



SAMPSON COUNTY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

The Sampson Weekly



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Week of May 8-14, 2020


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Governor Cooper Announces Modified Stay At Home Order and Transition to Phase 1 of Easing Restrictions



New order takes effect Friday, May 8 at 5 pm - Personal care businesses, entertainment venues, gyms to remain closed

Governor Roy Cooper on Tuesday signed Executive Order No. 138 to modify North Carolina's Stay At Home order and transition to Phase 1 of slowly easing certain COVID-19 restrictions effective Friday, May 8 at 5 pm. Certain businesses remain closed as the state continues battling COVID-19. **PHASE 1, see P. 3**

Two Infants and Two Children Test Positive for Covid-19 This Week



On Friday, the Sampson County Health Department is reporting 11 new cases which brings the total to 140 positive cases of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). On Wednesday the county released that two infants and two children had tested positive as well.

According to the Sampson County Health Department, "Their ages are: 1 month, 3 months, 4 years and 10 years. The infants and children have been linked to positive cases in the home. Although children are generally at lower risk for severe infection, some studies indicate a higher risk among infants, according to the CDC. Guidance for individuals and families to prevent the spread of infection can be found here: <https://www.nc-dhhs.gov/.../covid19/individuals-and-families...>"

As we are approaching the beginning of Phase I of the Governor's plan to reopen our state, as well as Mother's Day weekend, we urge you to continue to take precautions to protect you and your family's health. Remember the 3 "W's": Wait 6 feet from others in line; Wash your hands frequently for at least twenty seconds; and Wear a cloth face covering to protect your nose and mouth. Doing these simple measures will ensure we can continue with the Governor's plan to reopen NC.

Please be reminded that if you think you have the Coronavirus, call your health care provider so that he/she can evaluate your symptoms and provide the best course of action. Please stay at home and call your doctor if you have fever of 100.4 or higher, cough, or shortness of breath.

COVID testing numbers for Sampson County as of May 8, 2020:
Total Number of Tests Performed: 508
Positive Test Results: 140 (41 recovered)
Negative Test Results: 323
Pending Results: 43
Deaths: 1

Sampson County Health Department urges you to protect yourself by following these simple measures: social distancing (maintaining 6-feet away from others), avoid touching your face, wear protective face covering when in public, cover your cough, wash your hands and disinfect surfaces frequently.

WEATHER

Fri	Partly Cloudy	20%
Hi: 71°	Lo: 46°	
Sat	Sunny	10%
Hi: 76°	Lo: 56°	
Sun	Sunny	10%
Hi: 85°	Lo: 67°	
Mon	Partly Cloudy	0%
Hi: 84°	Lo: 60°	
Tues	Scattered T-Storms	50%
Hi: 73°	Lo: 56°	
Wed	Rain	30%
Hi: 73°	Lo: 53°	

FATAL COLLISION- VICTIM SUCCUMBS TO INJURIES



On 4 May 2020, the Sampson County Sheriff's Office received information from Bladen County regarding a possible unreported single vehicle hit and run collision that may have occurred in Sampson county, in which one of the passengers had received severe injuries and was on life support at Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville, NC3 **CRASH, see P. 3**

WEEKLY VERSE

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...
Romans 5:1

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910-590-2102

CORONAVIRUS HELPFUL TIPS FROM THE CDC



wear a mask

You should wear a facemask when you are sick and you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask, then you should do your best to cover your coughs and sneezes.

To learn more, visit www.cdc.gov.

LOCAL NEWS

From the Desk of Senator Brent Jackson



This past weekend, the NC General Assembly passed S.B. 704 (COVID-19 Recovery Act) and H.B. 1043 (2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act). Both pieces of legislation address the first phase of our state's response to the COVID-19 epidemic. H.B. 1043 addresses our state's initial economic package while S.B. 704 provides numerous policy changes and enacts flexibility for current rules and procedures.

After a long week of negotiations between legislative bodies and leaders from both parties, the consensus agreement created a 1.57 billion dollar spending package to assist all industries and citizens across the state.

The details of both bills are as follows:

\$50 million for PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)

\$150 million to all Counties- \$250,000 base to each county, to start

Expected County Total:

\$821,312 to Sampson County

\$2,706,278 to Johnston County

\$759,388 to Duplin County

Policy Changes:

- Allows marriage certificates, other notary services, and oaths to be issued remotely.
- Waives interest payments on state income and business taxes
- Waives end-of-year K-12 testing requirements and school performance grades
- Waives interest on outstanding UNC System student debt and tuition
- Provides school calendar flexibility
- Streamlines emergency unemployment benefits
- Waives teacher and school administrator licensing requirements

Extends DMV License and Registration Expiration Dates for 5 Months

The new law also authorizes the DMV to waive any penalties for a late registration renewal during the extension period. Customers who already paid a \$15 fee for a late renewal in March or April will be reimbursed. The five-month extension applies to any credential that expires on or after March 1, and before August 1. For a full list of extensions, click [here](#).

Additional Appropriations:

-\$70 million for State Government operations

-\$300 million for the Highway Fund Maintenance Reserve

-\$75 million to the Department of Public Instruction for School Nutrition

-\$20 million to Local Department of Health and Human Services

-\$6 million to Food Banks

-\$25 million for Testing, Tracing, and Trends

-\$125 million to the Golden LEAF Foundation for Small Business Loan Assistance Program

-\$20 million to State agencies

-\$100k to Wake Forest University Health Services for COVID-19 research data for future legislative committees

-\$1 million to the Department of Public Instruction for improving Internet connectivity through extended -reach mobile wifi gateway router devices in school buses.

-\$11 million to the Department of Public Instruction for improving Internet connectivity for students through mobile Internet access points.

-\$30 million to the Department of Public Instruction for computers or other electronic devices for use by certain public school students in response to COVID-19.

-\$5 million to the Department of Public Instruction for certain public schools to provide computers or other electronic devices for use by school personnel.

-\$4.5 million to the Department of Public Instruction to establish a shared cybersecurity infrastructure and district cybersecurity monitoring and support.

-\$10 million to the Department of Public Instruction for school health support personnel for physical and mental health support services for students, including remote services.

-\$70 million to the Department of Public Instruction for certain public schools to provide a supplemental summer learning program

-\$1.488 million to the Department of Public Instruction for public school units to provide remote instruction.

-\$3 million to the Department of Public Instruction to provide nondigital remote instruction resources to students with limited connectivity.

-\$15 million to the Department of Public Instruction for grants to public school units for extraordinary costs of providing Extended School Year Services or future services for exceptional children.

-\$660,029 to the Department of Public Instruction for the Governor Morehead School for the Blind, the Eastern NC School for the Deaf, and the NC School for the Deaf for school nutrition, cleaning, sanitizing, remote learning, compensatory services, and Extended School Year Services.

-\$5 million to the Department of Public Instruction for the Extended Learning and Integrated Student Supports Competitive Grant Program.

-\$25 million to Community Colleges

-\$44.4 million to the Board of Governors of UNC for increased costs for online coursework, implementation of digital learning accelerator, providing sanitation and other expenses for ongoing campus operations, covering necessary eligible expenses for students and employees.

-\$20 million to the Board Of Governors of UNC for postsecondary institutions to transition to online education.

-\$15 million for the Duke University Human Vaccine Institute to develop a COVID-19 vaccine.

-\$29 million to UNC-Chapel Hill to allocate to the NC Policy Collaboratory for the development of countermeasures, a vaccine, community testing initiatives, and other research to address the health and economic impacts of COVID-19.

-\$15 million to the Brody School of Medicine at ECU

-\$6 million for Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine

-\$20 million to Wake Forest University Health Services

-\$290k to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, to provide funds for the LINKS program, a foster care support program for youth ages 13-21 years.

-\$25 million to the Department of Health and Human Services for State-County Special Assistance

-\$50 million to the Department of Health and Human Services for rural and underserved communities for health provider grants, Medicaid assistance for rural hardship grants, enhanced telehealth services, critical services transportation, health care security for the uninsured.

-\$5 million for NC Association of Free and Charitable Clinics for the cost of eligible health services provided during COVID-19.

-\$1.5 million to the Department of Health and Human Services to provide a grant to NC MedAssist

-\$5 million to the NC Community Health Centers Association for the cost of eligible health services provided during COVID-19.

-\$20 million to the Department of Health and Human Services to provide funds to support behavioral health and crisis services.

-\$19 million to the Department of Health and Human Services to provide for food banks, support for residential settings incurring additional costs to mitigate COVID-19 positive cases, adjust and child protective services response, support for homeless and domestic violence shelters, child care response, NCCARE360, and technology changes to support emergency relief to beneficiaries.

-\$1.8 million to Old North State Medical Society for rural and African American communities to address COVID-19.

-\$65 million for a grant to NC Healthcare Foundation for grants to hospitals designated by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services as critical access hospitals or non-critical access rural hospitals to offset response care for COVID-19.

-\$15 million to establish the COVID-19 Teaching Hospitals Relief Fund for grants to hospitals classified as teaching hospitals by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

-\$15 million to establish the COVID-19 General Hospitals Relief Fund to hospitals not eligible for grants -from NCHF or the COVID-19 Teaching Hospitals Relief Fund.

-\$2.25 million to Division of Social Services (DHHS) for serving children in foster care during the COVID-19 emergency

-\$15 million to the Department of Agriculture for animal depopulation and disposal.

-\$5 million to the Department of Commerce for stimulus investment in Visit NC to develop safe travel concepts and strategies and research tools and analysis.

-\$9 million to the Department of Information Technology for funding the remaining portion of all qualifying GREAT program applications.

Appropriations for our district's hospitals are submitted and calculated by the federal government. Our office should have a more clear understanding of the exact dollar amount each is set to receive within the next week.

As we know, North Carolinians are hurting. And I believe that this piece of legislation addresses many in need throughout our state. The legislation contains ideas from both parties in both chambers; and the governor. It truly is bi-partisan. We know that this does not fix every issue or solve every problem, but it is a great start. The General Assembly will be back in session later this month and we plan to address outstanding issues through additional future legislation.

Again, I wish everyone a great rest of their week and please continue to stay safe. I am confident we will come out of this situation better than ever before.

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

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National Hospital Week highlights the work of hospitals and health systems in their communities. It's a time we set aside to celebrate and thank our healthcare workers.

In the midst of COVID-19, this week emphasizes, even more, the importance of strong healthcare in a rural community like ours. This pandemic also reminds us as we celebrate our healthcare professions how honored we are to serve you!

So as we celebrate our healthcare workers this week, we also pause to THANK YOU! Words do not express our gratitude for this community's support. We are humbly appreciative of your thoughts, hero mail, silent support, donations, and gifts of food and supplies. Thank you for staying home to let us fight for you. Thank you for your encouragement. Thank you for the generosity and outpouring of love and support for our team members. We are deeply proud to serve you!

With gratitude on behalf us all,

Shawn Howerton M.D.

Shawn Howerton, MD
Chief Executive & Medical Officer

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What's Happening at SCT



PHASE 1, cont. from P. 1

"COVID-19 is still a serious threat to our state, and Phase 1 is designed to be a limited easing of restrictions that can boost parts of our economy while keeping important safety rules in place," said Governor Cooper. "This is a careful and deliberate first step, guided by the data, and North Carolinians still must use caution while this virus is circulating."

"We must continue to protect our families and neighbors as we take this cautious step forward. When you leave your home, follow the three W's: Wear a face covering, wash your hands, and wait six feet apart," said Dr. Mandy Cohen, Secretary of the NC Department of Health and Human Services.

Tuesday's Order removes the distinction between essential and non-essential businesses. Retail businesses are allowed to open at 50% capacity and will be required to direct customers to stand 6 feet apart, perform frequent cleanings, provide hand sanitizer when available, screen workers for symptoms and more. The Order allows people to leave their homes for commercial activity at any business that is open.

Certain businesses remain closed, including bars, personal care businesses, entertainment venues, and gyms. Restaurants may only continue to serve customers for drive-through, take-out and delivery.

All workers at retail and other businesses are recommended to wear cloth face coverings. Teleworking is still encouraged for businesses that can practice it.

Though small outdoor gatherings will be allowed in Phase 1, gatherings of more than 10 people generally are still prohibited. The Order encourages cloth face coverings to be worn when outside the home and in contact with others. Everyone who uses a face covering should adhere to this guidance without fear of profiling or bias.

During Phase 1, childcare facilities will be open to serve families of parents who are working or looking for work. These centers will be required to follow strict cleaning protocols. Summer day camps can operate in compliance with NC DHHS guidelines.

In explaining Tuesday's Order, Governor Cooper and Secretary Cohen reported North Carolina remains stable on the following key metrics:

Trajectory in COVID-Like Illness (CLI) Surveillance Over 14 Days
 -North Carolina's syndromic surveillance trend for COVID-like illness is decreasing.

Trajectory of Lab-Confirmed Cases Over 14 Days
 -North Carolina's trajectory of lab-confirmed cases over the last 14 days cases is slightly increasing.

Trajectory in Percent of Tests Returning Positive Over 14 Days
 -North Carolina's trajectory in percent of tests returning positive over the last 14 days is decreasing.

Trajectory in Hospitalizations Over 14 Days
 -North Carolina's trajectory of hospitalizations over the last 14 days is level.

In addition to these metrics, the state continues building capacity to be able to adequately respond to an increase in virus spread. These areas include:

Laboratory Testing
 -North Carolina has doubled the daily testing rate.

Tracing Capability
 -The Carolina Community Tracing Collaborative has received over 4,000 applications and is in the process of hiring 250 new contact tracers.

Personal Protective Equipment
 -Supply chains continue to improve with the exception of gowns.

The order is in effect until 5 pm on Friday, May 22. However, the end of this Order does not necessarily mean the state will move to Phase 2. Phase 2 will only start if data and indicators are in the right place.

Disney's The Little Mermaid is on its way but is at a stand-still currently as we are waiting for social distancing to ease and get us back into the theatre. Our production will be held during the summer and we will keep you posted on new dates as we continue to hope for a quick reset to our audiences and social norms. The production of Disney's The Little Mermaid is sponsored by David H. Hobson, Attorney at Law and directed by Angela Martin.

