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SAMPSON COUNTY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

# The Sampson Weekly



VOLUME 11, ISSUE 6

www.thesampsonweekly.com

Week of February 7-13, 2020

**INSIDE**



Local News  
Page 2



Sports  
Page 11



Education  
Page 14

**WEATHER**

**Fri** Cloudy  
20%

Hi: 59° Lo: 31°

**Sat** Cloudy  
10%

Hi: 52° Lo: 34°

**Sun** Partly  
Cloudy  
10%

Hi: 59° Lo: 41°

**Mon** PM  
Rain  
50%

Hi: 42° Lo: 23°

**Tues** Rain  
50%

Hi: 69° Lo: 45°

**Wed** Cloudy  
20%

Hi: 58° Lo: 49°

## K-9 Sarge Retiring After 10 Years of Service

On Tuesday night the Clinton City Council voted unanimously for the retirement of K-9 Sarge. Sarge is a Belgium Malinois with nearly 10 years of service in law enforcement. Sarge was purchased from Enforcement K-9 Solutions in Wilmington NC in 2010 after he was imported from Europe.

Sarge began his training with the Carteret County Sheriff Department in June 2010 for three weeks along with his handler. He completed the training session and was given an appointment to be placed in front of a Master Trainer with the Cumberland County Sheriff Department for national certification. In October of 2010, Sarge was awarded his National Certification through the International Police Work Dog Association by Lt. Timothy Loughman with the Cumberland County Sheriff Department and has recertified every year since then and is still currently certified.



Sarge has conducted numerous demos for area churches, schools, and organizations in-  
**SARGE, see P. 3**

## US Dept of Commerce Invests to Support Workforce Training Opportunities at SCC



PHOTO/CREDIT: Frederick Stamey, Director of Transportation Programs at Sampson Community College.  
(Michael Blankenship)

On Monday, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross announced that the Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) is awarding a \$2.6 million grant to Sampson Community College of Clinton, North Carolina to increase the number of skilled workers available to meet regional trucking industry needs by expanding the college's truck driving school. The EDA grant, to be located in a Tax Cuts and Jobs Act designated Opportunity Zone, will be matched with \$647,345 in local funds and is expected to help create 291 jobs, retain 243 jobs, and generate more than \$13.5 million in private investment.

"The truck driving industry in North Carolina is growing, and Sampson Community College is perfectly positioned to train drivers for in-demand jobs," said Secretary of  
**SCC, see P. 3**

## Troopers Celebrate with Students



Last Friday, Sampson County Troopers visited Plainview Elementary School to celebrate with 4th and 5th grade students that had excelled during the month in the Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS). The PBIS system is designed to motivate students to do well in school. Students are evaluated in this system daily and rewarded for good behavior, completing homework, being prepared for class, etc.

During their visit, Troopers talked with students about the importance of good behavior, wearing their seatbelt, as well as the importance of asking for help from law enforcement when needed. Troopers also took time out of uniform to play basketball and kickball with students as part of their reward. After celebrating with the students on the playground, members in uniform gave all students "high fives" as they were dismissed from school for the weekend.

Sampson County Troopers in attendance were First Sergeant B. D. Smith, Sergeant D. K.  
**Troopers, see P. 4**

**WEEKLY VERSE**

*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.  
Colossians 2:6-7*

**WEEKLY INDEX**

Local.....	1-5
Election.....	6-7
Cancer Awareness.....	8-9
Food.....	10
Athlete of Week.....	11
Business Showcase.....	12-13
Puzzles.....	16
Crime.....	17
Obits.....	18
Classifieds.....	19
Nascar.....	20



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**Preferred Angus Bnls Chuck Roast \$3.79/lb**

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**Fresh Buy Family Pack Pork Steaks \$1.79/lb**

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# LOCAL NEWS

## From the Desk of Senator Brent Jackson



I hope you had a great week thus far. Last month, I was invited to join other legislators and community leaders on In Focus with Loretta Boniti in order to discuss Family-Owned Businesses in North Carolina. Thank you to Loretta and her team at Spectrum for inviting me to be a part of the segment. The episode will air on Sunday, March 1st, 2020 at 11:30 am.

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

### Legislative Recap- Senate Bill 385

Senate Bill 385 accompanied S.B. 384 from our last recap. This legislation is a very technical bill dealing primarily with motor vehicle dealers. It addresses the licensing of new auto dealers and the period in which they are waiting for a full license. It addresses vehicle history reports and the liabilities involved. It includes language on customer referrals, anti-discrimination clarifications, and many other small technical changes.

Although these bills rarely drum up the same excitement or dramatics that some others might, they are a key to keep North Carolina up to date in some of our largest industries. We expect new changes as the automotive industry continues to shift and appreciate the countless hours of work that go into creating small, but impactful bills like this one.

### From the District

#### Hobpton Band: N.C. to D.C.

Students from the Hobpton High School Marching Band are raising funds to join the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C. and to represent their home state of North Carolina.



Courtesy Photo

To help make the once in a lifetime experience cost-free, "The Wildcat 600: N.C. to D.C." is underway for the round trip, which is 600 miles. The total cost is \$60,000.

"We need help," Band Director Geoffrey Tart said about the trip and funds to cover transportation, hotel room, meals, and other activities.

So far, the band raised \$34,000 through different fundraisers after the band was nominated by N.C. Sen. Thom Tillis for the Memorial Day event which will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the ending of World War II. A committee also reviewed video and audiotapes for the process.

Many of the school's shows have a patriotic theme. Hobpton was selected by the American Veterans Center and Music Celebrations International. The band is scheduled to march down Constitution Avenue and end at the National Mall between the White House and Washington Monument for the televised event.

"We had several fundraising events since the start of school," Tart said. "We are currently selling our Band Discount Cards."

Each card is \$20 and includes a 90-day free trial of national discounts for restaurants, hotels and recreational activities.

For the trip, students will spend three days in Washington, D.C. for 2020 celebrations. Some of the highlights and educational opportunities include touring the Arlington National Cemetery, the Holocaust Museum, and other historic places. Students will also have a chance to watch the National Memorial Day Concert on the West Lawn of the Capitol.

Along with the parade, the band is also working to perform at one of the national monuments, which requires a permit and close to \$800 being added to the total cost. Some of the other additional needs include instrument maintenance, uniforms, and flags. In a letter sent to community members, Tart and other Hobpton leaders said those needs will help make Hobpton's band "look and sound their best."

Through the Wildcat 600 campaign, the school is seeking help from individuals or businesses to sponsor a mile or more. Each mile is \$100. A total of the miles and donations will be shown on the Facebook page, "Hobpton Bands."

"We have raised enough money to get the students there ... we now have to raise the remaining to get them back," Tart said about being at the half-way mark of funding.

Although the trip is four months away, a deadline is approaching fast. The trip will need to be paid in full by March to help lower expenses for students and to make the trip possible.

Donations may be mailed to 12201 Hobpton Highway, Newton Grove, N.C. 28366. Make checks payable to "Hobpton High School Marching Band," in care of Geoffrey Tart.

### District Spotlight-Herring Receives Long Leaf Pine

Sampson Correctional Officer Ollie Herring has served his community for over 30 years with the Department of Corrections and NC Department of Public Safety. Fellow employees had kind words to share about Herring, who recently received the state's highest award for service to others.



Courtesy Photo

Robert Van Gorder, warden of the Sampson Correctional Institution in Clinton, saw the dedication that Herring brought to the facility. Van Gorder took it upon himself to nominate Herring for North Carolina's coveted Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award.

Herring started his career at Wayne Correctional Center on Oct. 4, 1989. According to Van Gorder, the correctional officer has not shown any signs of slowing down as he continues with his duties at the Sampson Correctional Institution. He also mentors to others, sharing his experiences with fellow staff members who are new to the corrections field.

The NC Long Leaf Pine award is a very prestigious award from the governor. The award honors individuals who have served their community above and beyond for at least 30 years. However, individuals or businesses can obtain one of these awards by earning a special achievement. It can also serve as a gesture of friendship and goodwill.

The honorees are named to The Order of the Long Leaf Pine. In addition, they receive a certificate bestowed by the Governor. The award first came into play in 1963. But little is known about its origin due to a lack of public records. Historians have been able to date the award back to 1963 with Governor Terry Sanford.

A ceremony was hosted at Sampson Correctional just last week to present this award to Herring. The NC Long Leaf Pine Award website notes that Herring was formally named a recipient of the prestigious award in October 2019.

Family members praised Herring's work ethic, saying he would take on double shifts on his days off to cover for others when needed. Two years ago, the family moved from Clinton to Fayetteville, a move that did not stop Herring from continuing his hard work and dedication at the Sampson correctional facility. The Fayetteville resident makes the commute to Clinton for work.

Fellow officers said Herring was deserving of the award and is the type of correction officer that others should aspire to be.

### Constituent Question of the Week:

Starting this week, our office decided to begin a new segment within our weekly newsletters. Moving forward, we will include a section called "Constituent Question of the Week." The questions will range from questions about our district, past/present/future legislation, or ideas of what our office can do to better assist you. This week, our question is:

What would help you feel more connected to what goes on in Raleigh?

We ask that you please respond to our office via email with all of the ideas that you may have. In addition, you can always email me at Brent.Jackson@ncleg.net or call our office at 919-733-5705 with specific issues you would like to be addressed. We look forward to hearing from you all.

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



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

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

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

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

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

**SCC, cont. from P. 1**

Commerce Wilbur Ross. “The project’s location in a Tax Cuts and Jobs Act Opportunity Zone will help increase job opportunities and support the expansion of businesses in an area hit hard by hurricanes Florence, Michael, and Matthew.”

“EDA is committed to ensuring that businesses have access to the skilled workforce they need to succeed,” said U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Dr. John Fleming. “The expanded truck driving school at Sampson Community College will increase the supply of skilled workers available to meet regional industry needs and the school’s location in an Opportunity Zone will help attract additional private investment to the area.”

“Today, there are more job openings than unemployed Americans,” said Senator Burr. “That’s thanks in part to historic tax reform and the creation of Opportunity Zones. It’s our responsibility to ensure Americans have the skills they need to work and compete in the 21st century. This \$2.6 million grant will do just that, by better preparing students to meet the growing needs of today’s truck driving industry. I applaud the De-

partment of Commerce for recognizing the benefits of investing in the Sampson Community College’s truck driving school and supporting greater economic development in the region.”

“Sampson Community College’s truck driving school is an important resource to train North Carolina’s workforce and ensure the growing truck-driving industry has qualified people for open positions,” said Senator Tillis. “This \$2.6 million grant will allow the school to continue to grow and provide much needed funds in a designated Opportunity Zone through the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act passed in 2017. I want to thank Secretary Ross and President Trump for continuing to prioritize workforce training and job growth that will help families in North Carolina.”

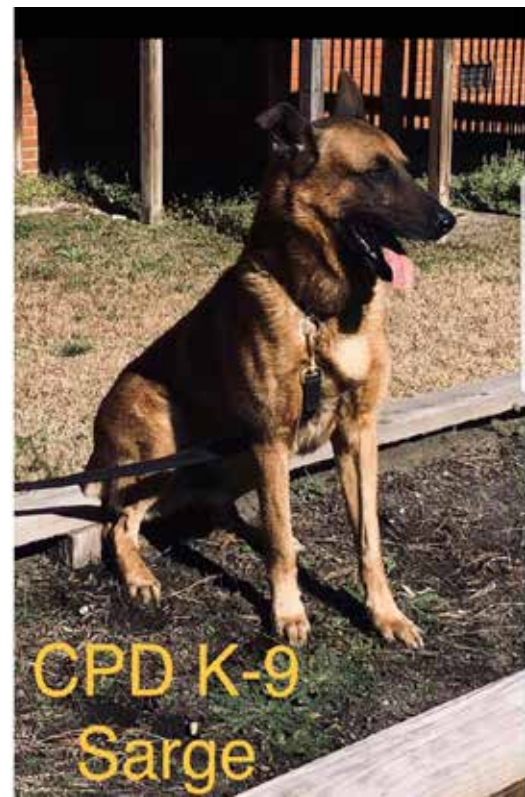
The funding announced today goes to a designated Opportunity Zone, created by President Donald J. Trump’s Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 to spur economic development by giving tax incentives to investors in econom-

ically-distressed communities nationwide. In June 2019, EDA added Opportunity Zones as an Investment Priority, which increases the number of catalytic Opportunity Zone-related projects that EDA can fund to fuel greater public investment in these areas. To learn more about the Opportunity Zone program, see the Treasury Department resources page here. To learn more about the Commerce Department’s work in Opportunity Zones, please visit EDA’s Opportunity Zones webpage.

About the U.S. Economic Development Administration ([www.eda.gov](http://www.eda.gov))

The mission of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting competitiveness and preparing the nation’s regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. An agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce, EDA makes investments in economically distressed communities in order to create jobs for U.S. workers, promote American innovation, and accelerate long-term sustainable economic growth.

**SARGE, cont. from P. 1**



cluding the Boy Scouts as well as the Girl Scouts. Sarge has also conducted demos out in the county with church events.

Sarge has assisted Duplin County as well as Cumberland County with narcotic searches in schools as well as the Goodyear Plant in Fayetteville.

Sarge has had some notable seizures during his career to include:

- Half kilo of cocaine that was traced back to a Mexican Criminal Cartel called the Los Zetas.

- Seizure of \$15000 of counterfeit money- suspect was deported back to Honduras after a plea agreement was accepted.

- 1 ½ pounds (467 grams) of marijuana-located at Sampson Community College in a vehicle scan.

- Assisted Dunn Police Department with a search for a mental patient that had walked away from Betsy Johnson Hospital- subject was located standing in the middle of a small pond.

- Assisted Sampson County Sheriff Department for a search of a BIE suspect that fled on foot. Sarge located the suspect in a wooded area across from Hargrove Elementary School.

- Assisted Sampson County Sheriff Department in a shooting off King Road. Sarge located enough evidence at the scene for the Sheriff Department to issue warrants on the suspect.

At the Tuesday meeting, the City Council also unanimously approved for Sarge to live out his retirement with his handler, Sgt. Edgar Carter. Carter has been Sarge’s handler since June of 2010. Having a close relationship with Sarge and being part of the Carter family, it only makes sense for Sarge to retire with him.

