

The Sampson Weekly



VOLUME 11, ISSUE 24

Week of June 5-11, 2020

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FREE COVID-19 TESTING EVENT SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 13th



Sampson County has seen an increase in positive Covid-19 cases this week jump by 134 cases this week bringing the total number of COVID-19 positive cases in the county to 563 with 323 recovered. Thankfully no further deaths have been reported.

Monday June 1- 50 new cases
Tuesday June 2- 22 new cases
Wednesday June 3- 9 new cases

[COVID-19, see P. 2](#)

Sampson County School Board Votes 5-2 In Favor of Graduation Ceremony



School Board Member Daryll Warren made the following motion with a second by Sonya Powell:

I move that the SCS's board allow high school graduations to be held in a safe and orderly manner that complies with CDC guidelines for: Wearing a face covering, Following social distancing protocols, Implementing infection control procedures for graduates, staff, and attendees to be held in the following formats:

- (1) All Sampson County Schools' graduates will be offered the opportunity to request a diploma in the mail or the opportunity to participate at the school in an Individual Graduation format with no more than 9 guests at a scheduled time;
- (2) High schools may also choose to allow for a Drive In Graduation format or Drive Through Graduation format with no more than 2 cars/graduate and no more than 5 individuals/vehicle or an Outdoor Venue Graduation format with no more than 2 guests/graduate.

With special focus to:

- Limit all unnecessary attendees
- Keep outdoor venue graduation to approximately 1 hour
- Provide a plan for handicapped access for each format
- Have every attendee (graduate, staff member, and guest) sign a Statement of Good Health and Assumption of Risk Waiver on the day of the event.

Graduates will be allowed to remove their face covering when receiving their diploma.

Board member Tim Register noted that he voted against the motion because he felt like it was going against the Governor's Executive Order.

The final vote was 5-2 to go ahead with School Graduation ceremonies as stated above. Board Members Tim Register and Tracey Dunn voted against the motion. See the entire school board meeting on the Sampson County School Facebook page.

Board Chairman Kim Schmidlin ended the meeting saying, "Congratulations Class of 2020, you have a Graduation."

NO TAX INCREASES PROPOSED IN 2020-2021 COUNTY BUDGET



At Monday night's Sampson County Board of Commissioners, County Manager Ed Causey presented the proposed Budget for 2020-2021. The proposed budget does not have a tax increase. The county budget office is expecting revenues to be \$1,394,200 less than last year. Causey stated in his budget message that, "we are proposing to reduce expenditures by this same amount."

According to the County Manager, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused challenges for the county. Causey stated, "The COVID-19 pandemic has created significant to catastrophic health and economic challenges for the entire United States, North

Carolina and Sampson County. These challenges are improving, but nevertheless will be ongoing. We cannot predict the end of these challenges, nor the overall financial impact to the County. We are proud of our first responders, as well as the leadership and dedication devoted to crisis response on all levels. Our overall view of the budget process for this year has evolved as the crisis has evolved. Indicators at the February planning session suggested that the County was making positive financial progress, and we began to focus on areas of needed improvements and how to better serve our partners and citizens. As the weeks continued, we ultimately evolved to the point that our primary financial goal was to hold where we are and minimize any losses that would have to be recouped. We have received and will receive some federal funding for pandemic-related expenditures. We are very appreciative of same. We have not received any funding to cover loss of revenues."

OVERVIEW (According to the Budget Message Presented by County Manager Ed Causey)

WEATHER

Fri Scattered
T-Storms
40%

Hi: 89° Lo: 72°

Sat Partly
Cloudy
10%

Hi: 90° Lo: 73°

Sun Partly
Cloudy
10%

Hi: 89° Lo: 67°

Mon Partly
Cloudy
10%

Hi: 86° Lo: 67°

Tues Partly
Cloudy
10%

Hi: 84° Lo: 68°

Wed Partly
Cloudy
10%

Hi: 85° Lo: 67°

WEEKLY VERSE

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."
John 14:27

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LOCAL NEWS

BUDGET, cont. from P. 1

“The FY 2020-2021 budget is very measured in that we are budgeting revenues within the parameters of last year’s budget estimates. In fact, we are projecting revenues to be \$1,394,200 less than last year. Likewise, we are proposing to reduce expenditures by this same amount. There are no proposed tax increases. In addition, funding for our school systems, Community College, and our other non-county department partners will be near last year’s budgeted recommendations. The budget drivers discussed below generally outline the significant issues or adjustments in the budget. We will utilize this same approach for the overall total expenditures of our county departments. We will plan a mid-year review to evaluate revenues and will be prepared to adjust revenues and expenditures accordingly. As a side note, we remind everyone that the hurricane season begins June 1. The forecast for the year indicates the potential for an above average storm season. This is yet another factor that encourages our vigilance as we prepare the budget.”

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS (According to County Manager Ed Causey’s Budget Message)

***Status of Proposed EMS Building Project** The planning for the new EMS building continues to move forward. An architect has been selected, and we are progressing with the building design. We have received one grant from the State in the amount of \$3.5 million dollars. We have made an application for a PSAP grant as well as grants from the Golden Leaf Foundation and the Foundation for the Carolinas. In addition, we have applied for loan and grant funding from USDA/Rural Development. As we move forward, we will carefully evaluate the funding package that is developed and make/recommend decisions accordingly. We will remain cognizant of the economic impacts resulting from the pandemic, but note that the requirement for social distancing also supports/enhances the need for new facilities in order to better protect our first responders.

***Fire Districts** Over the last two years, the County staff has diligently worked with the Fire Commission to establish and/or correct the GIS boundaries for all the fire districts, resolve areas of confusion, ensure every parcel is a part of a fire district, and ensure that each legal entity is properly formed. As of May 2020, this major effort has been accomplished.

Budget Drivers (According to County Manager Ed Causey’s Budget Message)

- 1. Sales Tax-** We are budgeting the same amount for sales tax as we did last year.
- 2. Property Tax Revenues-** We are projecting property tax collections to be the same as last year. In calculating expected revenues, we have used a collection rate percentage that is significantly less than what has been projected in recent years. We also note that DMV has given an additional six months to renew all motor vehicle tags.
- 3. Fund Balance Appropriated-** We are appropriating \$1,880,000 to balance the budget. Even though this is an unusual year for budget planning, we are expecting lapsed salaries and benefits to negate much of the appropriation.
- 4. Other Projected County Revenues-** County departments do a very good job of utilizing a variety of fees to offset departmental expenses. Because of the pandemic, we are projecting the collections of the fees to be reduced by \$1,394,200. We will depend on department leadership to re-establish pre-pandemic fee revenues for after the crisis subsides.
- 5. Capital Outlay Funding for Public Schools-** The Sampson County School system has requested \$1,409,067 for capital outlay. The Clinton City School system has requested \$2,797,500. We are projecting funding for capital outlay at the same levels as last year. Clinton City Schools will receive \$322,847, and Sampson County Schools will receive \$867,153, as projected for last year. Both school systems, and Clinton City Schools in particular, have also discussed additional capital needs for roof replacement. At one time, the State was discussing additional funding allocations for school improvements and construction. Because our reserves for this are limited, we will defer further consideration until we determine what the State plans to do in this regard.
- 6. Current Expense Funding for Public Schools-** The Clinton City School system has requested an increase in operating funds on a per pupil basis from \$1128 to \$1200. Based on a projected student enrollment of 2,938, this equates to total funding of \$3,525,600. The Sampson County School system has requested that their funding for operations be increased by \$1,010,345 to \$10,030,961 for 7,951 projected students. We are proposing to hold operational funding near the 2019 projected levels. This would mean that Clinton City Schools would receive \$3,340,506, and the Sampson County Schools would receive \$9,040,287 for 7,951 anticipated students. Any slight difference in the projected funding when compared to last year is attributed to calculating operating revenue on a projected student population.
- 7. Sampson Community College-** The Community College is currently receiving \$1,465,695 for operating expenses. They are requesting that this amount be increased by \$248,708. The College has also requested capital funding in the amount of \$900,357. This requested amount would be adjusted to \$696,357 if they are allowed to bring forward the \$204,000 that was approved for 2019. We are proposing to fund operational expenses at the same level as last year’s allocation of \$1,465,695. We are proposing to fund capital improvements at the amount of \$250,000. We will also recommend that the above requested amount of \$204,000 be brought forward.
- 8. Cost of Living Increases-** Regrettably, there is no cost of living increase included in the proposed budget. It is unfortunate that we do not have the financial resources to propose/consider same. Our goal, because of the challenges of the pandemic, has been and will continue to be keeping our entire work force fully employed. We do note that the State and some other public entities have had to utilize furloughs and other employment restrictions. We hope to avoid and or minimize these considerations. However, if the economic conditions resulting from the pandemic continue indefinitely, we will likely have to re-evaluate the above stated goal and make decisions accordingly.
- 9. Retirement System Contributions-** The County’s contribution rate for our share of the regular employees retirement fund will increase by 1.2%. This is the second year of a planned 3 year increase in the retirement fund. Last year, we also proposed delaying retirement and 401 contributions for 6 months for new employees, unless an exception is granted by the County Manager. This recommendation was approved and will continue from year to year unless a change is approved by the Board of Commissioners.
- 10. Health Insurance-** Sampson County is self-ensured for the first \$150,000 of health insurance claims. In 2018, we pointed out that we had paid out \$1.2 million dollars more in claims than dollars received. We implemented a \$40 per month increase in contributions to this fund that is paid by the county. At present, our insurance fund is \$47,000 in the hole. To add perspective, several years ago this fund carried a balance of approximately \$4,400,000. We advised last year that we may need to adjust our health plans and premiums. We continue to be concerned about the cost of health insurance. The mid-year review will necessitate changes in our health insurance. At present, the County contribution is \$774 per month per employee for health insurance. This will be increased to \$805 as of July 1. Employee costs are applied on a staggered scale. Parent/Child costs are an additional \$150 per month and are paid by the employee. Family Coverage paid by the employee is \$435 per month. Based on our current level of pay outs, the Parent/Child cost would have to be increased to \$250 per month, and the Family Coverage for employee will have to increase to \$920 per month. Without question, significant changes will likely be required in health insurance at the midyear review. These circumstances would be present regardless of the pandemic.
- 11. Debt Service/Vehicles-** A number of departments have requested replacement vehicles and have justified their need. We are proposing to purchase the two ambulances for EMS and 13 vehicles for the Sheriff’s Department. We will also purchase a replacement transport van (with its necessary upfit) for the Sheriff’s Department. Unfortunately, there are several requests that cannot be filled at this time.
- 12. Capital Reserves-** We are not projecting deposits to the reserve accounts in this budget year.
- 13. Technology Capital Reserves-** We had planned to establish a technology reserve account in this budget. We will need to delay the establishment of this account until a later date.
- 14. Personnel-** Our ceiling for fulltime employees as of July 1, 2019 was 544 employees. We have added 3 additional fulltime Resource Officers to be assigned to the Sheriff’s Office. This will give us an employee base of 547 fulltime employees as of June 30, 2020. We have had several requests from departments for additional positions that cannot be funded. Because the water system is a separate enterprise fund and because we are expanding our water services, we are proposing to add 1 position in July and another position in January. If we determine that water sales/receipts are inhibited by the pandemic or otherwise, we will re-evaluate these personnel recommendations. Other department recommendations for personnel increases are deferred.
- 15. GIS-** Excellent customer service is still a top priority of County government. This means

COVID-19, cont. from P. 1

Thursday June 4- 35 new cases

Friday June 5- 18 new cases

COVID testing numbers for Sampson County as of June 5, 2020:

Total Number of Tests Performed: 1714

Positive Test Results: 563 (323 recovered)

Negative Test Results: 1062

Pending Results: 89

Deaths: 4

The Sampson County Health Department’s Drive Thru Free COVID Testing Event will be held on Saturday, June 13th. The Health Department provided a summary for the mass testing event that was previously held on May 16, 2020. A total of 493 tests were performed as part of the event: 351 administered by the Sampson County Health Department, and 142 administered by our event partner, Goshen Medical. Of those tests, 25 were found to be positive, including residents from Sampson and three other counties. The positive cases for Sampson County have been reported in previous testing updates and would be subject to the same contact tracing procedures conducted by our Health Department for every positive case.

On Thursday, Governor Cooper signed Executive Order No. 143 to help address the disproportionate impact that COVID-19 is having on communities of color. The Order creates the Andrea Harris Social, Economic, Environmental, and Health Equity Task Force. Named after Andrea Harris, a champion for social, economic, and racial equity, the task force is directed to address systematic disparities in North Carolina.

