxanne Hope Hinson, Willie Kim Hinson- Tract 1 2.73 Acres North Clinton

-H Brewer/AKA, Hillery Honeycutt to Benjamin Stout Real Estate Servicing Inc- Lot 28 Stagecoach Estates Section Two Little Coharie

-Rodney Stewart Daughtry/AKA, Rodney Stuart Daughtry to Rodney Stuart Daughtry- 1.0 Acre Westbrook

-David Mark Calcutt/TR, David Mark Calcutt Revocable Trust to John Larkin Spell- 2 Tracts North Clinton

-H Brewer Honeycutt/AKA, Hillery Brewer Honeycutt to A&G Residential LLC- Lot 35 Stagecoach Estates Subdivision

-JMS Builders Group LLC to Sherylle McGee- Lot 17 Bridgepointe Subdivision0.55 Acres South Clinton

-Sergio Michel Falconi to Joan Vann Tew- 18.7 Acres w/exceptions

-Jeffrey Lee Royal to Joan Vann Tew- 18.7 Acres w/exceptions

-Anita Vann Royal to Joan Vann Tew- 18.7 Acres w/exceptions

-Anita Vann Royal to Lettie Kennedy Vann- 1.0 Acre Sampson

-Jeffrey Lee Royal to Lettie Kennedy Vann- 1.0 Acre Sampson

-Sergio Michel falconi to Lettie Kennedy Vann- 1.0 Acre Sampson

-Anita Vann Royal to Lettie Kennedy Vann- 3.42 Acres Sampson

-Sergio Michel Falconi to Lettie Kennedy Vann- 3.42 Acres Sampson

-Jeffery Lee Royal to Lettie Kennedy Vann- 3.42 Acres Sampson

OBITUARIES

ROSEBORO

Mrs. Ercelle Smith Adams, 83 of Roseboro passed away on Sunday, Feb. 23 2020 at her home. The funeral service was held at 3:00 PM on Thursday, Feb. 27 at Beaver Dam Baptist Church with Rev. Tim McQueen and Rev. Tom Hayes officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery. Mrs. Adams was a native of Sampson County, the daughter of Elwood Silas and Cornelia Bass Tyndall. She was preceded in death by her parents, first husband, Alfred Smith; second husband, Eugene Adams; daughter, Nan Ray and son, Danny Smith. She was a homemaker. She is survived by a daughter, Cindy Sessoms and husband, Jeffery of Roseboro; son, Freddy Smith and wife, Beth of Stedman; four sisters, Janie Wilson (Marvin) of Stedman, Ann Davis (Jerry) of Clinton, Peggy Anderson (Wesley) of Ellerbe and Faye Starling (Robert) of Stedman; 10 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. The family received friends from 6-8 PM Wednesday evening at Butler Funeral Home in Roseboro. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC.



ROSEBORO

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Bullard Bedsole, 92 of Roseboro passed away on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at the Kitty Askins Hospice Center. The funeral service was held at 3:00 PM Sunday, Feb. 23 at Peters Creek Baptist Church with Dr. David Bays, Rev. Bryan Strickland and Rev. Tom Martin officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery. The family received friends from 2:00 - 2:50 PM prior to the service. Mrs. Bedsole was a native of Horry County, SC, the daughter of the James Jasper and Esther Mae Bullard. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Seavy Layton Bedsole, son and daughter-in-law, Allen Brent Bedsole and Debbie Bedsole; son, James Callie "Jimmy" Bedsole; sister, Louise B. Hales and a niece, Linda Madgar. She was retired from Rhom Haus. She is survived by a daughter, Sandra B. Norris (Wootie) of Garland; son, Earl F. Bedsole (Ann) of Fayetteville; daughter-in-law, Rhonda Bedsole six grandchildren, nine great grandchildren, one great great grandchild and six nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Peters Creek Baptist Church, 13176 Peters Creek Baptist Church Rd., Roseboro, NC 28382. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC.