Sgt. Carter says of Sarge, “Sarge has been an excellent dog to train and handle as well as work with. He loves to work and loves to be around people but also gets nervous when he is surrounded by people, so I keep demos to a minimum time. He loves to play with his toy and has a favorite toy which is a tennis ball. Sarge has a strong desire to please his handler and will only do what he is told to do. Sarge does have his moments where he wants to be stubborn as all humans have the same trait. Sarge does not and will not back down, he can hold his own. Sarge’s last deployment was a narcotic scan and narcotics where located and seized so he went out with a bang.”

Sgt. Carter stated that he and his family are thrilled to be able to keep Sarge. “I have spent years with Sarge with training as well as working. So, to be able to keep him after his retirement is just a blessing.”

And what will Sarge do now that he is retired. Carter replied, “Sarge will be simply a pet. He will play in the back yard and roll in the grass chasing butterflies as he enjoys doing and pretty much nothing else. He is starting to have leg pains and pain in his hip, so his working days are now behind him.”

Sarge will celebrate his 10th birthday on May 5th. Congratulations Sarge on your retirement and thank you for your service!



**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 education from Public Kindergarten through Grade 12. The Education System must ensure counties have quality teachers, a safe learning environment and the educational tools to teach all children.

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

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

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**EUGENE ★ ★ ★**  
**PEARSALL**

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*"People Not Politics"*

\* Paid for by Eugene Pearsall for House of Representatives Campaign

# LOCAL NEWS

## TROOPERS, cont. from P. 1

Pearson, Trooper K. Smith, Trooper L. M. High Jr., Trooper R. K. Williams, Trooper F. B. Bautista.

While speaking with the students Sergeant D. K. Pearson stressed, "The most important thing to remember is that we are normal people so, each and every one of you can approach and talk to any of us anytime. It doesn't matter if we are dressed like we are now, or if we are in uniform. Please do not be afraid to talk to us because we are always here to help you if needed."

"I would like to thank the members of the NCSHP for visiting Plain View Elementary," said Principal Melanie Smith. "It is extremely important for students to meet positive role models such as these law enforcement officers and to realize that other members of the community outside the school setting care about their academic work and behavior at school."

First Sergeant B. D. Smith noted of the experience, "If the time we spent with these students outside on this cool afternoon positively impacted at least one student it was well worth it. As Sergeant Pearson stressed to the students, we are always here to help. This is just another example of our members going above and beyond their duty to have a positive impact on the community."



## Coombs Named Firefighter of the Year



The 2019 Clinton Firefighter of the Year goes to Capt. Josh Coombs. Capt. Coomb's nomination highlights his leadership values, his willingness to give to the crew of the department, and the respect of his crew is apparent when he teaches them all aspects of the fire service. Pictured is Capt. Josh Coombs and his beautiful family along with Mayor Lew Starling and Fire Chief Stephen Lovette.

## Lewis Receives Chief Award



The 2019 Clinton Fire Department's Chief Award goes to Engineer Jimmy Lewis. Jimmy consistently demonstrates a willingness to see every task completed. Jimmy is constantly striving to make the Clinton Fire Department the best it can be. Pictured is Engineer Jimmy Lewis, Mayor Lew Starling and Fire Chief Stephen Lovette



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# We Should Know . . .



**Gregory Griffin with J.W. Simmons host of We Should Know**

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

The week’s We Should Know is a conversation with attorney Greg Griffin and his recent trip to the Holy Land.

Gregory T. Griffin was born in Waterloo Iowa. He resides in Clinton with his wife, Pam, of 32 years. They have two children, Bryan and Emily, and one grandson, Hudson. He has maintained an active law practice in Clinton, North Carolina for thirty years.

Mr. Griffin was admitted to the North Carolina State Bar in 1979 and also admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. District Court, US Bankruptcy Court, Eastern and Middle Districts of North Carolina. Griffin graduated from Appalachian State University B. A., magna cum laude, in 1976 and Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law, Campbell University in 1979.

JW Simmons begins the show quoting a recent article he read on travel, “No other single place can you find such a concentration of sites sacred, not to just one but to three major world religions, Christianity, Judaism and Islam. The compact ancient city surrounded by walls more than 450 years ago home to one of the most holy Jewish sites never fails to amaze visitors from the extraordinary historical background contained in each and every piece of that environment.”

Simmons asks Griffin what it was that inspired him, his wife and others from Clinton to visit Israel. “This came about because my wife told me we were going,” jokingly begins Griffin. “Daniel Cenci, the reverend at the Episcopal Church here in town who has just now left, he had been on a similar pilgrimage about 5 or 6 years ago. And he had been to the Saint Georges College in Jerusalem and he had always wanted to go. I think he had gone there by himself and he wanted to go back, and he always talked about it.”

“So, he was the one who started the organization of it,” says Griffin. “He put it out there were people from the Episcopal Church here in town, the Presbyterian and Methodist. So, there was about 20 of us from the Sampson County area and another 14 or 16 from the Chapel Hill area.”

Griffin explains that you can go online at the Saint Georges College in Jerusalem and they have various tours and programs scheduled through 2021.

“What was good about this for those that signed up for eight or 10 weeks in a row Daniel had a Bible Study every Sunday morning at 10am and we would go there, and he would bring out another place we were going to go. He would show some slides and talk about it in a practical sense as in things you had to do, the kind of dress you could or could not wear into these places. And at the same time, he talked about the religious aspects and we read the Bible and that kind of stuff. So, the combination of that was very enlightening and when we got there, like my wife said, you went from black and white to color. It all began to come alive.”

Griffin goes on to explain that Saint Georges College is located in Jerusalem. “It has a rather large campus. It has a dormitory, a library for sabbatical internships. It also has a huge cathedral, a guest house and gardens that are kept up. It’s very pretty. And then, across the street is a school for K through 12. Basically, the students that go there are Palestinian or Muslim, but also Christian so, its very interesting. In that complex, across the street on one side is the courts of Israel and Jerusalem and to the other side is the British embassy. Just down the street a little way is Old Jerusalem so, it’s a very easy walk to get there.”

Next, Simmons says that most people would think the Holy Land to be a very large place but upon arrival you discover its not a large place. “No, it’s not,” says Griffin. “I think to put in context to begin with is that the population of Israel is about 8.3 million and the United States is about 318 million. And, the size of Israel is about the size of New Jersey. It’s less than the size of Maine and a fraction the size of California. So, its not a big place. To the south of Israel is Egypt and to the north is Lebanon and Syria. On the east is Jordan and the west is the Mediterranean Sea.”

Simmons says that small piece of land in the Middle East is the same place where Christ, God Incarnate, walked and taught. It must be like the Golden City to Christians Simmons states. “Oh, it is!” says Griffin. “No doubt about it, it was a pilgrimage. In fact, the core study was called The Footsteps of Jesus.”

“We actually went out of New York City on about a 14-hour flight into Tel Aviv. Or actually the airport is between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. We went to Tel Aviv for about 5 days and it’s on the port on the Mediterranean Sea. It’s very millennial, very upscale. Upscale restaurants, a huge boardwalk, but it’s got some neat places like the Port of Java which is very ancient, and it’s got the Carmel Market which is a huge market where they sell anything you can imagine.”

“We left there and went to the Dead Sea for a day on our own. We then left there and went on to Jerusalem to start our core study.”

Next, Simmons asks Griffin if he had any apprehension about safety planning or during his trip due to the Israeli Palestinian conflict.

“It was,” states Griffin. “When we got prepared to go, we were obviously told all the things we needed to have done. The security passes, the border crossing security and having our passports in order because if your passport was going to expire within 6 months of the return of the trip, they wouldn’t accept it. So, we were told about all that and at the airport we were told don’t mess around. If they come up and ask you a question don’t mess around or make fun or laugh, because they’re dead serious.”

“But,” adds Griffin, “we didn’t have any of those problems. We got there and things were organized. We had a driver who met us and took us to Tel Aviv. Not all of us went together. It was smaller group that went to Tel Aviv. But we didn’t have any problem.”

“On the return trip it was kind of interesting, the College again told us they may stop you; they may search your luggage. They may talk to you or take one person out of line and ask the husband where you have been, what have you been doing. And then take the wife into another room and ask questions. But, when we walked up the security person was from Cary, North Carolina.”

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

## Sampson County VITAL STATS

### Deaths

- Gladys Ruth Artis
- Jonathan Bowden
- William Henry Burney
- Willa Grey Booth
- Claudie Bennett
- Anna Lee Clack
- John Marion Daly
- Peggy Lee Davis
- Sherwood Wayne Duff
- Robert Lathan Fisher
- Doris Mae Hall
- Paula Doris Jackson
- Melva Jane Lanier
- Alta Blanche McLamb
- Mary Ann Robertson
- Mildred Rice
- Jackie Rose Smith
- Lawrence Travis Tyndall
- Eva Ann Underwood
- Anthony Dale Williams

### Marriage Certificates

- Melvin Daniel Reyes Torres to Sahira Yadira Nataren Bonilla
- Kiandra Nicole Burnette to Breaunna Alexis Harshall
- Maxton Wayne Thorpe to Dana Gwen Johnson
- Eric Granados Arzate to Eneida Madai Ortez

### Births

- Khari La’Truth Mainor born on January 20, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Lashanda Alexandra Mainor
- Juan Jose Torres Castillo born on January 20, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Juan Jose Torres Lizardo and Yasmine Alexy Castillo Flores
- Jose Hernandez Bolanos Jr born on January 21, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Jose Alfredo Hernandez Martinez and Evangelina Hernandez Bolanos
- Skyy Serenity Allen born on January 22, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Markell Devon Allen Jr and Shaniqua Rochel Mathis
- Angeles Alexa Cabrera Banegas born on January 22, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Marbin Alexi Cabrera Meza and Vilma Maritsa Banegas Diaz
- Ivan Ernesto Mendo Castillo born on January 23, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Ivan Ramon Mendo and Belky Yadira Castillo Lopez
- Amir Deshaun Blackmore born on January 24, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Tadarious Dashawn Blackmore and Shaniqua Tigel Melvin
- Colson Reid Edwards born on January 24, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to William Cody Edwards and Steffanie LeeAnn Hoell
- Liam Alexander Garbati born on January 24, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center to Logan Alexander Garbati and Susan Nicole Hester

### Land Transfers

- Donald Ray Strickland, Mary Ann Strickland to Jose Ramon Romero- 1.91 Acres Mingo
- Dorothy T Lee, Waiston C lee, Sherry T Starling, Thomas Starling, Jay Mark Sullivan, Kimberly T Sullivan, Patricia Irene Thornton, William Ellis Thornton to Dalton Alan Murphy, Madeline W Murphy- Lot 1 0.20 Acres Newton Grove
- Ralph Eugene Piercy, Velma A Piercy to Jammie S Piercy, Kimberly W Piercy- 122.92 Acres w/ exceptions Taylors Bridge
- Skyler Stevens Powell to Daniel Ross Kimbro II, Sheryl Ann Kimbro- Lot 1B 0.82 Acres Halls
- Clayton Bryan McDonald, Rebecca Page McDonald to Clayton Bryan McDonald, Rebecca Page- 3 Tracts Honeycutt
- Evelyn Geraldine Murphy to Evelyn Geraldine Murphy, Kim Antonia Newton- Lot 2 0.65 Acres w/ exceptions Taylors Bridge
- Gene E Bradshaw, Linda C Bradshaw to Gene E Bradshaw, Linda C Bradshaw, Jennifer Bradshaw Howell- Lot 2 1.74 Acres Piney Grove
- Land Grant development Company to Sutherland Builders Inc- Lot 21 Warrick Plantation Section One
- William Roscoe Cain to Kevin Ray Cain- 2 Tracts South River
- William R Cain to William R Cain, Michael Wayne Cain- Tract 2 44.71 Acres South River