“I’m proud to have signed Executive Order No. 143 to address disparities in communities of color that are being highlighted and intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic. This virus is exploiting those inequalities and it’s up to us to do something about it,” said Governor Cooper.

The task force, composed of healthcare, economic opportunity, environmental justice, state agency and community leaders, will work to address and eliminate inequities in distribution of pandemic relief funds and provide small, historically underutilized businesses with equitable access to compete for State contracts.

Additionally, the Order directs various state agencies to ensure access to COVID-19 testing and related health care, increase awareness about the virus and relief services, and more. The Order also directs state agencies to include environmental justice considerations in current and future state policies, programs, and procedures

Text COVIDNC to 898211 to receive general information and updates about COVID-19 and North Carolina’s response.

Dial 2-1-1 provides free, confidential information and is available 24 hours a day to help you find resources within your community. They can connect you with people and groups that can help with questions about access to food, shelter, health care, employment and childcare.

Families who need food assistance for their children can text FOODNC to 877-877 to find free meal sites in their communities.

Make sure to prioritize your overall wellness and don’t hesitate to seek additional help. Optum has a toll-free 24-hour Emotional Support Help Line at 866-342-6892 for people who may be experiencing anxiety or stress due to Coronavirus.

You can track the disease in real time through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services’ COVID-19 NC Dashboard. It includes detailed information about the state’s COVID-19 confirmed cases, hospital capacity and more.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services is asking people to remember these three things as we stay strong and continue to flatten the curve and slow the spread of COVID-19.

If you leave home, practice your Ws: Wear, Wait, Wash

-Wear a cloth face covering if you will be with other people

-Wait 6 feet apart. Avoid close contact.

-Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer.

These actions can protect our families and neighbors as the state takes a cautious step forward to ease restrictions while the virus is still circulating.

All North Carolinians are encouraged to share this message in their businesses and through their organizations to protect our families and neighbors as the state takes a cautious step forward while the virus is still circulating.

that we will continue to emphasize technology to enhance the customer experience of our citizens and employees. Likewise, we will enter into a contract with Withers and Ravenel to help us lay the groundwork for significant improvements in our GIS technology and the timely utilization of new information. We hope to add our own GIS staff in a subsequent year.

16. Fire Inspections- We added one staff member several years ago on the premise that the position would be self-supporting in a short period of time. This has not occurred. There have been mitigating circumstances. However, the effort to establish one self-supporting position for fire inspections will continue.

17. Economic Development- We are extremely proud of the work that is occurring regarding economic development. Although we do not have major accomplishments to report, we do believe that much seed has been planted and germination is expected. Because of budgetary considerations related to the pandemic, we will have to delay the annual appropriation of \$250,000 to the Economic Development fund. However, we will place a high priority on this contribution when funds are available.

18. Transportation Department- Our new Transportation Department is doing a good job, and we are pleased with the previous progress that is being made in expanding services. We do note that the Covid-19 crisis has also affected these services. We also want to be mindful of the fact that Medicaid Transformation could affect these services if previous State planning is revitalized.

19. Department of Social Services- Program demands necessitated a significant proposed increase in the upcoming budget. Even though we are utilizing the current year’s budget, we will assist in adjusting the approved budget as needed to get to the mid-year review.

20. Disaster Preparedness- We included \$100,000 in last year’s budget to cover disaster related needs as it relates to our disaster preparedness. We had intended to continue this allocation if needed in subsequent years. Unfortunately, our current budget constraints will not allow us

BUDGET, cont. from P. 2

- to consider same for the new budget year.
21. **Sheriff's Department-** Much of the change in the Sheriff's Department budget can be attributed to the addition of three resource officers. As mentioned above, we are including the purchase of 13 new vehicles. We also appreciate the way the Sheriff has worked with us to lessen budgetary impacts.
 22. **Detention Center-** We are including the purchase of one new van and the equipment necessary for transporting prisoners.
 23. **Elections-** There will be a major election in the Fall of 2020. Likewise, we must adjust the budget to accommodate for the election and buy additional laptops and software. We appreciate the efforts of the new leadership to work with us. We look forward to working with them to provide a better understanding and awareness of the total county budget process and their relationship to same.
 24. **Emergency Medical Services-** We recognize that the cost of some medical supplies has significantly increased. We are including the acquisition of the two new replacement ambulances in the budget. We will work to accommodate other needs as monies are available.
 25. **Animal Shelter-** The Animal Shelter has made great progress in recent years in both operations and physical improvements. This budget may slow down the third-year installation of new cages. However, it is hoped the delay will not be for more than one year.
 26. **Public Water System-** The water system is a separate enterprise fund that generates all its revenues. Likewise, the proposed budget has remained largely intact as presented and reviewed. As referenced in the Personnel section above, the system is growing. Thus, we are recommending additional personnel as referenced above to accommodate the planned growth.

The proposed budget for FY 20-21 is available for review on the County webpage: <https://bit.ly/2MgOFdA>

The budget hearings regarding the budget will be held on June 11, 2020 at 6 pm. You may join us on Facebook Live or via audio only Zoom at the following links:

Telephone: (646) 558-8656
 Meeting ID: 875 8707 6428
 Password: 378181

Comments regarding the budget can be made by one of the following means:

First class mail addressed as follows:
 Clerk to the Board
 406 County Complex Rd., Bldg. C
 Clinton, NC 28328
 Email addressed as follows: susanh@sampsonnc.com

Written comments must include the commenter's names and address and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 11, 2020 in order to be considered.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF GARLAND
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021
In accordance with NC General Statute 159-12(a), the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 has been presented to the Town of Garland Board of Commissioners and is available for public inspection on the door of Town Hall located at 190 S. Church Avenue or on the town website at www.townofgarlandnc.com. You may also call Town Hall at 910-529-4141 and request a copy of the proposed budget. In accordance with NC General Statute 159-12(b), a Public Hearing on the 2020-2021 proposed budget will be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room at Town Hall in Garland.

MERCER BUSINESS SERVICES



- **TAX SERVICES**
- **REAL ESTATE SERVICES**
- **ACCOUNTING SERVICES**

CJ Mercer
Owner





cjmercer2000@gmail.com

Clinton Engine 1 Enters Service



Clinton, N.C. - The Clinton Fire Department is proud to announce their new fire engine was put into service Monday May 19. The 2020 Pierce Enforcer was custom designed for the City of Clinton to meet the specific needs of our community. The new engine features a 1,500 gallon per minute pump, 1,000-gallon tank and a low hose bed with more than 3,000 feet of fire hose. In addition, it carries a full complement of firefighting self-contained breathing apparatuses, thermal imaging equipment, LED lighting and an array of firefighting equipment. The new engine will serve our community for years to come and replaces an aging engine that has been in service for nearly 30 years.

The delivery of this fire engine is the culmination of more than three years of planning. The specification of the apparatus was carefully thought out and planned by the truck committee comprised of Captain Joshua Coombs, Captain Brett Hairr, Captain Robby Owen, and Engineer Matthew Booth. As part of the engine's design and build, the committee visited the Pierce Manufacturing plant in Appleton, Wisconsin to work with engineers on finalizing equipment layout and other details.

The engine was delivered on March 20, 2020 and underwent a two-month process of equipping the engine and training on its use. On May 19, a small group of firefighters gathered to place the new engine in service with push ceremony. A push-in ceremony is a firefighter tradition to inaugurate a new apparatus, recalling the days before motorized fire apparatus when garaging a hand-drawn hose cart or a horse-drawn steam engine required a hands-on approach. The City hoped to hold a larger celebration, but in consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic, a small private gathering was deemed appropriate. The Department is working on developing a virtual tour of the new engine to post on Facebook and plan to feature the engine at future public events.

The new engine is entering service under the call sign Clinton Engine 1 and will be stationed at Clinton Fire Department Station 1 located downtown Clinton. The new engine represents City leadership's commitment to public safety and is part of a proud chapter in the department's history.



Public Hearing
 The 2019-2020 Amended Budget and the 2020-2021 Proposed Budget for the Town of Harrells has been presented to the Harrells Board of Alderman, and is available for public inspection at the Town Hall from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Thursday's and will also be posted on the front door until the public hearing.

There will be a regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Alderman and a public hearing on Tuesday, June 23, at 5:00 p.m. at the Harrells Town Hall for the purpose of discussing and adopting the Amended and Proposed Budget. Citizens are invited to make oral or written comments.

Cynthia J. Ezzell
 Town Clerk/Finance Officer

312 College Street, Suite D
Clinton, NC • (910) 299-0690

LOCAL NEWS

“Sampson Strong Together”- God Is In Our MidstBy *Becky Spell*

The Bible story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10: 25-37 is a story Jesus shared (when being tested by a lawyer) to show how we should “love our neighbors as ourselves.” When others need our help the most - like the man beaten by the robbers and left in the ditch to die - our love for neighbors is truly tested! Do we pass the test of living by God’s greatest commandment: “Love Him with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind...and love our neighbor as we love ourselves”?

Jesus wants us to be like the Good Samaritan, helping others in times of suffering, not like the Priest and Levite who did not stop to help their neighbor. The lawyer - in Luke 10 - asked Jesus ‘who is my neighbor’? After Jesus told the story, He asked, ‘Which one of these three men do you think was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by the robbers’?

The expert on the law said, “The one who showed him mercy.”

Jesus said to him, “Then Go and Do what He did!”

Recently, I traveled to Newton Grove to pick up chicken for our family and witnessed the mercy and love of a neighbor I had never met and probably will never see again who went to the other side of the road and crossed a big ditch to help a woman in distress.

On my way to Newton Grove, I passed a home on 701 with beautiful flowers for sale at a roadside stand. My heart stirred to stop but I had an appointed time to pick up our chicken, so I promised to stop on the way home. How many opportunities to witness and be witnessed to have we missed when ‘we didn’t stop’?

When I crossed over I-40 heading home without stopping at the home with flowers for sale, my heart would not rest until I turned around and headed back to the place where God had a blessing waiting in the wings. Honking my horn with no one in sight, I started to leave until His Helper said, ‘get out and go to the door’! Before I

could even knock, a precious little lady flung open her screen door and greeted me with a smile. She had been napping and didn’t hear me. As we walked to the road to survey her flowers, I felt led to introduce myself. Sticking out my hand, I told her my name. Her response humbled me to tears as she cried out, “I can’t believe this; I’ve prayed to God to meet you and tell you I love reading your stories and He sent you to my house. I love you and I love Jesus too”!

She began telling bits and pieces of stories that had blessed her, even one from 2007 about cleaning my kitchen floor. We, two little old ladies who love Jesus and shared joy in her front yard for almost an hour, had no idea what was about to happen.

Mrs. Westbrook was bubbling with excitement as we sat several more potted plants beside my pickup than I planned to purchase. Yet, hearing her words of encouragement and love for Jesus and for me - even though we had never met - made me want to buy every beautiful flower she had for sale. She walked gingerly - as back surgery had slowed her down a bit - toward their greenhouse yelling in the wind, “you keep looking Becky while I go get you a special plant.”

She was gone longer than I expected, giving me time to enjoy her flowers and feel His stirring to bless her. Searching through my truck for something special to give her left me empty handed, so I began writing a note to share my love and appreciation for her prayers and support even before God brought us together. One ink pen ran out of ink, another fell between the seats, and frustration kicked in as I frantically searched for a working one to pen my words to this dear woman who open heartedly expressed her love for the Master and ... for me.

Then, I heard tires squealing and her cries for help. Rushing around the front of my truck to find her lying on the cement driveway, my heart pounded, ‘help her be okay Lord, help me get her up.’

Kneeling beside her with calming words and silent cries for strength to help her up, a Good Samaritan came from out of the blue and knelt beside her too! The three of us were on the ground praying and waiting to make sure our friend - we (of different color but same heart and love for the Lord) had just met, didn’t have broken bones from the fall. In that miracle moment, we thanked God for the pile of plants beside my truck that cushioned her fall. With great support, we slowly lifted her together and watched her slowly step in faith with words I will never forget, “Oh, what a good day. Sir, this is Becky and she loves the Lord”! The stranger who saw a need, stopped on the roadside, and jumped the ditch to help said, ‘I do too’!

Oh, to share the precious details of the story God unfolded for the next half hour, but they are for my new friend - Mrs. Chestnut, the Good Samaritan - Orlando, and myself to cherish. Even in the middle of a Pandemic that has put fear in hearts where He longs for our faith to shine - He sends Good Samaritans and works miracles.