Our season is at a stand-still but our season shows have been established. Our current season includes:
 -Disney's The Little Mermaid
 -Memphis the Musical
 -Boeing, Boeing
 -The Cemetery Club
 -A Christmas Carol

We hope to bring you entertainment soon.

We are also thrilled to show you our updated lobby and bathrooms as we prepare for the season. We have been busy over the past few months to make our building one to be proud of and we hope you love the new renovations as much as we do. We will keep you posted on when you will be able to see our new look, until then, please stay healthy, stay happy and stay safe.

Caring For Community: Neighbors Helping Neighbors

The story of COVID-19 is one that is being written day-by-day. The number of people impacted by job loss is unfathomable. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, South River EMC is committed to helping members and the community.

Many people have had to delay paying critical bills in order to put food on the table while they await an unemployment check. It's time to come together to help our neighbors and friends.

South River EMC has two programs designed to assist members and to provide a mechanism for members of the community to help one another.

Operation Round Up is a program that raises money through member donations and it is managed through a non-profit foundation. This program has distributed \$2.3 million in grant funds to non-profit organizations throughout the community since 2007. Donations are tax deductible and go to agencies that are assisting members.

Helping Hands is a relatively new program. Helping Hands supports members with a one-time payment toward electric bills. Qualifying members can receive up to \$150 toward their bill annually. Donations to this program are not tax deductible.

If you have questions, or are interested in donating, email connections@sremc.com with 'Donations' as the subject line, or call 910.230.2982.

South River EMC is a locally-owned and operated electric cooperative, which provides electric service to nearly 45,000 homes, farms and businesses in parts of Harnett, Cumberland, Sampson, Johnston and Bladen counties.

CRASH, cont. from P. 1

The Sampson County Sheriff's Office contacted the North Carolina State Highway Patrol and both agencies immediately began an investigation. The passenger, Carlos Campos, 49 of Garland on May 4 was transported by Bladen County EMS to Bladen County Hospital in Elizabethtown from a residence. Due to the severity of his injuries he was transported to Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville, NC. On May 6, 2020, he succumbed to his injuries at Cape Fear Valley Hospital.

Through a thorough investigation, on May 7, 2020, the North Carolina State Highway Patrol with the assistance of the Sampson County Sherriff's Office obtained enough probable cause to charge Juan Martinez, 47 of Garland, NC with Felony Hit and Run and Misdemeanor Death by Motor Vehicle.

The investigation revealed the collision occurred on May 3, 2020, on SR 1156 at the intersection of SR 1137 approximately 5 miles north of Garland.

The investigation is still ongoing. Anyone who has any additional information should contact the North Carolina State Highway Patrol at (910) 592-3141.

The arrest was made possible from the cooperation of concerned citizens, and an outstanding working partnership between the Sampson County Sheriff's Office and North Carolina State Highway.

This is the second fatal collision investigation by the Highway Patrol in Sampson County in year.

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LOCAL NEWS

School Buses to Serve as Wi-Fi Hot Spots for Remote Learning



Donations from AT&T, Duke Energy Foundation, Google to help equip more than 280 school buses with Wi-Fi

Starting this week, additional school buses will bring internet access to communities without it to help more North Carolina students connect to school online. Governor Roy Cooper announced the plan to equip more school buses with hotspots following the announcement that K-12 public schools would continue remote learning through the end of this school year.

"In many communities, school buses are already delivering meals to students and their families. Now they're delivering Wi-Fi for online learning," Governor Cooper said.

As many as 280 more school buses will be equipped with Wi-Fi thanks to donations from AT&T, Google and Duke Energy Foundation. AT&T and Google are providing up to 100 Wi-Fi hot spots each and the Duke Energy Foundation is providing up to 80. The first 156 devices are expected to be delivered starting today to communities in 29 counties across the state.

At Governor Cooper's request, NCDIT is working with the North Carolina Business Committee on Education (NCBCE) and Hometown Strong as well as providers and other corporate partners to help more students who lack home internet access get connected during this time, including through installing Wi-Fi technology on more school buses.

The buses will travel to underserved areas in school districts and park in designated locations, such as a school nutrition meal distribution site or a grocery store, so students can use this temporary access to turn in assignments, download materials and connect with teachers. The drive-up Wi-Fi access will also be available for all residents in the communities to use to connect to healthcare providers, apply for unemployment, and access other critical information and services while exercising appropriate social distancing precautions.

These buses will join the hundreds of other free Wi-Fi hotspots from providers across the state who are already providing locations where residents can access the internet during this crisis.

"We are deeply thankful to all the vendors and service providers who are stepping up to help our children and our communities," NCDIT Secretary and State Chief Information Officer Tracy Doaks said. "Their response — including offers for free or affordable service, without fees or penalties — is helping keep North Carolina connected during this critical time."

Schools in Avery, Bertie, Bladen, Burke, Caswell, Chowan, Columbus, Duplin, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gaston, Gates, Halifax, Harnett, Hertford, Johnston, Martin, Montgomery, Northampton, Perquimans, Person, Randolph (includes Asheboro City Schools), Robeson, Sampson (includes Clinton City Schools), Scotland, Tyrrell, Vance, Wayne, Warren and Yadkin counties will receive the first 156 Wi-Fi hotspots. A team from the NCDIT Broadband Infrastructure Office, Hometown Strong and the N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) began delivering the hotspots the afternoon of Tuesday, May 5, to local education advisors. Outreach to other school systems to determine the location of additional hot spots is ongoing.

Local school officials will determine the exact locations and schedules for school bus Wi-Fi hot spots in their communities. Additional information, including links for locations, will be added to NCDIT's webpage when available at www.ncbroadband.gov/covid19. The webpage also includes a map of other public Wi-Fi drive-up locations, as well as a listing of free or low-cost options for internet ser-

vice during the pandemic. This list is updated as new offers and locations are added.

NCDIT's Broadband Infrastructure Office used data from Federal Communication Commission and NCDPI's school survey to identify counties with the most households unserved and underserved by high-speed internet. Working with partners at NCDPI, they then cross-referenced that information with counties using school buses to deliver meals to students, as well as information about cellular coverage, to determine where school bus Wi-Fi hot spots can be most useful. Some counties are already using school buses to provide internet access.

Quotes from Partners

AT&T: "Just as all our lives are being impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, we all can play a part in helping our neighbors and our communities come through these days," said Trey Rabon President of AT&T North Carolina. "As part of our company's community-focused 'Believe' initiative, we are honored to support NCBCE in helping students have the resources needed for distance learning."

Duke Energy: "Families and students are facing significant and new challenges as they transition to remote learning," said Stephen De May, Duke Energy's North Carolina president. "We're proud to partner with NCBCE on an innovative solution to bring internet to students who may not have access at home."

Google: Lily Hester, Head of External Affairs - Southeast, Google, who serves as vice chairwoman of NCBCE and Chairwoman of the NCBCE Remote Learning Working Group stated: "Google was excited to work with Caldwell County leaders to turn our Rolling Studies Hall program into Rolling Hotspots, and we are thrilled to now team with NCBCE's remote learning task force to expand the program as part of a collective effort to make it possible for more students to engage in school work during the stay-home period. Bridging the digital divide is a top priority for everyone, and we are grateful to North Carolina's elected officials for helping to make these kinds of public-private partnerships possible."

NCDPI: "We appreciate this generous support for our districts that need it most," NC Superintendent of Public Instruction Mark Johnson said. "We will face many challenges, but working together, we will come out of this crisis stronger."

State Board of Education: Eric Davis, Chairman of the State Board of Education stated: "The State Board of Education works to ensure digital equity for the state's public school students. This partnership with AT&T, Google and the Duke Energy Foundation will allow more access for some of our most underserved counties. The Board's ultimate goal is to eliminate the digital divide to allow the same access for each and every child. These Wi-Fi hotspots are a start to getting these counties the resources they need to serve students despite their location."



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North Carolina School Superintendents' Association- Next Generation Superintendent Development Program Cohort VII



Dr. Wesley Scott Johnson completes the North Carolina School Superintendents' Association Next Generation Superintendent Development Program Clinton City Schools' Superintendent Dr. Wesley Scott Johnson was among 45 superintendents from across the state to graduate from the NCSSA Next Generation Superintendent Development Program Cohort VII. The program is designed to support the growth, expansion and enhancement of superintendents using the North Carolina Superintendent Standards, said Mr. Jack Hoke, Executive Director of the NC School Superintendents' Association.

The year-long program was comprised of six face-to-face sessions that guided superintendents as they reflected on and improved their effectiveness as district leaders; focused on their personal leadership goals; linked their personal goals with district and state goals; and guided and facilitated the professional development of superintendents toward advanced levels of executive leadership as defined by the North Carolina Standards for Superintendents.

Mr. Hoke stated, "In addition to participating in high-quality professional development, Dr. Johnson developed a strong network of superintendents to consult with and he contributed to the discussion on emerging issues and innovative practices occurring in Clinton City Schools."

Regarding the program, Dr. Johnson stated, "The NCSSA Next Generation Superintendent Development Program gave me an opportunity to network with other superintendents from across the state and discuss trending issues and innovative practices in education. The program is designed to assist superintendents in the complex work of leading and guiding a school district. I appreciate the NC School Superintendents' Association for organizing and delivering the program and for bringing all the superintendents together for this great professional development and growth opportunity."

Press Release from Daniel Ruggles, Clinton City Council District 1 concerning the Covid-19 response



"My name is Daniel Ruggles and I'm the Clinton City Councilman for District 1. For weeks I've watched as family owned businesses have struggled to work around illogical social distancing rules that are destroying them while Lowe's and Walmart are packed. While every one is using the same door handle at the post office and the ABC store, barbers are sitting home afraid to lose their state license if they cut one strand of hair. Barbers are trained and licensed on safety and good hygiene, unlike the cashier who has adjusted his face mask for the 5th time and keeps putting it under his chin while talking. Barbers could safely deal with 1 person at a time with proper PPE, but no, they get zero options. Restaurants that don't already have a drive thru or delivery are getting hammered while Dominoes is killing it.

The goal was to "flatten the curve". We achieved that. Hospitals are not overwhelmed. Now it's "public safety" forced upon us by threat of arrest by the Clinton Police Department who is sworn to uphold the constitution, not the Governors Emergency Order that still doesn't have concurrence of the council of state. If challenged in the courts it will take time and at the state level controlled by Democrats will fail. By the time it gets through the courts, the local businesses struggling (mostly single stream incomes) will be bankrupt.

Ribeyes's Steakhouse in Clinton is a prime example. Trey and Kristen Cummings have over the years built a solid business. They have always been extremely supportive and proactive in the Clinton community. After a recent hurricane, they donated, grilled and fed the community hundreds of pounds of meat from their own restaurant freezer. Recently, Kristen was diagnosed with cancer and has started treatment. This past Monday she had her third round of chemo and then on Wednesday the CPD threatened misdemeanor's to anyone eating outside on the patio with proper social distancing. I, Daniel, am wanting to sit with my single serve "to-go" food in single use disposable food containers on the patio at Ribeyes, socially distanced and hungry.

I feel like if We the People don't stand up for folks and situations like Trey and Kristin's today, next time we won't be able to.

Again, the original goal wasn't to keep everyone from getting coronavirus but to flatten the curve."

Daniel E Ruggles- Councilman, District 1 City of Clinton



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LOCAL

NCDA&CS monitoring for Asian Giant Hornet; not detected yet in state Asian Giant Hornet is aka “Murder Hornet”



RALEIGH -- With the emergence of the Asian Giant Hornet in Washington State, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer services is urging North Carolina residents to be vigilant and report potential sightings of the pest.

Asian Giant Hornets are the world’s largest species of hornet, measuring about 1.5-2

inches long. They have an orange-yellow head and prominent eyes, with black and yellow stripes on their abdomens. The hornet is not known to occur in North Carolina, and NCDA&CS apiary staff have been actively monitoring for the pest with no detections to date.

“The Asian Giant Hornet is a threat to honeybees and can rapidly destroy beehives, but it generally does not attack people or pets,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “There are many wasp and hornet look-alikes that are beneficial insects, so residents are asked to exercise caution before deciding to kill any large hornets.”

Cicada killers and European hornets do occur in North Carolina and can be confused with the Asian Giant Hornet. Residents can visit <https://agr.wa.gov/.../insec.../insects/hornets/size-comparisons> to see a photo of the Asian Giant Hornet along with common look-alikes.

If you think you have seen an Asian Giant Hornet, take a photo and submit it to the North Carolina State University’s Plant Disease and Insect Clinic. Instructions on digital submission can be found at <https://projects.ncsu.edu/.../exten.../clinic/submit-sample.html> under Option 3.

For more information about the Asian Giant Hornet please visit the NCSU Cooperative Extension or read our pest alert at <https://www.ncagr.gov/.../docum.../AsianGiantHornetPestWatch.pdf>.

Golden LEAF Foundation awards \$500,000 in scholarship funds to community college students affected by COVID-19

The Golden LEAF Foundation has awarded \$500,000 to the North Carolina Community College System to create a scholarship fund for community college students affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The State Board of Community Colleges acted April 17 to approve the expenditure of \$500,000 from the Golden LEAF Scholarship COVID-19 Fund, to be distributed during the current academic year.

The Golden LEAF Scholarship COVID-19 Fund will serve community college students who live in eligible rural counties that are tobacco-dependent or economically distressed, demonstrate financial need and have been affected by COVID-19.

The scholarships are available to students now through June 2020. To access these funds, students can contact a participating community college financial aid office. The participating colleges are: Bladen, Blue Ridge, Brunswick, Cape Fear, Carteret, Central Carolina, Coastal Carolina, Craven, Davidson County, Durham Technical, Edgecombe, Fayetteville Technical, Forsyth Technical, Halifax, James Sprunt, Lenoir, Martin, Mayland, McDowell Technical, Montgomery, Pamlico, Piedmont, Pitt, Richmond, Roanoke-Chowan, Robeson, Sampson, South Piedmont, Southeastern, Southwestern, Stanly, Surry, Wayne and Wilson community colleges; Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute; and College of the Albemarle.