- William R Cain to Kevin Ray Cain, William R Cain- Tract 1 41.08 Acres South River
- Herman Paul Puryear/AKA, Herman Paul Puryear to Ruth Denning, Charles II Puryear, Carolyn Smith, Tammy Stewart- 2 Tracts Plainview and Mingo
- Charles Denning, Ruth Denning, Charles Puryear II, Crystal Puryear, Carolyn P Smith, Robert Stewart Jr, Tammy Stewart to Carla Lee Cherry, Paula Puryear Kibler, Donna Grace McLamb, Herman Paul Puryear, Herman Paul Puryear II- 0.485 Acres Plainview
- Annie Mae Tart to Charles L Tart- 2 Parcels Plainview
- Ida Sue Glover, James Douglas Glover to Steven Lee Glover- Lot 10 47.74 Acres Pernon Jackson Sr Estate Mingo
- Jorge Serrano, Martha Serrano, Victor Serrano, Brenda Venegas to Eduardo Ibarra Olguin- 0.57 Acres
- Alice Gail T Hall, Kenneth Lee Hall to Alice Gail T Hall, Kenneth Lee Hall, Brandon Lee Pope- 2 Lots Little Coharie
- Joseph Donahue Smith, Shannon Adell Smith to Jonathan Donahue Smith- Lot 2A 5.21 Acres Halls
- Joseph Donahue Smith, Shannon Adell Smith to Gracie Marie Smith- Lot 2C 2.45 Acres Halls
- Cynthia P McLamb, Kenneth Deno McLamb to Diany Del Carmen Nunez, Nelson R Nunez- South Clinton
- Angela Kay Lee Barefoot, Brookie Lyn Barefoot, Joy Elaine Lee Milligan to Juan M Hernandez Frausto, Mari Cruz Sanchez Rubio- Tract 2 4.83 Acres Plainview
- Wanda Honeycutt Grantham to Keith Wayne Hardee- 1.81 Acres Tract 2 Dismal
- Teresa Kay Warwick to Brent Allen Hairr, Teresa Kay Warwick- 1.07 Acres Honeycutt
- Cameron E Sutton/Gen P/By AIF, Caroline T Sutton/Gen P/By AIF, Karen T Sutton/AIF, William B Sutton Jr Family Limited Partnership to Lyman M Horne Jr, Penny Latimer Horne- Lot 8 10.01 Acres Timberlake Estates North Clinton
- Teresa Jones to Jacob E Jones, Joshua E Jones- 5 Tracts w/exceptions Dismal
- Angela Hinson/ADMR, Angela Moody Hinson, Billy Robert Hinson Estate, Nicholas Tyler Hinson, Sarah Renee Hinson to Michael Rodriguez- 3 Tracts
- Hermelindo Rivera to Cirila Trejo Estrada, Cirila Trejo Rivera/FKA- Lot 20 Sandy Point Subdivision 0.47 Acres South Clinton
- Mildred Carter Matthis to Dalton A Murphy, Madeline W Murphy- 5.80 Acres Lot 2 w/exceptions Lisbon
- Mildred Carter Matthis to Larry Thomas Matthis Jr, Mildred Carter Matthis, Amanda Matthis Worley- 1.37 Lot 1 Acres Lisbon
- Michael J Krimm Jr to Bernadette Marie Catbagan, Michael J Krimm Jr- 8.28 Acres
- AG Thornton & Son Inc to Robert C Spell, Steven P Williams- Lot 1B 0.21 Acres
- Asa M Evans, Letitia L Evans to Rene Martinez Hernandez- Lot 4 of the Dr JB Powell Subdivision Section V South Clinton
- Dwayne Newkirk to Ida M Newkirk, Thurman R Newkirk- 0.50 Acres Lot 3 Honeycutts
- Lawrence Atlee Johnson Estate, Stacy Kelly Johnson, Steven Wayne Johnson, Steven Wayne Johnson/EXR to Christopher G Sirak, Lynnea G Sirak- 0.84 Acres South Clinton
- Warren Farming Company to DOT- Westbrook Township
- Delena Williams Bryan, Josph Mark Bryan, Edna Williams McGuirt, Glenn McGuirt, Larry Dean Warren, Patricia Williams Warren to DOT- Lot Sampson
- H&H Constructors of Fayetteville LLC to Veronica Noemi Gomez and Benjamin William Miller- Lot 39 Mill Ridge Subdivision Phase 2 Dismal
- Adam W bunker, Carlotta M Bunker to Donna Brent, Michael R Brent- Lot 5 Hawley Ridge Phase One Mingo
- CL Thomas Carroll II to Mylena Yaniret Martinez Inestroza, Saul Guerrero Mejia- Lot 35 IN William Subdivision North Clinton
- Joel Keith Matthews, Sherry B Matthews to Hunter J Matthews, Rebekah P Matthews- 0.8 Acres
- Jennifer L Hawley, Johnny R Hawley to Carlos Rogelio Rivera Garcia, Olga Lidia Garcia Reynosa- 1.45 Acres
- Betty F Tyndall, Jesse J Tyndall to Betty F Tyndall, Jesse J Tyndall- 1.64 Acres Lots 88 and 89 Timber Lake Subdivision Section Fourteen North Clinton
- Gabriel Panuca, Gabriel Panuco Jr to Evelyn Lopez Panuco- Lot 27 Plainview
- James S Carl Hannah, Vickie Lorraine Hannah to Irene Perez Hernandez, Samuel Perez Hernandez- 0.65 Acres Taylors Bridge
- Albert Lloyd Bordeaux to Carl Alexander Blackburn- 2 Tracts South River
- Elois Robinson, Harvey C Robinson to Reshaud Jermaine Robinson- Tract 1A 1.50 Acres South Franklin
- Elois Robinson, Harvey C Robinson to Auja Simone Robinson- Tract 1B 1.50 Acres Franklin

## MEET YOUR CANDIDATES

## District 4- District Court Judge



## William Shanahan

**Q- Background/Family/Education/Experience?**

A- I was raised in a military family, so, as you might expect, I moved around a great deal as a child. However, my family roots go back many generations right here in Eastern North Carolina. Being raised in a military family fostered a deep sense of patriotism and love for our Constitutional Republic that ultimately led me to obtain a law degree from Notre Dame Law School. After graduation, I returned to Eastern North Carolina to practice law. Since returning, I have represented clients in a wide variety of practice areas. I have also been involved in my community by volunteering for numerous conservative candidates for office, representing the Republican Party on a county Board of Elections, and being elected County Commissioner.

**Q- What is your judicial philosophy?**

A- My judicial philosophy is conservative. I understand that the role of a judge is to follow the law as it is written and apply it to the facts in front of you—regardless of who the parties are and regardless of who the attorneys are. As a judge, you will never hear me make a reference to my courtroom. It is the people's courtroom. The Constitution starts off with We the People. Not we the government. Not we the politicians. Not we the lawyers. We the people. Understanding my respect for our Republic, its people, and our Constitution should give you some insight on my priorities as a judge. It will not be about me as a judge. It will be about the law of the land and the people those laws were put in place to protect.

**Q- What experience or experiences have you had that would make you a good judge?**

A- As an attorney, I have represented clients in virtually every type of matter that appears before a District Court Judge—family law, including divorce, custody, child support, equitable distribution, postseparation support, and alimony; criminal defense, including traffic, misdemeanor, and felony offenses; DSS cases; Juvenile cases; and, Termination of Parental Rights. I know how much these cases matter to the people involved. I know what it means to a Defendant, Plaintiff, or Victim to feel like they have been heard and treated with dignity and respect. I respect and am humbled by the awesome responsibility we entrust to our judges and will work every day to live up to that trust.

**Q- What do you think is the biggest problem facing the court system right now?**

A- Growth. Our dockets are growing every year and in real terms that means it takes longer for victims to get their day in court. It also means parties and witnesses miss more days of work due to multiple court dates and continuances. Furthermore, these delays lead to our county jails being overcrowded, which burdens our Sheriff Offices and, ultimately, taxpayers. Solving this challenge will require the commitment of many players, including our legislature, but a judge can help by being willing to work longer hours to hear cases, as well as being efficient and creative in how we manage our caseloads.

**Q- How could you make a difference sitting on the bench?**

A- The biggest difference any judge can make is to make sure the rule of law is enforced in an orderly and just manner that protects the rights of all citizens. We are a nation of laws designed to protect the individual. Judges must provide an environment for the rule of law to be carried out in an orderly fashion to make sure individual's rights are protected.

**Q- Why should the voters of Sampson County vote for you?**

A- Although we go to the polls on a regular basis and see judicial races on our ballots, it's been surprising how many citizens believe our local judges at the District Court level are appointed, not elected. While the initial

step to the bench is often made by political appointment, as is the case with my opponent Tim Smith, our great Republic has a system in place that makes that appointment by one person, in this case Governor Roy Cooper, accountable to the voters through an election.

Tim Smith is a seated judge but not an elected judge. He was a political appointee to the bench by Roy Cooper this past April and has less than 8 months experience as a Judge. When the polls open in February, citizens will finally have a chance to let their voice be heard on this seat. That's the way it should be. It's about the will of the people, not a political appointment.

So, how does a lifelong registered Democrat, with a documented history of giving money to Democrats, who gets a Judicial Appointment from a Democrat Governor, end up on a Republican Primary ballot less than 8 months later?

The answer is as simple as a trip to the local Board of Elections. Tim Smith changed his registration from Democrat to Republican this past August, less than 4 months after receiving his appointment from Governor Cooper. He did this because he and other Democrats know the only way to be have a chance to be elected in this Conservative area

of the state is to be a Republican.

The reason I chose to register as a Republican was not because it would help me get elected. I am a Republican because I believe the Republican Party represents my core values and my commitment to those values. The commitment to uphold the Constitution that our Founding Fathers risked their lives for. The commitment to freedom that the brave members of our armed forces have fought and died for. The commitment to the rule of law that led me into my chosen profession.

As I judge, I will be there to uphold the law of the land, uphold the Constitution, and to serve you, the citizens. My political Party won't dictate that. But the beliefs that led to my choice of a political Party says something about my core principles and will ensure that I won't let politics into your courtroom. I stand on principle, not for politics. Principle shapes my politics, not the other way around.



## NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION SAMPSON, NORTH CAROLINA

A primary election will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 in Sampson County to vote in the following contests: Presidential Preference, US Senate, US House of Representatives District 07, NC Governor, NC Lieutenant Governor, NC Attorney General, NC Auditor, NC Commissioner of Agriculture, NC Commissioner of Insurance, NC Commissioner of Labor, NC Secretary of State, NC Superintendent of Public Instruction, NC Treasurer, NC House of Representatives District 021, NC House of Representatives District 022, NC District Court Judge District 04 Seat 07, Sampson County Board of Commissioners District 04, Clinton City Schools Board of Education, and Sampson County Schools Board of Education.

Voters will not be required to show photo ID when they vote in the primary election on March 3, 2020. In a December 31 order, a federal district court blocked North Carolina's voter photo ID requirement from taking effect. The injunction will remain in place until further order of the court.

Polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the day of the election, Tuesday, March 3. One-stop early voting will be held at the Sampson County Board of Elections office. One-stop early voting will be open from 8:00 am Thursday, February 13 until 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 29. The one-stop early voting schedule can be found at <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/ossite/>. Canvass will be held in the Sampson County Board of Elections office at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, March 13, 2020.

Absentee voting by mail is available. Requests for an absentee ballot must be made on an absentee request form (available on the State Board of Elections website and at the county board of elections office) and must be received in the Sampson County Board of Elections office or any one-stop early voting site by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 25. Completed request forms may only be returned in person to the Sampson County Board of Elections by the voter, the voter's near relative or verifiable legal guardian, or by a Multipartisan Assistance Team, or delivered by the U.S. Postal Service or designated delivery service (DHL, FedEx, or UPS). Absentee voting requires the voter to complete an application on the return envelope that must be witnessed by two qualified persons or a notary public. Completed absentee ballots must be returned to the Sampson County Board of Elections by 5:00 p.m. on Election Day (ballots received by mail after this time will be timely if received within three business days and postmarked by Election Day). Voters may receive assistance voting a mail-in absentee ballot from a near relative or verifiable legal guardian, or by a qualified person of their choice if a near relative or legal guardian is not available. If the voter lives in a facility such as a nursing home, and the voter's near relative or legal guardian is not available, the voter or the facility can arrange to have the county board of elections schedule a visit by a Multipartisan Assistance Team to provide assistance and serve as witnesses.

All persons who are registered to vote with the Sampson County Board of Elections may vote in this election. In a partisan primary, voters who are affiliated with a political party may only vote in their party's primary and on any nonpartisan contests. Unaffiliated voters may choose to participate in the Democratic, Libertarian, or Republican primary or if available, may vote a nonpartisan ballot. Unaffiliated voters may not vote in the Constitution Party or Green Party primary.

Persons who are not already registered to vote in the county must register by Friday, February 7 to be eligible to vote in this election. Voters who are not registered in the county by that deadline may register and vote during onestop early voting only and will be required to provide documentation of their identity and residence. Voters who wish to change party affiliation or who have changed name or address must do so by the registration deadline. Voters who fail to timely make a change in name or address in the county must update the information when presenting to vote and may be required to vote a provisional ballot.

Voters voting in person are entitled to assistance by an election official, or, if assistance is needed due to disability or illiteracy, by a qualified person of their choice. Voting sites are accessible to all voters. Curbside voting is available for voters who are not able to enter voting sites.

Persons with questions about registration, polling places, early voting, absentee ballots, a Multipartisan Assistance Team visit to a facility, or other election matters may call the Sampson County Board of Elections Office at 910-592-5796.

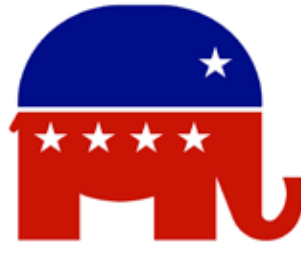
**Horace Bass- Sampson County Board of Elections**

**MEET YOUR CANDIDATES**



# District 4- District Court Judge

## Tim Smith



**Q- Background, philosophy, experiences that make you a good judge**

A- I'm a graduate of Campbell University School of Law, Class of 1986. I took and passed the bar in the summer of '86 and started practicing solo in Kenansville that same year. The bulk of my practice for more than three decades before going on the bench was representing clients in criminal court handling everything from simple traffic tickets to first-degree murders. I have assisted thousands of our fellow citizens in both District and Superior Criminal Court. However, District Court has always been the bread and butter of my law practice.

This extensive experience in Criminal and Civil Court is what prompted 80% of the attorneys and judges at our district bar meeting to nominate me to serve as a District Court Judge. The party affiliation of the members of the bar have NEVER been a relevant factor, but for the record, the bar is composed of well-respected attorneys and jurist from both parties who make the determination of qualification to serve based on the experience and capability of the candidate. The nomination process for appointment to the bench allows anyone that wishes to seek the position to simply submit his or her name for consideration by the district bar and then the Governor. I was asked and supported by these attorneys and judges to seek and hold this position. Based on this overwhelming nomination, I shut down a law practice of 33 years to serve the people of Sampson, Onslow, Duplin, and Jones Counties.

The only general area I can think of that I haven't had some involvement in is bankruptcy. I have practiced in District Court and Civil Court in nearly 1/3 of the counties in North Carolina. I have done limited appellate work to the North Carolina Court of Appeals. I have practiced government law in Duplin County for 16 years, 13 of which were on contract as the County Attorney. This involved handling all the juvenile cases I referred to before on behalf of the Department of Social Services and Child Support Enforcement in Duplin County. As County Attorney I was also involved in the representation of over 40 departments. I was General Council for all the water districts in Duplin County where we put in 40 million dollars' worth of water lines. Additionally, for more than 20 years, I have been retained to file actions on behalf of Onslow County for the Onslow County Child Support Unit and assisted in collecting millions of dollars from absent parents. Each of these matters, from child support to abuse, neglect and dependency cases are addressed in District Court where I now preside.

I have also successfully practiced personal injury litigation. I have practiced before governmental agencies such as the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles and the North Carolina Department of Insurance. I have practiced federal criminal law and have sat in on many debriefings with agents from the FBI, North Carolina SBI, and too many local law enforcement agencies to name. I was General Counsel for the Duplin County Sheriff's Department in civil matters (criminal matters are handled by the district attorney's office and the North Carolina Attorney General's Office). After I had been practicing for two years, I was appointed to represent a defendant in my first death penalty case, which was against the state guidelines because of my limited time of practice, however, our Senior Resident Superior Court Judge at the time told me I was ready. Around that same time, I appeared in another major federal criminal case. All of this being said, and I've obviously left out many things, for 33 years, I made my living primarily out of District and Superior Court as a trial attorney.