May we, Sampson Strong Together, rise up, pray passionately, and ‘HAVE MERCY’ like unto the Good Samaritan! Luke 10: 37.

May Jesus’ words “THEN, GO and DO WHAT HE DID” stir hearts to go, do, live by His example, and share Good Samaritan love stories happening here at home where we are Sampson Strong.

USDA Issues First Coronavirus Food Assistance Program Payments

(Washington, D.C., June 4, 2020) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has already approved more than \$545 million in payments to producers who have applied for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program. FSA began taking applications May 26, and the agency has received over 86,000 applications for this important relief program.

“The coronavirus has hurt America’s farmers, ranchers, and producers, and these payments directed by President Trump will help this critical industry weather the current pandemic so they can continue to plant and harvest a safe, nutritious, and affordable crop for the American people,” said Secretary Perdue. “We have tools and resources available to help producers understand the program and enable them to work with Farm Service Agency staff to complete applications as smoothly and efficiently as possible and get payments into the pockets of our patriotic farmers.”

In the first six days of the application period, FSA has already made payments to more than 35,000 producers. Out of the gate, the top five states for CFAP payments are Illinois, Kansas, Wisconsin, Nebraska, and South Dakota. USDA has released data on application progress and program payments and will release further updates

each Monday at 2:00pm ET. The report can be viewed at farmers.gov/cfap.

FSA will accept applications through August 28, 2020. Through CFAP, USDA is making available \$16 billion in financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities who have suffered a five-percent-or-greater price decline due to COVID-19 and face additional significant marketing costs as a result of lower demand, surplus production, and disruptions to shipping patterns and the orderly marketing of commodities.

In order to do this, producers will receive 80 percent of their maximum total payment upon approval of the application. The remaining portion of the payment, not to exceed the payment limit, will be paid at a later date nationwide, as funds remain available.

Getting Help from FSA

New customers seeking one-on-one support with the CFAP application process can call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer general assistance. This is a recommended first step before a producer engages the team at the FSA county office at their local USDA Service Center.

Producers can download the CFAP application and other eligibility forms from farmers.gov/cfap. Also, on that webpage, producers can find a payment calculator to help producers identify sales and inventory records needed to apply and calculate potential payments. Producers self-certify their records when applying for CFAP and that documentation is not submitted with the application. However, producers may be asked for their documentation to support the certification of eligible commodities, so producers should retain the information used to complete their application.

Those who use the online calculator tool will be able to print a pre-filled CFAP application, sign it, and submit it to your local FSA office either electronically or via hand delivery through an office drop box. Please contact your local office to determine the preferred delivery method for your local office. Team members at FSA county offices will be able to answer detailed questions and help producers apply quickly and efficiently through phone and online tools. Find contact information for your local office at farmers.gov/cfap.

Policy Clarifications

FSA has been working with stakeholder groups to provide further clarification to producers on the CFAP program. For example, the agency has published a matrix of common marketing contracts that impact eligibility for non-specialty crops and has provided a table that crosswalks common livestock terms to CFAP cattle categories. Updated information can be found in the frequently asked questions section of the CFAP website.

More Information

To find the latest information on CFAP, visit farmers.gov/CFAP or call 877-508-8364.

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Underrecognized CONDITION

High blood pressure can start in childhood — but so can prevention

American Heart Association News

781,000

The term “high blood pressure” rarely conjures images of young, playful children.

But the condition doesn't just affect adults. In children, it can be caused by obesity, kidney disease, heart abnormalities or other factors. Hypertension at such a young age puts kids at risk for heart disease and stroke later in life.

“With obesity on the rise, we do see quite a few kids with high blood pressure,” said Dr. Geetha Raghuvver, pediatric cardiologist at Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri. “It’s underrecognized. It’s not often flagged in the pediatrician office because it is not always checked.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates 781,000 children ages 12 to 17 have high blood pressure based on guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics, with the condition being most common among kids who are obese.

Although it is recommended that blood pressure be measured yearly starting at age 3, there are barriers to easily getting accurate measurements, Raghuvver said.

“In some younger children, it’s problematic because you need the proper-sized cuff or else the measurement will be off,” she said.

Having the arm squeezed tightly by the cuff also is an uncomfortable experience for children, she said. “It’s not something younger kids enjoy. So, some doctors may not screen regularly.”

But it is well worth the trouble, Raghuvver said. In fact, it may lead to the diagnosis of

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates 781,000 children ages 12 to 17 have high blood pressure based on guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics, with the condition being most common among kids who are obese.

additional “silent” problems.

“The most important reason it should be measured in children is to make sure you’re not missing any heart or kidney problems,” she said. “Those can be quite asymptomatic.”

For children and teens, the AAP guidelines define high blood pressure as ¹³⁰/₈₀ or higher. For kids 12 and under, a blood pressure reading at or above the 95th percentile also is defined as hypertension. That means 95% of other kids who are that same age, gender and height have a lower blood pressure.

As for what’s a healthy blood pressure, the guidelines define a normal reading as below the 90th percentile for younger kids and below ¹²⁰/₈₀ for teens.

Often, if a child’s blood pressure is high, the pediatrician may recommend further tests that look at urine and blood, and ultrasounds to examine the heart or the kidneys. Sleep disorders and a history of premature birth also are associated with high blood pressure in youth.

Children who have persistent hypertension may develop thicker arteries as early as age 30.

“The risks are over the long-term,” said Dr. Sarah de Ferranti,

director of preventive cardiology at Boston Children’s Hospital. “It’s hard on the kidneys and heart. The muscle of the heart gets thick. Over long periods of time, you could have damage to kidneys.”

Although most kids with high blood pressure don’t have symptoms, some may experience headaches and blurry vision, she said. Very rarely, they may have chest pains.

For children diagnosed with hypertension, it doesn’t have to be a lifelong condition, de Ferranti said. Children above a healthy weight can start by eating a nutritious diet and being more active. Aerobic exercise can lower blood pressure because of its effect on blood vessels and the heart, even if weight is not at issue.

Parents should serve fruits and vegetables as snacks and stay away from sodium – a major culprit when it comes to hypertension. Nearly 9 in 10 U.S. children eat too much sodium, according to the CDC.

Packaged, processed and fast foods are high in sodium and should be avoided as much as possible, de Ferranti said. Developing lifelong healthy habits in childhood may help avoid health risks in the future.

The AAP guidelines recommend doctors prescribe blood pressure medications if lifestyle changes do not work, or if the child has another underlying condition. But that’s rare. Only about 1% of kids with hypertension are prescribed blood pressure-lowering medications.

“For most kids, you can start with lifestyle changes,” de Ferranti said. “Lowering dietary salt intake and decreasing foods like breads and fast food can make a huge difference.”

HEALTH STAT
228 million

The World Health Organization estimates that in 2018, 228 million clinical cases of malaria occurred worldwide. 405,000 people died of malaria, most of them children in Africa.

NUTRITION STATION
Veggies lowest in carbs

Vegetables are important for low-carb diets, however some contain more carbohydrates than you might think. According to Runner’s World, there’s simple trick to identify veggies with the lowest carbs: “Vegetables that are grown above ground – tomatoes, spinach, kale, broccoli – tend to contain fewer carbs than those that are grown below ground – potatoes, parsnips, carrots.”

Many above-ground vegetables are good sources of fiber and antioxidants, and contain fewer than 10 grams of carbohydrates per cup.

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TODAY’S WORKOUT

Deep squat works lower body

By Marlo Alleva
More Content Now

This has definitely been an unforgettable spring season in countless ways, including fitness.

The word creative has definitely become a coined phrase, especially with our at-home workouts.

Many times, we are limited with equipment such as weights and barbells that we’d usually use in the gym. And bodyweight alone just isn’t enough.

That’s where our creativity comes to play.

Our move today is a deep squat with support. All you need for this squat is a fixed, sturdy object for gripping such as a pillar, door frame, countertop, etc. Basically something to support the resistance of your full body weight. This is a squat, so you’ll

be working your whole lower body, glutes, hamstrings, quads and also a portion of your upper back. And the reason for support isn’t only to keep you from falling; it is actually to push you “lower” into the squat and add more of your own body’s resistance without the added weight of dumbbells or bars.

Begin this exercise by locating your sturdy, stable object that you will be holding onto throughout the movement. Grip your object at chest level and extend your arms out straight. Place your feet just outside of hip width, keeping the toes angled forward. Hold your chest tall, and engaging your abdominals for a strong trunk, you are ready to proceed into your deep squat.

Slightly leaning back, and utilizing your grip, your weight will shift into your



Marlo Alleva demonstrates a deep squat with support.
[PHOTO PROVIDED]

backside versus your feet. Begin to bend in your knees pushing your rear end back and down. As you lower, try keeping your knees behind the toes. Once you reach your lowest point, continue to go even lower, kind of like pushing yourself beyond your normal comfort zone. Remember that you are in

control by the grip you have on your supporting object.

The idea is to lower your rear end as close to the ground as you can, without touching the floor. Once you reach your deepest squat, slowly push through the hills and extend back up into your standing position. Continue this deep squatting motion for at least 10 times.

Take a small break in between sets to give your hands a rest, and reposition your feet as needed. Shoot for at least three sets.

This supported deep squat is meant to give you intensity, simply by the deeper motion, but also due to limited resistance.

If you find this move is too difficult on your knees, or it’s too difficult to stand back up from a deep position, simply go as low as you are comfortable with, then return to the top.

FAITH

The Incarnation and Racial Injustice

JESUS CHRIST
IS THE SAVIOUR OF ALL PEOPLE

Typically, we bring up the incarnation around Christmas time. We, Christians, celebrate the grand climax of all of history; God became a man. The Apostle Paul lays out for us the startling scandal of the incarnation:

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! (Phil 2: 6-8, NIV) Jesus Christ, 100 percent fully God became 100 percent fully man. In other words, Jesus, who existed with God in the beginning (John 1:1, Col 1:15) gave up a measure of privilege to humble himself. God the Son gave up the glory of heaven and a position of full autonomy to become submissive to God the Father. What was the motivation behind all of this? The previous verses explain:

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus. (Phil 2:3-5)

Jesus did not come to be the Savior of God's people because of their skin color. The eternal God put on the skin of humanity because all of humanity has a sin problem. Sin puts us all on the same level – regardless of race, creed, politics, or socio-economic class – we are all guilty before a holy God. Philippians 2:3-5 reminds us that we are to value others above ourselves; that this was the mindset of Christ as he humbled himself, not taking advantage of his own divine privilege. The motivation for God to humble himself by becoming man, was love. It was not out of “selfish ambition” or “vain conceit.” Jesus, in being obedient to suffering pain and shame on a cross, showed how he valued others above himself. This was God's plan for the redemption of the world.

How is the incarnation the basis for how we should think about the not-so-peaceful protests happening all around the nation? Let's be mindful of the voraciousness of sin. The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). Ray Comfort notes, “It is the heart of man that is desperately wicked, not his skin. Skin color simply sparks the fire of prejudice and racial hatred within the human heart.”

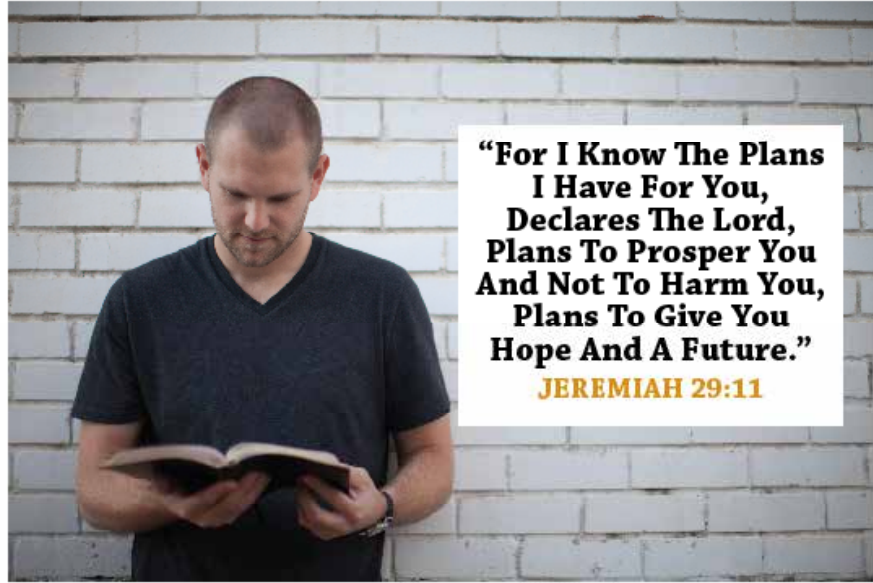
The murderous racism of Minneapolis police officers is a manifestation of brokenness. The violent protests, looting, and fighting is a manifestation of brokenness. Systemic racism and unjust treatment of people groups are manifestations of brokenness. Perhaps the real problem isn't racism. Racism is a surface-level symptom of the real virus, which is sin. Sin creates brokenness and the only healing is in the gospel. The gospel allows us to protest together in peace and in prayer, appealing to the Great Physician who can heal the deep wounds of racial injustice.