FAYETTEVILLE

Retired MSGT William Earl Collier, 82 of Fayetteville passed away on Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020 at the Cape Fear Valley Medical Center. The funeral service was held at 12:30 PM Wednesday, Feb. 26 at Butler Funeral Home in Stedman with Rev. Tim Evans officiating. Burial was at 2:00 PM at Sandhills State Veteran Cemetery in Spring Lake with full military honors. The family received friends and family from 11:30 - 12:30 prior to the funeral service. Mr. Collier was a native of Union, MS, the son of Horace and Nannie Mae German Collier. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Leola Cain Collier and three siblings, Dan Collier, Eugene H. Collier and June Myers. He was a retired MSGT with the US Air Force. He is survived by two sons, George Randall Collier of White Oak and William Collier, Jr. (Adell) of Fayetteville; three daughters, Vicky Lee (Terry), Donna McPhaul (Billy) all of Fayetteville and Susan Hobaugh (Jimmy) of Benson; sister, Nancy Schmidt (Fred) of Tennessee; five grandchildren, eleven great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 6535 Clinton Rd, Stedman, NC 28391.



GARLAND

Mr. David Franklin Smith, 61, of 518 David Jessup Smith Road, Garland, NC died Sunday, February 23, 2020 at his residence. Mr. Smith was born August 26, 1958 in Sampson County. Mr. Smith is preceded in death by his son David Franklin Smith Jr. and his parents David Jessup and Rosie Pate Smith.

A Graveside Memorial Service will be held at 2:00 PM Saturday, February 29, 2020 at Friendship Baptist Church Cemetery in Garland. Mr. Smith is survived by two sons; Joe Smith and wife Kristen of Fuquay-Varina, NC, Franklin Wayne Smith and wife Olivia of Michigan, one daughter; Lisa Smith of Pauls Valley, OK, four brothers; Richard Smith and wife Patricia of Garland, NC, Ronald Smith and wife Carol of Roseboro, NC, Lynn Smith and wife Susan of Garland, NC, Leslie Smith and wife Linda of Garland, NC, three sisters; Lula Hansen and husband Eddie of Raleigh, NC, Julia Hansen and husband Art of Clinton, NC, Gaynelle Bryant of Garland, NC and eight grandchildren.

GARNER

Ruth Hunter Ezzell, 95, of Garner and formerly of Wallace passed gently from her earthly life Friday, February 21, 2020 at Transitions LifeCare in Raleigh. She was born July 31, 1924 in Onslow County and moved as a child with her family to Wallace where she met and married Earl Ezzell in 1941. For many years

Ruth worked as a cashier at the Wallace A & P Grocery Store. Upon her husband's death in 1977, Ruth moved to Garner where she worked and retired from NC Dept of Revenue. Ruth was the daughter of Edward Liston Hunter and Bessie Paderick Hunter Norris. Also remembered are her husband of 36 years, James Earl Ezzell; and brothers, Roger, Robert, Chester, and Elmer Hunter, all who preceded Ruth in death. Ruth is survived by her beloved family, daughter, Rita Sumner and husband, Kenneth of Raleigh; son, Glynn Ezzell and wife, LuNell of Garner; grandchildren, Mark Sumner (Stephanie), Ryan Ezzell (Heather), Aaron Ezzell (Rosario), and Jamie Ezzell (Jessie); great grandchildren, Matthew Sumner, Kirsten Ezzell, Emily Ezzell, Taylor Ezzell, Piper Ezzell

and Garrett Langdon; and brother, Nelson Hunter.

Ruth was a woman of uncommon character, beauty and grace, "an instrument of God's love on this earth." In her younger years, she was a lady of many interests; gardening, working in her yard, fishing and traveling. Most recently she enjoyed Bingo and word puzzles, but her greatest joy was her family, especially her grandchildren. Ruth was a friend to all; a strong yet gentle and loving presence to all who were blessed to know her. She will surely be missed but cherished memories will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved Ruth Ezzell. The family received friends at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at Quinn-McGowen Funeral Home in Wallace with funeral service beginning at 2:00 p.m. Pastor Jamie Ezzell will conduct the service. Burial followed in Rockfish Memorial Cemetery, Wallace, NC. Special thanks to the caring staffs of NSICU Unit of Rex Hospital and Transitions LifeCare in Raleigh. They gave outstanding care to our mother and comfort to us as a family. In lieu of flowers, the family request that memorial gifts be sent in memory of Ruth to Transitions LifeCare, 200 Hospice Circle, Raleigh, NC 27607. A service of Quinn-McGowen Funeral Home Wallace Chapel.