In 2010, I ran against the chairman of the Duplin County Board of Commissioners. I did that because of my conservative principles. From 2006 to 2010, Duplin County averaged spending over 2 million dollars per year MORE than it was taking in. I have always been a fiscal conservative and I thought change was necessary. To make a long story short, I was successful in the election and over the next four years the Board substantially reversed the trend of spending from our saving account or "fund balance". After being on the Board of Commissioners for one year, the other members of the Board actually asked me and one of my fellow commissioners to just handle the budget for them. I refused because they were elected just as I was. I decided not to seek re-election in 2014 partly because I had accomplished my mission, but also because I had a sickly mother and aunt to care for, both of which passed within the next two years.

**Q- What do you think is the biggest problem facing the court system right now?**

A- The court system today is severely overburdened. There is insufficient staff for District Attorneys' offices, juvenile offices, protective service personnel, and the list goes on and on. Mental health issues, drugs, and socio-economic conditions contribute in a major way to our problems. It's sad to watch. Our juvenile court is going through a major change due to the rise in the age of a juvenile to 18-years-old. We have many challenges and the best way to handle them with present resources is to hire experienced people, especially in critical positions. There is no substitute for experience.

**Q- How could you make a difference sitting on the bench?**

A- I have appeared before hundreds of other judges, and I can tell you that I have had mainly good experiences. I have learned from the good judges what to do and learned from other judges what not to do. If you are involved in a court action, some judges just consider you as a line number on their calendar. I have learned through my years of experience representing clients that the only small cases in court are somebody else's case. If you are in court before me, whether it be civil or criminal, I recognize that your case is the most important case happening in that court room on that particular day! You will not be treated like a number. You will have the privilege of knowing your case is important to me as well, and you will be given the opportunity to be fully heard. Now, if you're a Defendant and a frequent visitor in our courtrooms, please be advised that you too will be heard fully but you may be well advised to bring a toothbrush and be prepared to stay. Having represented thousands of clients in Criminal Court, I have developed a keen ability to efficiently separate the wheat from the chaff, and to do what justice requires!

**Q- Why should the voters of Sampson County vote for you?**

A- My experience for this position is unmatched by my opponent. There is absolutely no substitute for experience. 60 YEARS of LIFE EXPERIENCE and 34 YEARS of LEGAL EXPERIENCE. Local knowledge. EXPERI-

ENCE. Seasoned judgement. EXPERIENCE. Respect and Reputation within the Legal Community across the State of North Carolina. AND a LIFE of WORLDLY EXPERIENCE as a parent and a grandparent, and as a farmer, a businessman, and a senior partner in a thriving law firm.

In 2019, I was inducted into the North Carolina Bar Association Legal Practice Hall of Fame, which consists of only 164 attorneys out of the roughly 28,000 attorneys who currently practice in our State. In addition, because of my experience in life and within the legal community, I have become, over the years, at least in Duplin County and sometimes in other counties outside our District, a counselor for other attorneys that were experiencing problems, both private and public. I have never turned down the opportunity to help a fellow attorney. That is just who I am. I do and always have derived my strength from my faith and my family. I truly believe God has a plan for my life and believe I would not be serving as your District Court Judge if He had not lead me to this point.

Prior to 2016, judges' races in North Carolina were nonpartisan, meaning that the election process prohibited candidates from publicly affiliating with any party. Judges ran on their NAME, REPUTATION and EXPERIENCE and NOT as a member of a political party. Judges of all courts should NOT be selected based SOLELY upon their politics. I have NEVER asked a client when I was practicing law whether they were a Democrat or Republican. I have NEVER asked a witness on the stand whether they were a Democrat or Republican. As a judge, I have NEVER asked a party appearing before me whether they were a Democrat or Republican. Judges take an oath to defend the Constitution - NOT to a political party. District Court Judges take an oath to be an IMPARTIAL trier of the facts.

Again, the Republican, Democrat and unaffiliated attorneys solicited me to seek this position. If you are a person that cares about having an unbiased, knowledgeable, experienced district court judge, the only choice is to vote for me on March 3.

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

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

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

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

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



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Photo courtesy of Getty Images

**Manageable Main Course**

Once the dinner bell rings and it's time to focus on the night's main course without overshooting a calorie count, aim for a tasty yet healthy main dish like this recipe for Chicken and Vegetables. Combining skinless chicken thighs with frozen vegetables is a simple way to keep nutrition at the forefront while still enjoying a comforting dinner. Find more health-conscious recipes at health.gov.

**Chicken and Vegetables**

Recipe courtesy of the USDA  
Servings: 4

- 1 1/2 tablespoons margarine
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 cup onions, chopped
- 1 pound chicken thighs (4 ounces each), boneless and skinless
- 1 package (10 ounces) cut green beans, frozen
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper

In heavy skillet, melt margarine. Add garlic and onions; stir until blended. Cook over medium heat, until tender, about 5 minutes. Remove from skillet.

Place chicken in skillet. Cook over medium heat until chicken is thoroughly done and no longer pink in color, about 12 minutes. Remove chicken from skillet; keep warm.

Place green beans, pepper and cooked onions in same skillet. Cover and cook over medium-low heat until beans are tender, about 5 minutes.

Add chicken to vegetable mixture. Continue cooking, stirring occasionally, until heated through, about 3 minutes.

**Note:** To remove bone from bone-in chicken thighs: Place chicken on cutting board. Remove skin from thighs. Turn chicken thighs over. Cut around bone and remove.

# HEALTHY FLAVORS *Worth Savoring*

**FAMILY FEATURES**

Adopting healthier eating habits doesn't have to mean resorting to tasteless food. In fact, you may surprise yourself by enjoying your new lineup of healthy, wholesome meals even more than the calorie-laden dishes you covet.

These recipes are just as big on flavor as they are good for you, so you can savor every last bite all day long. Take time to start off the day with a unique twist on a nutritious smoothie by enjoying it in a bowl. Then at lunch, rely on unexpected ingredients like ripe, juicy berries and beans to transform a ho-hum salad into a true culinary delight. Round out the day with a sensible dinner that gives you a healthy serving of protein and veggies seasoned to simple perfection.

Find more nutritious recipes that make it easy to enjoy eating right at culinary.net.

**A Smooth Way to Start Your Day**

A wealth of research shows that starting each morning with a nutritious breakfast delivers benefits throughout the day. If you're pressed for time or simply need to mix up your morning routine, put a fresh spin on a time-saving favorite by making a smoothie bowl.

According to registered dietitian and nutritionist Carolyn Brown, people love to eat with a spoon and find it more mentally and physically satisfying. The same goes for adding texture, such as a crunchy topping like goodnessknows snack squares. These satisfying, gluten free snacks are crafted with the goodness of whole nuts, real fruits and toasted oats, with no artificial colors, flavors or sweeteners. Divided into four snackable squares per serving and nestled in a layer made with dark chocolate, one individual, two-bite square contains only about 40 calories.

Find out more about how doing a little good for yourself can go a long way at goodnessknows.com.

**Oatmeal Banana Smoothie Bowl**

Recipe courtesy of Alison Ray of So Chic Life

- 2/3 cup rolled oats
- 1/2 cup full fat coconut milk
- 1 tablespoon chia seeds
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- sea salt
- 1/2 cup almond milk, 2 percent milk or soy milk
- 1 small banana (or 1/2 cup unsweetened applesauce)
- goodnessknows snack squares (any flavor)
- grated coconut, to taste

In small bowl, mix together oats, coconut milk, chia seeds, vanilla and pinch of salt. Cover and place in refrigerator at least 30 minutes, or overnight to help flavors soak in.

In blender or food processor, combine oat mixture with remaining milk and half of the banana (or applesauce). Blend until smooth and creamy.

Pour creamy oats into bowl, and top with snack squares, coconut and slices of remaining banana half.

**Tip:** To thin consistency, use additional milk.



**Salad Sweetness**

The sharpness of pecorino cheese, combined with peppery arugula, complements the velvety texture of fava beans in this salad. With nutrition on your mind, a salad is always a go-to choice for a lunch that will please your taste buds without forcing you to sacrifice health goals. Find more nutritional recipes including tasty strawberries at californiastrawberries.com.

**Strawberry and Fava Bean Salad with Pecorino**

Recipe courtesy of California Strawberry Commission  
Servings: 6

- 2 quarts water
- kosher or sea salt
- 2 cups shelled fresh fava beans (about 2 pounds in pods)
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice

- 2 cups fresh California strawberries, stemmed and quartered
- coarsely ground black pepper
- 3 cups rucola (wild arugula)
- pecorino cheese

In large pot over high heat, bring water to boil.

Add pinch of salt and fava beans. Boil 1 minute; drain and cool fava beans in ice water.

Drain fava beans; pinch one end and slip off tough skins of larger beans (Note: skin on small beans is not usually tough). Discard skins.

Whisk together olive oil, vinegar and lemon juice.

In large bowl, season fava beans and strawberries with salt and pepper. Add rucola and enough dressing mixture to coat salad lightly. Mix gently and spoon onto platter or six salad plates.

With vegetable peeler, shave cheese generously over salad. Grind more pepper on top.

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# PERFORMANCE AUTO "STAR ATHLETE OF THE WEEK"

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## Pearson Leads SMS To Incredible Season



"I am really surprised," he said of winning the honor. "I didn't know anything about it until my mom told me."

Born and raised in Clinton, Pearson began playing basketball when he was about 5 years old, he said. "I played recreation ball – football and basketball," he said. "I used to like football the best, but now it is all basketball."

Pearson said that he developed his own style of play, but likes to 'do a bit of everything' on the court. "I work out on the weekends," he admits. "To try and get myself better."

The eighth grader is looking forward to starting his freshman year at Clinton High. "Oh yeah," he says, "I am excited. I have been to a bunch of the games growing up and it is going to be exciting for me to play for the high school."

He is also thinking of college. "I want to play at a division one school, someplace," he said. "N.C. State, Duke ... I would like to stay in North Carolina, but I will play wherever I can."

Although he does not know what he will study, the straight "A" student, who is in the BETA Club, on the Honor Roll and Principal's List, knows that he wants to go to college and hopefully, one day, the National Basketball League (NBA). "That is my ultimate dream," he said. "I am working towards that now."

What team would he want to play for? "Any team that will draft me," he says with a laugh. "I am not too picky."

When asked what he loves the most about basketball Pearson says, "I like the hype of it. It just makes me happy to play it and when I am playing it, I never get tired of it."

A member of The Vine Fellowship Church in Clinton, Pearson said he enjoys going when he is not playing AAU basketball. "We have practices and games on Sunday's," he explains.

One thing that he appreciates is the support that he has received over the years – from his parents –Kevin and Emily – "They come to all of my games," he says. "AAU and my school games."

He would also like to thank his grandfather, Dwight Horne. "He has coached me all my life," he said. "I just appreciate all he has done for me."

Pearson said that he also wanted to thank a higher power. "God. I want to thank God for blessing me with the ability to play."

Whatever Pearson decides to do, with his work ethic, attitude, skills on and off the court, he is sure to be a success. We are excited to see where his skills take him.

Landen Pearson is having an incredible season on the basketball court for the Sampson Middle School. The 14-year-old eighth grader recently led his team to a 59-31 victory over Union for the 2020 Middle School Championship – the team finished the season undefeated.

Pearson scored 20 points and had 6 rebounds in the game and averaged 17 points, 7 rebounds and 4 steals per game throughout the season.

"I really didn't think I would be this good," Pearson said. "Last year, I played AAU (for a team out of Wilmington) and I think that helped me out a lot. But I really got into the game a few years ago after watching Steph Curry. I just liked the way he played and how he carried himself."

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

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Dr. Huff grew up in N.C., and attended medical school at ECU School of Medicine, graduating with highest honors. He then completed his internship and a five year orthopaedic surgical residency at Orlando Regional Medical Center in Orlando, FL, before completing an additional fellowship year of training in arthroscopy and joint replacement at The Florida Knee Center in Clearwater, FL. Dr. Huff opened his practice in Clinton, N.C. in June of 1998. He is married and has 3 children.

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## EDUCATION

# SCC Hosts Hometown Strong Event



*Pictured (from left to right) are Jeff Shipp, Vice President of Star Communications, Dr. Bill Starling, President of Sampson Community College, Eric Boyette, Secretary and State Chief Information Officer of the North Carolina DIT, Pryor Gibson, Director of Hometown Strong, and Lisa Turlington, Dean of Advancement at SCC. (Michael Blankenship)*

Sampson Community College had the pleasure of hosting the Hometown Strong event on Tuesday, January 28, 2020. Part of the program included the North Carolina Broadband Task Force. Members present at this event included Jeff Shipp, Vice President of Star Communications, Eric Boyette, Secretary and State Chief Information Officer of the North Carolina DIT, Pryor Gibson, Director of Hometown Strong, as well as representatives from the college.

## Clinton Football Players Prepare for Future



On Wednesday, in the Clinton High School auditorium, five students and football players signed to continue their future education.

Zacchaeus Williams plans to enter the United States Marine and will deploy in June of this year.

LJ Highsmith, Jaheim Faison and Jatiyuhn Wilson will all attend Allan Hancock College in California with football scholarships.

Jahisien Cruse will attend Winston Salem State University with a football scholarship. Congratulations to these Clinton Dark Horses and good luck with your future endeavors!

# SCC Swears in Newest SGA President



*PHOTO/CREDIT: John Cruz is sworn in as the newest SGA President. (Michael Blankenship)*

On January 14, 2020, John Cruz was sworn in by the Sampson Community College Board of Trustees as the college's newest SGA President.

John Cruz is an Early College student who aims to earn an Associate of Science degree upon graduation. "I joined the Sampson Community College SGA because I wanted the chance to have leadership opportunities," says Cruz. "The SGA gives me the chance to organize events such as festivals, intramural leagues, and events to raise student engagement. I love my time with the SGA, and I would never regret joining." Cruz hopes to become a physician assistant so that he can join the medical community in Sampson County.

As the new President of the SGA, John Cruz is also considered a member of the Board of Trustees during his term. Cruz will have the unique opportunity to represent his fellow classmates and work with the Board to improve the college's already vibrant campus life.

"John is an outstanding young man with lots of energy and great communication skills," says Lisa Turlington, Dean of Advancement and Executive Director of the SCC Foundation. "Our student body is fortunate to have his leadership."