Will Matthews is associate pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church in Clinton, NC.



Will Matthews

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Eternal Life

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace.
Where there is hatred... let me sow love.
Where there is injury... pardon.
Where there is doubt... faith.
Where there is despair... hope.
Where there is darkness... light,
Where there is sadness... joy.

O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled... as to console,
To be understood... as to understand,
To be loved... as to love,

For
It is in giving... that we receive,
It is in pardoning... that we are pardoned,
It is in dying... that we are born to
Eternal Life

A Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

The Parable of the Two Sons

Matthew 21:28-30, “What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go.”

Have you ever agreed to do something and later refused, forgot or never intended to act? Children often promise to do their homework, make their beds or be home at a certain time. When their parents discover their child's task was not done it brings disappointment. Jesus' parable of the two sons teaches us the importance of obedience as children of God.

When we obey without hesitation it is an indicator of a heart that loves God. Perhaps you have hesitated to obey God because you fear the consequences of your decision. Those who are characterized by obedience put themselves in a position to experience more of His blessings. Deuteronomy 5:33, “Walk in obedience to all that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess.” It is difficult to receive blessings from God when our hearts are closed to His will. When you choose to obey the Lord, He will bless you. This is because obedience always leads to blessings.

When God tells us to do something and we know without a doubt it is His will, then we need to obey based solely on who is doing the talking. John 14:23, Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.” We can open the pages of our Bible and discover the universal truths of His word. Once we have discovered these truths, promise and commands we should be driven, as children of God, to obey His word.

Where is God calling you to obedience to Him? Perhaps there is a relationship that needs to cease, a job that needs to change, or a friend you need to forgive. God may be calling you to the mission field of Haiti or do mission outreach in Wilmington. Whatever and wherever God is prompting your heart, don't delay; rather, instantly obey His leading. James 1:22, “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” We can hear the Word of God every day and attend church on Sundays and it will not bring about a benefit unless we act upon it. We cannot measure our true love of the Word of God by simply knowing Biblical facts and figures yet not applying the Word to our daily lives. We can serve the Lord with gladness if we focus on the joy He gives to us.

I encourage you this week to remember the words of C. S. Lewis in his book, Mere Christianity, “To have Faith in Christ means, of course, trying to do all that He says. There would be no sense in saying you trusted a person if you would not take his advice. Thus if you have really handed yourself over to Him, it must follow that you are trying to obey Him, but trying in a new way, a less worried way. Not doing these things in order to be saved, but because He has begun to save you already. Not hoping to get to Heaven as a reward for your actions, but inevitably wanting to act in a certain way because a first faint gleam of Heaven is already inside you.”

Rev. Ken Smith
Atkinson Baptist Church
www.youtube.com/kensmithministry



Make a Commitment to More Family Meals



German Fruit Tart

FAMILY FEATURES

Spending moments together with loved ones carries obvious benefits like time to catch up and opportunities to bond, but sharing meals actually provides definitive value for families. With restricted social interactions and confinement at home due to COVID-19, many families are facing meal challenges that have shifted from juggling busy schedules to seeking new ways to mix up the traditional menu or using digital solutions to reconnect at a virtual table.

A study published in the “Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior” funded by the FMI Foundation shows that more frequent family meals are associated with better dietary and family functioning outcomes. The results build on years of previous research studies to punctuate the creation of the Family Meals Movement, which encourages Americans to pledge to share one more family breakfast, lunch or dinner at home per week.

Consider these notable findings from the study:

- **Family meals improve fruit and vegetable consumption.** Studies show a positive relationship between family meal frequency and fruit and vegetable intake when examined separately, but also when fruit and vegetable intake are combined.
- **Family meals improve family dynamics.** Nearly all the studies included in the systematic review and meta-analysis demonstrated a positive relationship between family meal frequency and measures of family functioning. Family functioning is defined as family connectedness, communication, expressiveness and problem-solving.

“There are thousands of individual studies that examine the impact of family meals on nutrition and family behavior, but this meta-analysis looks at the relationship between family meal frequency and family functioning outcomes,” said David Fikes, executive director of the FMI Foundation. “We can confirm that family meals are a valuable contributor of improved nutrition and family dynamics.”

Find tips, recipes and ways to increase your family meal frequency despite COVID-19 circumstances at familymealsmovement.org.

German Fruit Tart

Recipe courtesy of Deanna Segrave-Daly on behalf of the FMI Foundation

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup whole-wheat pastry flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon half-and-half or cream
- 1/8 teaspoon almond extract or 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, thinly sliced
- cornstarch
- sliced strawberries
- sliced kiwi
- sliced banana
- blueberries

2 teaspoons turbinado or powdered sugar (optional)

Preheat oven to 350 F.

To make crust, beat together flours, sugar, egg, half-and-half and almond extract. Add butter slices and mix together until sticky ball of dough forms. Refrigerate 30-60 minutes.

On heavily floured surface, knead dough a few times and roll out to fit greased 10-inch tart pan.

Carefully spread dough into tart pan and bake 15-20 minutes, or until tart starts to turn golden brown. Remove from oven and cool.

Dust crust with cornstarch to help fruit stick to crust. Arrange strawberries, kiwi, banana and blueberries on top of crust; sprinkle with sugar, if desired.

Peanut Butter Banana Protein Baked Oatmeal

Recipe courtesy of Lauren Harris-Pincus on behalf of the FMI Foundation

Prep time: 15 minutes

Cook time: 30 minutes

Servings: 6

- 2 cups old-fashioned oats
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 packets stevia (sugar substitute) or preferred sweetener
- 1/2 cup powdered peanut butter
- 1 scoop (1/4 cup) vanilla plant-based protein powder
- 1 cup unsweetened vanilla almond milk
- 1/2 cup nonfat plain Greek yogurt

- 3 tablespoons liquid egg whites
- 1 ripe banana (4 ounces), mashed
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 ripe banana (4 ounces), sliced into 24 slices

Preheat oven to 350 F.

In large bowl, combine oats, baking powder, cinnamon, salt, stevia, powdered peanut butter and vanilla protein powder.

In separate bowl, combine almond milk, yogurt, egg whites, mashed banana and vanilla extract.

Add oat mixture to wet ingredients and gently stir until fully combined.

Line 9-inch brownie pan with parchment paper. Pour mixture into pan and spread evenly.

Top with banana slices in four rows of six slices each. Bake 27-35 minutes, or until golden brown and set.

Let cool and cut into six rectangles. Wrap and refrigerate extras until ready to eat.



Hawaiian Chicken Pizza

Hawaiian Chicken Pizza

Recipe courtesy of Toby Amidor on behalf of the FMI Foundation

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 20 minutes

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 1 1/2 cups shredded rotisserie chicken
- 3/4 cup barbecue sauce
- 1 ready-made pizza crust or whole wheat pizza crust (10 ounces)
- 1 cup canned or jarred tomato sauce
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese or part-skim mozzarella cheese

- 1 cup finely chopped fresh pineapple or canned pineapple tidbits packed in 100% juice

Preheat oven to 375 F. Coat pizza pan or baking sheet with nonstick cooking spray.

In medium bowl, combine rotisserie chicken and barbecue sauce.

Place pizza crust on pan and evenly spread tomato sauce over crust. Sprinkle evenly with cheese. Top evenly with rotisserie chicken mixture and pineapple.

Bake until crust is crisp and browned around edges, about 10 minutes. Let pizza cool 10 minutes before cutting into eight slices.



Peanut Butter Banana Protein Baked Oatmeal

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Dark Horse Three Sport Graduating Senior Named Athlete of the Week



*"Justin Pike Says Christian-Based School Tilted the Scale and His Decision"

There is a lot going on in the life of a senior in Sampson County right now. An ending to a school year like no other. However, this week's Performance Automotive/Sampson Weekly Athlete of the Week is taking it with stride.

On Tuesday, Darkhorse senior Justin Pike officially signed to swim on the college team at Gardner-Webb. Justin has lived in Sampson County his whole life and is looking forward to this next stage in his life.

Justin's parents are Jessie and Krystal Pike and he has one little brother Duddy. According to Pike, "I have always lived in Sampson County and have been in Clinton City Schools my entire school career. I have been involved in the youth group at Grove Park Baptist Church since 6th grade, Boy Scouts Troop 27 where I obtained my Eagle Scout Rank, worked lifeguarding for several summers, have volunteered at several youth activities, went on several mission experience trips, participated with an High Adventure sailing trip in St. Thomas, and have babysat several kids over the years."

As one can see, community involvement is of utmost importance to Justin.

Sports is something that has been instilled in Pike since an early age, actually around the age of 2. Pike stated, "I first started playing sports when I was 4 years old but first started swimming when I was 2 years old. My NayNay and mom taught me the basics of swimming in our backyard pool. I started competitively swimming when I was 9 or 10 with Coach Damon with Gold Swimming. He was the first big impact on my swimming along with my mom. Of all my coaches, Coach Mitchell and Coach Jones have been the most influential. Coach Mitchell pulling in prayer and making sure we were better men than athletes hit deep to me. He always wanted the best of his athletes off the field more so than on. He is one Coach I will always admire and strive to be like. Coach Jones was just and fair. He never got down or defeated, always lifted each of us up and celebrated any small accomplishments we made."

Even though swimming is what Justin enjoys the most, he also played soccer all 4 years of his high school career. He played three years varsity tennis, and three years varsity swimming. He is also a member of TAC Titans swim club in Cary, NC.

According to Justin, who loves the Dark Horses, "I don't really have a favorite subject, but my favorite classes were History with Ms. West and Mrs. Dirks and all of PE class and teachers Coach Sawvell, Coach Johnson, and Coach Spell."

Justin has been contemplating his college career for a while and finally chose Gardner-Webb for several reasons. Pike noted, "I decided Gardner-Webb because it is Christian based, beautiful campus, location (reminds me of small-town Clinton), and it had a family-oriented swim team being a D1 school just sweetened the deal. I've been back and forth on a major and I'm not 100% certain what I want to major in but something in the lines of exercise science or medical related."

During his sports career as a Dark Horse, Justin was a part of both State Championship teams for soccer and tennis. In his sophomore year swimming, Pike took home the prize for Most Improved All District/Conference. During his junior year he was the second highest point earner. Also, in his sophomore year and Junior year he made regional and state swim meets. Quite a remarkable list of accomplishments so it is easy to see why Gardner-Webb grabbed up Pike.

Pike says the highlights of his sports foray was when, "Getting the opportunity to go D1 and be the first from Sampson County to do it. As far as an event, it would have to be January 23, 2019 swimming 100m freestyle. I remember that even because everyone was watching me and cheering for me. I remember coming in first and having most everyone impressed. It was pretty sweet to have other parents of swimmers I was swimming against congratulate me."

It was just recently that Justin made his final decision, "I decided to swim for Gardner-Webb on Thursday May 21st after Coach Blum, Coach Travis, Coach Henkel and I had a recruiting call. I loved everything I was learning and how the team was not just a team but a family. It feels amazing and surreal. I mean most high school athletes want to go to a Division 1 school, but I knew the statistics with swimming was not really good. There are about 136,638 male high school swimmers and only 2.8% go D1, so I am shocked."

The love for his alma mater is great, so its going to hard on Justin leaving the Dark Horses, "It's kind of sad especially the way this particular year ended but I am excited to be able to continue doing what I love. I am very grateful to Clinton that I get to walk across the football field to get my diploma because I did not believe I would have. I think it will hit me then more than now about leaving."

