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VOTE to Re-Elect BRENT JACKSON NC SENATE www.brentjacksonforsenate.com

SAMPSON COUNTY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

The Sampson Weekly



VOLUME 11, ISSUE 43

www.thesampsonweekly.com

Week of October 16-22, 2020

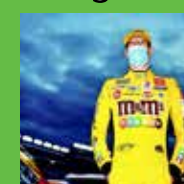
INSIDE



Local News Page 2



Faith Page 5



Nascar Page 16

WEATHER

Fri Sunny 10%

Sat Sunny 10%

Sun Sunny 0%

Mon Sunny 10%

Tues Sunny 20%

Wed Partly Cloudy 20%

COUNTY OFFICES BEGIN RE-OPENING TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC



Seeing a stabilizing trend of COVID cases in the County, Sampson County government departments which have been closed to the general public to protect employees and citizens are transitioning to an open-door status.

Standard safety precautions will still prevail: visitors will be required to wear a mask and practice social distancing (small lobbies may only be able accommodate a few visitors at a time).

BUILDING A

County Auditorium/Board of Commissioners

The Board is deliberating the option of an in-person meeting in November. Additional information will be forthcoming.

COUNTY OFFICES, see P. 3

Governor Cooper Announces Applications Open for New Rent and Utility Assistance Program



Governor and health officials urge continued vigilance as certain metrics rise

Governor Roy Cooper announced Thursday that applications are now being accepted for the N.C. Housing Opportunities and Prevention of Evictions (HOPE) Program, which will assist eligible low- and moderate-income renters experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19.

"The spread of coronavirus has affected every aspect of our lives. Many have lost jobs, had work hours cut back or had to care for someone who has become ill with COVID-19," said Governor Roy Cooper.

The HOPE Program will provide \$117 million for rent and utility assistance for renters who have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic, have a current household income that is 80 percent of the area median income or lower, and are behind on their rent or utilities when they apply.

Renters who need rent or utility assistance can apply online at nc211.org/hope. Applicants who cannot access the online application can also call 2-1-1 and speak with a program representative, who will assist the caller through the application on the phone.

The HOPE Program is funded by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus funds and U.S. Department of Treasury Coronavirus Relief funds, which have been provided to North Carolina. The funds are administered by the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency, a division of the Department of Public Safety, and will be distributed through community GOVERNOR, see P. 2

Possibility of "Fallen Heroes Bridge" Committee Being Formed

In a letter to the Clinton City Council from Clinton Mayor Lew Starling, the issue of the Honorary Bridge Designation was discussed. This comes amidst the flurry of negative response from the citizens of Clinton concerning the recent voting down of the Resolution of Support to name the bridge located on Hwy 421 that crosses over Sunset Avenue the "Officer Donald Ray Tucker Bridge".



At the October City Council meeting, the resolution was brought before the board and was voted down 3-2 (Councilmen Marcus Becton, Darue Bryant and Daniel Ruggles in favor and Councilmen Neal Strickland and Holden Dubose opposing). The Department of Transportation requires a unanimous vote from the council in order to move forward with the honorary designation.

The letter from Mayor Lew Starling to Mayor Pro tem Marcus Becton reads as follow: "I write to follow up with you regarding our phone conversation yesterday about the Faircloth Freeway bridge issue. As you are aware, it is certainly without question that Mr. Tucker was a very fine man, and his death was untimely and tragic. Everyone would like to continue to honor his life and service.

At the next City Council meeting, I would like to propose appointing HEROES, see P. 3

WEEKLY VERSE

Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? 1 Corinthians 10:16

WEEKLY INDEX

Table with 2 columns: Topic and Page Number. Includes Local, Education, Faith, Food, ACC, Breast Cancer, Puzzles, Obits, Classifieds, Nascar.



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Vote For Experience

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Nov. 3, 2020

Anita Honeycutt Lane

for

Sampson County Register of Deeds



Paid for by the committee to elect Anita H Lane for Register of Deeds



LOCAL NEWS

GOVERNOR, cont. from P. 1

partner agencies across the state.

Renters can apply for utility assistance, rent assistance or both programs. Rent assistance is paid to the landlord on behalf of the applicant. This includes overdue and future rent payments, for up to six months. At least one month's rent must be overdue at the time of application.

Utility payments will be made directly to the utility provider for up to six months of past due essential utilities, such as electricity, water, sewer/wastewater, natural gas and propane. For more information about the HOPE Program, visit nc211.org/hope.

Update on COVID-19 Key Metrics

DHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen also provided an update on North Carolina's current COVID-19 key metrics and cautioned that people should continue to be vigilant and practice the 3 W's to prevent the spread of the virus as the weather gets cooler this fall.

"We have the tools to slow the spread and protect one another. The science is clear on masks. They work. They slow the spread. Whatever your reason, I am asking you to get behind the mask," said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen, M.D.

Dr. Cohen reviewed the state's key metrics:

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

Trajectory of Confirmed Cases Over 14 Days
North Carolina's trajectory of cases is increasing.

Trajectory in Percent of Tests Returning Positive Over 14 Days
North Carolina's trajectory in percent of tests returning positive is increasing, but is lower than it was in July when we last had our highest rate of new cases.

Trajectory in Hospitalizations Over 14 Days

North Carolina's trajectory of hospitalizations is increasing, but we still have capacity. In addition to these metrics, the state continues building capacity to adequately respond to an increase in virus spread in testing, tracing and prevention. Testing capacity continues to increase with upwards of 40,000 tests reported on peak days. We continue to hire contact tracers, and there have been more than 150,000 downloads of the NCDHHS exposure notification app, SlowCOVIDNC. North Carolina's personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies are stable.