ROSEBORO

Mrs. Vicki K. Fisher, 60 of Roseboro passed away on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020 at her home. The funeral service was held at 3:00 PM Wednesday, February 26 at Evergreen Baptist Church with Rev. Jerry Fisher and Rev. Bryan Strickland officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery. Mrs. Fisher was a native of

Fort Riley, Kansas and was the daughter of Otto Oliver and Helen Louise McCoy Kilgore. She was preceded in death by her parents; her sister, Carolyn Gail Carter and her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Arbie and Nora Fisher. She was a school administrator for Beaver Dam Elementary School. She is survived by her husband, Rev. Jerry Fisher of the home; son, Brandon Fisher and fiancé, Kristy Frazier of Wilmington; sister, Demetria "Medie" Alvarez and husband, Michael of Bath, Maine; three grandchildren, Kaylee "Angel" Fisher, Madison Willets, Lily Gaster; brother-in-laws and sister-in-laws, R. B. Fisher and Thelma "Nana" Fisher of Roseboro, Wyman Fisher and Beulah Fisher of Autryville; numerous loving nieces and nephews; her church family, her Beaver Dam Elementary School family and her loving Fisher family. The family received friends from 6:00-8:00 PM Tuesday evening at Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro and at other times at the home. Butler Funeral Home of Roseboro is serving the family.

FAYETTEVILLE

Geraldine Webb Lassiter, 80 passed away Monday, February 24, 2020 at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center. Funeral service was held at 11:00am Friday, February 28, 2020 at Sunnyside Presbyterian Church, officiating was Dr. Cassandra Thomas and Rev. Debbie Matthis. Burial followed at Lafayette Memorial Park. The family received friends from 6:00pm to 8:00pm Thursday, February 27, 2020 at the funeral home. She is preceded in death by her parents, John Daniel & Lena Webb; husband, Robert "Bob" Lassiter; brother, John D. Webb and sister, Carol W. Price. She is survived by her daughter, Clara Anne Bolton & husband, Brian; son, Robert M. Lassiter, II & wife, Alison; grandchildren, Jeron Lassiter, Evita Lassiter and Catherine Bolton; sister, Clara Webb and many more extended loved ones. Arrangements by Butler Funeral Home of Stedman.



PATERSON NJ

Mr. Eddie C. Mathis, 69, of Paterson, NJ, formerly of Sampson County, NC passed away February 20, 2020 in New Jersey. The funeral service will be held at 11am, February 29, 2020 at Greater Mount Calvary Holiness Church, Clinton, NC with Rev. Ruby Boykin officiating. Burial in Sandhill Cemetery, Clinton, NC. Mr. Mathis is survived by DAUGHTER-Kim Robinson Randall; SON-Terrill Yancey; SISTER-Flora Elizabeth Gooding; BROTHER-Almond Louis Mathis. Viewing at the Church Saturday, February 29, 2020 10am - 11am. Online condolences may be sent to worleyfuneralhomeinc.com.



CLINTON

Mr. Ariel McLamb, 92 of Clinton passed away on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at his home surrounded by his loving family. The funeral service will be held at 1:00 PM Saturday, Feb. 29 at Rowan Baptist Church with Rev. Clay Carter and Rev. Mike Shook officiating. Burial will follow in the Clinton Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 12:00-12:50 PM at the church prior to the service. Mr. McLamb was a native of Sampson County, the son of the late Charlie Henry and Beatrice Lee McLamb. He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, LaRue. He was one of the pioneers in the swine industry in the early 1960's. He was owner of Pig Cradles, Inc. that supplied swine equipment for thousands of swine growers in the country. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Mary Dorcas Daughtry McLamb of the home; five children and their spouses, Gaye M. and Steve Clayton of Atlanta, Kenneth Deno and Cindy McLamb of Clinton, Jimmy Daniel McLamb of Clinton, Debra Ann McLamb and Tim Daly of Raleigh and Billie Jo McLamb and David Wright of Clinton; one sister and husband, Charlene and Bill Casey of Faison; eight grandchildren and seven great grandchildren and his beloved dog, Cosmo. The family wishes to thank his wonderful caregivers who lovingly cared for him during his recent illness, Dorothy Kraus, Annie Long and Debbie Smith. In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to Rowan Baptist Church in memory of Ariel McLamb. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC.