Pike said that he has so many positive influences in his life, both educational, sports, and personal. "There are so many," noted Pike. "Within Clinton High School it would have to be Principal Westerbeek and Ms. Odum. Both of these ladies impacted me by coming up to me when I needed it. They both were at the right place and the right time; without them this would not have happened. My family and friends that supported me and always wanted the best out of me especially during the winter of my senior year. My NayNay and PaPa, for just always being there. My mom, dad, and little brother for believing in me and pushing me. Most importantly, my mom is the biggest key. She has only missed one or two of my sports events since I first began at 4 years old. She'd record and send to me all of my swim events and was always there when I finished. Even when I get down about not doing something right or my coach telling me I wasn't good enough; she found a way to make me realize I was. She's the one that made me work harder and not give up when giving up would have been easier."

Congratulations Justin, go make Sampson County proud!

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'Consider Sampson' Campaign Begins for Fall



The College's campaign aims to increase fall enrollment and encourage students to include SCC when making decisions about the fall 2020 semester. (File photo)

Across North Carolina and the United States, four-year institutions have made decisions and announcements regarding the Fall 2020 semester. With several UNC System schools planning to begin the semester early, cancel fall break, and finish exams before Thanksgiving, many students are left with decisions to make about the Fall semester. Decisions about finances, decisions about where to enroll, decisions about how to stay safe. Considering those lingering decisions, Sampson Community College started a fall campaign, "Consider Sampson," encouraging students to consider Sampson Community College as an affordable, nearby option this fall. President, Dr. William Starling, says the College has countless degree options for students who choose to attend.

"Many of you may be uncertain where to attend College this fall. We understand. Let us help you create a path to the career or degree of your choice. From certifications to college transfer, maybe we can be part of your plan," he remarked.

For several students, putting a halt to attending a four-year institution may appear difficult. Some students worry about a disconnect from on-campus life, less vigorous courses, and more. However, the College has worked diligently over the years to maintain relationships with major universities across the state and even has admission agreements with others.

SCC currently offers admission agreements with four different universities, including East Carolina University, the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, North Carolina

State University, and Fayetteville State University. The benefits of these admission agreements include joint advising, specialized events, access to campus events, and more.

The College is also included in the North Carolina Comprehensive Articulation Agreement, a statewide agreement that aims for a smooth transfer of students from North Carolina community colleges to UNC System schools. Through the articulation agreement, students have assured admission to one of 16 UNC institutions and can transfer with junior status.

"I am in constant communication with a variety of universities to ensure that the students at SCC have accurate and updated information regarding transferring. Every student has a different goal, and my goal is to help them achieve it," Transfer and Student Success Coach, Stephanie Gore stated.

Students who begin their secondary educational journey at Sampson Community College are well equipped to transfer to four-year institutions and have all credits transfer. As they begin here, students are paired with advisors who specialize in students' university of interest, ensuring that students spend time only taking transferable courses.

In the Arts & Sciences division, instructors are graded each semester to evaluate if their online and in-person courses meet certain standards to ensure rigor and quality course standards. Courses are graded base on course content, materials, and more.

"I feel really good about this course review rubric because when I look at an instructor's course if there are deficiencies, I can point them out. I think it's a part of the process. When you have these measures in place it does ensure academic integrity and good things come from that," noted Arts & Sciences Division Chair, Lew Gravis.

Students also have the option to take courses in any of the several other divisions at the college, including Healthcare, Education, Public Service, Human Services Technology, Business & Technology, and Applied Technical.

"The SCC Foundation has worked to provide additional resources for students to eliminate financial barriers. We hope students who are undecided about the next steps will consider Sampson and the many opportunities right here at home to earn college transfer credit or workforce training," stated Lisa Turlington, Executive Director of the Foundation.

Students who are unsure about fall plans can look forward to well-established guidelines for achieving success at Sampson Community College. Registration for fall 2020 opens July 1.

Register: Path from Student to Healthcare Programs Employee

For Ashley Register, the loss of a grandfather sparked an interest in healthcare career. The Administrative Assistant for Health Programs at Sampson Community College says she spent most of her time as a child with her grandparents in Autryville, N.C. So, when her grandfather came under hospice care, Register took note and knew that healthcare would be in her future— she just wasn't quite sure which field.

In 2012, two years after graduating from Lakewood High School, Register began taking Workforce Development and Continuing Education courses at Sampson Community College. There she was able to dip her feet into the career she would fall in love with, taking courses in Medical Coding and Billing, and cementing the thought that she wanted to work in medical office administration. The next year, Register applied to begin taking curriculum courses.

"I was nervous about applying to the curriculum side of the college. Student Services offers great counseling services to help direct students in the right direction," Register commented.

As a student, Register excelled. She graduated with honors with degrees in Medical Office Administration and Office Administration. She received the Outstanding Graduate Award and graduated as a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Now, Register works as the Administrative Assistant to Healthcare Programs, where she assists with everyday tasks that arise. She processes nursing applications, contacts applicants about admission decisions, and much more. Director of the Associate Degree Nursing Program, Dr. Lisa Smith, says that Register immediately showed dedication, and became an asset to the division.

"She jumped into her role without hesitation. With the growth of our division, she has embraced learning about each department, being available to assist all faculty members. She excels in her role and is knowledgeable beyond her years... We are blessed to have her," Smith shared.

Because of her years of experience and her studies, Register teaches a Medical Terminology course to healthcare division students. But the most exciting part of her role is sharing the news with applicants that they have been admitted to one of the prestigious healthcare programs.

"Over the years I have enjoyed contacting students to let them know that they have been accepted into the nursing program. They are excited and appreciative to receive a seat into the nurs-



Register stays busy in the Healthcare Programs Division processing applications and helping with daily tasks, and much more. (Photo Credit/Cheyenne McNeill)

ing program," Register remarked.

Dr. Veronica Stevens, Healthcare Programs Division Chair, says Register always goes above and beyond in her role. In her transition from student to employee, Stevens says Register fully embodies the mission of the College.

"Ashley consistently applies creative solutions to concerns that arise on a daily basis. She supports our faculty, staff and students in amazing ways so that our complex, multifaceted efforts are collectively unified. She is dedicated to the mission of the College and the Division and is certainly a treasure," Stevens said.

To anyone to who visits the second floor of the Technology building at SCC, the family-like atmosphere of the Healthcare division is evident. When she began, Register fell right into place. Almost immediately, she says she was encouraged to continue her education and pushed to realize her greatest potential. In 2018, she received her Associate in General Education from SCC, which she calls the steppingstone toward receiving her Bachelor's in Business Administration.

"I feel like I have full support from the faculty in the Healthcare division. We are all family here at SCC, and we encourage each other every day. If anyone feels that they would like to academically advance themselves, SCC is a great opportunity," Register shared. "Students have support from both faculty and staff to reach their goals. The dedication and hard work by both faculty and staff enable the students to have a great experience."

For more information about Medical Office Administration and Healthcare Programs at Sampson Community College, visit sampsoncc.edu.




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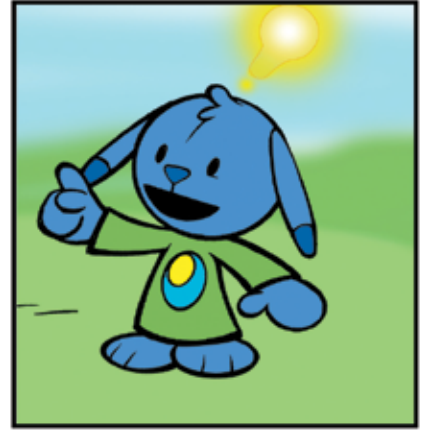
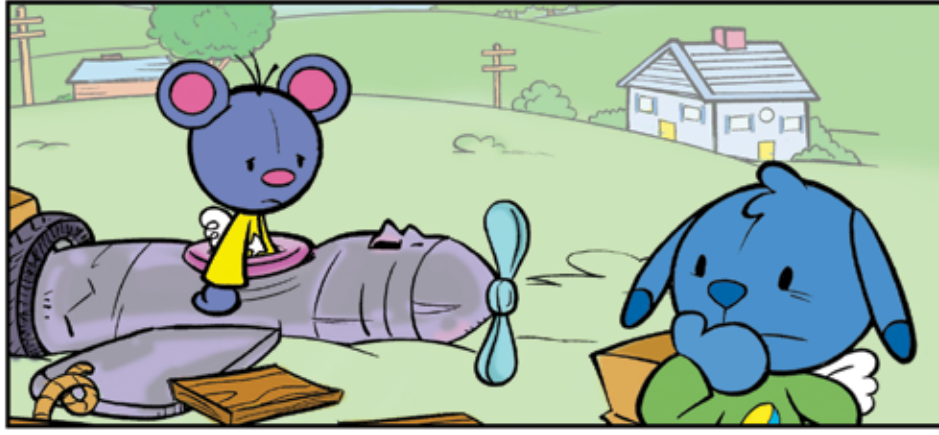
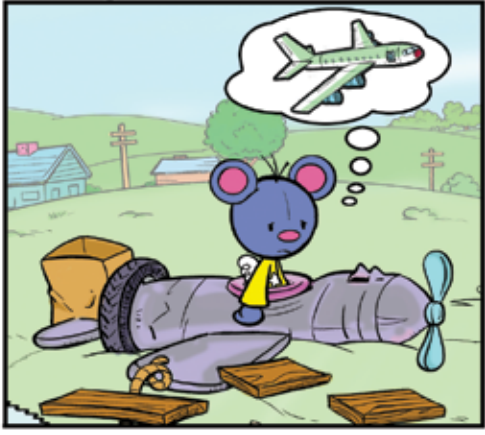
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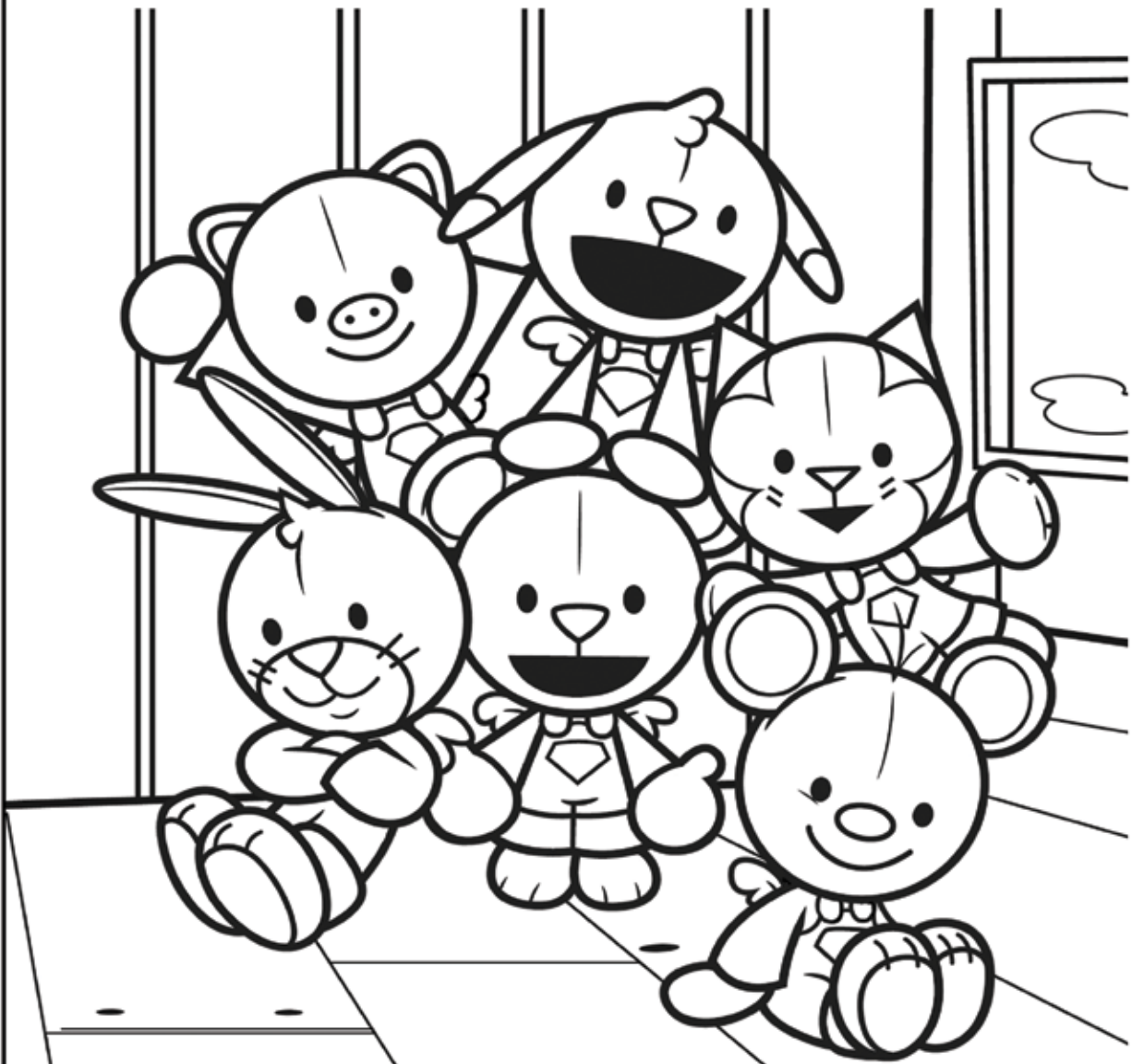


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and
Eclipse Doggy

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reading now is...