CRIME

CRIME REPORTS

10-06 Jason Ray Jones, 36, Dunn. Attempted Larceny, Violation of Court Order, Possession of Marijuana up to 1/2 oz, Possession of Marijuana Paraphernalia. Bond \$474. Trial Date 10-23-20

10-06 Emanuel Lewis Davis, 36, Dunn. Fail to Comply. Bond \$260. Trial Date 10-13-20

10-06 Michael Anthony Courtney, 52, Warsaw. Speeding, DWLR Not Impaired, Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle. Bond \$500. Trial Date 10-15-20

10-06 Terry Dwshawn McPhail, 40, Clinton. Order for Arrest-FTC-Child Support. Bond \$1200. Trial Date 10-20-20

10-06 Christopher Martin Denning, 51, Dunn. Communicating Threats, Injury to Personal Property. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 11-10-20

10-06 Juan Bolivar Rendon, 30, Godwin. Assault on a Female. Trial Date 10-20-20

10-06 Angela Resio Jackson, 61, Roseboro. Shoplifting. Trial Date 11-12-20

10-07 Thomas Calvin Pope, 33, Dunn. Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Possession of Stolen Property, Possess of Meth, Larceny. Bond \$21000. Trial Date 10-20-20

10-07 William Field Burch, 35, Newton Grove. Assault on a Female. Trial Date 10-13-20

10-07 Wanda Adams, 47, Roseboro. Trespass of Real Property, Injury to Personal Property. Trial Date 11-19-20

10-07 Keith Adams, Roseboro. Trespass of Real, Injury to Personal Property. Trial Date 11-19-20

10-07 Lawrence Antwon Wilson, 36, Clinton. Simple Assault. Bond \$500. Trial Date 11-17-20

10-07 Rebecca Dare Kennedy, 38, Faison. FTA- Fict/Alt Tag/Reg Card/Tag, FTA- DWLR Not Impaired, FTA- Cancel/Revoke/Susp Certif/Tag, FTA- Operate Vehicle No Insurance. Bond \$500. Trial Date 10-30-20

10-07 Walter Armando Velasquez Reyes, 45, Philadelphia. Driving While Impaired, Drive Left of Center, Fictitious Infor to Officer, Driving While License Revoked Impaired. Bond \$4500. Trial Date 11-19-20

10-07 Natasha Rae Greenhalgh, 34, Roseboro. Injury to Real Property. Trial Date 11-19-20

10-07 James Junior McCrae, 55, Dunn. Driving While Impaired, No Operators License. Trial Date 11-19-20

10-07 Harold Wayne Johnson, 56, Autryville. FTA- Driving While Impaired, FTA- DWLR Impaired Rev, FTA- Expired/No Inspection, FTA- Operate Vehicle No Insurance, FTA- Drive Without Two Headlamps, FTA- Fict/Alt Title/Reg Card/Tag. Bond \$15000. Trial Date 10-29-20

10-07 Thomas Jefferson Burke, 60, Roseboro. Fail to Comply. Bond \$605. Trial Date 12-07-20

10-07 Shalonda Charmagne Pridgen, 28, Atkinson. Carrying a Concealed Weapon.

10-08 Jerry Terrell Williams, 31, Clinton. Possess Drug Paraphernalia. Trial Date 11-09-20

10-08 Courtney Nicole Bishop, 37, Clinton. Breaking and or Entering, Larceny After Break/Enter, Poss Stolen Goods/Property, Child Support. Bond \$25800. Trial Date 10-20-20

10-08 Gilbert Barrantes, 41, Clinton. Allow Dog to Run at Night. Trial Date 10-20-20

10-08 Anthony Level Parker, 47, Godwin. Order for Arrest- FTA- Release Order. Bond \$2000. Trial Date 11-19-20

10-08 Jeffrey Allen Hobbs, 44, Roseboro. Impede Traffic by Sitting in Roadway. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 11-19-20

10-08 Janet Sanchez, 21, Clinton. Larceny by Employee. Bond \$5000. Trial Date 12-01-20

10-08 Omar L Wilson, 36, Turkey. Assault on a Female, Injury to Personal Property. Trial Date 10-23-20

10-08 Billy Gene Autry, 52, Clinton. Assault Govt Official/Employee, Driving While Impaired, DWLR Impaired Rev, Canc/Revok/Susp Certificate/Tag, Operate Vehicle No Insurance. Bond \$5500. Trial Date 11-09-20

10-08 Annie Owens, 52, Salemburg. Littering Not >15lbs. Trial Date 12-08-20

10-08 Johnnie Ray Faison, 61, Clinton. Communicating Threats. Trial Date 11-17-20

10-08 Mary louse Johnson, 41, Clinton. Order for Arrest- FTA Child Support. Bond \$500. Trial Date 10-20-20

10-08 Ladell Daquan Watkins, 25, Clinton. No Operators License, Operate Veh No Insurance. Bond \$500. Trial Date 10-19-20

10-08 Daniel Wayne McLamb, 28, Garland. DWLR Not Impaired Rev. Bond \$500. Trial Date 10-15-20

10-08 Antonio Neal Chestnutt, 46, Clinton. Misdemeanor Larceny. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 12-14-20

10-08 Basheka Onyetta Watkins, 38, Garland. Carrying Concealed Weapon. Trial Date 11-18-20

10-08 Willie Lee McLean, 40, Clinton. DWI, DWLR Aft Impaired Rev Notice. Bond \$2000. Trial Date 11-09-20

10-08 Kameron Sebastian Greene, 19, Salemburg. WFA Injury to Personal Property. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 12-14-20

10-09 Djuan Romario Bell, 49, Clinton. DWLR Not Impaired Rev, Fail to Comply. Bond \$830. Trial Date 11-16-20

10-09 Victor Ray Register, 28, Clinton. Possess Marijuana.