The SCC SGA is the official student governing organization of the college. The objectives of the SGA are to promote the welfare of SCC's students, to establish laws to govern student conduct and elections, and to work with the college's administration to propose beneficial changes for the college's students.

The SGA plans and coordinates fun activities and special events throughout the academic year. This semester, students can look forward to the annual Spring Fling, which includes a variety of free food and games that students can participate in. Events like the Spring Fling are a significant part of student development, providing a much-needed mental break between classes.

"SGA is a great asset to any student that joins," says Amanda Raynor, the Student Engagement Coordinator at the college. "Through the SGA, students can meet a great group of individuals on campus and statewide who all share a common interest in making our campuses a greater and more welcoming space!"

SCC Students are encouraged to get involved with the SGA to experience the vibrant student life that the college has to offer. In fact, it may be even easier than you think! All cur-



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# What's Happening

By Angela Martin

at **SCT**



## Auditions for Disney's The Little Mermaid

This weekend we saw over 90 people, of all ages, audition for our first production of the year, Disney's The Little Mermaid. We were absolutely thrilled with the turn-out and cannot wait to share with you the cast list. This production is being directed by me - Angela Martin, and it is a story that I love. In 2014, I directed three complete casts of Disney's The Little Mermaid, Jr. There were over 120 young people in this production and the costumes, dances, voices and overall talent were fantastic to watch. This upcoming production will feature children but our main characters will be adult. We are happy to bring this story back to life on our stage. The show will be April 24-26 and May 1-3 with Friday and Saturday shows beginning at 7:30 pm and Sunday afternoon shows beginning at 2:30 pm. We will have tickets on sale soon, so be sure to keep a lookout for them.

The production of Disney's The Little Mermaid is based on the animated 1989 Disney film of the same name and the classic story of the same name by Hans Christian Andersen about a mermaid who dreams of the world above the sea and gives up her voice to find love. It has an underwater setting and story about aquatic characters which lends to the characters gliding onstage. The production officially opened on Broadway in 2008 and ran for 685 performances.

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### WCLN Offline Sunday Feb 9th

WCLN (Fun Times Oldies) 1170 AM will be offline Sunday February 9th beginning at 8am until late afternoon for planned maintenance. Pat Dixon, Station Manager, stated the planned maintenance would cause the radio station, Star Vision Channel 16 and the station's website broadcast to go silent for the first time in over 21 years. Sunday's broadcast is a mix of christian themed shows and gospel music, a stable of Sampson County AM Radio. Dixon said the maintenance couldn't be put off any longer, but states he expects the repairs to be completed before Monday morning's scheduled broadcast.

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#### GRETEL AND HANSEL

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

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

Fri 6:15p 8:15p

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

Mon-Wed 6:30p



#### RHYTHM SECTION

NOW SHOWING

Rated R for violence, sexual content, language throughout, and some drug use

Stephanie Patrick, an ordinary woman on a path of self-destruction after her family is tragically killed in a plane crash. When Stephanie discovers that the crash was not an accident, she enters a dark, complex world to seek revenge on those responsible and find her own redemption.

Fri 7:00p Sat-Sun 1:30p 4:30p 7:30p

Mon-Wed 6:30p



#### BIRDS OF PREY AND THE FAN

NOW SHOWING

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

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

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

Fri 6:00p 8:15p 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 2:00p 5:00p 8:00p

Mon-Wed 6:30p



#### THE GENTLEMEN

NOW SHOWING

Rated R for violence, language throughout, sexual references and drug content

American expat Mickey Pearson (Matthew McConaughey) built a highly profitable marijuana empire in London. When word gets out that he's looking to cash out of the business forever it triggers plots, schemes, bribery and blackmail in an attempt to steal his domain out from under him.

Fri 7:00p

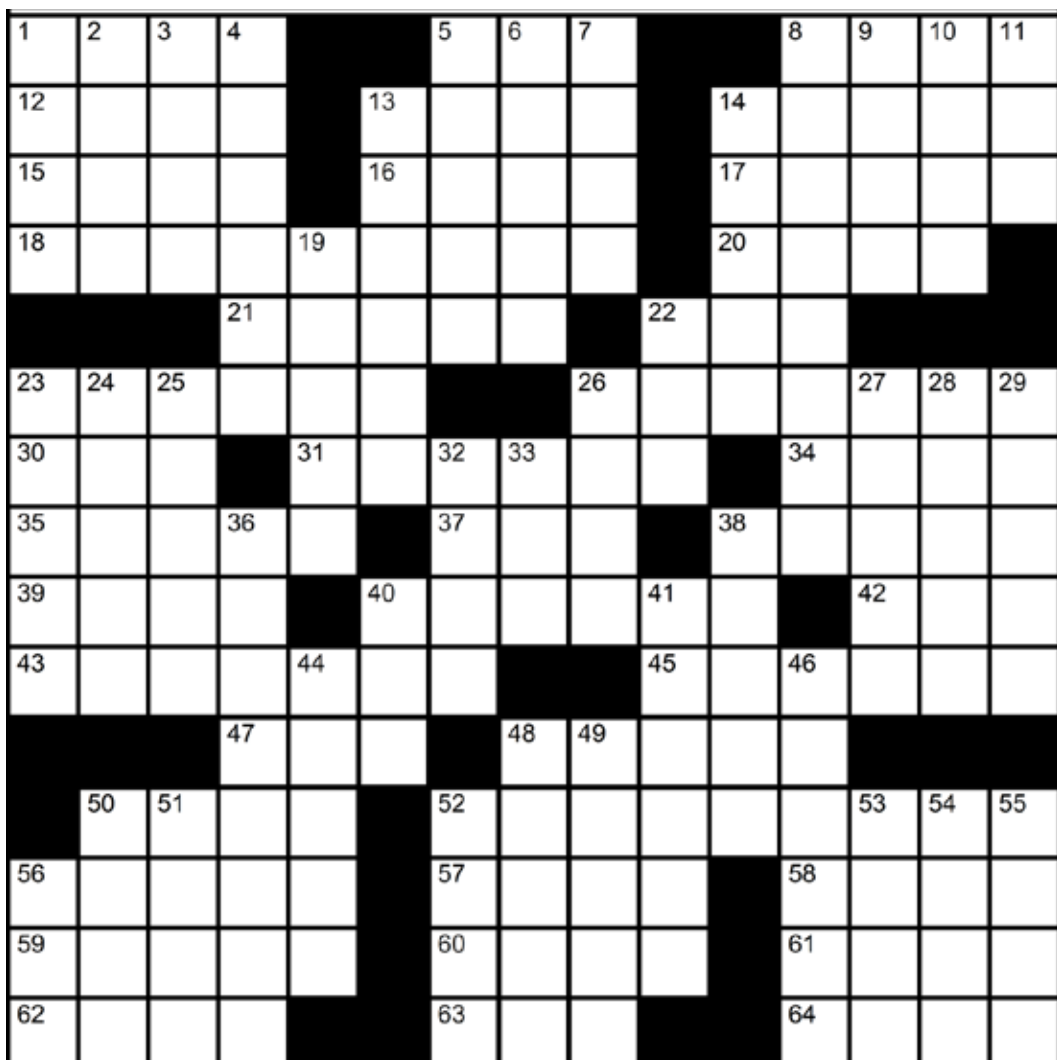
Sat-Sun 2:00p 5:00p 8:00p

Mon-Wed 6:30p

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PUZZLES

# Crossword Puzzle



**THEME:** U.S. PRESIDENTS

can War

**ACROSS**

1. Frenzied
5. Between fathers and sons?
8. Not fake news
12. Black-tie occasion
13. Pupil's place
14. Whatchamacallit
15. Similar
16. Nessie's lake
17. Poet T.S.
18. \*He called his residence the White House
20. Dashing style
21. Opposite of cathode
22. No-goodnik
23. Same as Danzig
26. Inside information, pl.
30. Antonym of keep
31. Data input device
34. \_\_\_\_\_ Madrid Club de Fútbol
35. Anomie, alt. sp.
37. Stupid person
38. First M in MGM
39. Narcotics agent, for short
40. Jennifer Lopez' 2019 movie swindle
42. Band aid
43. Hiked the Inca Trail, e.g.
45. Threat, two words
47. H+, e.g.
48. "Fences" actress Davis
50. Long forearm bone
52. \*His epitaph doesn't mention his presidency
56. Abracadabra, e.g.
57. \*First Lady of the US for only one month
58. Milano moolah
59. \*Where JFK's "Honey Fitz" spent time
60. Two of a kind, pl.
61. Winglike
62. Ring-around-the-rosy flower
63. "C' \_\_\_\_\_ la vie!"
64. \*President during Mexican-Ameri-

**DOWN**

1. Petri dish filler
2. Kind of shark
3. Assortment
4. Dorothy Gale, e.g.
5. Gordon Gekko: " \_\_\_\_\_ is good"
6. Bridal path
7. "Hey, over here!"
8. \*He installed library at the White House
9. Marco Polo's destination
10. "Oh \_\_\_\_\_!"
11. Little squirt
13. Conjure up
14. "Faster!" to a horse
19. Glorify
22. \*Announce presidential \_\_\_\_\_
23. \*He established Yellowstone as 1st national park
24. 1/100 of a rial
25. "I love you" or "J' \_\_\_\_\_"
26. \*Only one to hold position in Executive and Judicial branches
27. Prenatal
28. Orwell's animals' turf, pl.
29. North face, e.g.
32. "You had" or "you would"
33. Baryshnikov's step
36. \*First president to campaign by telephone
38. Dixon of "The Walking Dead"
40. Farm layer
41. Body scrubbers
44. Bear Down Under
46. Hearing organ cover
48. Second planet from the Sun
49. " \_\_\_\_\_ me, then who?"
50. Machinating
51. Not more
52. Green gem
53. Storage cylinder
54. Face-to-face exam
55. Police informer
56. Tree juice

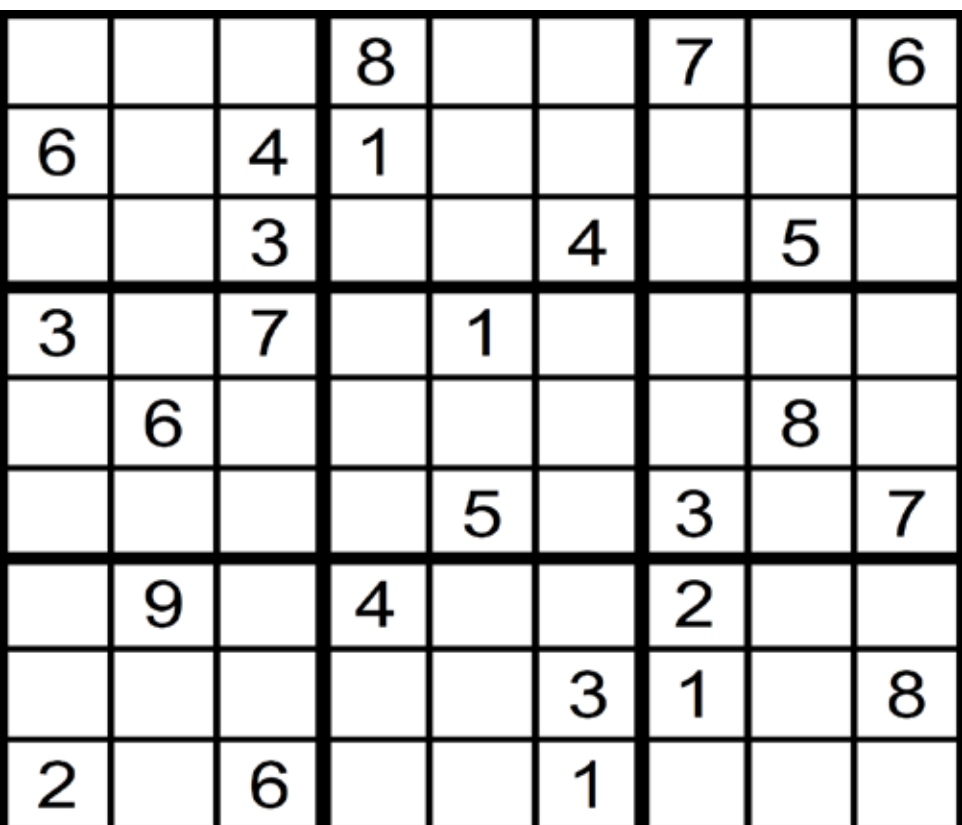


PUZZLE SOLUTION

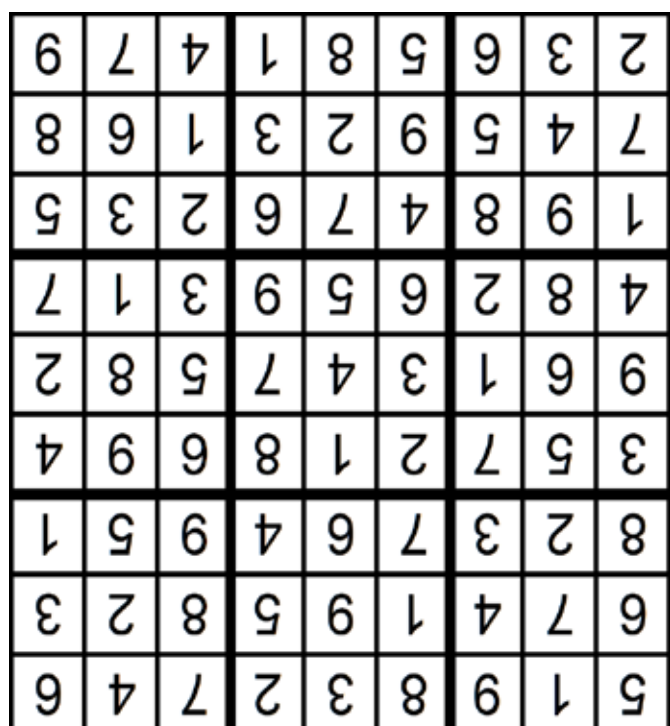
## SUDOKU

**Fun By The Numbers**

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



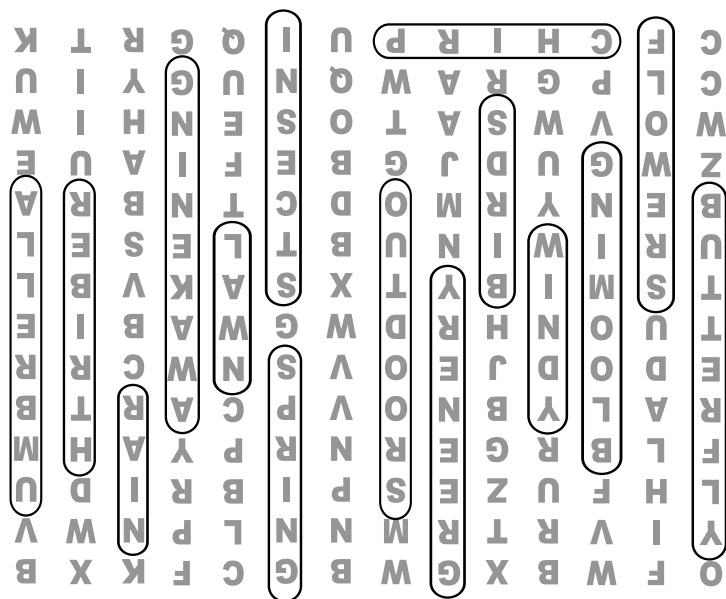
**Here's How It Works:** Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear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