Community colleges moved their instruction to an online format when the pandemic hit, and most face-to-face classes were suspended. The colleges also continue to offer instruction for nurses, respiratory therapists and first responders who are critical to the state’s response to COVID-19.

These changes combined with other challenges, such as increasing unemployment, have created financial barriers for many students.

“We are grateful to Golden LEAF for its support of our students during this time of great need,” said Peter Hans, president of the NC Community College System. “Many students have encountered significant financial hardships resulting from the pandemic. The Golden LEAF Scholarship COVID-19 Funds will help students continue their educational journey and succeed in their career goals.”

Each year, the foundation provides funding to support the Golden LEAF Scholarship Program for community colleges. Since 2001, more than 16,000 students from the NC Community College System have received scholarship funds from the program.

“Golden LEAF is proud to help support the development of the talent, knowledge and skills of our rural workforce,” said Scott T. Hamilton, Golden LEAF president and chief executive officer. “We see this investment as critical to the success of our rural communities.”

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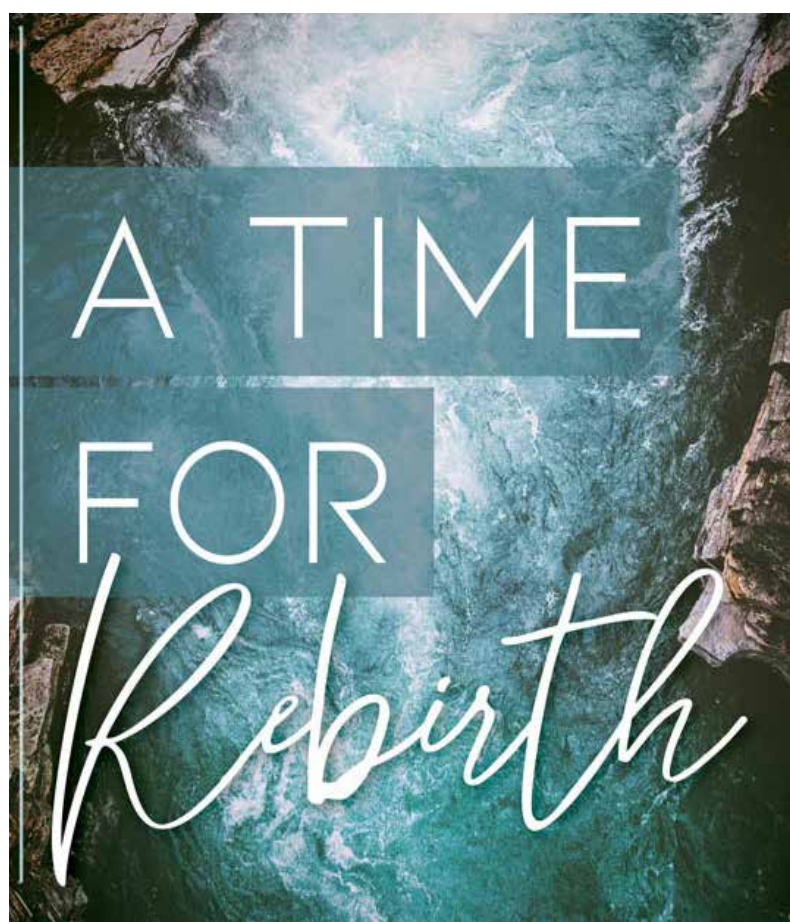
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REBIRTHING THE LOCAL CHURCH



Hebrews 10:25, “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

Recently, I had the opportunity to discuss with a fellow pastor about the state of the modern church. He told me how he came across an old dusty box in his church’s storage room that contained pictures of the congregation from the early 1960s. What was shocking to him was every pew was packed. There were young families, smiling faces and a sense of something important was happening. His question to me was simply, “Why isn’t it like that now?”

Many churches aren’t growing, younger members are busy with other activities that don’t include church and many older members want to simply relax. What does the local church do when it sees the writing on the wall that they are dying? Are there more churches closing their doors rather than thinking about adding another worship service?

If you find yourself with few visitors attending worship and rarely returning for

a second visit or members no longer feeling that the worship services are of high enough quality for them to bring family and friends or even the worship service is out of touch with the younger generations, the good news is that God hasn’t changed. We can be encouraged to return to what the Church was once known for and start seeing His power on display.

To witness the rebirth of the local church we need to return to the love we once had for God. The apostle John writes in **Revelation 2:4**, “But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.” God never abandons His flock, but far too often His sheep seem to be preoccupied by the love of the world. If you don’t feel the same about worshiping God as you once did, the problem isn’t God, but you. The great news is that God still loves us even when we no longer show our passion for Him.

To witness the rebirth of the local church we need to return to loving others. We discover in **Philippians 2:3-4**, “Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” What if, instead of trying to impress our neighbors, we started taking “love your neighbor” seriously? Not loving others just to get them to attend our church, but rather to demonstrate the love of Christ that dwells in our heart.

The local church can be rebirthed if we take teaching and preaching the Bible a sacred task. The truth of God’s Word applies to all men and women in every culture, age and walk of life. **Hebrews 4:12**, “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” If we are spending more time with God and His word we will sense the direction we must take as a church. Make the Bible the foundation of every sermon, Sunday school lesson and mission moment.

Finally, the rebirth of a church will require us to live out our convictions. **James 1:22**, “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” What is the point of being able to read the original Hebrew or Greek text if we are not acting on it? You might be able to quote all the verses in the Bible, but if we are not willing to feed the hungry, cloth the naked and comfort the sick are we connecting the knowledge with action? The word of God is powerful and when it is boldly proclaimed lives will be transformed.

I encourage you this week not to lose hope if you see the numbers of your church attendance dwindling. Remain faithful to the One who has called you into His work. Continue to demonstrate love to God and others and trust that He will not forsake the work you are doing for His Kingdom.



Ken Smith

A SQUIRREL WITH AN ATTITUDE?

BY MARTHA PIERCE



Can you even imagine seeing a Squirrel with an attitude? Well I did, He had one, and I am happy to share my version of such a scenario.

Directly outside my kitchen window, in full view we installed a rather large Bird Feeder, and I am so glad that we did. My source of amusement each morning is watching, not the birds mind you, but our yard Squirrels eagerly partaking of our ample provision of Sunflower Seed! It is very fascinating to observe them! I had no idea that squirrels had a “pecking order”, but they do. The feeder can only accommodate two, maybe three at a time, and my how they scurry, climb, push, shove, fume and fuss to claim

their spot! Usually in their haste to arrive at the ‘table’, they cause the feeder to swing back and forth, but that does not deter them one bit. So here I am preparing our breakfast every morning, all the while enjoying a nature show, in real time!

One morning recently, I started my breakfast routine and of course looked out to enjoy the “Squirrel Show”. It only took a flash to realize that this time something was just not right. And then I saw him. I could hardly believe what I was seeing. There perched on top of the Bird Feeder was a lone Squirrel, sitting upright on his hind legs with his front ‘arms’ folded over his chest. Really! And to make this scene even more unbelievable, that little rascal was intently gazing in the direction of my kitchen window. And then it hit me! The Bird Feeder was completely empty, I mean totally depleted, and that little Squirrel was trying to advise me accordingly!

My sense of humor immediately kicked in and I imagined him, in an attitude of disgust, complaining to me, his provider: “Look, Grandma, the table is empty! There is not one Sunflower Seed to be found anywhere! Don’t you realize that I have a family to feed, aggravating as they are at times, but we all must have provisions - every day! Come on now, this is so not acceptable! Get this Bird Feeder replenished so we can all get right back to Normal.....”

Uh-oh! Suddenly I got it! Seriously, I really did get it! In my spirit I could hear the Lord gently speaking to me, causing me to ponder some insightful thoughts. During this Covid-19 Pandemic have I crossed my arms, grown impatient, complained, whined, or displayed an attitude of ingratitude?

Why not take this to a very personal level, make it applicable to every one of us? Haven’t we all taken our day-to-day BLESSINGS for granted? We question why - to what extent - how long will this last - when are the store shelves ever going to be replenished - will a vaccine ever be found? We want to resume life as we knew it, whatever normal was, and we want it now!!

Many years ago, my friend Nancy Pope was badly injured in an automobile accident. She endured weeks of casts on her legs, confinement to the bed, and total dependence on others for her care. One day when I was visiting her, she shared with me that, with J.C.’s help, she finally had been able to get to her kitchen, and how

happy she was to be able to do that. It was thrilling to share in her accomplishments, however, indelibly impressed in my mind are her next words:

“Martha,” she said, “Anytime you are speaking or sharing with others, please do not fail to tell them that if they can get out of bed, walk to the kitchen, bend over the cabinet, get a pot out and cook even one thing, they need to be so very grateful to God for their BLESSINGS!”

I was gently reminded that when an honest soul will get quiet before our living Savior, we will come to realize that we are indeed so very blessed! The Scripture says “IF we will humble ourselves, seek His face, pray, and turn from our wicked ways.....THEN....He will hear from heaven, will forgive our sin and heal our land.” (from II Chronicles 7:14) Spending time in God’s Word, and in prayer will bring you the encouragement you need to get through these uncertain times. What a privilege to praise Him and certainly to trust Him in everything!

This article is from Mature Living May 2020 is so timely: “In Sacramento, California, a ticket agent inadvertently oversold a Women of Faith weekend conference by 1,500 seats. So, they exchanged the chairs on the main floor for smaller, plastic ones. Organizers phoned all the ladies beforehand to alert them and then reseated them Friday night, apologizing profusely. But before long, the complaints arrived. Some were angry, others uncomfortable. So, the organizers simply asked the next speaker if she would mind apologizing again on behalf of the organizers. She agreed.

Her name is Joni Eareckson Tada. She is a quadriplegic. Paralyzed as a teen from a diving accident in Chesapeake Bay, Joni’s story is one of triumph-- even joy -- amid the trials of paralysis. Wheeled onto the platform, this is what she said.

“I understand some of you are not sitting in the chairs you expected to be sitting in tonight. Well, neither am I. And I’ve been in mine for more than 30 years.” Then she added softly, “I have at least 1,000 friends who would give anything to be sitting in the chair you are in if only for tonight.” Organizers said the complaint department was unnecessary after that. Gratitude! The attitude of gratitude is one we all need to practice as we go about the daily of our lives.”

Please join me in singing this most appropriate chorus:
We are so Blessed, by the gifts of Your hand,
We just don’t understand why You loved us so much.
We are so Blessed, we just can’t find a way
Or the words that can say, “Thank You Lord for Your touch.”

When we’re thirsty You fill us, ‘til we overflow,
When we’re hungry You feed us, and cause us to know,
We are so Blessed, take what we have to bring
Take it all, everything, Lord we love You so much.
Lord we love You so much!

Let’s be honest, our undeserved Blessings far outweigh our inconveniences and momentary afflictions. May our prayer always be, “Lord, please accept our gratitude and forgive our grumblings, Amen.”

So, “Little Squirrel with an Attitude”, thank you for showing up in my life for ‘such a time as this’. Somehow, I don’t think that was a mere coincidence!

Cook Comfort Food Once, Enjoy it Twice

FAMILY FEATURES

Cook once, eat twice. It's a kitchen practice as simple as it sounds. Cook a base dish that can be enjoyed today and used for an entirely different meal tomorrow. For example, bake some fish for tonight's dinner, and enjoy fish tacos for tomorrow's lunch.

With so many Americans preparing meals at home, the practice of cooking once and eating twice can extend your grocery budget while also making meal planning less stressful and more comforting.

Cooking meals that feed the entire family is essential and even better if they give you a jump on a second meal. Whether your love for cooking runs deep or is being newly discovered, keep the following in mind when planning to cook once and eat twice:

Stock up on staples. Before heading out to the store, develop a list of ingredients that can be used for multiple dishes. Canned goods, such as black beans and corn, are great items to store in the pantry and have on hand for a variety of favorite family recipes. Other basics like corn tortillas can be used in multiple ways, such as tacos, casseroles and even salads.

Don't forget produce. To increase flavor and nutrition, adding produce is key in your planning. Mushrooms are a favorite among chefs and home cooks alike for many reasons. Traditionally known for their inherent umami flavor, mushrooms are filling, healthy and versatile. Crimini and portabella are excellent sources of selenium, an antioxidant that protects cells from damage that may lead to serious chronic diseases. For example, four crimini mushrooms provide 38% of your daily recommended value. Also, the variety of mushrooms contain essential vitamins and nutrients, such as vitamins B and D and riboflavin.

Make meat go further. A three-step cooking technique called "The Blend" combines finely chopped mushrooms with ground meat to create dishes that are more nutritious while still tasting delicious. You can use the process to create multiple dishes such as tacos, pasta sauce and burgers. Mushrooms' ability to mimic the texture of meat makes them easy to incorporate, and the addition of finely chopped mushrooms to meat dishes stretches portions, allowing the family to enjoy a meat-mushroom base two days in a row in two different ways in dishes like Mexican Lasagna and Blended Tacos, both of which include a Mexican Mushroom-Beef Blend.

For more simple and delicious recipes, visit MushroomCouncil.com.

Blended Tacos

Makes: 8 tacos

- 1 cup sour cream
- 6 tablespoons cilantro, chopped
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 8 yellow corn tortillas
- 2 cups Mexican Mushroom-Beef Blend
- diced avocado (optional)
- shredded lettuce (optional)
- shredded cheese (optional)
- salsa (optional)

In small bowl, mix sour cream, cilantro and lime juice. Cover and refrigerate.

Warm tortillas in microwave or on stovetop according to package directions. Spoon 1/4 cup Mexican Mushroom-Beef Blend into each tortilla. Top with sour cream mixture and avocado, lettuce and cheese as desired.



Blended Tacos



Mexican Mushroom-Beef Blend

Mexican Mushroom-Beef Blend

Makes: 8 cups

- 1 medium yellow onion
- 8 ounces fresh button or crimini mushrooms
- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 cans (15 ounces each) black beans, drained
- 1 package (1 ounce) reduced-sodium taco seasoning mix
- 1 can (15 ounces) crushed tomatoes
- 1 can (11 ounces) yellow kernel corn, drained

In food processor, pulse onion and mushrooms to coarse texture. Set aside.

In large frying pan, brown ground beef. Drain fat. Set aside.