10-09 Jesse Franklin Oates, 59, Clinton. Possess Drug Paraphernalia. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 11-17-20

10-09 David Anthony Vasquez, 44, Newton Grove. Harrassing Phone Calls. Bond \$500. Trial Date 11-17-20

10-09 Jamie Nichole Atkinson, 20, Harrells. Manufacture Marijuana. Bond \$10000. Trial Date 10-16-20

10-09 Corey Joseph Baker, 26, Newton Grove. Failure to Appear Release Order. Bond \$4250. Trial Date 10-23-20

10-09 Keyshawn O'Quinton Collins, 20, Roseboro. Fail to Comply with Money. Bond \$590. Trial Date 10-27-20

10-09 Victor Alexander Martinez-Diaz, 24, Godwin. Driving While Impaired, No Operators License, Open Cont After Cons 1st. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 11-17-20

10-09 James Earl Rumph, 24, Lumberton. Break or Enter Motor Vehicle, Larceny. Bond \$25000. Trial Date 12-09-20

10-10 Everette Clark Hefner, 45, Dunn. DWLR Not Impaired Rev. Bond \$500. Trial Date 10-29-20

10-10 Carl Michael Hoskins, 41, Autryville. Possess Meth, Possess Drug Paraphernalia. Bond \$7500. Trial Date 10-16-20

10-10 Devon Julian Walker, 30, Jacksonville. Carrying Concealed Hand Gun, DWLR Not Im-

paired, Possess Marijuana up to 1/2oz, Possess Marijuana Paraphernalia, Speeding. Bond \$1500. Trial Date 12-15-20

10-10 Herbert Leon Farrior III, 22, Clinton. Domestic Assault on a Female, Assault Inf Ser Injury Minor Present. Trial Date 11-24-20

10-10 Tynisha Shanae McNeill, 29, Florala AL. Injury to Real Property, Injury to Personal Property. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 10-14-20

10-11 Katherin Damaris Alvarez, 19, Rose Hill. Driving Under the Influence, Driving After Consuming <21, No Operators License. Bond \$500. Trial Date 12-15-20

10-11 Decorius Raamah Daughtry, 28, Clinton. Possess Firearm by Felon, Possess Marijuana, Second Degree Trespassing, Injury to Personal Property. Bond \$2500. Trial Date 10-30-20

10-11 Antwain Terrell Harrison, 40, Clinton. Assault on a Female, Resisting Arrest/Hinder & Delay. Trial Date 11-17-20

10-11 Anthony Dawon Bryant, 20, Clinton. Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle, Misdemeanor Larceny. Bond \$750. Trial Date 11-30-20

10-11 Felisha Nicole Dashner, 32, Calypso. OFA DWLR Not Impaired Rev, OFA Expired Registration Card/Tag. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 10-26-20

10-11 Robin Lane McLemore, 39, Clinton. DWI. Trial Date 11-09-20

10-12 Ashland Dawn Raynor, 23, Clinton. 24 Hour Hold.

10-12 Joseph Javarah Melvin, 33, Roseboro. WFA/Simple Assault, WFA/AWDW Minor Present, WFA/Communicating Threats. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 11-10-20

10-12 Anthony Dawon Bryant, 20, Clinton. WFA/Communicating Threats. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 11-30-20

10-12 Everette Hefner, 45, Dunn. OFA- FTC Child Support. Bond \$500. Trial Date 10-20-20

10-12 Melisa Kay Bradsher, 44, Clinton. Lar Remove/Dest/Deact Compo. Bond \$15000. Trial Date 10-23-20

10-12 Susan Smith, 39, Clinton. Misdemeanor Larceny. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 12-15-20

10-12 Shinka Nicole Bronson, 21, Clinton. Fail to Return Property Rented Pur Opt. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 11-23-20

10-12 Christopher Hill, 39, Clinton. Sell Sch II CS< Deliver Sch II CS, Manufacture Sch II CS, Possess Drug Paraphernalia. Bond \$35000. Trial Date 10-23-20

10-13 Erika Janae Faison, 23, Clinton. Price Tag Switching, Resist Delay Obstruct. Bond \$2500. Trial Date 10-30-20

10-13 Erika Janae Faison, 23, Clinton. Misdemeanor or Child Abuse. Bond \$2500. Trial Date 11-09-20

10-13 Demarcus Deshon Butler, 21, Clinton. WFA/ Domestic Damage to Property, WFA/Domestic Assault on a Female. Trial Date 11-17-20

10-13 Alexis D Lancaster-Fennell, 20, Rose Hill. Shoplifting. Trial Date 11-17-20

10-14 Lawanda Michelle Ashley, 44, Clinton. WFA Assault and Battery. Bond \$5000. Trial Date 10-26-20

10-15 Stephanie Mahquan Johnson, 23, Clinton. CS Cyberstalking. Trial Date 11-09-20

10-06 Gudrun Thornton of Clinton reported Larceny of political sign \$10.

10-06 Walmart of Clinton reported Shoplifting- merchandise \$44.09.

10-06 Simone Lassiter of Clinton reported Domestic Damage to Property- door \$350.

10-07 Jabir Hardie of Clinton reported Larceny- battery charger \$75, drill battery \$65.

10-07 Sherrill Horne of Clinton reported Theft from Motor Vehicle- box of tools \$2000.

10-08 Beauty World of Clinton reported Larceny by Employee.

10-08 Eugene Baranowski of Clinton reported Burglary/Breaking & Entering- 357 Magnum \$700.

10-08 Serenity Baptist Church of Clinton reported Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories, Destruction/Damage Vandalism of Property- bus \$800, catalytic converter \$200,

10-08 Maurice Robinson of Clinton reported Theft from Motor Vehicle- handgun \$500.

10-08 Michael Taylor of Clinton reported All Other Larceny- lawn mower \$8000.

10-08 Stephon Johnson of Clinton reported a Burglary/Breaking & Entering- firearm \$200, Playstation 4 \$400, Hoverboard \$100.

10-08 Big Blue Store of Clinton reported Misdemeanor Larceny- tools \$26.