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CRIME

CRIME REPORTS

05-26 Sherek Renna McNeil, 34, Roseboro. Failure To Return Rental Property. Trial Date 07-20-20

05-26 Misty Mishoe Cole, 42, Roseboro. Located Wanted Person

05-26 John Neil McDuffie, 28, Dunn. Carrying Concealed Gun, Simple Possession of Marijuana. Trial Date 07-02-20

05-26 Shrealla Mcphail, 46, Salemburg. Communicating Threats. Trial Date 08-25-20

05-26 Rashaun Hamilton Parker, 25, Fayetteville. Driving Under the Influence. Bond \$500. Trial Date 09-04-20

05-26 Bobby Lee Turner, 33, Clinton. Communicating Threats, Second Degree Trespass. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 06-23-20

05-27 Stephanie Emmanuel Philippe, 22, Clinton. DWLR. Bond \$2000. Trial Date 06-24-20

05-28 Lance Eugene James, Roseboro. Failed To Appear Show Cause, Failure To Appear. Bond \$4000. Trial Date 07-23-20

05-28 Nickolas Allen Cash, 32, Roseboro. Communicating Threats. Bond \$1500. Trial Date 07-30-20

05-28 Lance Eugene James, 40, Roseboro. Failed To Appear Show Cause, Failure To Appear. Bond \$4000. Trial Date 07-23-20

05-29 Michael Andrew Harmon, 38, Raleigh. Possession of stolen motor vehicle. Bond \$5000. Trial Date 06-12-20

05-29 Edwin Lloyd Mathis Jr, 32, Clinton. WFA/Second Degree Trespassing, WFA/Communicating Threats. Bond \$500. Trial Date 08-06-20

05-29 Juan Miguel Lopez, 19, Clinton. Possess Marijuana.

05-29 James Lamb, 59, Clinton. Drug Equipment Violations, DWLR. Trial Date 07-06-20

05-29 James Michelle Bennett, 39, Clinton. Assault on a Female. Trial Date 08-27-20

05-29 Andrew Francisco Daw, 28, Clinton. Second Degree Trespass, Injury to Personal Property, Unauthorized Use of Motor Veh. Bond \$2000. Trial Date 08-31-20

05-30 Vincent Ralph Ambrose, 39, Clinton. DWLR, No Registration. Bond \$2000. Trial Date 07-21-20

05-30 Christopher Aaron Gilchrist, 29, Clinton. Possession of Stolen Bicycle.

05-30 Clyde Earl Gallagher, 58, Clinton. Assault on a Female, Communicating Threats. Trial Date 07-21-20

05-30 Nykiera Parker, 19, Harrells. Larceny. Trial Date 07-22-20

05-30 Aaron Michael Tadlock, 26, Newton Grove. Possession of Marijuana Paraphernalia, Simple Possession of Schedule VI CS, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Simple Possession of Schedule IV CS. Tri-

al Date 07-21-20

05-30 Byron Scott Brewer, 25, Clinton. Simple Possession of Schedule IV CS, Possession of Marijuana Paraphernalia. Trial Date 07-21-20

05-30 Francisco Hernandez, 46, Roseboro. Assault On Female. Trial Date 06-23-20

05-31 Rodney Lewis Cox, 53, Clinton. FTA - Open Cont After Cons Alc 1st. Bond \$500. Trial Date 07-20-20

05-31 Whitney Lynn Lambert, 30, Autryville. Communicating Threats. Bond \$500. Trial Date 06-11-20

05-31 Linwood West, 28, Mount Olive. Assault on a Female, Communicating Threats, Breaking and Entering, Larceny After Breaking & Entering, Poss Stolen Goods, Felony Larceny, Larceny of a Firearm, Possess Firearm by Felon, RDO. Bond \$64500. Trial Date 07-06-20

06-01 Earl Henry Stokes, 36, Clinton. Second Degree Trespass. Trial Date 07-27-20

06-01 Brenda Shae Mason, 54, Dunn. Communicating Threats. Trial Date 08-31-20

06-01 Lisa Carr Davis, 47, Clinton. Possess Sch II, Possess Drug Paraphernalia. Trial Date 07-06-20

06-01 Martin Jacinto, 41, Godwin. Assault On A Female. Trial Date 07-10-20

06-01 Richard Carl Wetter, 53, Autryville. Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Bond \$750. Trial Date 07-27-20

06-01 Edwin Lloyd Matthis, 32, Clinton. Simple Assault. Bond \$500. Trial Date 06-25-20

06-03 Carl Vynes Salomon, 18, Warsaw. Felony Larceny, Located wanted person. Bond \$5000. Trial Date 08-09-20

06-03 Jer'Marvis Dea'Avionn Rich, 19, Salemburg. Possession of Marijuana <1/2 OZ, Consume Alc By 19/20, Trespass of Real Property, Possess Marijuana Paraphernalia. Bond \$2000. Trial Date 09-15-20

06-04 Hannah Renee Barnes, 19, Garland. Child Abuse, Driving While Impaired, Resist, Delay, Obstruct, No Operators License. Bond \$750. Trial Date 09-23-20

06-04 Preston Scott Yarborough, 29, Clinton. Simple Assault. Bond 4750. Trial Date 09-15-20

06-04 Hope Maria Ishler, 20, Godwin. Obstructing Justice, Extortion. Trial Date 08-07-20

06-04 Edward Nathaniel Willis, 49, St Pauls. Wanted Fugitive Warrant.

06-04 Shide Wendell Underwood, 27, Roseboro. Simple Assault Offense, Trespass, Drug Equipment Violations, Communicating Threats, Possess MDMA, Possess Marijuana. Bond \$5000. Trial Date 08-07-20

06-24 Afarrius Stephen Parker, 19, Clinton. Discharge Weapon Occupied Dwelling/Moving Vehicle, Robbery With Dangerous Weapon, AWDW Serious Injury. Bond \$75000. Trial Date 08-07-20

06-03 Rasheem Abdul, 42, Spring Lake. Larceny, RDO. Bond \$3500. Trial Date 09-18-20

06-03 Latasha Lynette Smith, 37, Clinton. OFA/Show Cause. 09-01-20

06-04 Mildred Michelle Suggs, 38, Clinton. WFA/Second Degree Trespassing, WFA/Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 09-14-20

06-04 Terrance Lashaun Simmons, 27, Clinton. WFA/Assault with Deadly Weapon with Intent to Kill, WFA/Robbery with Dangerous Weapon, WFA/Possession of Firearm by Felon. Bond \$250000. Trial Date 06-26-20

06-04 Quinn Alexander Peterson, 33, Clinton. WFA/Communicating Threats, WFA/Injury to Personal Property. Trial Date 07-20-20

06-04 Phyllis Diane Bain, 66, Fayetteville. Larceny from a Merchant. Bond \$3500. Trial Date 08-07-20

INCIDENT REPORTS

05-26 Amy Marie Miller of Dunn reported a Larceny of a Trailer and Motor Vehicle Theft- trailer \$7300

05-26 AT&T of Clinton reported Second Degree Trespass and Communicating Threats

05-26 Karen Lawrence Osborne of Clinton reported All Other Larceny- stolen push mower \$200, Refrigerator- \$500

05-27 James Peterson of Roseboro reported Motor Vehicle Theft, Larceny- stolen automobile- \$5000, john boat- \$500, fishing equipment- \$100

05-27 M&Z Trucking of Roseboro reported Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property- truck \$10000

05-27 Carolyn Sue Odom of Autryville reported Larceny of a Firearm- value \$500

05-27 Jessie Lemont Oates of Faison reported a Burglary/Breaking & Entering- stolen checkbook, watch \$500, tv- \$1000 and medication

05-28 Beck Desmond Pierre Thaddeus of Clinton reported a Burglary/Breaking & Entering- stolen money \$500, Air Jordan shoes \$1500

05-28 Ralph Dumpson of Clinton reported Damage to property- Mercedes Benz windshield \$750

05-29 Leonard Hedgepeth of Clinton reported Stolen Property Offenses- Chevy Impala \$3000

05-29 BB&T of Roseboro reported Damage of Property- overhead light at drop box

05-29 Julian Wilson Bradsher of Clinton reported Unauthorized Use of Motor Veh, Injury to Personal Property, Second Degree Trespass- chrome rails \$200

05-29 Bonnetsville Kwik Stop of Clinton reported a Motor Vehicle Theft, Damage to Property- automobile \$7000, fuel pump \$20000

05-30 Ice House of Roseboro reported a Burglary/Breaking & Entering, Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property- money dispenser \$500, Money \$200

05-30 Swanee Mae Hall of Willard reported Burglary/Breaking & Entering, Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property- window damage \$200

05-30 Samuel Earl Powell of Clinton reported a Breaking & Entering- tools \$300

05-30 Deloris Morrisey of Clinton reported a Shooting Into An Occupied Dwelling- damage to dry wall \$100

05-30 Ronnie Eason of Clinton reported Larceny of bicycles \$35

05-31 City of Clinton reported Injury to Real Property- land owned by Clinton \$500

05-31 Desiree Erica Brown of Clinton reported Damage to Property- SUV \$6000

05-31 Donna Darden of Faison reported Damage of Property, Breaking & Entering- doors and frames \$800

05-31 Becky Lynn Hines of Autryville reported a Breaking & Entering- stolen television \$600, television LCD \$450, gold band \$500, shoes \$80

05-31 Eric Phillips of Roseboro reported Theft From Motor Vehicle- iPhone \$1099

06-01 County Of Sampson reported Damage to Property- tires \$600

06-01 Ethel Marshall of Clinton reported Damage to Property- Camaro- \$200

06-01 Clinton Truck & Tractor Company, Inc reported Larceny of 2012 Case IH RB454 Silage Round Baler- \$17000

06-01 Hayward Smith of Clinton reported Damage to Property- Ford Fusion \$500

06-02 Shana Troublefield-Williams of Clinton reported Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories- license plate \$32.00

06-02 Tammie Calcutt of Clinton reported Larceny of money \$750

06-02 Walmart of Clinton reported Larceny of tools- \$149, clothing \$20.16, lighter \$14.42

06-02 Misty Horne of Dunn reported Larceny of Trailer- \$1000

06-03 Taylor Products of Garland reported Theft From Coin- Operated Machine or Device- Money \$100

06-03 Samuel Sanchez of Dunn reported Larceny of Firearm- \$300

06-03 David Robert Sarp of Clinton reported Larceny- Red Arctic Cat \$6000

06-04 Robert Allen Jernigan of Dunn reported Larceny- Deer Stand \$500

06-04 Monica Tanner of Roseboro reported Larceny of Wreath from Grave \$200

06-04 Xpress Car Wash reported Theft From Coin-Operated Machine or Device- drink machines

06-04 Lowes of Clinton reported Misdemeanor Larceny- 2 leaf blowers \$299 each

06-04 Walmart of Clinton reported Shoplifting- food items \$78, other assorted items \$60

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

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OBITUARIES

AUTRYVILLE

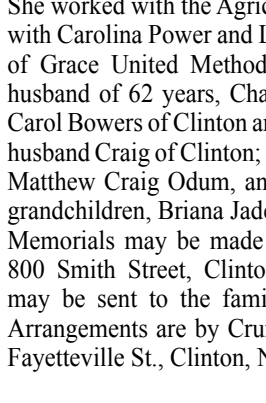
Dorothy Williams Autry 85 of 1969 Butler Road passed away on Friday, May 29, 2020 at Highsmith Rainey Hospital in Fayetteville. Dorothy was born September 18th, 1934, A devoted daughter to her parents the late Iley and Clattie Williams. Born and raised in Sampson County, NC, a graduate of Roseboro High School. Dorothy



joined Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church at an early age and was recognized for her beautiful singing voice. Her life was full and rich with loving family and friends of her community. Dorothy was preceded in death by five sisters: Oneta Bridges, Katrina Graham, Christine Royal, Adean Autry and Betty Williams, three brothers: Hugh Oliver Williams, James R. Williams and Donnie Lee Williams, one sister-in-law: Berline Lindsey. Graveside services were held at 2:00 pm on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church 2316 Maxwell Rd, Autryville, NC 28318. Dorothy is survived by her husband Charlie Millard Autry, three sons: Randy Autry, Gregory Autry and Bryan Autry, one daughter: Tonya Autry, one grandson: Jamion Autry all of Autryville, NC, Three sisters: Pauline Brown (Stanley) of Salemburg, NC, Susan Autry (Elliott) of Autryville, NC, Lydia Gibson (John) of Autryville, NC, two brothers: RC Williams of Autryville, NC, Bobby Williams (Mary) of Salemburg, NC and sister-in-law: Christine Lockhart of Clinton, NC, Lastly a host of nephews, nieces, cousins, extended family and friends all of who miss her dearly.