In same frying pan, heat oil. Add mushroom mixture and saute 3-4 minutes, or until most moisture has been released. Add black beans and mix.

Add beef, taco seasoning, tomatoes and corn to black bean and mushroom blend. Mix and cook until heated through.

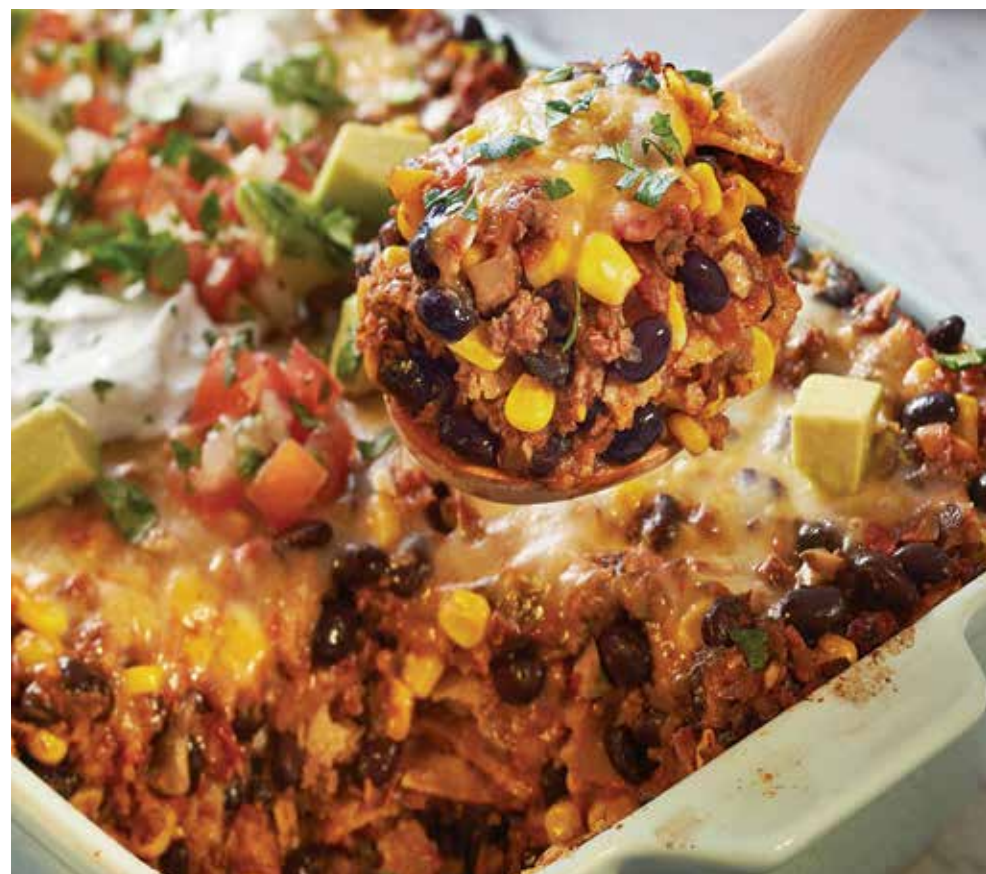
Mexican Lasagna

Servings: 6-8

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 16 yellow corn tortillas
- 6 cups Mexican Mushroom-Beef Blend
- 1 cup shredded, low-fat Mexican cheese blend
- sour cream (optional)
- chopped cilantro (optional)
- salsa (optional)

Heat oven to 350 F. Spray bottom of 9-by-13-inch baking dish with nonstick cooking spray. Place four corn tortillas on bottom of dish and layer 2 cups Mexican Mushroom-Beef Blend on top. Repeat layers, ending with tortillas as top layer. Top with cheese.

Bake uncovered 25 minutes, or until cheese melts and lasagna is heated through. Top with dollops of sour cream, cilantro and salsa as desired.



Mexican Lasagna

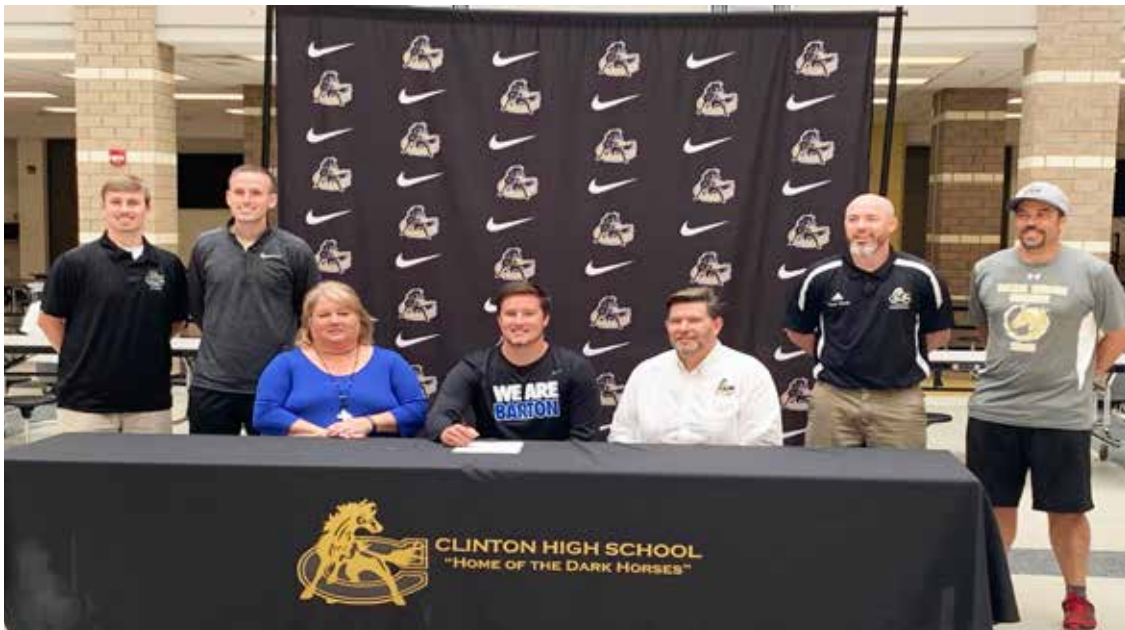
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Walters Signs to Play Soccer at Barton College



On Tuesday, Dark Horse 2 Sport phenom Reid Walters signed to officially play soccer at Barton College. Walters, who is a Dark Horse through and through, plays baseball and soccer at Clinton High School.

The standout goalkeeper for the Dark Horse soccer team was named East Central Conference Soccer Player of the Year; All Region; All County; All Conference and was elected to the All-State Team (one of only 8 players in the East). "It was rewarding," Walters said of his final season as a Dark Horse. "It was really good." Reid also plays soccer at Wake FC.

In addition to playing in the 33rd Annual Powerade State Games High School Soccer Showcase (with Mauricio Llamas and Axel Ramirez) that was held last summer at the Queens University Sports Complex in Charlotte, Walters was voted and won the Heisman Award for Clinton High School. He also finished his high school soccer career with 259 saves and 35 shutouts.

"(He's been) the driving force behind our program the last four seasons," said CHS head soccer coach Brad Spell. "Extremely humble young man who has been a joy to coach and watch grow through his four years at CHS. Clinton High School is lucky to have his talents come through our program."

Walters, who was born and raised in Sampson County is the son of Jason and Jeannie Walters and the grandson of Susan Walters.

Walters says that he has spent many years playing sports as he has grown up and he has been very active in Boy Scouts as well. "I enjoy participating in school clubs and being part of the community."

Walters began his foray into sports at the age of three. Reid noted, "I started playing rec soccer when I was 3 and have loved it ever since. I played as many sports as I could until I was forced to choose once I got older. The coaches who taught me the fundamentals and the lessons associated with the game made a huge impact on me. My coach, Nicky Thompson, taught me a lot of the years and was my coach for most of my years playing travel soccer."

Once entering high school, the athletic Walters decided to play baseball and soccer. "It was something that everyone as a kid grew up watching and wanting to be a part of. I made all region, all county, and all conference with varsity soccer. It wasn't until this past year that I got all state."

But don't let Walters athletic ability fool you. He is just as talented in the classroom and he has a passion for his community. Walters has received Academic Honors all four years while at Clinton High School and participated in many school clubs, most of them focusing on service within the community.

Reid says that he has a passion for math and science. "I really enjoyed taking classes that allowed me to be outside because they were much more interesting."

A difficult decision for Walters this year, was deciding which college to attend. Reid explained the choice, "I found myself deciding between going to NC State and majoring in engineering or going to Barton and majoring in Biology with the ability to play soccer. I knew I wanted to do something with outdoor science, but I wasn't sure completely. I found that Barton College was great for me because it was focused on being a faithful school and wouldn't push me away from church like bigger schools tended to do. I knew the soccer was phenomenal and would help me grow as a student and as a player."

Walters went on to say, "It took a lot of thought and prayer to decide what school I wanted to attend. It took a lot of time to weigh out the pros and cons. I sure didn't want to miss the opportunity of playing college soccer. I learned a lot about the program compared to other schools and found that it suited me best. I felt honored to get a spot on the team and proud that I had made it so far."

Soccer Coach Brad Spell stated that Reid has great communication skills on the field, and he has shown the ability to make huge plays at the right critical moments. Spell, who has coached Walters for four seasons, went on to remember Walters' crucial part in winning the State Championship game. "I will never forget the PK saves he made against First Flight to advance us to the State Championship game. One of the best feelings I have ever experienced." Coach Spell continued his accolades by affirming that he knew that Reid would be successful moving forward, "Reid will succeed because he has a disciplined work ethic and his commitment is unmatched. He listens well and follows and excerpts constructive criticism."

Walters stated that the highlight of his soccer career was the Dark Horses' winning season in 2018. "When we beat First Flight in Pks was the best feeling since they had knocked us out of the playoffs the year before. Then we won the championship the following game and I wouldn't trade it for anything."

"It's a bittersweet ending," said Walters, "I'm going to miss the program, the school, and the memories that I've made. I feel that I'm prepared for the school-work and the soccer that is ahead of me because of my preparation during high school. I felt that I have left my mark on the school and the program."

But Reid says that he would be remiss if he did not thank the people that have made a difference in his life. "I would like to thank everyone who has been there and supported me along the way. I'm thankful for my family for keeping me in the game through the years. My girlfriend, Madison Jernigan, who has been there through travel and being at every game she could make. My coaches, who helped guide and teach me. Coach Spell for pushing me to do better and never letting me stop working. Coach Brewington, for helping me keep my head on the right track and helping me keep faith in God through it all, no matter the outcome. Coach Adam "City" Smith, for helping me improve my technical skills and touch, never letting me decline in my work in the field and helping me see the field in different ways. Coach Kenan "K-Pop" Lanier, for being an outstanding goalkeeper coach and helping me improve my aspect for the game and field. My teammates, for helping throughout the year, keep me loving the game, and helping me keep an eager mindset."

Good Luck Reid Walters and make Sampson County proud as you enter the next phase of your life at Barton College. Congratulations!

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EDUCATION

John Lowe Earns the Certified Education Technology Leader (CETL) Designation

John Lowe, Executive Director of Technology and Auxiliary Services for Clinton City Schools recently earned the Certified Education Technology Leader (CETL) designation by passing a rigorous certification exam.



The CETL certification, awarded by the Consortium for School Networking (CoSN), signifies that John Lowe has mastered the knowledge and skills needed to bring 21st century technology to our K-12 school systems.

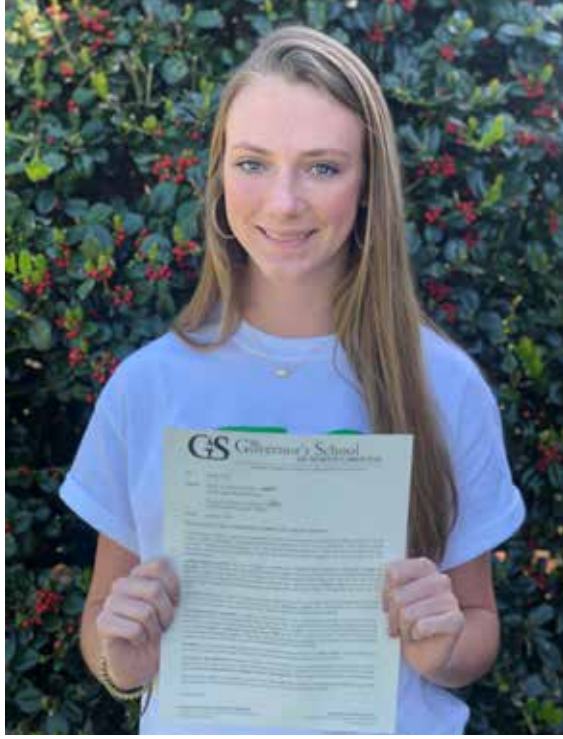
“Earning the Certified Education Technology Leader certification demonstrates a commitment to bringing 21st century learning to our nation’s schools. Because of the CETL recertification requirements, certified leaders pledge to stay current in this ever-changing field of education technology,” said Keith Krueger, CAE, Chief Executive Officer of CoSN.

To become certified, the candidate must have demonstrated experience in the education technology field and pass a comprehensive two-part examination based on the 10 skill areas in CoSN’s Framework of Essential Skills of the K-12 CTO. Once the CETL certification is earned, the ed tech professional must complete 60 hours of professional development activities every three years to maintain the designation.

The CETL certification is awarded by the Consortium for School Networking. Founded in 1992, CoSN is the premier professional association for school system technology leaders and its mission is to empower educational leaders to leverage technology to realize engaging learning environments. CoSN is committed to providing the leadership, community, and advocacy tools essential for the success of these leaders.