10-07 Mary Ann Simmons of Clinton reported Breaking and Entering Residence- stolen television \$250, electric fireplace \$350.

10-08 Janet Sampson of Clinton reported Motor Vehicle Theft- automobile \$10000.

10-08 Family Dollar of Clinton reported Shoplifting- clothing \$34.

10-09 Gary Hall of Clinton reported Larceny of handgun \$300.

10-09 Robert Willard of Clinton reported Stolen Property Offenses- Forest River Camper \$26000.

10-09 Everette Hefner of Clinton reported Larceny of a Firearm, All Other Larceny- Ruger \$450, Handgun \$400, Musical Instruments \$2000.

10-10 Daniel Indelicato of Roseboro reported All Other Larceny- 100lb gas cylinder \$100, generator \$50, vise \$200, weedeater \$200, table \$200, chainsaw \$200.

10-10 Brittany Holmes of Clinton reported Motor Vehicle Theft- \$7000.

10-11 Raquel Ramirez of Clinton reported Breaking and Entering, Arson- television \$400, building material \$4000.

10-11 Family Dollar of Clinton reported Misdemeanor Larceny- diapers \$59.

10-12 Jason Koons of Clinton reported Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories- transmission, rims, speaker system \$3500.

10-11 Lidia Cruz of Clinton reported Damage to Property- windshield \$250.

10-12 Courtney Barber of Clinton reported Theft from Motor Vehicle- wallet, handbag, makeup \$340.

10-13 Walmart of Clinton reported Shoplifting, Price Tag Switching- stolen clothing \$135.

10-13 Walmart of Clinton reported Shoplifting- stolen asst merchandise \$80.

10-13 Samson Bradsher of Clinton- 9mm \$300.

10-14 Shoe Show of Clinton reported Shoplifting- hiker boots \$89.99.

INCIDENT REPORTS

10-05 Sampson County Crisis Center in Clinton reported Shoplifting- computer hardware/software \$200.

10-06 US Infrastructure Company reported Theft from Motor Vehicle- cans of marking spray paint \$133.

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COUNTY OFFICES, cont. from P. 1

BUILDING B

Inspections/Planning/Environmental Health

Open to the general public. Visitors must wear a face mask, and the capacity of persons in congregate areas (such as lobbies) will be subject to social distancing guidelines, and a limited number of customers will be permitted at one time. Appointments are encouraged, and most visitor needs can be accommodated via phone.

Department of Aging

Open to the general public, with escorted-only access beyond the lobby. Visitors must wear a face mask, and the capacity of persons in congregate areas (such as lobbies) will be subject to social distancing guidelines. Generally, two persons will be allowed in the waiting area at a time. Appointments are encouraged, and most visitor needs can be accommodated via phone.

Parks and Recreation

Open to the general public. Visitors must wear a face mask, and the capacity of persons in congregate areas (such as lobbies) will be subject to social distancing guidelines. Generally, two persons will be allowed in waiting area at a time. Appointments are encouraged, and most visitor needs can be accommodated via phone.

BUILDING C

Administration, Finance, Economic Development, Human Resources and Legal Departments

Open to the general public with escorted-only access beyond the lobby. Visitors must wear a face mask, and the capacity of persons in congregate areas (such as lobbies) will be subject to social distancing guidelines. Generally, two persons will be allowed in waiting area at a time. Appointments are encouraged.

BUILDING D

Veterans Services

Open to the general public, but appointments are required and can be scheduled between 8 am – 4 pm. Generally, two appointments can be accommodated each hour. Visitors must wear a face mask, and the capacity of persons in congregate areas (such as lobbies) will be subject to social distancing guidelines.

BUILDING E

Social Services

Nearly all of DSS Services are available via phone or online. See service specific information at this link: [here](#) or the Social Services webpage at www.sampsonnc.com. The HUB customer service area of the main lobby is open.

HEROES, cont. from P. 1

a tenmember ad hoc special committee that will be charged with the task of reviewing and establishing policies and procedures of how to honor our fallen heroes. I would appreciate the Council's input on who is to serve on this very important committee, and I will consider the Council's recommendations in making these appointments.

As you are aware, in addition to Mr. Tucker's tragic death, our community has also lost two fire department members in the line of duty. I would ask the committee to review how to handle these recognitions and seek their input and wisdom on naming the current bridge in question the "Fallen Heroes Bridge" as a way to honor our men and women who have died in their respective lines of service. Each name would be listed on the bridge as a fallen hero. The Council would also work closely with the Department of Transportation and the City Attorney to ensure that we are following proper guidelines and protocol. As you are aware, the bridge will not be complete until 2022, so I want to be certain that this process is fair, open, and transparent.

I would also ask the committee to consider recognizing first responders, sheriffs, and high-way patrol as well. By copy of this letter, I ask Mr. Hart to thoroughly research and provide us with the names, departments, and years of death of our fallen public servants at the November meeting. As always, I appreciate your hard work and look forward to discussing this matter with you further at your earliest opportunity."

Officer Donald Ray Tucker is the only officer in Sampson County who was shot and killed in the line of duty. He was making his last purchase as an undercover drug agent with an Interagency Drug Enforcement operation in Carteret County.

There is an online petition that has been started at [change.org](https://www.change.org/p/clinton-city-counsel-name-hwy-421-bridge-after-officer-donald-ray-tucker/sign) (<https://www.change.org/p/clinton-city-counsel-name-hwy-421-bridge-after-officer-donald-ray-tucker/sign>) that currently has over 695 signatures in support of naming the bridge after Officer Donald Ray Tucker.

At the October City Council meeting, Mayor Lew Starling stated that he believed that proper procedure had not been followed to address the Honorary Naming Designation.

The next Clinton City Council meeting is scheduled for November 10th at 7pm.

Health

Open to the general public, but appointments are encouraged to avoid wait times. The front entrance of the building is closed; visitors must enter via the back entrance. Visitors to this building must wear a mask and practice social distancing, and are screened and temperature checked upon entry.