## Word Search — Spring Into Spring



- Awakening
- Butterfly
- Greenery
- Outdoors
- Spring
- Birds
- Chirp
- Insects
- Rain
- Umbrella
- Blooming
- Flowers
- Lawn
- Rebirth
- Windy





**CRIME**

**CRIME REPORT**

01-29 Christopher Manuel Hernandez, 24, Clinton. DWLR. Bond \$100. Trial Date 02-07-20  
 01-29 Jamy Nicole Aycock, 40, Clinton. OFA- Operate Veh No Insurance, OFA- DWLR Not Impaired Rev. Bond \$500. Trial Date 02-12-20  
 01-30 Anthony Lee Rowe, 54, Clinton. Assault With a Deadly Weapon, Cyberstalking. Bond \$500. Trial Date 02-20-20  
 01-30 Wanda Byrd, 47, Wallace. WFA/Larceny. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 03-05-20  
 01-30 Mildred Michelle Suggs, 38, Clinton. Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle. Trial Date 02-17-20  
 01-30 Angela Moore, 50, Clinton. Simple Assault. Trial Date 03-16-20  
 01-30 Chelsea Lynn Waters, 27, Clinton. Speeding. Trial Date 03-11-20  
 01-30 Jacqueline Yvonne Davis, 27, Clinton. Obtain Property By- FTA, Uttering Forged Instruments – FTA, Uttering Forged Endorsement – FTA. Bond \$50000. Trial Date 02-10-20  
 01-30 Daisy Reese Cain, 36, Dunn. FTA- Possess Drug Paraphernalia. Bond \$250. Trial Date 02-07-20  
 01-30 Rayponzell Daquan West, 23, Clinton. Speeding. Trial Date 03-03-20  
 01-30 Jessie Henry, 29, Clinton. Sell/Deliver cocaine, Trafficking opium or heroin, PWSID heroin, PWISD Cocaine. Bond \$250000. Trial Date 01-31-20  
 01-30 Joshua Kenneth Tyndall, 38, Dunn. Probation Violation- FTA. Bond \$20000. Trial Date 02-12-20  
 01-30 Trisha Ann Thompson, 35, Newton Grove. Order for Arrest-FTA-Child Support. Bond \$3000. Trial Date 02-18-20  
 01-30 Sherik Renna McNeil, 34, Roseboro. Injury to Personal Property. Bond \$5000. Trial Date 02-20-20  
 01-30 Jerry Thomas Johnson, 27, Godwin. DWLR Not Impaired Rev. Bond \$500. Trial Date 02-21-20  
 01-30 Adam Jackson, 40, Roseboro. Second Degree Trespass. Trial Date 03-03-20  
 01-30 Tammy Phuong Huynh, 22, Clinton. Speeding – FTA, Expired Registration Card/Tag – FTA, DWLR Not Impaired Rev – FTA, Possess Marijuana Paraphernalia – FTA, Possess Marijuana Up To 1/2 Oz – FTA, PWISD Marijuana -FTA. Bond \$8135. Trial Date 02-17-20  
 01-31 Kenneth Wayne Bryant, 40,

Clinton. Violation of Court Order. Trial Date 02-17-20  
 01-31 Adonis Lee Toomer, 29, Turkey. Assault By Pointing A Gun, C&R, Communicating Threats, Speeding, DWLR. Trial Date 03-11-20  
 01-31 Dumercio Souffrant, 71, Mount Olive. False Report to Police Station. Bond \$1500. Trial Date 02-20-20  
 01-31 Jesus Vasquez, 27, Roseboro. Child Support – FTC, No Operators License – FTA, Speeding – FTA. Bond \$1100. Trial Date 02-11-20  
 01-31 Jesse Wayne Whitted, 35, Clinton. Open Container, DWI. Bond \$3000. Trial Date 02-20-20  
 01-31 Quinn Alexander Peterson, 32, Clinton. Communicating Threats, Assault on a Female. Bond \$2000. Trial Date 02-18-20  
 01-31 Donald Ray Locklear, 39, Faison. Communicating Threats. Bond \$2000. Trial Date 02-18-20  
 02-01 Amanda Gene Rose, 39, Autryville. Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property. Trial Date 02-17-20  
 02-01 Jody Marie Rinehart, 40, Goldsboro. Possess Methamphetamine, Poss Drug Paraphernalia. Bond \$25000. Trial Date 02-07-20  
 02-01 Juanita Askew, 22, Whiteville. Injury to Personal Property. Bond \$1500. Trial Date 02-06-20  
 02-01 Jauteria Shanice Faison, 26, Salemburg. Failure to Comply. Bond \$365. Trial Date 03-02-20  
 02-01 Sara Faith Davis, 18, Clinton. Order for Arrest. Bond \$500. Trial Date 02-11-20  
 02-01 Kristen Lea Tew, 40, Roseboro. Larceny. Bond \$1500. Trial Date 03-05-20  
 02-01 Jeffrey Lee McLellan, 44, Clinton. Fail to Comply with Community Service. Bond \$500. Trial Date 02-19-20  
 02-02 Jordan Matthew Lilliston, 21, Dunn. Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle. Bond \$500. Trial Date 03-26-20  
 02-02 Daniela Reyes, 20, Autryville. Simple Assault, Assault on Female. Trial Date 03-05-20  
 02-02 Bobby Allen Bryant, 38, Clinton. Probation Violation, Resisting Public Officer. Bond \$11000. Trial Date 02-06-20  
 02-02 Tiffany Shonelle Colindres, 30, Clinton. Order for Arrest. Bond \$22000. Trial Date 02-04-20  
 02-03 Raul Reyes-Estrella, 23, Mount Olive. Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle. Bond \$500. Trial Date 02-17-20  
 02-03 Ronald Bryant Thomas, 55, Clinton. WFA/Communicating Threats. Bond \$2500. Trial Date 02-20-20

02-03 Devante Lajuan Foster, 25, Clinton. DWLR, fail to Burn Headlamps/Rear Lamps. Bond \$500. Trial Date 03-17-20  
 02-03 Raul Reyes-Estrella, 23, Mount Olive. Possess Drug Para, Possess Marijuana Para, Open Container Violation, Fail to Carry Valid Driver's License. Trial Date 03-16-20  
 02-03 Johnathan Wayne Faircloth, 33, Salemburg. Child Support. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 03-10-20  
 02-03 Theresa Nicole Brooks, 42, Salemburg. Child Support, Animal Cruelty. Bond \$1900. Trial Date 03-10-20  
 02-03 Jeremy Jerrad Williams, 30, Warsaw. WFA- DVPO Violation. Trial Date 02-18-20  
 02-03 Leanna Sue Treadwell, 40, Roseboro. Expired Registration Card/Tag – FTA, DWLR Not Impaired Rev – FTA. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 02-07-20  
 02-03 Susan Smith, 39, Clinton. Cyber Stalking – WFA. Trial Date 02-20-20  
 02-03 Latoya Charlene Simmons, 24, Clinton. DWLR not Impaired. Trial Date 03-03-20  
 02-03 Alexis Mona Owens, 21, Clinton. Fail to Comply with money. Bond \$500. Trial Date 02-11-20  
 02-04 Emmitt James Jackson, 32, Faison. OFA-FTC-Child Support. Bond \$520. Trial Date 02-11-20  
 02-04 Raul Reyes-Estrella, 23, Mount Olive. Breaking and Entering, Theft from Motor Vehicle, Motor Vehicle Theft, WFA/ Possession Stolen Motor Vehicle, WFA/ Resisting Public Officer. Bond \$35000. Trial Date 02-07-20  
 02-04 Luis Fortino Ramirez, 18, Clinton. Possess Marijuana. Trial Date 03-17-20

**INCIDENT REPORTS**

01-29 Sheniqua Necole Smith of Clinton reported Damage to Property- damage to rear window \$200.00.  
 01-29 Family Medical Supply of Clinton reported All Other Larceny of motorized wheelchair valued at \$2826.90.  
 01-29 Elvin Ray Savage of Clinton reported Damage to Property of \$100.00.  
 01-29 Marcos Arturo Morales of Clinton reported Theft from Motor Vehicle- firearms valued at \$400.00.  
 01-30 Walmart of Clinton reported Larceny of merchandise valued at \$590.49.  
 01-30 Glenwood Owens of Roseboro reported Injury to Personal Property- damage to vehicle \$200.00.  
 01-30 William Marshall of Roseboro reported a Burglary/Breaking & Entering- stolen firearm \$500.00.  
 01-30 2 Way Convenience Store of Godwin reported an Armed Robbery- attempted.  
 01-31 Murphys USA of Clinton reported Shoplifting of alcoholic beverages valued

at \$20.00.  
 01-31 KARS Towing and Recovery reported Damage to Property- generic boot device valued at \$500.00.  
 01-31 Alton Lee Graham of Clinton reported Larceny of firearms valued at \$300.00.  
 02-01 Walmart of Clinton reported Larceny of household goods valued at \$112.46.  
 02-01 Rogelio Jimenez reported 3 black dogs killed the neighbor's goats valued at \$1350.00.  
 01-31 Donna Gay Brock of Autryville reported Burglary/Breaking & Entering and Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property. Damage to door \$500.00.  
 02-01 Sampson County Sheriff's Office reported Injury to Personal Property- damage to restraint chair- \$250.00.  
 02-01 Marco Perez of Newton Grove reported Larceny and Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property- damage to golf cart and stolen batteries \$920.00.  
 02-01 Linda G Carr of Roseboro reported a Breaking & Entering.  
 02-01 Brandon Pope of Roseboro reported a Breaking & Entering and Aggravated Assault.  
 02-02 Valentin Mancera Mancera of Newton Grove reported Motor Vehicle Theft- truck valued at \$22000.00.  
 02-02 Wanda Nunez of Clinton reported All Other Larceny of bulldog valued at \$50.00.  
 02-02 Bobby Kenneth Moore of Clinton reported Damage to Property- automobile \$1500.00 and structure \$570.00.  
 02-03 Michelle Lana Jacobs of Clinton reported Theft from Motor Vehicle- Louis Vuitton handbag- \$300.00.  
 02-04 David Wright, Billie McLamb, Iris Yamileth Ramirez Aguilar of Clinton reported Motor Vehicle Theft and Theft from Motor Vehicle. Jeep Wrangler \$11000, stolen purse, cash, speaker valued at \$502.00.  
 02-04 Iris Yamileth Ramirez Aguilar of Clinton reported Theft from Motor Vehicle- handbag \$100, money \$250.  
 02-04 City of Garland reported Damage to Property- park benches and old school wall.  
 02-05 Noel Thompson of Clinton reported Breaking and Entering Other Building- copper \$30.00.

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

**OBITUARIES**



**AUTRYVILLE**  
**Mrs. Deneen Hales Baggett, 54** of Autryville passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020 at her home. The funeral service will be held at 11:00 AM Friday, Feb. 7 at Butler Funeral Home in Roseboro. Burial will follow in the Ed Autry Cemetery. Mrs. Baggett was a native of Cumberland County, the daughter of the late Jerry and Rachel Autry Hales. She was a sales associate for Dubose Steel. She is survived by her husband, Mickey Baggett of the home; three daughters, Jerika Faircloth of Autryville, Laverne Walker (Kenny) of Fayetteville and Moneika Murphy (Christopher) of Charlotte; one son, Garrett Faircloth of Autryville; one brother, Chris Hales (Melissa) of Autryville; one sister, Deveda Sneider (Mike) of Salemburg; eight grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. 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



**CLINTON**  
**Jesse Lewis Butler** passed away on Monday, February 3, 2020. He was born March 30, 1929, in Sampson County. Jesse was the son of Jesse L. Butler and wife, Rosalie Pope Butler. He is preceded in death by his son, Paul F. Butler, his parents, his brothers Fred, Bob and Charles; and sisters Edna, Esther and Kay Marie. He is survived by his devoted

wife of 66 years, Esidora M. Butler, his son Richard B. Butler, daughters Diane B. Harvey (Kevin) and Ellen B. Hancox (Scott); three grandchildren Sarah H. Sen (Suman), Laura K. Hancox (Nathan) and Luke A. Hancox (Willene); and great-grandsons Neel and Kabir Sen. Jesse graduated from Clinton High School and graduated from Pineland College – Edwards Military Institute in Salemburg in 1949. He served in the United States Army from 1950 – 1952. He attended the University of North Carolina and University of North Carolina School of Law and graduated in 1958. After graduating from law school, he began his legal career at the National Labor Relations Board in Winston Salem, North Carolina. In 1971, he accepted a position in Washington, D.C. as Deputy Assistant Counsel for the Labor Department of the United States Postal Service until his retirement in 1993. After his retirement in 1993 he returned home to Clinton. As a lawyer, he was known for his strong work ethic, litigation skills and mentoring of other young lawyers. To his family, he was the one you could always go to for help with your problems. He loved football and he played for Clinton High School. He wanted to become a football coach but later changed course and became a lawyer. He loved all Tarheel sports and was still attending games until a year ago. He loved to travel and was the dad in the station wagon taking his family on long adventures. His greatest love was his wife and his family, and this is his enduring legacy. The family will receive friends on Saturday, February 8, 2020, from 9:00 A.M. to 9:45 A.M. in the sanctuary of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, located at 104 E. John Street, Clinton, North Carolina 28328. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, February 8, 2020, at 10:00 A.M. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church with Father J. Joseph Dionne, presiding. Memorial donations may be made to Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.