HCA’s Rhylee Pope to Attend NC Governor’s School

Harrells Christian Academy proudly congratulates junior Rhylee Pope of Clinton on her prestigious acceptance into the Governor’s School of North Carolina for the summer of 2020. Rhylee Pope says she is excited for this opportunity to meet new people, learn new things, and get a real feel for college life. The Governor’s School of North Carolina is a 5½-week summer residential program for gifted and talented high school students. Hosted on the campuses of Meredith College and High Point University, the program integrates academic disciplines, the arts, and unique courses on each



of two campuses. Students are selected to attend through a competitive process after being nominated by their public school unit or non-public school. Rhylee was nominated in the field of Natural Science and worked with her teachers and HCA college counselor Noel Blue to complete her application. “It was quite a long application,” said Rhylee. “I had to type two

essays, submit my resume, and get two recommendations from teachers.” This will be a valuable experience for Rhylee as she hopes to go into a scientific field in the future. She shares, “Science has always been my favorite subject in school because it deals with real life processes.” From June 21-July 29th, Rhylee will call the Meredith College campus her home while being immersed in a curriculum that focuses on the exploration of the most recent ideas and concepts and does not involve credit, tests, or grades. Rhylee’s HCA family is very proud of her and wishes her the best of luck in this endeavor.

Harrells Christian Academy Costa Rica Mission Trip



Just before the Coronavirus Pandemic caused all of us to shut down and shelter in place, a group of fourteen Harrells Christian Academy students and two dedicated teachers journeyed to Costa Rica on a mission to share the love of Christ through serving others. During the weeklong trip, students had the opportunity to experience a new environment and culture. They tasted all kinds of new foods, put their Spanish language skills into practice, enjoyed outdoor activities like white water rafting, and spent time serving in the local community. Trip coordinator Ruth Ann Parker shared, “Our short trip to Costa Rica provided both an opportunity for learning and an opportunity for students



to participate in mission work. Christ’s greatest commandment is to love God and to love others. Our mission work in Costa Rica was centered around loving others. For example, students were able to spend a day in a remote village interacting with around 100 children and their parents. These students poured love into every relationship they formed while in Costa Rica and the Costa Ricans reciprocated that love.” Amazingly, the travelers had no difficulty getting to and from Costa Rica. There were many people praying for their safe return to American soil, and, although the Coronavirus threatened



to keep the trip from happening at all, the group persisted, and they were able to have a wonderful experience. Ruth Ann commented, “An opportunity for students to travel is truly a learning opportunity. Not only do students gain real-life awareness of new customs, cultures, people and places, they discover so much about themselves as they are experiencing things that are sometimes way out of their comfort zone.”



Dream Believe Achieve

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To believe is to know.

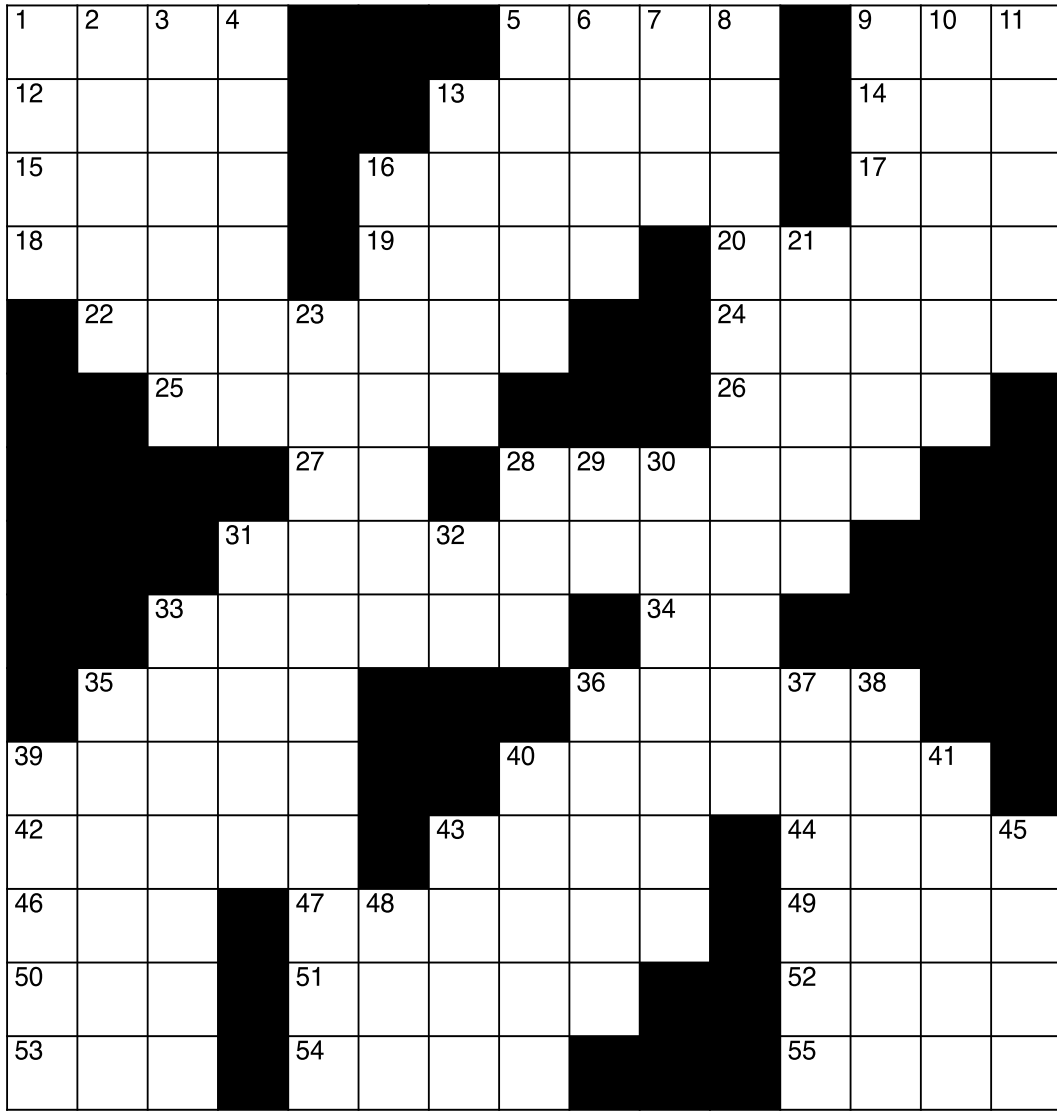
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Tarheel Challenge

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PUZZLES & GAMES

Crossword Puzzle

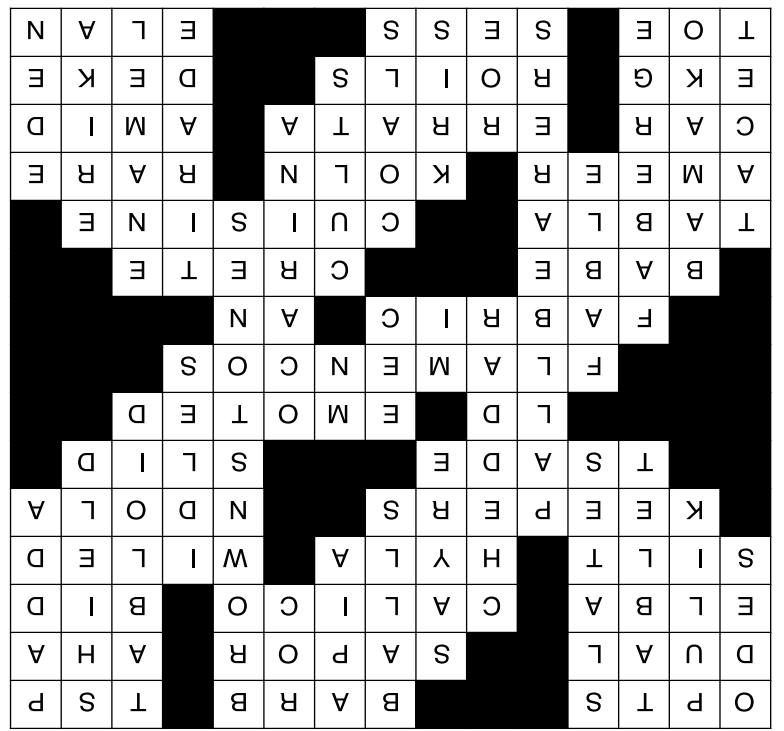


CLUES ACROSS

1. Selects
5. A cutting remark
9. Teaspoonful (abbr.)
12. Having two units or parts
13. Quality perceptible to the sense of taste
14. Expression of surprise
15. Italian Island
16. A coarse cloth with a bright print
17. Propose a price
18. Sedimentary material
19. Tree toad genus
20. Passed time agreeably
22. Custodians
24. 3rd largest city in Zambia
25. 18th Hebrew letter (var.)
26. Coasted on ice
27. Libyan dinar
28. Displayed exaggerated emotion
31. Andalusian Gypsy dances
33. Material
34. Article
35. Ballplayer Ruth
36. 5th largest Greek island
39. Hand drum of No. India
40. A style of preparing food
42. Former ruler of Afghanistan
43. AKA Cologne
44. Not generally occurring
46. Auto
47. Print errors
49. Interspersed among
50. Electrocardiogram
51. Churns
52. Ice hockey feint
53. Drive obliquely, as of a nail
54. Dried leaves of the hemp plant
55. Ardour

CLUES DOWN

1. Lyric poems
2. Hungarian sheep dog (var. sp.)
3. A pad of writing paper
4. Lists of candidates
5. Base, basket and foot
6. Samoan capital
7. Mythological bird
8. Urban row houses
9. Sensationalist journalism
10. Carried on the arm to intercept blows
11. Estrildid finch genus
13. PA 18840
16. S.W. English town & cheese
21. Runs disconnected
23. Mourners
28. Old world, new
29. Atomic #25
30. Sweet potato wind instrument
31. Legend
32. 3rd tone of the scale
33. Russian jeweler Peter Carl
35. Capital of Mali
36. Extremist sects
37. Violent denunciation
38. Tooth covering
39. Music term for silence
40. Smoldering embers
41. Writer Jong
43. Actor Kristofferson
45. Adam and Eve's 1st home
48. Fish eggs

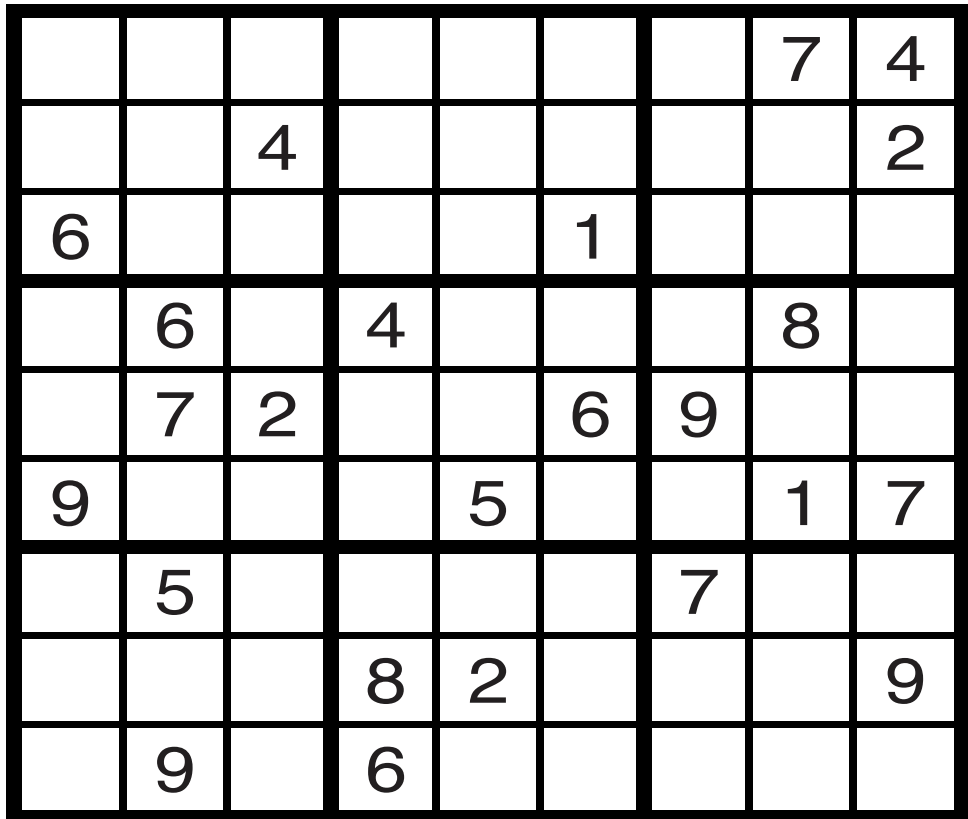


PUZZLE SOLUTION

SUDOKU

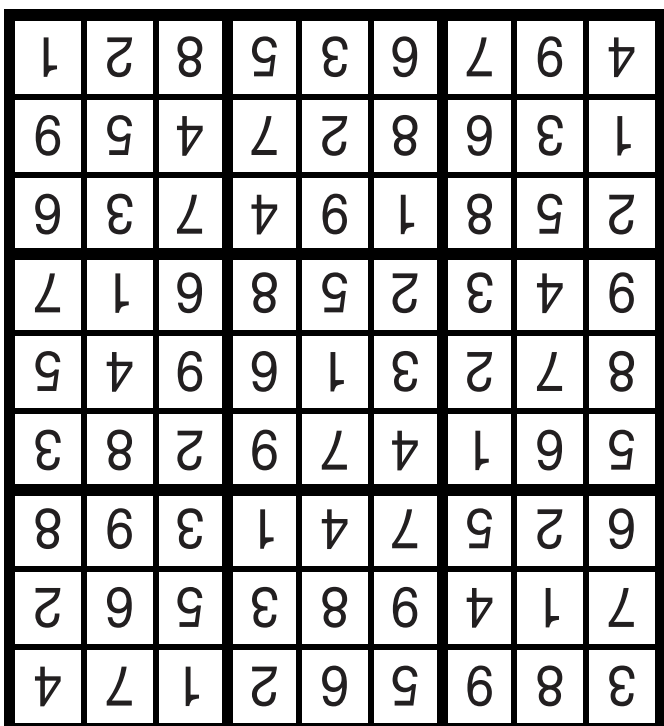
Fun By The Numbers

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



Here's How It Works:

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

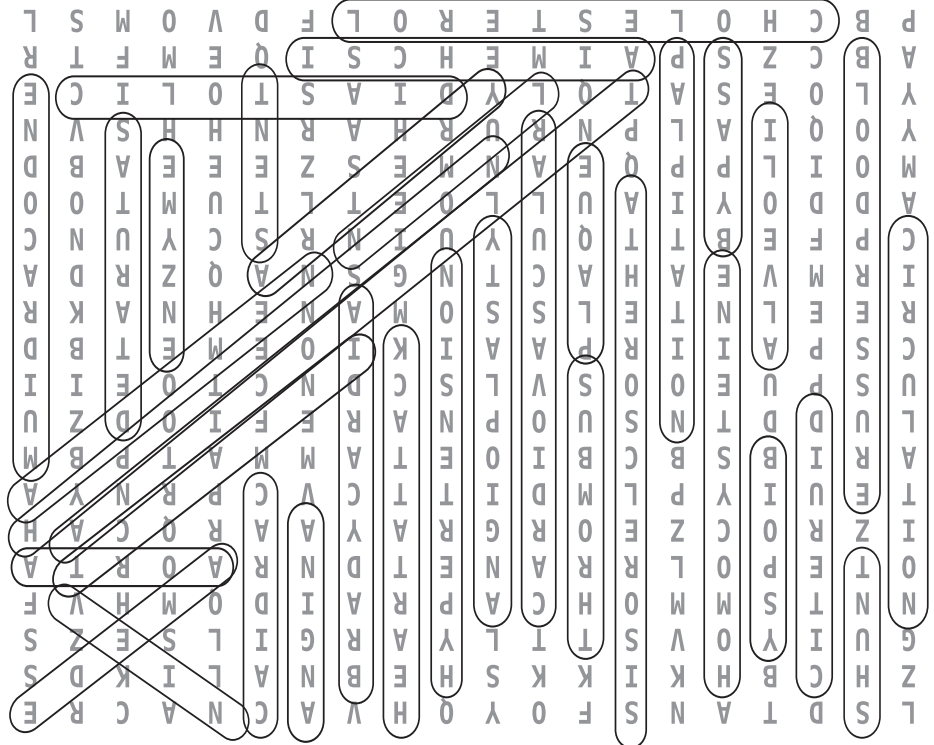


HEART HEALTH WORD SEARCH

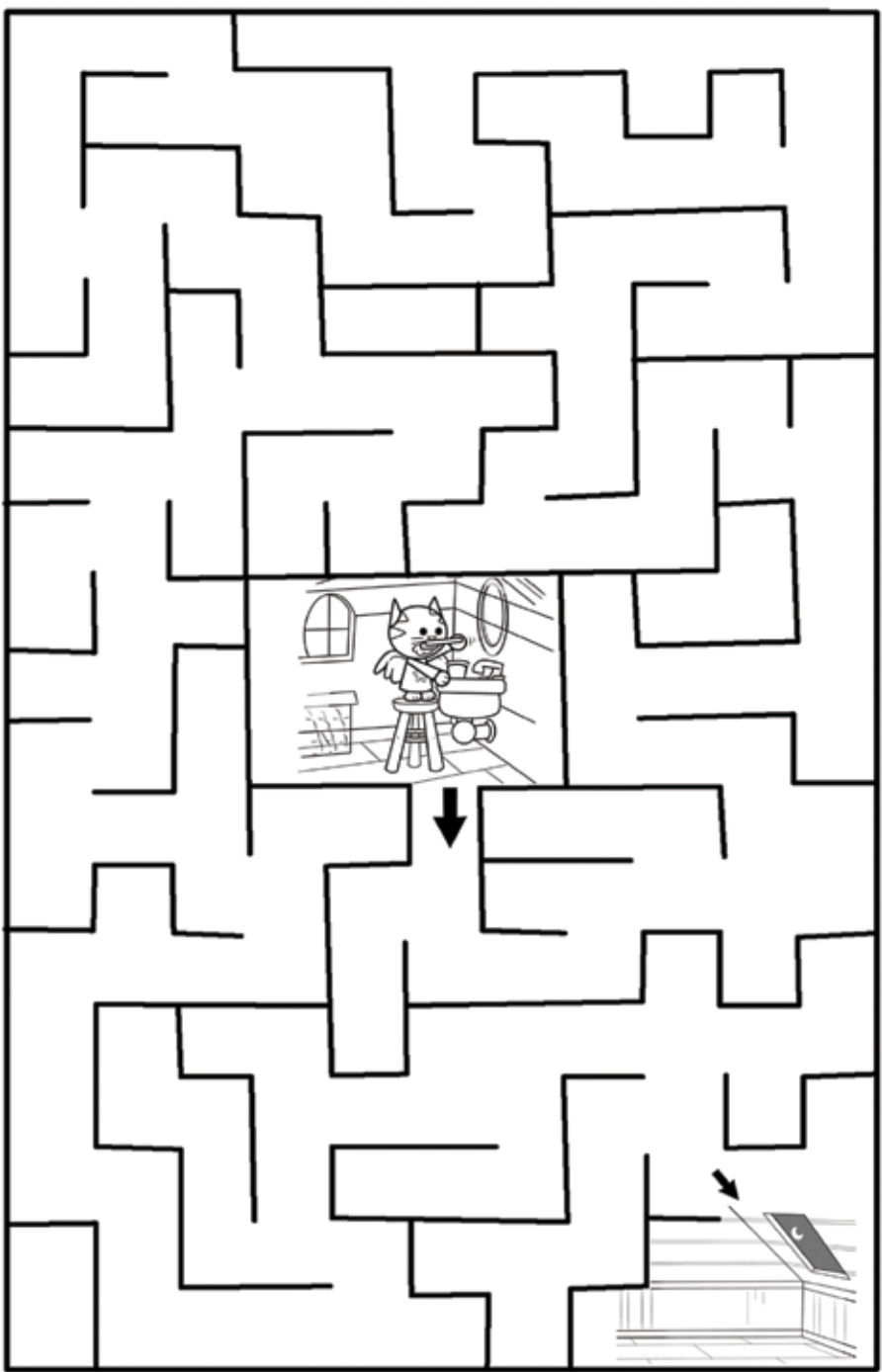
WORDS



Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.



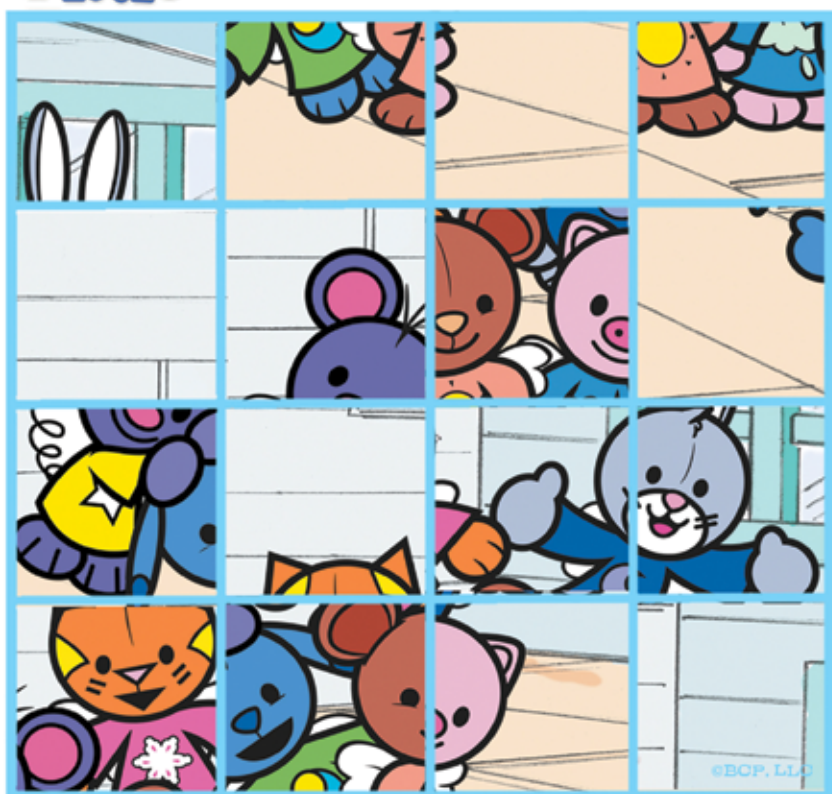
Crystal Cat is brushing her teeth. Help her reach the Attic room.



The Magical Attic

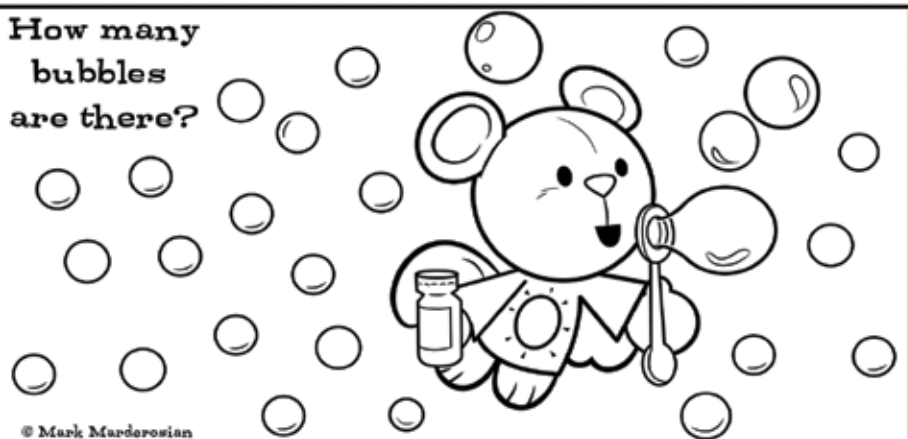
A FUN PUZZLE!

CUT OUT THE SQUARES BELOW AND THEN PUT THEM IN THE CORRECT ORDER AS SHOWN ON THE RIGHT.



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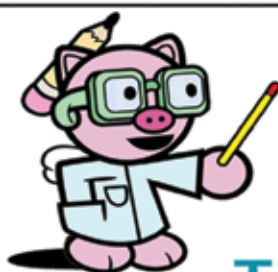
How many bubbles are there?



© Mark Marderosian

Fun time word search

with Misty Pig



Find these words:

- RESPECT
- LISTEN
- CARE
- SHARE
- FRIEND
- LAUGH

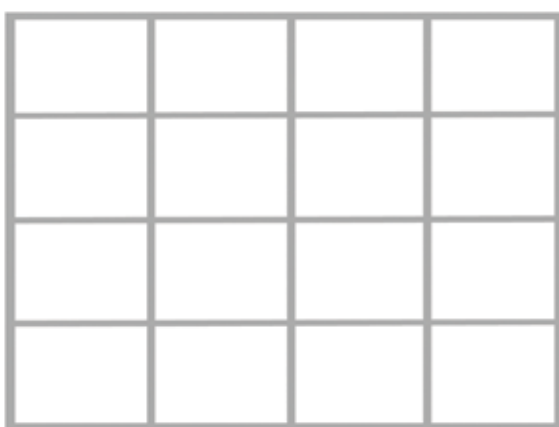
T	C	E	P	S	E	R	T
C	A	R	E	L	V	F	T
D	L	A	U	G	H	P	D
Q	N	L	N	F	K	N	J
S	C	S	V	H	L	F	C
H	H	C	P	Z	H	B	B
R	S	A	H	M	V	T	X
C	F	F	R	I	E	N	D
L	I	S	T	E	N	L	L

ANGELSFROMTHEATTIC.COM

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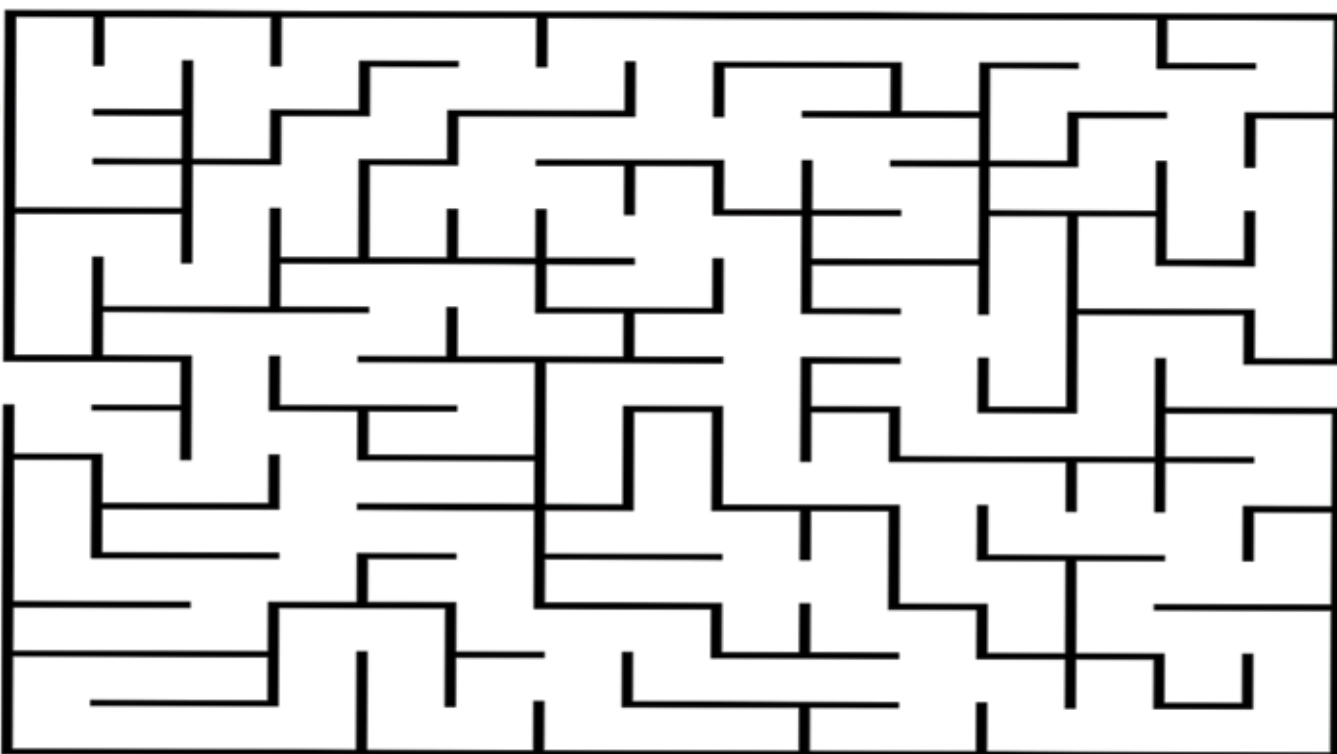
prime video



The Magical Attic

Help Twinkle Mouse reach the drawing easel!