BUILDING F

Board of Elections/Information Technology

Open to the general public. Visitors must wear a face mask, and the capacity of persons in congregate areas (such as lobbies) will be subject to social distancing guidelines, and a limited number of customers will be permitted at one time. Appointments are encouraged, and most visitor needs can be accommodated via phone to avoid wait times.

BUILDING G

NRCS/CFA

In compliance with the procedures set forth by USDA's Phase 2 re-opening guidelines, the Soil and Water Conservation office will provide assistance by telephone, email, and/or fax. No customers are allowed to enter the building.

BUILDING H

Sampson Area Transportation

Open to the general public. Visitors must wear a face mask, and the capacity of persons in congregate areas (such as lobbies) will be subject to social distancing guidelines, and a limited number of customers will be permitted at one time.

Board of Elections/Information Technology

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BUILDING G

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BUILDING H

Sampson Area Transportation

Open to the general public. Visitors must wear a face mask, and the capacity of persons in congregate areas (such as lobbies) will be subject to social distancing guidelines, and a limited number of customers will be permitted at one time.

Exposition Center

Open to the general public, but appointments are required. Visitors must wear a face mask, and the capacity of persons in congregate areas will be subject to social distancing guidelines. Visitors will be screened, and temperature taken. More details are available on at www.sampsonexpoctr.com.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICES

Emergency Services

Open to the general public with escorted-only access beyond foyer. Visitors must wear a face mask and will be restricted to the foyer area until screened and temperature taken. The majority of visitors will be assisted from the foyer area, and appointments are encouraged. The capacity of persons in congregate areas (lobbies) will be subject to social distancing guidelines.

Sheriff's Office

Open to the general public and will observe social distancing and sanitation guidelines, and visitors will undergo a temperature check. The capacity of persons in congregate areas (lobbies) will be subject to two persons at one time.

No New Deaths Reported This Week from COVID-19

The Sampson County Health Department reported 30 new cases on Thursday, bringing the total to 2,522 positive cases of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The number of deaths remains at 28. There was not a report submitted on Friday.

COVID testing numbers for Sampson County as of October 15, 2020:

- Total Number of Tests Performed: 6,983
- Positive Test Results: 2,522 (1,860 recovered)
- Negative Test Results: 4,456
- Pending Results: 5
- Deaths: 28

COVID Positive Numbers By Date:

- October 12th- 43 new cases
- October 13th- 16 new cases
- October 14th- No report
- October 15th- 30 new cases
- October 16th- No report



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

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

- Wear a cloth mask over your nose and mouth.
- Wait 6 feet apart. Avoid close contact.
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer.

These actions can protect our families and neighbors as the state works to ease restrictions while the virus is still circulating.

"Check My Symptoms" is an informational tool for you to check your symptoms online (<https://ncdhhs-covid19-dtra.powerappsportals.us/en-US/>) to determine if you would be recommended to be tested for COVID-19. Additionally, you can use "Find My Testing Place" at <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/.../testing/find-my-testing-place> to find a list of local testing events.

Provided by the
Sampson County
Animal Shelter
Call (910)592-8493

This is Waldo and he is 3 years old. Can you be his "forever" family?

You can also make a monetary, supplies or pet food donation to the shelter. Contact the Sampson County Animal Shelter at (910)592-8493.

EDUCATION

Butler Avenue Elementary School's October Student of the Month Recipients



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Tarheel Challenge

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Hannaya Augustin, Jazae Blue, Layla Bullard, JoEll Carter, Sa'Riya Crews, Francko Daniel, Noah Emanuel, Amir Faircloth, Nathaly Funez, James Walker Hairr, Hallie Harrison, Nevaeh Hendricks, Jose Hernandez, Kendrick Herring, Schmaiah Jean Baptiste, Shelby Jeudy, Samuel Jimenez-Torres, Paige King, Kenner Lane, Landon Lee, Weston Minnich, Tavion Newkirk, Hadley Pearson, Suneyli Reynoso, Mylo Ruiz, Lydia Sanchez, Isaac Vail Ramirez, Isabella Williams, Martravious Williams, and Teeanna Williams.

VOTE CONSERVATIVE

Sampson County Conservative Candidates

President

Donald J. Trump

US Senate

Thom Tillis

US Congress

David Rouzer

Governor

Dan Forest

COUNCIL OF STATE

Lieutenant Governor

Mark Robinson

NC Treasurer

Dale Folwell

NC Commissioner of Labor

Josh Dobson

NC Secretary of State

EC Sykes

Attorney General

Jim O'Neil

NC Commissioner of Insurance

Mike Causey

NC AG Commissioner

Steve Troxler

NC Auditor

Anthony Street

NC Super. of Public Instruction

Catherine Truitt

WE MUST ELECT CONSERVATIVE JUDGES

State Senate Dist. 10

Brent Jackson

State House Dist. 21

Brent Heath

State House Dist. 22

William Brisson

County Commissioner District 2

Jerol Kivett

Register of Deeds

Anita Honeycutt Lane

NC Supreme Court

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AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE

Joshua 24:14-15, “Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve the Lord. And if it seems evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day who ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

There was a time when the culture paid close attention to the church. In fact, it wouldn't be an overstatement to say there was a time when society was even molded by the actions of the local church. When my grandfather was pastoring in the 1970s, it was not uncommon for the local school, recreational league or civic club to call him to check the church calendar before they scheduled an event. Part of the reasoning I think those groups did so was because they still had a respect for the churches in the community and they also knew church members would not miss church for some extra-curricular activity. However, that time has long past and our culture has radically changed.

The early history of Christianity is recorded in the book of Acts, which tells about the birth of the church on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit filled Jesus' disciples, how it grew rapidly and its success in spreading the message of salvation to the entire world. Acts chapter two reminds us of that special day, “When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly, there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they

were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves. And they rested on each one of them.” The early church was so effective because it was made up of individuals that were committed to Jesus and His ministry.