NEWTON GROVE

Margaret Elizabeth Pope, 91, of Clinton, passed away Tuesday, February 25, at Rolling Ridge Retirement Center in Newton

Grove. A funeral service will be held at 11 AM, Saturday, February 29, at First United Methodist Church of Clinton with the Rev. T. R. Miller officiating. Interment will follow in Grandview Memorial Garden. The family will receive friends one hour before the service at the church. Margaret, born in Sampson County in 1928, was the daughter of the late Walter Langley and Ruth Jones Langley. She retired from Carolina Mills Fabric Store and helped her son-in-law at the Train Station Deli. In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her son, Ronald James Pope and brother, Walter Langley, Jr. Survivors include: daughter, Patricia Cannon; grandchildren, Eric Pope of Clinton, Chery Lynn Payne (Chuck) of Raleigh, James Michael Cannon of Raleigh, and Elizabeth Ashley Bullard (Chris) of Clayton; great grandchildren, Kendall Pope, Madalynn Payne, Caroline Payne, and Kamryn Bullard; and, son-in-law, Roger Dale Cannon of Swansboro. Flowers are welcome or memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association at 5171 Glenwood Ave., Suite 101, Raleigh, NC 27612. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.crumpler-honeycutt.com. Arrangements are by Crumpler-Honeycutt Funeral Home, 118 Fayetteville St., Clinton, NC 28328.



DUNN



Scott Everette Thornton, 57, of Dunn passed away on Wednesday, February 19, 2020. Mr. Thornton's memorial service was held on Monday, February 24, 2020 at 11:00 am. The service was held at West & Dunn Funeral Home Chapel in Newton Grove with Father Mark Wise officiating. The family received friends at the

funeral home on Monday, February 24 from 10 to 11 am. Mr. Thornton's survivors include his mother, Jeanette Thornton of Newton Grove; his daughter, Elizabeth Mae Thornton of Alabama; a granddaughter, Bristol Blackmon; and his sisters, Kelly Warren of Dunn and Audra Haddad and husband Mike of Kinston. Mr. Thornton was preceded in death by his father, Jimmy Everette Thornton. Memorials may be made to Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. Online condolences may be made at www.westanddunn.com. Services have been entrusted to West & Dunn Funeral Home of Newton Grove, North Carolina.

CLINTON

Miss Ethel Mae Vann, 96, of 180 Southwood Drive, Clinton, NC passed away Wednesday, February 19, 2020 Southwood Nursing Center, Clinton, NC. The funeral service was held at 2pm, Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at Union Grove Church of Christ DOC with Rev. Eduardo L. Vann officiating. Burial in Sandhills Cemetery, Clinton, NC. Miss Vann is survived by nephews and nieces. Visitation at the Church Wednesday, February 26, 2020 1pm - 2pm. Online condolences may be sent to worleyfuneralhomeinc.com.



ROSEBORO

Mr. Edward Lee "Eddie" Brown Jr., 66 of Roseboro passed away on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020 at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center. The funeral service was held at 11:00 AM on Thursday at Butler Funeral Home with Rev. Larry West officiating. Burial followed at Lafayette Memorial Park. Mr. Brown was a native of Cumberland County, and was the son of Edward Lee Brown Sr. and Hazel Davidson Brown. He was preceded in death by his father. He was the owner and operator of Brown Salvage Yard. He is survived by his mother, Hazel Davidson Brown of Roseboro; two sons, David Lee Brown (Ashley Brown) of Roseboro and Edward Lee Brown, III of Roseboro; one grandchild, Matthew Lee Brown. The family received friends from 10-11 AM Thursday morning at the funeral home. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC.

CLINTON

Clarice Goodridge, Age-94, 117 Harmon St. Clinton, N.C. died Wed. 2/26/2020 at her residence. Funeral arrangements incomplete. Butler & Son Funeral Services, Clinton, N.C