START



FINISH



CRIME REPORTS

04-30 David Vincent McArthur, 52, Goldsboro. Probation Violation. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 06-24-20
 04-30 Omar Villagomez Subias, 29, Clinton. Trespass. Trial Date 07-08-20
 05-01 Terri Pope West, 34, Turkey. Felony Probation Violation, Criminal Summons. Bond \$50000. Trial Date 06-11-20
 05-01 Terri Pope West, 34, Turkey. Possess Meth, Possess of Drug Paraphernalia. Bond \$30000. Trial Date 05-15-20
 05-01 Megan Elizabeth Smith, 30, Salemburg. Trespass.
 05-01 Skylar Corderius Crosby, 27, Lillington. Simple Assault (CS), Communicate Threats.
 05-01 Jeremy Derrell Owens, 35, Clinton. Child Support. Bond \$200. Trial Date 06-16-20
 05-01 Matthew Aaron King, 31, Elizabethtown. Assault on a Female. Trial Date 07-20-20
 05-01 Danniell Ras Maynor, 45, Clinton. Possess Stolen Goods/Property, Larceny After Breaking/Entering, Breaking and or Entering. Bond \$10000. Trial Date 05-15-20
 05-01 Samuel Earl Powell, 27, Clinton. Indecent Exposure. Bond \$5000. Trial Date 07-06-20

05-01 Pedro Francisco Perez, 18, Salemburg. Trespass. Bond \$500. Trial Date 07-02-20
 05-01 Brooke Blanks, 36, Garner. Careless and Reckless, Speeding. Trial Date 06-22-20
 05-01 Kimberly Dawn Miller, 33, Pink Hill. Shoplifting. Bond \$500. Trial Date 07-07-20
 05-01 Wayne Anthony McNeill, 56, Clinton. 24 Hour Hold
 05-02 Jasheem Davon Butler, 32, Clinton. Cyberstalking. Trial Date 06-23-20
 05-03 David Graham Bradshaw, 25, Autryville. Trespassing
 05-03 Phillip Michael Currie, 27, Cameron. Possess Marijuana.
 05-03 Shawn Mangum, 27, Cameron. Possess Marijuana
 05-03 Iasha Dawn Carter, 41, Garland. Simple Assault. Trial Date 06-08-20
 05-03 Talmadge Joseph Spell, 48, Roseboro. Communicating Threats. Bond \$500. Trial Date 07-20-20
 05-04 Monroe William White, 23, Clinton. DWLR not Impaired, Possess Meth, Possess Drug and Paraphernalia not Marijuana, Simple Possess Marijuana, Possess marijuana Paraphernalia. Bond \$2000. Trial Date 07-20-20
 05-04 Avante Jakell James, 18, Roseboro. Warrant Service for other agency. Bond \$60000. Trial Date 07-14-20
 05-04 Tykese Jacobs, 19, Clinton.

Breaking or Entering. Bond \$1500. Trial Date 07-30-20
 05-05 Lelin Arnau Alvarenga Peraza, 31, Murfreesboro. FTA DWI/NOL. Bond \$8000. Trial Date 07-24-20
 05-05 Marshall John Thornton, 64, Newton Grove. Obtain Property By False Pretense. Bond \$10000. Trial Date 06-22-20
 05-05 Tyquell Laquan Wallace, 22, Fayetteville. Flee Elude Arrest with Motor Vehicle, Resisting Public Officer. Bond \$5000. Trial Date 06-12-20
 05-06 Navarrete Jorge De La Rosa, 33, Clinton. Assault on a Female. Trial Date 07-21-20
 05-07 Fransisco Javier Gomez-Arcos, 33, Clinton. DWI, Open Container Passenger Area, Possess Fraudulent ID, Fict Info to Officer. Bond \$500. Trial Date 07-06-20

INCIDENT REPORTS

05-01 David Lee Best of Clinton reported a Breaking and Entering Residence- clothing \$200
 05-01 Harry Jackson of Dunn reported Theft from Motor Vehicle- semi automatic \$800
 05-01 Ethan Ameen of Clinton reported Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property- window \$2500
 05-01 WalMart of Clinton reported Shoplifting and Trespassing- assorted merchandise valued at \$130
 05-01 Willie Bowden of Clinton reported

Larceny of custom grill \$1000
 05-02 Sarah Oats of Roseboro. Breaking & Entering
 05-02 Walmart of Clinton reported Damage to Property and Shoplifting- blue tooth speaker, hat cup holder- \$45
 05-03 Walmart of Clinton reported Damage to Property and Shoplifting- assorted merchandise- \$45
 05-03 William Negrón of Clinton reported Damage to Property- automobile \$500
 05-03 Mary Anne Negrón of Clinton reported Theft from Motor Vehicle- mixer \$60 and bowl set \$10
 05-03 Leonoco Cruz of Clinton reported a Burglary/Breaking and Entering- water heater- \$500, ceiling fan \$40, sofa- \$100, cabinet \$40
 05-04 Donna Parter of Clinton reported a Breaking & Entering
 05-05 BB&T of Clinton reported Damage to Property- \$1000
 05-06 Express Mart of Clinton reported Damage to Property- electrical box

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



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OBITUARIES



NEWTON GROVE

Mr. William David Godwin, 73, of Newton Grove, died Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at Johnston Health in Smithfield. He was preceded in death by his parents, C.I. Godwin and Berneice Daughtry Godwin. A graveside service will be held at Warren/Oak Grove OFWB Church cemetery on Saturday, May 9, 2020 at 2:00

pm. Officiating the service will be Rev. Corky Herring and Rev. Roger Hill. David was employed by Johnston County Schools for 36 years as an art teacher and in other capacities. He was a member of Oak Grove OFWB Church. He was an avid history buff, enjoyed fishing, and spending time with family and friends. Left to cherish his memory are his loving canine companions Rastus and Rozier. Also are his brothers, Philip Godwin (Diane), Charles Godwin (Myra), and sister, Mary Britt (Maurice). Nephews, Kirk Godwin (Tabitha), Carson Godwin, Allen Britt (Brittney), and niece, Christina Corbett (Steven). Great-nephews Logan Godwin, Ace Godwin, and Miles Corbett, and great-niece, Sadie Corbett. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: Oak Grove OFWB Church, P.O. Box 389, Newton Grove, NC 28366. Due to the current health concerns the family understands if you are not able to join them for the graveside service. Your thoughts and prayers are appreciated. Online condolences may be made at; www.westanddunn.com. Services have been entrusted to West and Dunn Funeral Home, Newton Grove, North Carolina.

TURKEY

Ms. Mary Kathleen Jones, 68, of 401 Thompson Ave., passed away Tuesday, May 05, 2020 at Vidant Duplin Hospital in Kenansville. A private graveside service was held at 3:00 P.M. Friday, May 8th in the Turkey Baptist Church Cemetery with the Reverend Robert Beasley officiating. Kathleen born in Sampson Co., was the daughter of the late Earl Coleman Jones and Mary Lou Moody Jones McGee. She was also preceded in death by her step-father Alton McGee. Kathleen attended Piney Grove Baptist Church and was a great fan of Elvis Presley. Kathleen is survived by her sister, Peggy Jones Autry and husband Lynwood; brother, Robert Jones and wife Thelma; Nephews: John McGee and Robbie Jones; Step-brother, Charles Smith and wife Betty; Special Cousins, George Pinyatello and wife Mae and Jane Boose and husband Billy; and great-niece Kristy Lawrence. Arrangements are by Crumpler-Honeycutt Funeral Home, 118 Fayetteville St., Clinton, NC 28328.



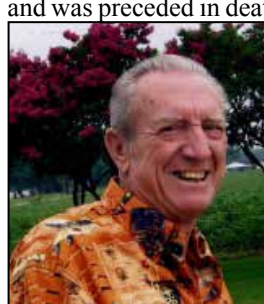
CLINTON

Mr. Mark Munoz, 46, of 6344 Taylors Bridge Hwy, passed away peacefully at his home on Friday, May 8, 2020 surrounded by his loving family. Born on April 13, 1974 in Forest Lake, Minnesota, Mark was the son of Fanna Lou Munoz and the late Felix Speedy Gonzales. He was a retired firefighter

with Taylors Bridge Fire Department and a member of the Roseboro Rescue & Dive Team. Most recently he worked as a Land Technician with Smithfield Land Management. He enjoyed being outdoors – rather it be fishing, camping, or hunting. He loved playing softball and was on a coed league for years. He was an awesome craftsman, having a talent of making “something out of nothing”. He loved his family more than anything and will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. He is survived by his wife Jane of the home; three daughters: Brittany O’Neal (Mike) of Beaverdam, Tiffany Munoz (K.C.) of the home, Brittany Bostic (Kenny) of Beulaville; a son, Cory Munoz (Britni) of the home; eight grandchildren: Alisha, Kaiden and Aiden O’Neal, Glendora, Dalton and David Bostic, Jayden and Lilly; and another grandchild soon to be born, baby boy Waylon; sister, Michelle Bond (Lee); nieces: Raven Munoz and Sabrina Munoz (and fiancé, Lee), all of Clinton. A Memorial Service will be held on Monday, May 11, 2020 at 2pm at Taylors Bridge Fire Department with Rev. Jimmy Flowers and Rev. Matthew Barefoot officiating. The family will receive friends at the home. Condolences may be sent to his family by visiting www.royalhallerfuneralhome.com. Royal-Hall is honored to serve the Munoz family.

DUNN

Mr. Billy Ray McLamb Sr., 79, of Dunn, passed away Tuesday, May 5, 2020, at Rex Hospital in Raleigh, NC after an extended illness. He was the son of the late Edward McLamb of Linden, NC and the late Pauline Webb of Dunn, and was preceded in death by his brothers, Danny Webb and James Edward “Butch” McLamb.



He was a former employee of the Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Dunn and was retired from the North Carolina Natural Gas Corporation of Dunn. He was a member of Faith Baptist Church of Dunn for 34 years, where he served as chairman of the Deacons. He was also a member of the Harnett Cruisers Car Club

and also served as Vice President of The All American Cruisers and was a co-founder of the Reunion Cruise-In for St. Jude. He loved classic cars, bass fishing and NASCAR racing and his church family. He will be truly missed. A private service will be held at Skinner & Smith Funeral Home. In accordance with current NC COVID 19 Guidelines, a public viewing was held from 1pm to 4 pm Thursday, May 7 at Skinner & Smith Funeral Home in Dunn. He is survived by his loving wife of 58 years Margaret, sons, Billy Ray McLamb, Jr. of Raleigh and Wayne (Janice) of Erwin, daughters, Sherry Brown of GA and Debra Sumner (Calvin) of Woodland, NC, brother Gary Webb (Virginia) of Dunn and sister Carol Strickland of Wilmington, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, a special aunt, Leonora Ivey and several sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews and cousins. Memorials may be made to Faith Baptist Church, 276 Neighbors Rd. Dunn, NC 28334 or to St. Jude by visiting their website, www.stjude.org.

CLINTON

Mr. Ronald Jermaine Melvin, 48, of 290 Mathis Road,



Clinton, passed away Wednesday at Duke University Hospital, Durham, NC. The graveside was held at 2 p.m., Sunday, May 3, 2020 at Garland Community Cemetery, Garland, NC with Pastor Sharon Lane officiating. The burial in Garland Community Cemetery. Mr. Melvin is survived by his WIFE-Roslyn Melvin of the home; DAUGHTER-Jalesia Autry of Clinton, NC; SONS-Jermaine Equan Melvin of Clinton, NC, Alex Kendall Melvin of Garland, NC, Anthony Bryant of Waldorf, MD, Robert Autry, Jr. of Fayetteville, NC; SISTERS-Kristie McDonald of Savannah, GA, Sonya Vargas of Stedman, NC, Tammy Melvin of Garland, NC, Janee Oates of Clinton, NC; BROTHERS-Christopher Melvin of Garland, NC and Jared Javon Melvin of Garland, NC; 6 grandchildren. Public Viewing at the Cemetery Sunday, May 3, 2020 1:45 - 2:00 p.m.



CLINTON

Glenda McPhail Shipp Riddle, 68, of 408 Parker Drive, passed away Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at her home. A private graveside service was held at 2 PM, Friday, May 8, 2020 at Clinton City Cemetery with the Rev. Steve Wilkins officiating. Glenda, born in 1951 in Sampson County, was the daughter of the late Haynes

Lennon Shipp and Janie McPhail Newman Shipp. She graduated from the Xray Program at Duke University. She was a member of Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church. Survivors include; husband of 47 years, Robert Wilburn Riddle, Jr; daughters, Berkley Riddle Raynor and husband Zack and Stacy Riddle Simmons and husband Brandon; grandchildren, Gage Raynor, Harper Raynor, Bryce Simmons and Evelyn Simmons; and several nieces, nephews, family members and friends. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.crumpler-honeycutt.com. Memorials may be made to Duke Cancer Fund@ gifts.duke.edu. The family would like to express their appreciation for all the love, support and kindness shown to them during this difficult time. Arrangements are by Crumpler-Honeycutt Funeral Home, 118 Fayetteville St., Clinton, NC 28328.

FAYETTEVILLE

Mr. Albert Summerville, age 69 of Fayetteville NC departed this life on May 7, 2020. He was the Owner/Operator of Summerville-Boykin Mortuary in Garland, NC. A private family Graveside Service will be held on Monday at Fayetteville Memorial Cemetery. There will be a viewing on Sunday, May 10th from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Summerville-Boykin Mortuary in Garland, NC. The family will receive friends Sunday, May 10, 2020 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Summerville-Boykin Mortuary in Garland, NC. He is survived by a wife, Peggy Newman Summerville, of the home; children, Taunisha S. McNeill (Byron, III), of Smyrna, GA and Allison Summerville, of Huntersville, NC; sisters, Renee Summerville and Brenda S. Killet (Roscoe) of Fayetteville, NC and Mimi L. Wilson (Desmond) of Mesquite, TX; granddaughter, Summer Lauren McNeill; and grandson, Byron “Max” McNeill, IV, both of Smyrna, GA, and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.