British evangelist G. Campbell Morgan proclaimed, “The reason why men do not look to the Church today is that she has destroyed her own influence by compromise.” The early church saw growth by the thousands in just one day. They didn't have a clever marketing program, fancy sermon titles or any gimmick that so many churches use today. The sick were healed, lives were transformed by the gospel and people were excited to meet with other believers. All this happened while Christians were being hunted and persecuted by a sinful world. Why have many in the modern church lost their passion for the gospel? Could it be that many believers have invited the Devil to the party and now wonder why he wants to dance with them?

Charles Haddon Spurgeon wrote, “I believe that one reason why the church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church.” If these words were true in 1867, then how much more tangible are they today? Please don't think that I'm against going to the beach or mountains for a vacation, but if that getaway is more important than supporting your local church, then there might be a spiritual problem. I'm also not against children playing sports or being part of the scouts, but when those activities become more important than God, we have allowed the world to win.

Today, will you search your heart and see what is most important in life? It can be very easy to compromise our convictions to remain friends of the world. However, if we are so friendly with the world, then we might be looked at as enemy of God. Be willing to say today, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”



Ken Smith



‘Tis He who fills the shuttle,
He knows just what is best,
So I shall weave in earnest and
leave with Him the rest.

At last, when life is ended,
with Him I shall abide,
Then I may view the pattern
upon the upper side;
Then I shall know the reason
why pain, with joy entwined,
Was woven in the fabric
of life that God designed.



Martha M. Pierce

Rev. Father Tabb, Author

THE PLAN OF THE MASTER WEAVER

Our lives are but fine weavings
That God and we prepare,
Each life becomes a fabric planned
And fashioned in His care.

We may not always see just how
The weavings intertwine,
But we must trust the Master's hand
And follow His design.

For He can view the pattern
Upon the upper side,
While we must look from underneath
And trust in Him to guide.

Sometimes a strand of sorrow
Is added to His plan,
And though it's difficult for us,
We still must understand,

That it's He who fills the shuttle,
It's He who knows what is best,
So we must weave in patience
And leave to Him the rest.

Not 'till the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly,
Shall God unroll the canvas
And explain the reason why—

The dark threads are as needed
In the Weaver's skillful hand,
As the threads of gold and silver

In the pattern He has planned.

Author unknown

Life's Weaving

My Life is but a weaving
between my God and me;
I may not choose the colors,
He knows what they should be;
For He can view the pattern
upon the upper side,
While I can see it only
on this the under side.

Sometimes He weaveth sorrow,
which seemeth strange to me;
But I will trust His judgment,
and work on faithfully;



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HEALTH WATCH

CONDITIONS 101 What is seasonal affective disorder?



Seasonal affective disorder, or SAD, is depression caused by changes in seasons that affects about 10 million Americans. Most people with SAD experience symptoms, such as feeling moody or drained of energy, starting in fall that continue through the winter months. Less often, SAD can occur in the spring or early summer. Though symptoms can start mild, they may worsen as the season progresses. Some medications, light therapy and psychotherapy may be used in treating SAD.

“Don’t brush off that yearly feeling as simply a case of the ‘winter blues’ or a seasonal funk that you have to tough out on your own,” according to the Mayo Clinic. “Take steps to keep your mood and motivation steady throughout the year. ... It’s normal to have some days when you feel down. But if you feel down for days at a time and you can’t get motivated to do activities you normally enjoy, see your doctor. This is especially important if your sleep patterns and appetite have changed, you turn to alcohol for comfort or relaxation, or you feel hopeless or think about suicide.”

Signs and symptoms

- Feeling depressed most of the day, nearly every day
- Losing interest in activities you once enjoyed
- Having problems with sleeping
- Experiencing changes in your appetite or weight
- Feeling sluggish or agitated
- Having difficulty concentrating
- Feeling hopeless, worthless or guilty
- Having frequent thoughts of death or suicide

HEALTH STAT 2

According to the CDC, it takes about two weeks after getting a flu shot for antibodies to develop in the body and provide protection against influenza virus infection. This is why you should get vaccinated before influenza viruses start to spread in your community.

NUTRITION STATION What not to eat after a run

You know it’s important to eat after a workout or run. You know you need to replenish your electrolytes and eat complex carbs and protein for optimal muscle building and recovery. But is there anything that’s off limits? Here’s what you should not eat after a run, according to Insider: “While many foods can help you refuel after a run, some foods can hinder your recovery. Foods high in saturated fat, like processed meat or fast food, can slow down the digestion of protein and carbohydrates, delaying your body’s ability to absorb them and replenish glycogen reserves.” Insider also recommends alcohol should also be avoided for at least an hour after working out. Because it’s a diuretic, it can drain you of water and sodium, causing you to become dehydrated and feel more fatigued.

More Content Now

Safe trick-or-treating

How families are keeping Halloween from turning into a COVID nightmare



By Priscilla Blossom
Kaiser Health News

DENVER — For Laura Stoutingburg and her family, Halloween has always been a monthlong celebration of corn mazes, pumpkin patches and, of course, trick-or-treating in their suburban Denver neighborhood.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced the mother of two to change their plans.

“Traditional trick-or-treating house to house does not feel like a smart choice to me this year,” Stoutingburg said.

Families across the nation are haunted by the same dilemma: How can they safely keep the pandemic from overshadowing Halloween? Can families trick-or-treat and go to haunted houses, or should they opt for lower-risk activities at home?

Health experts say families should err on the side of caution when it comes to trick-or-treating and other traditional fall activities. Much depends on each family’s comfort with taking risks and ensuring they adhere to safety standards and common sense, they said. Masks should be worn by all, even if not part of a costume.