**CLINTON**  
**Mrs. Anna Lee Clack, 95**, of Clinton, passed away Sunday, January 26, peacefully at her home. A funeral service was held 2:00 P.M. Tuesday, at Rowan Baptist Church with the Rev. Clay Carter and Rev. Mike Shook officiating. Interment followed in the church cemetery. The family visited with friends from 1:00-1:45 P.M., prior to the service and other times at her home. Born July 27, 1924 in Wallace, NC, Anna Lee was the daughter of William Ernest Bell and Myrtie Casey Bell and the widow of Weldon A Clack. In addition she was also preceded in death by sisters, Elizabeth Minter of Chesapeake, VA, Ernestine Long of Wilmington, and brother, George Bell of Wilmington. She was a faithful member of Rowan Baptist Church where she served in the nursery department, as Financial Secretary and in various other jobs. She enjoyed a life-long career as a bookkeeper with A & P Grocery Stores. Anna Lee is survived by: sons, Donald Clack (Anne) of Clinton and Ronnie Clack of Garner; beloved grandson, Jeremy of Garner; sisters, Evelyn Wooten of Morehead City, Emma Gray Strickland (Rudolph) of Columbia, SC; sister-in-law, Faye Bell of Wilmington; and many nieces and nephews. Special thanks to her caregivers, Jeanette Smith, Debbie Smith, Brittany Futral and Liberty Hospice staff members, Edna Murphy and Joyce Lynch. Flowers are welcomed and memorials may be made to Rowan Baptist Church, 701 Rowan Road, Clinton, NC 28328. Online condolences may be sent to www.crumpler-honeycutt.com.



**CLINTON**  
**Mrs. Rita Hannigan Coates, 74**, of 2004 Basstown Road,

# OBITUARIES



passed away at Rex Hospital in Raleigh on Saturday evening, February 1, 2020 with her family by her side. A Funeral Service was held Wednesday, February 5th at 1:00 pm at Royal-Hall Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Bernistine Royal officiating. Burial followed in the Ingold Family Cemetery. Born on November 7, 1945 in Detroit,

Michigan, Rita was the daughter of the late William Patrick and Thelma Lee Smith Hannigan and widow to Robert Wesley Coates. She was a retired Licensed Practical Nurse and loved her job and her patients. She had a passion for carpentry and woodworking over the years, and loved flowers, especially tulips and daffodils. She loved nothing more than being at home, surrounded by her family and having her beloved Chihuahua, Chico, by her side. Rita is survived by three daughters: Maureen Miller and husband, Dean of Roseboro, Tara Boykin and husband, Bobby of Clinton, Lynda Boykin and husband, Michael of Salemburg; a sister, Patsy Pitts of Puyallup, Washington; a brother, Jed Hannigan of Garland; her grandson, Shawn Boykin and her furry friends: dog, Chico and her cat, Dusty. The family received friends on Wednesday, prior to the service, beginning at Noon, at the funeral home. Royal-Hall is honored to serve the Coates Family.



## COATS

**Mr. Walter Vincent Glover, 60**, of Coats died Monday, February 3, 2020 at Duke University Medical Center in Durham. Mr. Glover was born September 17, 1959 in Harnett County to the late William and Mildred Thompson Glover. He was preceded in death by

his brothers, Johnny Glover and Joseph Glover. Mr. Glover is survived by his daughters, Jennifer Sharpe, Laura Donati, and Angela Glover; brothers, Billy Glover and Jimmy Glover; sisters, Veronica Lee, Vivian Meyer, Regina Bayles, and Theresa Peele; and eight grandchildren; and his other half Virginia Shafer. Mr. Glover requests in lieu of flowers, to Vote For Trump 2020! Keep America Great! A private memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements by Skinner & Smith Funeral Home in Dunn.



## SALEMBURG

**Mrs. Betty Doris Lucas Hairr, 86** of Salemburg passed away on Sunday, February 2, 2020 at the Rolling Ridge Assisted Living in Newton Grove. The funeral service was held at 2:00 PM Tuesday, February 4, at Salemburg Baptist Church with Reverend Bobby Tew officiating. Burial followed in the Sunrise Memorial Gardens. The

family received friends from 1:00 PM until 1:50 PM on Tuesday at the Church prior to the service. Mrs. Hairr was a native of Sampson County, the daughter of Annie Belle Lucas. She was preceded in death by her mother and husband, D. B. Hairr. She was a retired insurance agent and a member of the Salemburg Baptist church where she served as secretary and librarian for a number of years. She was past President of the Sampson County Insurance Women's Association and was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. She is survived by a son, David Brewer Hairr and wife, Karen of Salemburg; daughter, Teresa Hairr McLemore and husband, Ray of Roseboro; five grandchildren, Andrea Hunter (Kevin), Kevin Hairr, Brett Hairr (Amy) all of Salemburg, Susan McLemore Wood (Jonathan) of Fuquay-Varina and Dennis McLemore (Pam) of Dunn; ten great grandchildren, Jana Hunter, Kollin Hunter, Ryley Hairr, Kaylie Hairr, Dorman Hairr, Dalaney Hairr, Peyton Wood, Brayden Wood, Sykler McLemore and Tanner McLemore. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC.



## ERWIN

**Ms. Naomi Parker Johnson, 87** of Erwin, passed away on Wednesday, January 29, 2020. Ms. Johnson's funeral service was held on Monday, February 3, 2020 at West and Dunn Funeral Home Chapel of Erwin, NC. beginning at 3:00 pm. Rev. Don Byrd officiating the service. Interment followed

the funeral service at Erwin Memorial Park of Erwin, NC. A visitation was held one hour prior to the funeral service at West and Dunn Funeral Home of Erwin. Ms. Johnson is survived by her children, Kynn T. Johnson and wife Mary of Beaufort, daughter, Kelly Nicole Johnson Carr of Erwin, grandchildren, Nicholas K. Johnson, Christopher K. Johnson, Kristin C. Ivey, Logan C. Brown and Breyanna Brooks, great grandchildren, Ashton L. Ivey, Tyler Johnson, Jayden C. Brown, Kinsey T. Ivey, Lexi N. Brown, Madison Glinke, Peyton D. Brown and Harper G. Johnson, sisters, Ruth P. Dorman and Mytrice P. West and brother, Charles Parker. Ms. Johnson is preceded in death by her parents, Cleveland and Sinah Parker, husband, Timothy A. Johnson and sister, Alberta P. Collins. Services have been entrusted to West and Dunn Funeral Home of Erwin, NC. Condolences can be made to www.westanddunn.com.

## AUTRYVILLE

**Mrs. Hyon Son "Sunny" Kim 51**, of 1038 Maxwell Rd., died at Rex Hospital in Raleigh Saturday, February 1, 2020. A Memorial Service will be held on Friday, February 7, 2020 at 2 pm at Piney Green Baptist Church with Pastor Donald Keith Carter and Rev. Michael Brainerd officiating. Hyon was born on March 28, 1968 in Ulsan, Korea and came to the United States in 2014 when her husband was employed by the US Army at Ft. Bragg. She enjoyed animals, gardening, Korean TV dramas and attended regularly Piney Green Baptist Church. She volunteered in the nursery and was beloved by the children. She worked while younger at a veterinary clinic and in a restaurant her mother owned. She most recently worked at Beauty Works in Clinton. Hyon had a great personality and a heart of gold. She



will definitely be missed by all who knew and loved her. She is survived by her husband of twenty-four years, Michael Nettrou; two daughters: Sandra Nettrou of Fayetteville, Sharon Nettrou of the home; one son, John Nettrou of Autryville; three step-sons: Allen Nettrou of Seoul, Korea; Glen Nettrou of Fayetteville and Brent Nettrou of Herndon, Virginia; one grandson; her mother; two sisters; and two brothers residing in Seoul and Pusan, Republic of Korea. A dinner will be held for the family prior to the service. Visitation with family and friends will be held immediately following her service on Friday, in the church fellowship hall. Condolences maybe sent by visiting www.royalhallowfuneralhome.com. Royal-Hall is honored to serve the Nettrou Family.



## WALLACE

**Elgar Esteban Martinez, 59**, passed away on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at Vidant Greenville. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, February 8, 2020 from 6:00PM - 9:00PM at Hope Valley Hawkins Funeral Chapel, located at 1246 Hobbton Hwy., Clinton, NC.



## ANGIER

**Mr. Daniel Ray McGee, 64** of Angier passed away Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at Johnston UNC Health Care in Clayton. A funeral service was held at West & Dunn Funeral Home Chapel in Benson at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 2, 2020. Rev. R. B. Parrish officiating the service. He is survived by

his brothers; Ricky McGee of Angier, Ronnie McGee and wife Brenda of Clinton, Wayne McGee of Angier, Billy Young of Smithfield, niece; Patricia McGee Martinez and husband Salvador of Angier. \*\*The family will receive family and friends at the funeral home following the memorial service\*\* Mr. McGee is preceded in death by his parents; Coy and Myrtie McGee, brother; Grant McGee, sister; Joann M. Pleasant. Memorials may be made to West & Dunn Funeral Home to help defray funeral cost. Online condolences may be made at www.westanddunn.com. Services have been entrusted to West & Dunn Funeral Home, Benson, North Carolina.

## AUTRYVILLE

**Mrs. Brenda Surcey Spell, 68** of Autryville, passed away Sunday, February 2, 2020 at UNC Rex Healthcare Hospital in Raleigh. A memorial service was held at 2:00pm Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at Butler Funeral Home Chapel, officiating was Debbie Mann. The family received friends from 1:00pm to 1:50pm Wednesday at the funeral home prior to the service. She was born in Johnston County to the late Joseph and Clara Dunn Surcey. Brenda was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and sister. Her life revolved around her family, she loved them dearly. She was also a wonderful caregiver, always putting others needs before her own. She is survived by her husband of 43 years, H. Gibson Spell; son, Ashley Spell & wife, Christie; brothers, J. E. Surcey and Rastus "Eugene" Surcey & wife, Opal; sister, Sarah Lou Evans; and grandchildren, Nathan, Taylor Shea and Abigail. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Ronald McDonald House, 506 Alexander Avenue, Durham, NC 27705. Arrangements by Butler Funeral Home of Roseboro.



## SALEMBURG

**Charles Alex Underwood, 58**, passed away on Monday, January 27, 2020 at Vidant Duplin Medical Center. Home Going Service was held at 1:00 pm on Saturday, February 1, 2020 at First Baptist Church, 900 College Street, Clinton, with Pastor Leonard Henry officiating. Burial followed in the

Bearskin Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery, 4721 Bearskin Rd, Clinton. Those left to cherish his memories his wife, Prophetess Elevira, Underwood of Clinton, NC; one son, Keith Williams (Maggie) of Salemburg, NC; two daughters, Dollie Williams of Salemburg, NC and Lakeisha Michelle Draughon (Robert) of Atlanta, GA; two brothers, Reginald Underwood (Deborah) of Hopemills, NC. Luther Underwood (Tonya) of Roseboro, NC and two sisters, Dollie F. Underwood of Clinton, NC and Madeline Davis of Bayonne, New Jersey; seven grandchildren, Shyheim Williams, Dayan Williams, Da'Leisha Williams, Emerson Kirby, Elijah Kirby, James Melvin Jr. and Jeremiah Mosley; two uncles, Uncle Leon Underwood (Lolita) of Clinton, NC and Billy Rasberry of Kinston, NC; four aunts, Shirley Fuller of Winston-Salem, NC, Sannie Purdie, Margaret Williams and Elosie Williams all of Salemburg, NC; and a host of nieces and nephews. Visitation was held on Friday, January 31, 2020 from 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm with family present from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm at Hope Valley Hawkins Funeral Service, 1246 Hobbton Hwy. Clinton and other times at 1339 Lakewood School Road, Salemburg.



## CLINTON

**Mrs. Julia Dunlap Utley, 76**, of 407 Sunset Avenue, passed away Monday, February 3, 2020 at her home with her loving family by her side. Funeral Services will be held Friday afternoon, February 7th at 2:00 pm, at First Baptist Church with Dr. Ray Ammons officiating.

Burial will follow in the Clinton Cemetery. Born on August 23, 1943 in Sampson County, Julia was the daughter of the late Bryant Overton and Virginia Crumpler Dunlap. She was the lifelong sweetheart and widow to Mr. William "Floyd" Utley. She was a data processing employee with NC State University and a member of First Baptist Church. She loved the Lord, her children and grandchildren, her church family and friends. She will be missed by all who knew her, because to know her, was to love her. Those left to cherish her memory are: her daughters: Kelley Utley Whittington and husband, Glenn of Clayton,

Susan Utley Temple and husband, Scott of Raleigh; her son, William Jason Utley of the home; two brothers: Bryant "Bo" Dunlap of Roxboro and Bill Dunlap and wife, Joanna, whom she adored; special nieces and special nephew: Karen Moss, Craige Dunlap and Tracie Edens. She was also blessed with eight grandchildren, whom she adored: Nathan, Paul, Hunter & Crosby Whittington; Kennedy, Mayleigh & Scout Temple and Dalyn Murphy. The family will receive friends on Thursday evening, from 6-8 pm, at Royal-Hall Funeral Home; and other times at her home. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Baptist Church Building Fund, 408 College St. Clinton, NC 28328. Royal-Hall Funeral Home is honored to serve the Utley Family.