AUTRYVILLE

Mr. Luther Simpson Jackson, 78 of Autryville passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020 at his home. The funeral service was held at 11:00 AM Friday, Feb. 28 at Clement Baptist Church with Rev. Alan Roberts and Dr. James Dee, Jr. officiating. Burial followed in the Mt. Elam Baptist Church cemetery. Mr. Jackson was a native of Sampson County, the son of Wilton E. and Avis Starling Jackson. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Dian Jackson. He was a retired school teacher with the Cumberland County Schools. After he retired from teaching, he served as the EMS Coordinator at Sampson Community College. He also worked for Sampson County EMS and volunteered on the Clement Rescue Squad for many years. He is survived by his wife, Annette Jackson of the home; three sons, Scott Jackson and wife, Janet of Dunn, Christopher Jackson of the home and Michael Jackson and wife, Tracey of Autryville; one daughter, Lisa Jenkins and husband, David of Kinston; five grandchildren, Craig Jenkins, Jenna Jackson, Anna Jackson, Bailey Jackson and Brayden Jackson; one sister, Wanda Hardison and husband, Al of Buies Creek; and two nieces, Sarah Kotzian and husband Randy and Mary Lemmons and husband, Matt. The family will receive friends from 6-8 PM Thursday evening at Butler Funeral Home in Roseboro and at other times at the home. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC.

HARRELLS

Mr. Milton "Bib" Long, 77 of Ira Long Rd, Harrells, NC and also of Copper City, Florida, died Sunday, February 23, 2020. Arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Carter Funeral Home in Garland.

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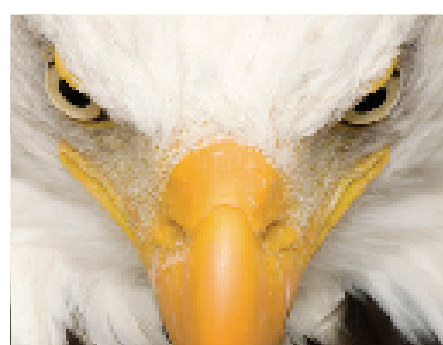
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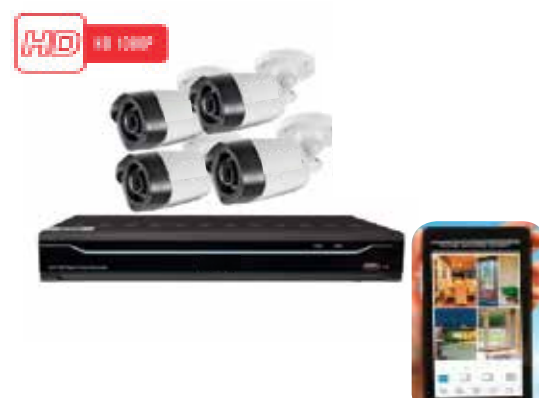
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SPEED FREAKS

A few questions we had to ask ourselves

Aside from Joey Logano, who from the Vegas top 5 is an actual playoff contender this year?

GODSPEAK: Give me Stenhouse. I like a guy with a chip on his shoulder. He has something to prove.

KEN'S CALL: Matty D, Stenhouse, Jimmie and Austin? Wow! Of those, given the team, I'll go with Jimmie being in it for the long haul.

Chase Elliott still can't buy a break. When does he regain his form?

GODSPEAK: Elliott is in top form, it's just not showing up on the results sheet. No worries. Play the long game. He'll win four or five and make the playoffs.

KEN'S CALL: How about this week? OK, maybe. I'd say he's on a roll by mid-March.

GODWIN'S PICKS FOR FONTANA

WINNER: Kyle Larson
REST OF TOP 5: Chase Elliott, Ryan Blaney, Martin Truex Jr., Brad Keselowski
FIRST ONE OUT: Denny Hamlin
DARK HORSE: Clint Bowyer
DON'T BE SURPRISED IF: Larson wins three or four times this season beginning with this race.

BY THE NUMBERS

2
Joey Logano's career wins at Las Vegas
9
Yellow flags during Las Vegas race
22
Logano's losing streak snapped at Las Vegas
24.5
Kyle Busch's average finish in 2020
38
Cars entered in Las Vegas race

MOTOR MOUTHS PODCAST

Who can make sense of these first two weeks? Hmmm, we have a hunch.

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



FONTANA
THREE THINGS TO WATCH



Stock cars jockey for position during a restart last year at Phoenix Raceway, which is part of NASCAR's early season Western Swing. [AP/RALPH FRESO]

1. Western Swing

The NASCAR Cup Series races for a couple of weeks at Daytona International Speedway then everybody packs their bags for three consecutive races out West. Specifically, Las Vegas, Fontana and Phoenix. The tracks have nothing in common other than geographical proximity. Vegas is a 1.5-mile quad-oval. Fontana is a 2-mile oval with wide, sweeping turns. Phoenix measures in as a 1-mile flat oval.