“My kids love going to the farm ... to go pumpkin-picking, apple-picking and all those things we do in the fall,” said Dr. Aaron Milstone, a professor of pediatrics and an associate epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. But, he added, “if you show up at the pumpkin patch and it’s packed with people, that’s not the right time for you to be there.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently released Halloween guidelines that warn against high-risk activities like traditional trick-or-treating, haunted houses and costume parties, as well as hay and tractor rides, among other things. The federal agency is also clear on the need for social distancing, mask-wearing and hand-washing to continue.

Many parents are coming up with creative alternatives for Halloween night. For Stoutingburg, 30, that



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means hosting a small sleepover with relatives that features pumpkin-carving, cupcake-decorating and a scavenger hunt.

Jody Allard and her family also will forgo their usual tricks and treats. Allard, 42, lives in Seattle and has a rare genetic disease, putting her at higher risk for COVID-19. The mother of seven said her family will make new traditions this year.

“We’re going to make a bunch of different fun foods from the Halloween shows they like to watch on the Food Network, and we’re going to watch kid-friendly Halloween movies,” Allard said.

In Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 44-year-old writer Jamie Beth Cohen’s daughter came up with the idea that she and her brother dress up in costumes and trick-or-treat inside their own home, with their parents behind the doors of various rooms, waiting with candy.

“She’s excited to wear a costume without a jacket and get lots of the kind of candy she likes,” Cohen said.

Maya Brown-Zimmerman and her family of six never miss out on trick-or-treating in Cleveland. But they will this year, with Brown-Zimmerman, 35, at higher risk for COVID-19 because of multiple lung diseases.

Instead, her family will use their costume money on new Halloween decor, and her four kids, ages 3 to 11, will search for candy at home.

“I’ll hide eggs of candy in the front yard for my little kids,” she said. “After they go to bed, the older kids will have a hunt for eggs in the dark in our backyard with flashlights.”

For families still hoping to trick-or-treat this year, though, what can be done to stay as safe as possible?

The Harvard Global Health Institute created a website to help parents assess their risk level for Halloween activities with a color-coded map of county COVID data. It shows which counties are “lower-risk” zones for COVID (green and yellow), where parents might feel more comfortable allowing their children to trick-or-treat, and which are higher-risk areas (orange and red), where online parties and very small gatherings are recommended instead.

Milstone said families should think less in terms of green versus red zones and more in terms of staying safe no matter what, especially considering asymptomatic carriers.

“Rather than people getting a false sense of security that ‘My area is a low-risk area, so I’m just gonna go and do whatever,’ I would say ideally everyone practices the same safe things,” he said.

Dr. Heather Isaacson, a pediatrician with UCHealth in Longmont, Colorado, said masks must be worn by all and has a simple suggestion for the reluctant: “Decorate those masks and incorporate them into the costumes.”

People who hand out candy also should wear masks, added Dr. Alok Patel, a pediatrician and co-host of the “Nova” and PBS Digital Studios show “Parentalogue.” And it’s a good idea to maintain as much distance as possible.

As for the candy itself, Milstone isn’t as concerned about wrappers as about hand-washing. The primary message is, “Don’t let your kid eat candy with dirty hands,” he said. That means no eating candy until they’re able to get home to wash properly.

TODAY’S WORKOUT

Downward dog pose will keep your body limber

By Marlo Alleva
More Content Now

Stretching is one of the best things that we can do for our bodies. It’s quite simple — we feel better and it can cut down on injury.

Our move today is a downward dog pose or stretch.

This exercise is very popular in many yoga and Pilates formats, and is notably known to be beneficial for the whole body. You will simply need a flat surface for this stretch.

The easiest way to begin this stretching motion is to start on all fours in a tabletop position. Place your hands firmly on the ground, with your arms extended just below your shoulders. Press your navel toward the ceiling to engage the midsection.



Marlo Alleva demonstrates a downward dog stretch. [ERNST PETERS]

Keeping your bent knees just under your hips, keep everything squared up.

Once you feel sturdy, proceed to extend your legs up onto the balls of your feet, and slowly push back with the hips, getting a good extension in the legs. Focus on dropping the chest toward

the floor and over exaggerate the stretch in the arms. Remember to keep your neck neutral the whole time you are in this downward dog position.

Continue to press through the hips to get the maximum amount of stretching, not only in the hips but through the

back of your legs into your calves and ankles. If you find that your muscles are somewhat tighter than normal, you can keep the knees slightly bent and continue to hold this position on your toes. The idea is to aim toward your feet being flat on the ground and the legs being in a straight position.

Once you find the perfect position for your downward dog, try to hold this movement for at least a whole minute. If you cannot hold it that long, you’ll have something to slowly work toward.

After that minute you can release back down into your tabletop position for a small break, then proceed back into your downward dog position again. Try to get a deeper stretch and tone with each new hold.

FAMILY FEATURES

When it's time for a sweet treat, look for seasonal goodies that complement fun fall activities. For example, reach for an option like whole-grain, fluffy and crisp popcorn which can be an easy, DIY snack.

Combine sweet and salty flavors to create something delicious to devour like Coconut Popcorn Crunch Pie or delightful Down Home Apple Pie Popcorn.

To better serve a crowd, try these Perfect Picnic Popcorn Squares, Popcorn S'mores or Key Lime Popcorn Clusters at your next family gathering or fall cookout with friends.

For more creative, DIY popcorn recipe ideas, visit popcorn.org.

Down Home Apple Pie Popcorn

Yield: 10 cups

- 3 tablespoons melted butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/8 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 8 cups popped popcorn
- 1 cup dried apple chips, broken into large pieces
- 1/4 cup toffee bits

Heat oven to 300 F. Whisk melted butter with vanilla. Toss brown sugar with cinnamon, allspice and nutmeg.

Toss popcorn with butter mixture. Sprinkle evenly with brown sugar mixture. Stir. Transfer to baking sheet lined with parchment paper.