CLINTON

Carol Ann Bowers, 84, of 2205 Boykin Bridge Rd., passed away Monday, June 1, 2020 at Kitty Askins Hospice Center in Goldsboro. A funeral was held at 2 PM, Thursday, June 4th, at Grace United Methodist Church, with Rev. Tony Calhoun officiating. Interment was in the Clinton City Cemetery. The family received friends at the home. Carol, born in Kinston in 1935, was the daughter of the late David Vincent Broadway and Annie Lee Rhodes Broadway.



She worked with the Agriculture Extension in Kinston and later with Carolina Power and Light in Clinton. Carol was a member of Grace United Methodist Church. Survivors include; her husband of 62 years, Charles Ethan Bowers; daughters, Vicki Carol Bowers of Clinton and Donna Rose Bowers Odum and her husband Craig of Clinton; grandchildren, Meredith Hope Odum, Matthew Craig Odum, and Mackenzie Faith Odum; and great grandchildren, Briana Jade Melvin and Brayden Josiah Melvin. Memorials may be made to Grace United Methodist Church, 800 Smith Street, Clinton, NC 28328. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.crumpler-honeycutt.com. Arrangements are by Crumpler-Honeycutt Funeral Home, 118 Fayetteville St., Clinton, NC 28328.



DUNN

Mrs. Carrie Ann Heim West, 45, of Dunn died Monday, June 1, 2020 at her home. She was born on November 11, 1974 in Belvidere, Illinois to Thomas C. Heim and Marilyn Spurgeon. She was preceded in death by her step-father, William "Bill" K. Reagan. Carrie was a 1993 graduate of Belvidere High School in Belvidere, Illinois

and had worked for Morgan AMT in Dunn. The family will hold a memorial from 1 -4 p.m. Saturday, June 6, 2020 at the Banquet Hall at 110 S. Wilson Ave. Dunn. She is survived by her husband, Gary Mac West of Dunn; mother, Marilyn Spurgeon Reagan of Calabash; father; Thomas C. Heim and wife Soila of Garden Prairie, Illinois. son; Tyler Davisson of Dunn, daughter; Darian Locklear of Dunn, brothers; Keith Reagan of Machesney Park, Illinois., Rob Heim of Madison, Illinois., sisters; Laura S. Oller of Dunn, Kendra Savage and husband Adam of Shallotte, Rhonda Walton of Irvine, Kentucky., Kelly Meyer of Garden Prairie, Illinois and mother-in-law, Peggy McLeod of Dunn. Arrangements are by Skinner & Smith Funeral Home in Dunn.



FAYETTEVILLE

Mr. William "Bill" Purvis Faircloth, 85 went home to be with his Lord and Savior on May 29, 2020, surrounded by his family. He was a longtime resident of Fayetteville and spent many years as a builder and general contractor in Fayetteville and the surrounding area. He was a member of

Roseboro First Baptist Church where he served in the choir and as a Deacon. Bill was born on April 6, 1935 in Roseboro to the late Luther Malcolm Faircloth and Eva Lee Faircloth. He was a graduate of Roseboro High School and served 4 years in the US Air Force as a radio operator during the Korean War. In addition to his parents he is also preceded in death by his wife of 54 years, Sarah Catherine Grasham Faircloth. He is survived by his four children; six grandchildren, two brothers; one sister; cousins, other family and many friends and loved ones he considered to be family. Due to the COVID-19 limitations on public gatherings, a private service for immediate family was held at Roseboro First Baptist Church on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 11:00 am. The service will be available for streaming at the church's facebook website. A private burial will follow the church service. Family and friends had the opportunity to pay their respects to Bill on Tuesday, June 2 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the American Cancer Society or 3HC Hospice. The family would especially like to thank the staff of 3HC Hospice and the private caregivers who so lovingly cared for Mr. Faircloth at the end of his life. Bill will be truly missed by all of his family and friends. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC 28382.



WALLACE

Harold Lewis Hope II 36 passed away on Sunday, May 31, 2020 at his home. Born in Sampson County, NC to the late Harold Lewis Hope and to Charlotte Ann Jones, he worked as a forklift operator. He love his family, gaming and his cat. Harold is preceded in death by his father Harold Lewis Hope. Graveside service was held at 2:00

pm on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at Hope Family Cemetery, 309 Bobby Hope Road, Rosehill (Delway) with Pastor Jimmy Lassiter officiating. Harold leaves to cherish his memories: his mother Charlotte Ann Jones of the home, children: Talik C. Hope of Cypress Creek and Avion J. Murphy of Greenevers, sister: Jessica L. Hope of Rosehill, NC (Delway) half-sisters: Roxann Hinson (Kim) of Clinton, NC, Bonnie H. Williams (Ronnie) of Magnolia, NC and Crystal Herring (Bobby) of Kenner, NC.

DUNN

David "Shaun" Mason age 42, of Harnett Dunn Hwy., passed away Friday, May 29, 2020 at his residence with his loving family by his side. His graveside service was held Monday, June 1, 2020 at Reedy Prong Church Cemetery, Benson, beginning at 2:00 P.M. Officiating the service was Rev. Johnny Peterson. The family received family and friends at West & Dunn Funeral Home, Newton Grove on Sunday, May 31, 2020 from 5 till 7 p.m. Left to cherish his memories are his wife; Shae J. Mason, son: Brandon Mason of the home, daughters; Brandy Wilson of Newton Grove and Cyndil Dale-Lee and husband Matt of Dunn. Grandchildren; Dylan Wilson, Cheyenne Wilson, Ryland Lee and Sutherland Lee. Mother; Mary Mason of Clinton and brother; Jonathan Mason of Dunn. He was preceded in death by his father; David Mason. In light of the recent restrictions due to the CoronaVirus, the family understands if you can't join them for the service. Your thoughts and prayers are appreciated. Online condolences may be made at: www.westanddunn.com. Services have been entrusted to West & Dunn Funeral Homes, Inc., Newton Grove, North Carolina.



ROSEBORO

Rev. Glenn Elmer Morgan, 72 went to be with his Lord and Savior on Saturday, May 30, 2020. A Celebration of Life service was held at 1:00pm Thursday, June 4, 2020 at Butler Funeral Home, Roseboro, officiating will be Rev. Bryan Strickland. Burial followed at Roseboro Cemetery. He is

preceded in death by his parents, Elmer Glenn Morgan and Ruby Inez Carr Morgan; son, Johnny Elmer Morgan; brother, Wayne Morgan; and a son-in-law, Glenn Carlisle. Glenn was a truck driver for 47 years and was a retired minister for over 20 years, where he pastored at Faith Chapel Church of God in Roseboro. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Eloise Maynor Morgan of the home; daughters, Deborah Carlisle of Roseboro, and Monica Morgan Tanner and husband Kevin of Roseboro; son, Gerald Morgan of Florida; eight grandchildren, Deanna Ashford and husband Derrell, Glenna Carlisle, Marissa Boughton and husband Joe, Austin Tanner, Zachary Tanner, Trent Tanner, Alex Morgan, and Andrew Morgan; seven great-grandchildren; brother, Jerry Eugene Morgan and wife Teresa of Smithfield; and a sister, Sandra Morgan Autry and husband Stoney of Zebulon. The family received friends from 6:00pm to 8:00pm Wednesday, June 3 at Butler Funeral Home, Roseboro. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC 28382.



WARSAW

Mr. Christopher Thomas Schroeder Sr., 42, of 162 Meadowbrook Lane, passed away on Wednesday, May 27, 2020. Mr. Schroeder was born October 07, 1977 in California, he was preceded in death by his father; William Schroeder Sr. He was employed with Duplin Winery in Rose Hill,

NC. A Memorial Service will be held at 2:00 PM, Thursday, June 04, 2020 at Rockfish Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Wallace. Mr. Schroeder is survived by his wife; Jennifer Teves Schroeder, four daughters; Samantha Schroeder, Kaylyn Schroeder, Athena Schroeder and Trinity Schroeder, five sons; Christopher T. Schroeder, Jr., Zechariah Schroeder, Sonny Schroeder, Josiah Schroeder, and Jackson Schroeder, mother; Mary G. Schroeder, two sisters; Sabrina Cook and Melissa Montoya, three brothers; William Schroeder, Mack Schroeder and Cord Schroeder, mother-in-law; Sue Teves, sister-in-law; Kelly Berry, brother-in-law; Joseph Martinez and several nieces and nephews.



GARLAND

Mr. William Thomas Smith, 70, of 556 W. 2nd St. Garland, NC passed away Saturday May 30, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center in Clinton, NC. Mr. Smith was born April 07, 1950 in Sampson County, the son of the late Wade Vance Smith and Dorothy Louise Smith. Mr. Smith was a former employee of

Turlington Lumber Company and Tony's Cabinets. He was a former member and longtime attendee of the Garland Church of God of Prophecy. Mr. Smith was preceded in death by his wife; Helen Faye Smith, sister; Alice Johnson, two brothers; Donald Ray Smith, Wade Malcom Smith and granddaughter; Lindsay Jordan Spell. Funeral service was held at 2:00 PM Tuesday, June 02, 2020 at Garland Church of God of Prophecy. Interment to follow in the Garland Cemetery. Mr. Smith is survived by four daughters; Lisa Powell (Ricky), Wanda Johnson (Andy), Penny Spell all of Garland and Angela Spell (Randy) of Roseboro, two brothers; Leroy Smith (Mildred) and Bobby Smith (Glenda) both of Garland, two sisters; Shirley Tippet (Junior) of Burlington and Brenda Sessoms (Sonny) of Roseboro, 11 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. The family received friends prior to the service on Tuesday, June 02, 2020 from 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM at Garland Church of God of Prophecy.

FAYETTEVILLE

Mr. James Larry West, 67 went to be with his Lord and Savior on Monday, June 1, 2020. A celebration of life service will be held at 2:00pm Friday, June 5, 2020 at Concord Baptist Church in Autryville, officiating will be Rev. Larry Wilkes and Rev. Phil Lloyd. Burial will follow at Sharon Baptist Church in Fayetteville. Larry was born in Cumberland County on August 27, 1952 to the late Carl Braxton West and Selma Carter West. He is also preceded in death by a brother, Eddie West. Larry was a humble, loving servant of God. He was a proud and loving husband, father,



grandfather, brother and Pastor. He was Pastor at Concord Baptist Church for six years and also pastored at Faith Baptist Church in Bladen County. He is survived by his loving wife, Vickie West of the home; daughter, Candace Sowards & husband, Robert of Lexington, SC; son, Lance West & (Stacie) of Stedman; grandchildren, Clint and Megan Sowards, and Aidan Chavis; brother, GB West & wife, Peggy of Fayetteville; sister, Carolyn Eskew & husband, Donnie; and many nieces, nephews and cousins. The family received friends at the funeral home in Stedman from 6:00pm to 8:00pm Thursday, June 4, 2020. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Larry's honor to Sharon Baptist Church, 9957 Turnbull Road, Fayetteville, NC 28312. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 6535 Clinton Road, Stedman, NC 28391.