2. Eyeing Kyle

The 2019 NASCAR Cup Series champion Kyle Busch has had no success in the premier tour so far this season. Busch busted an engine at Daytona and finished a nondescript 15th at Las Vegas. So he must be looking forward to the next two races at Fontana and Phoenix because he won both in 2019 and used those back-to-back wins as a springboard to his second Cup title.

3. Since 1997

The late NASCAR president Bill France Jr. said he would dole out a Cup Series race date to anyone who could build a race track near Los Angeles. With no takers, he did it himself, in a partnership with Roger Penske. California Speedway (now Auto Club Speedway) opened in 1997 with Jeff Gordon winning the inaugural Cup Series race. The track boasted two Cup races for a time, but now hosts only one each season.

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

LAS VEGAS
THREE THINGS WE LEARNED

1. 22 Skidoo

Joey Logano went 22 races without a NASCAR Cup Series victory, a streak stretching all the way back to last June. He snapped that streak by winning at Las Vegas. "Man, this is a huge win, and nice to kick off the season with a W," said Logano, who drives the No. 22 Ford.



Joey Logano celebrates after winning at Las Vegas Motor Speedway. [AP/JOHN LOCHER]

2. Not over until

For the second week in a row the No. 6 and No. 12 Fords were involved in the outcome of a race. At Daytona, they wrecked on the last lap. At Las Vegas, Ross Chastain, driving the No. 6, brought out a caution with five to

go, spoiling a sure-thing win by Ryan Blaney in the No. 12.

3. Newman's recovery

Ryan Newman, who was involved in a horrific crash on the last lap of the Daytona 500, said he

suffered a head injury from the wreck. He gave no other details. "The doctors have been pleased with my progression over the last few days," he said in a written statement.

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

QUESTIONS & ATTITUDE

Compelling questions ... and maybe a few actual answers

I know they're in the Wild West, but a bounty?

Yep, you got it, but Kevin Harvick doesn't want any shooting or a scalp. In fact, his Kyle Busch bounty is an actual show of support and praise for Kyle, who dipped into the Truck Series in Vegas to win his seventh straight and 57th overall on that circuit. His career win total is now at 209 over NASCAR's three national series. Kyle Larson took to Twitter to playfully insinuate Busch was cherry-picking. Harvick swung into action.

What will happen?

By rule, Busch can run just four more truck races this year. Harvick offered \$50,000 to any full-time Cup racer who will enter and beat Busch in one of those four races. The Truck Series sponsor added another \$50,000. This harkens back to the good ol' days of local short-track racing, where hotshots often faced such bounties. This will bring good publicity to a series that'll make use of it, we trust.

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

CUP STANDINGS

1. Ryan Blaney	85
2. Joey Logano	82
3. Kevin Harvick	81
4. Kyle Larson	70
5. Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	66
6. Chase Elliott	65
7. Austin Dillon	63
8. Chris Buescher	61
9. Denny Hamlin	60
9. Matt DiBenedetto	60
9. Jimmie Johnson	60
12. Bubba Wallace	59
13. Clint Bowyer	56
14. Alex Bowman	51
15. Corey LaJoie	50
15. Martin Truex Jr.	50
17. Aric Almirola	48
18. John Hunter Nemechek	39
19. Brad Keselowski	38
19. Erik Jones	38

WHAT'S ON TAP
(All times Eastern)

CUP SERIES: Auto Club 400
SITE: Auto Club Speedway (2-mile oval, Fontana, California)
SCHEDULE: Friday, practice (Fox Sports 1, 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.). Saturday, qualifying (Fox Sports 1, 2:30 p.m.). Sunday, race (Fox, coverage begins at 3 p.m., green flag at 3:30 p.m.)
XFINITY: Production Alliance Group 300
SITE: Auto Club Speedway
TV SCHEDULE: Friday, practice (Fox Sports 1, 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.). Saturday, qualifying, (Fox Sports 1, 1 p.m.), race (Fox Sports 1, 4 p.m.)



KEN WILLIS' TOP 10 NASCAR DRIVER RANKINGS									
JOEY	KYLE BUSCH	KEVIN	MARTIN	CHASE	JIMMIE	BRAD	RICKY	DENNY	RYAN

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