## DUNN

**Danny Wendell Spell** of Dunn, North Carolina departed this life on Sunday, February 2, 2020 in the Cape Fear Valley Medical Center in Fayetteville, being 70 years of age. He was born on November 2, 1949 in Sampson County to the late Jacob Aster "Sam" Spell and the late Lula Jane "Jimmy" Seals Spell. He was also preceded in death by his brother Jay Spell. Danny was a sports enthusiast. He spent hours running and training for the many marathons he participated in. He was also a competitor in the Senior Games. Danny also excelled in playing badminton and billiards. Danny was also described as an amateur genealogist, and spent many hours discovering interesting facts about his family history. He enjoyed taking drives to Raleigh and visiting North Carolina State University where he would meet up with old friends and maybe hit the gym. Danny was a kind and loving person who was gentle and slow to speak. Danny leaves behind to mourn his passing his brother: Glenn Spell of Fayetteville and a host of cousins. A graveside service to commemorate the life of Danny Wendell Spell was conducted at two o'clock in the afternoon on Thursday, February 6, 2020 in the Robert's Grove Church Cemetery with Rev. Ricky Warren presiding. All arrangements are entrusted to Cromartie-Miller Funeral Home of Dunn. Online condolences may be expressed at www.cromartiemiller.com

## NEWTON GROVE

**Charles Wayne Futrell, 64**, of Newton Grove passed away on Tuesday, February 4, 2020. Mr. Futrell's funeral service will be held on Saturday, February 8 at 2:00 pm at Newton Grove Baptist Church in Newton Grove. The Rev. Frank Sandy will be officiating the service. The family will receive friends at West & Dunn Funeral Home on Friday, February 7th from 6 till 8 pm. Mr. Futrell will be laid to rest at Hillcrest Cemetery in Newton Grove. Mr. Futrell's survivors include his sisters, Stella Christensen of Fayetteville, Linda Tart of Clinton, Marie Williams of Smithfield, Mary Tew of St. Pauls, and Kathy Futrell of Selma; his brothers, Perry Futrell of Raleigh, Hubert Futrell of Clayton, Harold Futrell of Selma, Stanley Futrell of Newton Grove and Glenn Futrell of Cary. Mr. Futrell was preceded in death by his parents, Hubert and Essie Futrell; his brothers, Bobby and Thomas Futrell; and a sister, Eva Capps. Memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association and the American Heart Association. Online condolences may be made at www.westanddunn.com. Services have been entrusted to West & Dunn Funeral Home of Newton Grove, North Carolina

## SALEMBURG

**Mr. Hal David Hollingsworth, 61** of Salemburg passed away on Friday, January 31, 2020 at his home. There will be no services held at this time. Mr. Hollingsworth was a native of Smithtown, New York, the son of the late Harold Hollis and Maurine West Hollingsworth. He is survived by an uncle, James Hollingsworth; three aunts, Glenda Fann, Willie Doris Jackson and Judy Jackson. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC.

## CLINTON

**Mr. Ronnie Lee Lewis, 52**, of Waterbury, CT, formerly of Clinton, NC, passed away Tuesday, January 28, 2020 in Connecticut. The arrangements are incomplete at this time. Online condolences may be sent to worleyfuneralhomeinc.com.

## SALEMBURG

**Mrs. Melinda Johnson Sellers, 46**, of 1128 Zoar Church Road passed away Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at home. The funeral will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, February 8 at Lakewood High School, Roseboro, with Minister James Harris, Jr. officiating. The burial will follow in the Howard Cemetery, Salemburg. The visitation will be held Saturday, February 8, at Lakewood High School from 12-1 p.m. Mrs. Sellers is survived by her husband, Isaac Troy Sellers, Sr. of the home; mother, Joyce Johnson of Parkersburg, NC; father, James Johnson, Sr. of Garland, NC; daughter, Iesha Sellers of the home; sons, Isaac Troy Sellers, Jr. of Roseboro, NC, Issiah Sellers of Clarksville, TN; 3 grandchildren. Online condolences may be sent to worleyfuneralhomeinc.com

## CLINTON

**Mrs. Pearline Kirby Smith, 84**, of 400 W. Butler Ave., passed away Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center, Clinton. The funeral will be held at 3 p.m., Sunday, February 9, at Union Grove Church of Christ Disciples of Christ Church with Elder Dr. Da'Von Smith officiating. The burial will follow in Sandhill Cemetery. The visitation will be held Saturday, February 8, from 4-6 p.m. at Worley Funeral Home with the family present from 5-6 p.m. Mrs. Smith is survived by her daughters, Mable Smith, Annette Smith, Berline Smith all of Clinton, NC, Patricia Diane Smith of Brooklyn, NY; sons, Ralph Smith, Jr., Robert Earl Smith both of Clinton, NC; sister, Peggy Boykin of Clinton, NC; brothers, Bobby Kirby, Kenneth Kirby both of Clinton, NC; 14 grandchildren, 28 great grandchildren, 1 great-great grandchild. Online condolences may be sent to worleyfuneralhomeinc.com

## CLINTON

**Mrs. Vertie M. Vann, 85**, of 120 Southwood Drive, Clinton, NC, passed away Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at Mary Gran Nursing Center. Funeral services were held Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 1 o'clock PM in the Union Chapel AME Zion church. Burial followed at Hillcrest Memorial Park. Visitation was Tuesday from 2-6 PM with the family being present from 5-6 PM at the Summerville-Boykin Mortuary. She is survived by several grandchildren.

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## QUESTIONS & ATTITUDE

Compelling questions ... and maybe a few actual answers



**Kyle Busch's No. 18 Toyota piled up stage points last year, and it paid off.** [AP FILE]

### Slow news week?

I'll say. The "big news" involved the lengths of stages in Cup Series races this year. The final stage has been reduced in nearly all races, a move that will require a bit of strategy on fuel and maybe tires in the later portions of an event. What will that mean to us as viewers? Nothing much.

### Speaking of stages ...

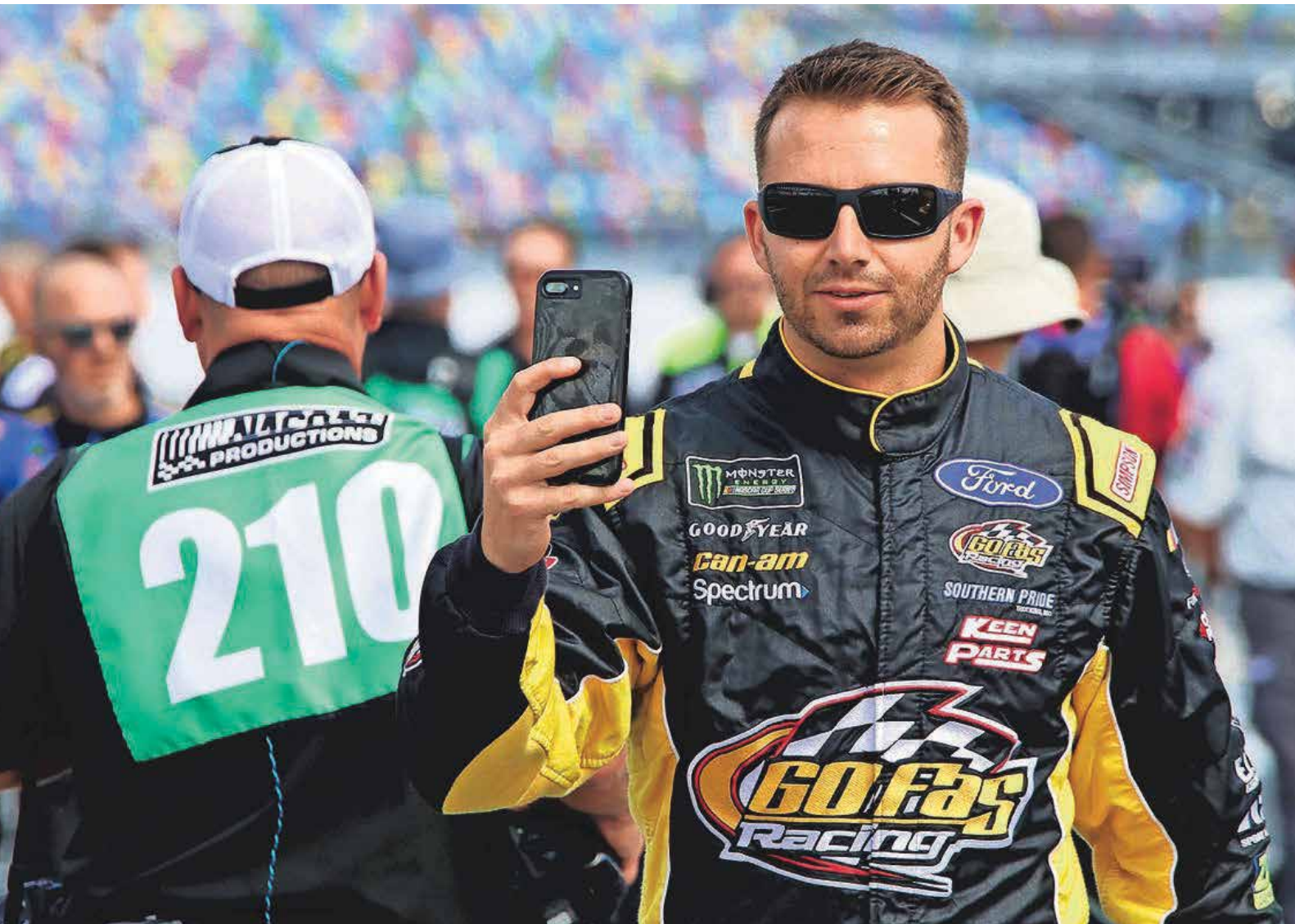
"Stage racin' " has been with us for three seasons now, and that's plenty of time to determine an opinion of its usefulness in adding excitement to the product. Some folks were clamoring for NASCAR to try heat races, such as you'd see on a Friday night at the local short track, and stages are a form of heats without the checkered flags. They've added a bit of additional action and a lot of long-term strategy as drivers bankroll stage points for the playoffs (take a bow, Kyle Busch). Now, if we could just shorten the yellow-flag dead time between those stages, we'd be happier.

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

### WHAT'S ON TAP

All times Eastern

**CUP SERIES:** Busch Clash/Daytona 500 qualifying  
**SITE:** Daytona International Speedway (2.5-mile tri-oval)  
**SCHEDULE:** Saturday, practice (Fox Sports 1, 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.). Sunday, Daytona 500 qualifying (Fox, noon), Busch Clash (Fox Sports 1, 3 p.m.)



**Matt DiBenedetto, shown here taking a selfie on Daytona's pit road, has been using social media his entire NASCAR Cup Series career to help build his fan base.** [NEWS-JOURNAL/JIM TILLER]

## DiBenedetto turns social media wave into Wood Brothers ride

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

**M**att DiBenedetto is one of the few people who have squeezed sunshine and rainbows out of social media, which at times resembles a vicious cyber cyclone.

DiBenedetto, who currently has 105,000 followers on Twitter, has used social media to build his fan base since getting his first NASCAR Cup Series ride in 2015.

When DiBenedetto declared his free agency midway through the 2018 season, his fan base pushed for his hiring at Leavine Family Racing, which lost Kasey Kahne to health problems. He got the ride.

DiBenedetto showed his talent in that car by leading 49 laps of the 2019 Daytona 500 then scoring three top-5 and seven top-10 finishes. He had a stirring second-place run in Bristol's summer night race.

When the rumor mill had Christopher Bell driving

Leavine's No. 95 Toyota in 2020, DiBenedetto's fans clamored to keep the California native in the car. That didn't happen.

And finally, when the 2020 seat opened at Wood Brothers Racing following the retirement of Paul Menard, social media demanded DiBenedetto get that ride.

Wood Brothers Racing did just that in early September. They will hand the keys of the No. 21 Ford to DiBenedetto starting with the Daytona 500 on Feb. 16. The Woods credit Menard for securing DiBenedetto.

"First thing out of Paul's mouth was 'Get Matt,'" team owner Eddie Wood said. "So right away, we started a conversation with Matt and that's the only direction we went. And I'd like to thank Paul for putting us in that direction."

It's another step forward for the likeable 28-year-old driver, who openly expresses emotion.

"It's been really cool to get that much support from people," DiBenedetto said. "It's been overwhelming for me and my family. People

*"It's been really cool to get that much support from people. It's been overwhelming for me and my family. People embrace the story and they have followed along on this journey."*

Matt DiBenedetto

embrace the story and they have followed along on this journey.

"I think they feel a passion for what I do in racing and that I just live this stuff. I have worked and sacrificed everything just to have a shot at making it here. I guess this is like a Cinderella story and it's not finished yet, that's for sure."

DiBenedetto has advanced through the ranks in a manner drivers advanced in the old days. If a driver could take a backmarker car up to mid-pack, they would get a mid-pack ride. If they outperformed at that level, they would get a chance with an elite race team.

Wood Brothers Racing,

which has a strong technical alliance with powerhouse Team Penske, is a proving-ground ride. The team has two Cup Series wins since 2011. Both of those drivers advanced to bigger teams.

"I'm here to do what I set out to do my entire life, which is win in the Cup Series," DiBenedetto said. "This is my year and opportunity to do that."

He might not be in this situation today had it not been for his rabid social media supporters.

"This has been a fan-driven (phenomenon) getting me to where I am today," DiBenedetto said. "I'm a big part of the social media and my followers and the support I've had in the tough times and people rallying behind me and pushing."

"We live in a world where social media can be mostly negative, it's amazing the feedback I get. You can hardly find a negative comment. It's neat to see everyone in so much positivity in a world where that's not so common. To see that really is heartwarming."

### MOTOR MOUTHS PODCAST

We're still scuffing the Pod's tires, but we'll be at full song very soon.

Tune in online at [www.news-journalonline.com/daytonamotormouths](http://www.news-journalonline.com/daytonamotormouths)



### SPEED FREAKS — A few questions we had to ask ourselves

#### Does Junior Earnhardt make the Hall of Fame class of 2021?

**GODSPEAK:** Congratulations on making the 2021 NASCAR Hall of Fame class, Dale Jr.! Ain't nobody not voting for this cat.

**KEN'S CALL:** Unless you start packing the Hall with mechanics and non-Cup racers (Ray Fox, Mike Stefanik, etc.), Junior's credentials are as good as, say, 2020 inductee Buddy Baker, among others. And why wasn't Carl Edwards at least

nominated last year?

#### What are you looking for in the first weekend of Daytona Speedweeks?

**GODSPEAK:** Which team will make a Daytona 500 pole run? Winning the pole helps with PR and marketing because a driver has it for a week.

**KEN'S CALL:** Like everyone, I want to see how Hailee Deegan does in the ARCA race. And Kenny Schrader is coming as owner of an ARCA entry, and it's always good to see him.



**Dale Earnhardt Jr. will be eligible for nomination for the 2021 NASCAR Hall of Fame class.** [AP FILE]

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