CLINTON

Mrs. Roberta Kay "Bobbie" Lundgren Page, 78, of Keener Road, Clinton, passed away at her home on Wednesday, May 27, 2020. Roberta was born on August 19, 1941 in Maryland to the late William Carl and Mabel Lundgren. She was a member of Grove Park Baptist Church and widow to James Theodore "JT" Page. She is survived by her children: Jonathan Duke of Florida; William "Bill" Duke, Donna Martin Baker and Warren "Dusty" Duke, all of Frederick, Maryland; Brother, Charles Lundgren and wife, Carol of Danville, Illinois. Grandchildren: Sherman Martin, Karla Martin Corob, Warren "Lee" Duke, Corey Duke, James "Jimmy" Duke and Beyla Duke. Great-Grandchildren: Josie Swire, Kayleighe Duke, Liam Corob and Ellie Corob. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, James Theodore "JT" Page and a great-grandson, Zachary Jace Warren. Royal-Hall is honored to serve the family.

ROSEBORO

Samuel Claude McMahan, 86, of 2204 Straw Pond School Road, passed away Thursday, June 4, 2020 at Rex Hospital. A graveside service will be held at 11 AM, Monday, June 8th at Mt. Elam Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Brandon Glunt officiating. The family will receive friends at the home. Samuel, born in Swain County in 1934, was the son of the late Voyd Bert McMahan and Sarah Elizabeth Simonds McMahan. He was a farmer and a Pilgrim of the Moose Lodge and the American Legion in Benson. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Alma Pearl Farmer McMahan, and siblings, James Burt McMahan, Robert Posey McMahan, Joseph Carol McMahan, Voyd McMahan, Jr. and Mary Elizabeth Bridges. He is survived by: daughter, Carolyn Bowden and husband Junior Thomas Bowden of Roseboro; grandsons, Charles Bowden and wife Penny of Raleigh, Lesley Bowden of Roseboro, and William Grant Bowden of Roseboro; great grandchildren, Kailey Allen, Jacob Allen, Samuel Bowden and William Bowden; brothers, Charles Lee McMahan and Gladys of Waynesville and David Earl McMahan of Andrews; sisters, Ruth Keener and husband John of Swannanoa, Grace Woods, husband Carrol of Bryson City, and Joyce Cagle of Cecilia, KY; sister-in-law, Evelyn McMahan of Lexington; and several nieces and nephews. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.crumpler-honeycutt.com. Arrangements are by Crumpler-Honeycutt Funeral Home, 118 Fayetteville St., Clinton, NC 28328.

To submit an obituary contact us at (910)590-6086 or email us at info@thesampsonweekly.com

SOMETIMES allowing yourself to cry is the scariest thing you'll ever do. And the bravest. It takes a lot of courage to face the facts, stare loss in the face, bare your heart and let it bleed. But it is the only way to cleanse your wounds and prepare them for healing. God will take care of the rest. - Barbara Johnson

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NASCAR THIS WEEK

The Daytona Beach News-Journal's Godwin Kelly & Ken Willis have covered NASCAR for nearly 80 years combined. godwin.kelly@news-jrnl.com and ken.willis@news-jrnl.com

SPEED FREAKS

A few questions we had to ask ourselves

Can you recall anyone having a more interesting run than Chase Elliott's last few weeks?

GODSPEAK: Not in recent memory. Elliott is like the sun, and everything NASCAR is orbiting around him right now.

KEN'S CALL: Any day now, I expect to turn on the 6 o'clock news and see him leading a high-speed chase across SR 53 outside Dawsonville.

After five Cup races since the return, do you miss fans in the stands?

GODSPEAK: Darlington was a bit spooky, but I'm used to it now. When the fans come back, I will miss those crazy, swooping drone shots by Fox.

KEN'S CALL: Not during the race, but afterward, it's odd. Can't say I "miss" them, but I feel for those who build annual trips around these things. It won't be long now, let's hope.

GODWIN'S PICKS FOR ATLANTA

WINNER: Kevin Harvick

REST OF TOP 5: Brad Keselowski, Chase Elliott, Erik Jones, Martin Truex Jr.

FIRST ONE OUT: Michael McDowell

DARK HORSE: Clint Bowyer

DON'T BE SURPRISED IF: This rough-and-tumble track favors a rough-and-tumble driver.

BY THE NUMBERS

11.9
Career average Atlanta finish by Matt Kenseth

10.34
Average running position at Atlanta by Brad Keselowski

1,138
Laps led at Atlanta by Kevin Harvick since 2005

133.870
Pole speed (mph) of Fireball Roberts at Atlanta in 1960

197.478
Track record pole speed (mph) of Geoff Bodine in 1997

MOTOR MOUTHS PODCAST

Godwin Kelly and Ken Willis are closing in on a combined eight decades of NASCAR coverage. Yes, they started young.

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



Brad Keselowski lifts the sword of victory after winning Sunday's Cup race at Bristol, which is called "The Last Great Colosseum." [AP/MARK HUMPHREY]

THROUGH THE GEARS:

Elliott gets limelight, Keselowski gets wins

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

Everything is happening so fast in NASCAR, we're out of breath trying to chase down all developments, including some bounty hunter money.

As the Cup Series plays catch-up with its regular season, competitors staged five races over 14 days and it seems like Chase Elliott's name pops up at every turn.

The clutch is in and it's time to stomp the gas pedal ...

FIRST GEAR: NASCAR's Most Popular Driver has been the center of attention since stock-car racing came off its coronavirus break.

Elliott lost two races he should have won, then beat nemesis Kyle Busch in a Truck Series event (May 26) at Charlotte Motor Speedway and collected a \$100,000 bounty, which is earmarked for charity.

After that, he won a Thursday night Cup Series race (May 28) at Charlotte, which had been scheduled for Wednesday, but postponed because of rain from a tropical storm.

Elliott was in the eye of another storm Sunday at Bristol Motor Speedway when he crashed out while fighting for the lead with Joey Logano on Lap 497 of 500.

"Oh, just going for the win, you know, trying to get a run underneath and got really loose-in," Elliott said. "As soon as I turned off the wall, I had zero chance of making it. I'll certainly take the blame."

Who benefited from the late-race, sheet-metal battle? Brad Keselowski, who stole the

Coca-Cola 600 (May 24) from Elliott with pit strategy, then scored his 32nd career win at Bristol.

"This team needs to go to Las Vegas," Keselowski said of his good luck in recent races. "Is it open yet?"

SECOND GEAR: Keselowski is getting a lot of attention right now because he has scored two Cup Series wins and stands fourth in the points standings.

The 36-year-old driver picked a good time to get hot because he doesn't have a contract with Team Penske beyond 2020. There is talk the No. 48 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet, now wheeled by Jimmie Johnson, could come into play.

"I haven't put that much thought into anything other than competing and winning and wanting to be in a spot to compete and win for a long time," Keselowski said after winning Bristol.

THIRD GEAR: NASCAR will continue its stay-close-to-home schedule when it heads to Atlanta Motor Speedway for a triple-header this weekend.

There's a Truck-Xfinity Series doubleheader on Saturday followed by a Cup race on Sunday.

The formula stays the same. A lot of face masks and gloves, but no practice, no qualifying and no fans allowed.

"I said earlier this week that I feel like NASCAR struck gold with these formats," Keselowski said.

FOURTH GEAR: Atlanta may be the track that gets Kevin Harvick's season back into high gear.

Since making his Cup debut there in 2001, he has led 1,197 laps. But who is the defending Atlanta race winner? Keselowski, of course.

QUESTIONS & ATTITUDE

Compelling questions ... and maybe a few actual answers

He wants an apology? Seriously?

First off, the crew here at the NASCAR This Week shop generally like Joey Logano and his joyful manner, not to mention his racing ability. But sometimes we shake our heads, as we did Sunday when Joey complained that he didn't get an apology from Chase Elliott after their dust-up during Bristol's closing laps. "I had to force an apology, which to me is childish," Joey said in the aftermath, and in a kinda-sort way, we agree with him. Kinda childish for a guy who entered his 30s last week and plays a grown man's game.

No blame for Chase?

You could suggest he should've known his car wouldn't stick through that turn and therefore should've lifted, but it was his only chance to win. Other than that, no apology is really necessary when both guys know exactly what happened and why. Move along.

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

CUP STANDINGS

1. Kevin Harvick	370
2. Joey Logano	346
3. Chase Elliott	325
4. Brad Keselowski	315
5. Alex Bowman	289
6. Martin Truex Jr.	280
7. Denny Hamlin	276
8. Ryan Blaney	274
9. Kyle Busch	256
10. Kurt Busch	253
11. Aric Almirola	240
12. Clint Bowyer	232
13. Matt DiBenedetto	230
14. Erik Jones	228
15. Jimmie Johnson	223
16. Austin Dillon	221
17. William Byron	216
18. Tyler Reddick	186
19. Chris Buescher	179
20. John Hunter Nemechek	165

WHAT'S ON TAP

(All times Eastern)

CUP SERIES: Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500

SITE: Atlanta Motor Speedway (1.54-mile oval)

SCHEDULE: Sunday, race (Fox, 3 p.m.)

CUP SERIES: Blue Emu Maximum Pain Relief 500

SITE: Martinsville Raceway (.526-mile oval)

TV SCHEDULE: June 10, race (Fox Sports 1, 7 p.m.)

XFINITY: Echo Park 250

SITE: Atlanta Motor Speedway

TV SCHEDULE: Saturday, race (Fox, 4:30 p.m.)

GANDER RV & OUTDOORS TRUCK

SERIES: Camping World 200

SITE: Atlanta Motor Speedway

TV SCHEDULE: Saturday, race (Fox Sports 1, 1 p.m.)



KEN WILLIS' TOP 10 NASCAR DRIVER RANKINGS

BRAD KESELOWSKI	KEVIN HARVICK	CHASE ELLIOTT	DENNY HAMLIN	JOEY LOGANO	KYLE BUSCH Two-time	KURT BUSCH Three-time	RYAN BLANEY	ERIK JONES Will finish	AUSTIN DILLON
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Best Milkshake: _____	Best Hunting Supplies: _____	Best Salad Bar: _____
Best Ice Cream: _____	Best Deli/Bakery: _____	Best Body Shop: _____
Best Yogurt: _____	Best Place to Buy Groceries: _____	Best Place to Buy a Lawnmower: _____
Best Steak: _____	Best Sales Team: _____	Best Hardware Store: _____
Best Hot Dog: _____	Best Service Department: _____	Best Tax Preparer: _____
Best Fried Chicken: _____	Best Home Improvement Business: _____	Best Place to Buy Auto Parts: _____
Best Seafood: _____	Best Place to Buy a New Vehicle: _____	Best Bank: _____
Best Doctor: _____	Best Place to Buy a Used Vehicle: _____	Best Bank Teller: _____
Best Nurse: _____	Best Insurance Agency: _____	Best Barber: _____
Best Police Officer: _____	Best Slaw: _____	Best Fountain Drinks: _____
Best Sheriff Deputy: _____	Best Hushpuppies: _____	Best Jewelry Repair: _____
Best Principal: _____	Best Iced Tea: _____	Best Child Care Center: _____
Best Teacher: _____	Best Coffee: _____	Best Place for Wings: _____
Best Grocery Store: _____	Best Meat Department: _____	Best Place to Buy Office Supplies: _____
Best Place To Buy Appliances: _____	Best Place to Buy Shoes: _____	Best Desserts: _____
Best Place To To Buy Furniture: _____	Best Place to Buy Women's Clothes: _____	Best Chiropractor: _____
Best Place To Buy A Cell Phone: _____	Best Place to Buy Men's Clothes: _____	Best Dry Cleaner: _____
Best Place To Buy Gas: _____	Best Place to Buy Children's Clothes: _____	Best Computer Repair: _____
Best Place To Go on a Date: _____	Best Place to Buy Antiques: _____	Best Place to Buy Flooring: _____
Best Place to Celebrate a Child's B-Day: _____	Best Roofer: _____	Best Place to Buy A Mattress: _____
Best Veterinarian: _____	Best Pharmacy: _____	Best Pest Control Service: _____
Best Mechanic: _____	Best Real Estate Agency: _____	Best Photographer: _____
Best DJ: _____	Best Hairstylist: _____	Best Surgeon: _____
Best Place to Get Your Oil Changed: _____	Best Florist: _____	Best Plumber: _____
Best Place to Buy a Gift: _____	Best Landscaper: _____	Best Place to Buy Vacuum Cleaner: _____
Best Jewelry Store: _____	Best Tanning Salon: _____	Best Fire Department: _____
Best Eye Doctor: _____	Best Elected Official: _____	Best Rescue Squad: _____
Best Dentist: _____	Best Convenience Store: _____	Best Pet Groomer: _____
Best Attorney: _____	Best Mexican Food: _____	Best Insurance Agent: _____
Best Manicure/Pedicure: _____	Best Chinese Food: _____	You Write In Your Favorite Category/Winner: _____

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