CLAYTON

Mrs. Angela L. Warren, age 43, of Clayton passed away Thursday, April 30, 2020 with her loving family by her side. Angela’s graveside memorial will be held Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 12 noon. The Rev. Jessica Braxton will officiate the service. Left to cherish her memories are her husband; Steve Warren

of the home, parents; Glenn and Shirley Langston of Four Oaks, sister; Pamela Wise and husband Doyle of Newton Grove, brother; David Langston and wife Lori of Faison, nieces; Maggie Langston, Allison Wise, Carlie Sinclair and Jenna Warren, nephews; Aaron Wise, Ben Langston, Zachary Thornton, Noah Warren, Skyler Thornton and Jonah Warren, great-niece; Reagan Sinclair, mother and father-in-law; Charlie and Delores Warren, sister-in-law; Michelle Thornton and husband Ronnie, brother-in-law; Charles Warren and wife Jennifer. Also, her beloved fur babies; Roscoe, Sophia, Ruby, Sevi and Pedro. Angela was preceded in death by her grandparents; Herbert and Bethel Langston and Norwood and Mildred Smith. Due to the current health concerns the family understands if you are not able to join them for the Memorial Service. Your thoughts and prayers are appreciated. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the soup kitchen that Angela volunteered with: First Baptist Church, Community Kitchen Ministries, 202 South Fourth St., Smithfield, NC 27577 or toward funeral expenses. Angela was the sweetest person and cared so much about helping people. She will be missed by so many. Online condolences may be made to; www.westanddunn.com. Services have been entrusted to West & Dunn Funeral Homes, Inc, Newton Grove, North Carolina.



GREENSBORO

Sabra Leoda Hall West, 99, of Greensboro and previously of Fayetteville went to her heavenly home on May 2nd, 2020. Sabra was born in Stedman, NC, the youngest of five children. She attended Nursing School in Fayetteville for one year, earning her cap and cape before getting married and starting a family. She was a lifetime member of Judson Baptist Church where she participated in various committees, circle meetings, and taught beginners Sunday School. She worked in Sunny Side Elementary School cafeteria where many remember her as the lunchroom cashier. Sabra dedicated her life to her family whether it was supporting her children, caring for her aging mother, spending time with her siblings, or being with her beloved grandsons. She was a quintessential southern neighborhood mother known for her wonderful cooking, generosity, and hospitality. She was a diehard Tarheel fan.

Sabra was cared for the last 13 years of her life by the staff of The Crest of Clemmons and Accordius of Greensboro. She is preceded in death by her husband Robert Pearson West, her sons Billy and Robert L. “Bob” West, and her beloved Yorkshire Terrier, Lady Di. Sabra is survived by her children, Howard West & wife, Beth of Columbia, SC, Annette Clinard & husband, Rodney of Greensboro and Melinda Maxwell & husband, Travis of Hendersonville; and 2 grandchildren, Baker West of Columbia, SC and Matthew West of Boone. A celebration of her life will be at 2:00pm Saturday, May 9, 2020 at Butler Funeral Home Chapel, officiating will be Chuck Johnson. A graveside service will be held at 3:30pm Saturday at Judson Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 1:00pm to 1:50pm Saturday at the funeral home prior to the service. Attendees are encouraged to wear masks and continue current social distancing guidelines. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 6535 Clinton Road Stedman, NC 28391.

NEWTON GROVE

Robert Sherman Crumpler, 76, passed away Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at his home. Arrangements are incomplete at this time and will be announced by Crumpler-Honeycutt Funeral Home, as soon as they become available.

CLINTON

William DeVone 77 passed away on Thursday, April 30, 2020 at his home. William “Slim” Davis DeVone was born on May 2, 1940 to the late Jerry and Lillie Mae DeVone. He had to leave school early to help his family on the farm. He came from a very large family, they were share croppers. His income was needed to help the family survive. William was a member of St. Mary’s Christ Church of Kenansville, NC. He was a trustee of the church and a man loved by many. William was very instrumental in the recently upgraded air conditioner and heating system in the church, coordinating getting a new system to install it. William worked in the diesel engine mechanic field during his career; he was also a heavy equipment welder. He worked for Sam Mingo for 40 years, he loved working on tractors and his hobby was tractor pulling. He was well known in this sport in Maryland and North Carolina. William was preceded in death by his parents: Jerry and Lillie Mae DeVone, sons: William Kenneth Williams and Damon Diggs, brothers: James, Edward, Kenneth Ray, sisters; Thelma, Elma, Jane and Diane DeVone. A walk through was held on Tuesday, May 5, 2020 from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm at Hope Valley Hawkins, 1246 Hobbton Hwy. Clinton, the family will not be present. A graveside was held on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at Clinton City Cemetery at 11:00 am. William leaves to cherish his memories: his wife of 51 years; Rosalind Jordan of the home. Two daughters; Pamela (Arthur) Crockett of Newton Grove and Shelia Williams of Clinton. Two sisters; Jean Monk of Clinton, Betty Ingram of Clinton, Brothers; Jerry DeVone, Jr. (Maime) of Upper Malboro, Maryland, Bobby of Dunn, NC, Wade of Grantham, NC, John of Clinton, NC, Jimmy (Toni) of Benson, NC, Freddie of Smithfield, NC, George of Germany, Jackie (Shirley) of Newton Grove, NC three grandchildren; Andrea Williams of Clinton, NC, Jamar Williams of Clinton, NC, Haisha Williams of Clinton, NC, three great- grandchildren, special friend-like a brother; Bobby Troublefield. Many nieces and nephews, A host of other relatives and friends.

CLINTON

Mr. Elem Woodrow “Woody” Dudley, 70, of Clinton passed away peacefully on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at Mary Gran Nursing Home. A Graveside service will be held Saturday morning, May 9 at 11:00 am at Clinton Cemetery with Rev. Charles Ray Jernigan officiating. Born in 1949 in Harnett County, Woody was the son of the late Elem and Juanita Royal Dudley. He worked at Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh as a Medical Assistant for many years, before moving back to Clinton. He is survived by two sons: Clinton Woodrow Dudley and wife, Sabrina of Clinton, Michael Andrew Dudley and wife, Trish of Clayton; two sisters: Janice Dudley and Brenda Jackson of Clinton; two brothers: Donald Dudley of White Lake, Ronnie Dudley and wife, Connie of Faison; and five grandchildren: Kyler Hern, Aubrie Jeffreys, Jayden Moore, Isaiah Dudley and Jordan Dudley. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Royal-Hall Funeral Home to cover funeral expenses by mailing to PO Box 815, Clinton, NC 28329. The family would like to thank the entire staff of Mary Gran Nursing facility, as well as the hospice nurses who took such great care of Woody over the last eleven years. Your kindness and compassionate care were sincerely appreciated. Royal-Hall is honored to serve the Dudley Family.

STEDMAN

Dale Elliott Hubbard, 62 passed away Thursday, May 7, 2020 at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center in Fayetteville. Funeral service will be held at 3:00pm Monday, May 11, 2020 at Magnolia Baptist Church. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends from 1:00pm to 2:30pm Monday in the church fellowship hall prior to the service. He is preceded in death by his father, Euland “Coot” Elliott Hubbard; maternal grandparents, John Raymond Hairr and Pearl Hairr; and paternal grandparents, Willie James Hubbard & Carrie Hubbard. He is survived by his daughter, Stephanie Myers & husband, Tracy of Wade; mother and step-father, Lois H. Hubbard and Doug Richardson of Stedman; grandchildren, Michael, Ethan and Addisyn; sister, Debra Hubbard Cooke & husband, Sam of Stedman; and nieces, Samantha Presnell and Devon Nobles. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 6535 Clinton Road, Stedman, NC 28391.

FAYETTEVILLE

Mr. Lee David Kessler, Jr., 82 formerly of Pennsylvania, passed away Thursday, April 30, 2020 at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center. Services will be held in Pennsylvania at a later date. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home of Stedman.



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NASCAR THIS WEEK

The Daytona Beach News-Journal's Godwin Kelly & Ken Willis have covered NASCAR for nearly 60 years combined. godwin.kelly@news-jrnl.com and ken.willis@news-jrnl.com



The NASCAR Cup Series will return for real racing on May 17 at Darlington Raceway. [AP/RICK SCUTERI]

NASCAR may score TV coup with racing's return

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

While other major professional sports leagues continue to discuss the whens, wheres and hows of restarting play during the coronavirus pandemic, NASCAR took the plunge to announce its return to on-track competition.

The NASCAR Cup Series will go back to work on May 17 with an event at Darlington Raceway, 70 days since its last race on March 8 at Phoenix Raceway.

Yes, it will look a bit different since race fans are not invited to the party, but the fact remains that the general public and network television are starved for live sports content.

Major League Baseball might try to play games in June. The NBA is talking July. Is there still an NHL?

NASCAR has enjoyed a bit of TV success with its virtual Pro Invitational iRacing Series. Those cartoon races have averaged around one million viewers each time out and have attracted the attention of those in the eGames world.

Those broadcasts have a realistic

feel and have produced real-world consequences. Bubba Wallace lost a sponsor when he quit a race.

Kyle Larson, who is listed seventh in the current Cup Series standings, lost his job for uttering a racial slur while competing in a non-NASCAR race. When the No. 42 Chip Ganassi Racing Chevrolet fires up at Darlington, it will be 2003 NASCAR champion Matt Kenseth behind the wheel.

If all the pieces fall in the right places, NASCAR could enjoy a major sports coup, attracting an audience that's desperate to watch some sort of sporting event from the comforts of their please-stay-at-home living rooms.

The next 22 Cup Series races will look a lot how the sport looked in the earliest days under NASCAR founder Bill France Sr. He worked out of his hat, you know, back in the day, and would add races to the schedule on a whim.

NASCAR executives call this a "fluid situation" and hope the pandemic is under control for the playoff races (last 10 races).

Out of the gate, NASCAR wants to keep races close to the sport's North Carolina hub in Charlotte to avoid overnight stays.

Darlington will host the comeback May 17 and then competitors will come back to the track "too tough to tame" on May 20 (a Wednesday) for another race.

From there it is on to Charlotte Motor Speedway for two more Cup races on May 24, the traditional Memorial Day Coca-Cola 600, followed by another race at the 1.5-mile quad-oval on May 27.

The races will be one-day shows with no practice sessions. The 600 will hold a qualifying session.

NASCAR said it will announce another batch of races in about two weeks. The sanctioning body wanted to shake the schedule up, likely in 2021, but the coronavirus has hurried that process.

As the only game in town, other than some ring action by the World Wrestling Entertainment, NASCAR might be able to grab some of that 1990s momentum back and build its audience over the summer.

One of NASCAR's honchos, Steve O'Donnell, is hopeful this all turns out for the best.

"I do feel confident as an industry we have a schedule that we feel like we can pull off and we can pull off in a good way for the fans," he said.

QUESTIONS & ATTITUDE

Compelling questions ... and maybe a few actual answers

Are Sundays and Wednesdays a sign of things to come?

Probably, but this wasn't the way NASCAR wanted to roll out its new scheduling philosophy. The schedule for the 2021 season, which would be run in the new Next Gen stock car, was pegged for an April release. But as you noticed, things got in the way as April came and went in a muffled manner. Finalization of the 2021 schedule gave way to a hectic rework of 2020, and the Next Gen cars went back in the closet, awaiting a 2022 unveiling.

So what about 2021?

All along, much of the educated speculation focused on the probability of some midweek races dotting the revamped NASCAR schedule, as the sport's leaders looked for ways to shorten the calendar and streamline travel costs. So this, though unwanted, gives NASCAR a chance to test-drive the future and most likely give the networks some big midweek numbers along the way.

Hold the phone! Matt Kenseth?

He's returned once before, replacing Trevor Bayne at Roush Racing in 2018, just several months after "retiring." But this return, in Chip Ganassi's No. 42, comes after an 18-month absence. At age 48. By the way, Matt and Katie Kenseth have four daughters, ranging from ages 2 to 10. Keeping it between the tight walls at Darlington might prove therapeutic.

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

NASCAR CUP STANDINGS

NASCAR Cup Series points standings as the series prepares to restart the season:

1. Kevin Harvick	164
2. Joey Logano	163
3. Chase Elliott	144
4. Alex Bowman	138
5. Jimmie Johnson	131
6. Ryan Blaney	123
7. Kyle Larson	121
8. Aric Almirola	121
9. Matt DiBenedetto	118
10. Brad Keselowski	118
11. Denny Hamlin	111
12. Kyle Busch	111
13. Clint Bowyer	105
14. Chris Buescher	102
15. Martin Truex Jr.	96
16. Kurt Busch	90
17. Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	88
18. Bubba Wallace	87
19. William Byron	87
20. Austin Dillon	77

MOTOR MOUTHS PODCAST

It's been a while, so tentative plans for a return will likely include name tags.

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



SPEED FREAKS — A few questions we had to ask ourselves

Can you get accustomed to a Sunday-and-Wednesday schedule for a while?

GODSPEAK: I think I can move some things around in my schedule to make this work.

KEN'S CALL: At this point, I'd watch mid-morning matches from the Central Minnesota Curling Association, so yes, bring it on, and toss in one more during the week if necessary.

Did anyone benefit most from the layoff, aside from the obvious?

GODSPEAK: Remember what poet Thomas Haynes Bayly wrote in 1844?

"Absence makes the heart grow fonder." I think this will work in NASCAR's favor.

KEN'S CALL: Aside from Ryan Newman, I'd say Timmy Hill, because during iRacing he got more air time than he will the rest of the season.

Also aside from the obvious, who benefited least?

GODSPEAK: Follow the money, man. Fox Sports is footing the NASCAR bill. The network has been the biggest loser by far. Boogity!

KEN'S CALL: I'd say everyone who had invested lots of time, effort and emotion



Darlington will be host to NASCAR's coming-out party, but without all the hosts. [AP FILE]

on the Next Gen car, whose debut has been pushed back a year due to this uninvited plague.

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