Sprinkle apple chips and toffee bits over top. Bake 15 minutes, or until toffee bits start to melt. Cool before serving.

Tip: Add chopped pecans for extra crunch.



Down Home Apple Pie Popcorn

Pop Up Sweet Treats



Key Lime Popcorn Clusters

Key Lime Popcorn Clusters

Yield: about 32 clusters

- 8 cups popped popcorn
- 4 whole graham crackers, finely chopped, divided
- 1 jar (7 1/2 ounces) marshmallow creme
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine
- 2 tablespoons grated lime peel
- 1 tablespoon key lime juice

Line 9-inch square pan with foil.

In large bowl, combine popcorn and all but 2 tablespoons graham cracker pieces

In large glass bowl, microwave marshmallow creme and butter on high 1 minute. Stir until butter is melted. Stir in lime peel and lime juice.

Pour marshmallow mixture over popcorn, mixing thoroughly.

Using damp hand, firmly press mixture into prepared pan. Sprinkle with reserved graham cracker pieces. Refrigerate 2 hours until firm.

Lift foil from pan. Break popcorn mixture into clusters.

Coconut-Popcorn Crunch Pie

Yield: 12 servings

- 2 quarts popped popcorn, unsalted
- 1 can (4 ounces) flaked coconut, toasted
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup light corn syrup
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 1/4 cup water
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 quart vanilla, spumoni or butter pecan ice cream
- fresh fruit, for topping (optional)
- chocolate sauce, for topping (optional)

In large, buttered bowl, mix popcorn and coconut. In

saucepan, combine sugar, syrup, butter, water and salt. Bring to boil over low heat, stirring until sugar dissolves. Continue cooking until syrup reaches hard crack stage (290-295 F).

Stir in vanilla. Pour syrup in fine stream over popcorn mixture; stir until particles are evenly coated with syrup.

On buttered, 12-inch pizza pan, spread half of popcorn mixture in thin layer, covering bottom of pan. Mark off into wedge-shaped servings; set aside. Repeat using remaining popcorn mixture; cool.

Cover one layer with ice cream; top with second popcorn layer. Store in freezer. To serve, cut in wedges. Serve with fruit or chocolate sauce, if desired.



Coconut-Popcorn Crunch Pie



Popcorn S'mores

Perfect Picnic Popcorn Squares

Yield: 12 squares

- 1 cup light corn syrup
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup reduced-fat peanut butter
- 3/4 cup raisins
- 8 cups air-popped popcorn
- nonstick cooking spray

In large saucepan, combine corn syrup, sugar, brown sugar and peanut butter. Bring to boil over low heat, stirring constantly; boil 2-3 minutes. Remove saucepan from heat.

In large bowl, combine raisins and popcorn; pour hot mixture over popcorn and toss carefully with wooden spoons until well-coated.

Spray 9-by-13-inch baking dish with cooking spray; press popcorn mixture into pan and cool completely.

Cut into squares and serve.



Perfect Picnic Popcorn Squares

Popcorn S'mores

Yield: 20 pieces

- 1 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter or margarine
- 1/2 cup corn syrup
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 10 cups freshly popped popcorn
- 1 package (10 1/2 ounces) miniature marshmallows
- 2 cups mini graham cookies
- 1 cup chocolate chips

In medium saucepan, combine brown sugar, butter and corn syrup.

Cook over high heat 5 minutes; remove from heat and stir in baking soda.

In large bowl, combine popcorn and marshmallows.

Pour sugar mixture over popcorn to coat.

Gently stir in graham cookies and chocolate chips.

Spread mixture evenly into greased 15-by-10-inch pan.

Let cool completely. Break into pieces.

GAME OF THE WEEK CLEMSON AT GEORGIA TECH

When: Noon, Saturday **Where:** Bobby Dodd Stadium, Atlanta, Ga. **TV:** ABC



Clemson senior Travis Etienne is the only player in FBS history to score a rushing or receiving touchdown in 39 games. He's 172 yards from the ACC's career rushing mark. KEN RUINARD/USA TODAY SPORTS

Georgia Tech runs into Clemson

Keys for Clemson

Run, Travis, run: Senior running back Travis Etienne is a human hand grenade, who can blow up an opposing defense.

A prime example of occurred in the third quarter of last week's game against Miami. The Hurricanes had gained momentum. But with about eight minutes left in the third, Etienne took a handoff, burst through a small hole on the left side and raced up the sideline for a 72-yard touchdown run.

Blocking out the blocks: About the only crack in Clemson's armor so far this season has been in the kicking game, where the blocking on field-goal attempts has been shaky at times. Miami broke through to block three field goals last Saturday.

Keys for Georgia Tech

Get to the end zone: The Yellow Jackets have displayed dramatic improvement on offense this season, registering over 400 yards in all four of their games compared to the 294.6 they averaged a year ago.

But despite the increased yardage, Georgia Tech still ranks at the low end among ACC teams in scoring (25.8). Before last week's 46-point outburst against Louisville, the Jackets were averaging a mere 19 points per outing.

Get off the field on defense: Easier said than done against an offense such as Clemson's, but Georgia Tech's defense needs to have a better day on third- and fourth-down situations than it did against Louisville last week.

The Yellow Jackets gave up first downs nine times in 17 situations

on third down against the Cardinals and were 2-3 on fourth-down plays. Five times in eight tries when Louisville needed between eight and 19 yards to convert on third down, Georgia Tech failed to come up with a stop. Giving Clemson QB Trevor Lawrence extra chances will result in a lot more damage than it did against Louisville.

Prediction

Clemson 41, Georgia Tech 17: The Yellow Jackets are an improved team, so this probably won't be the kind of brutal beating Clemson administered last year when it rolled up 632 yards of total offense in a 52-14 win.

But the Tigers are on a roll and should easily secure a 34th consecutive regular-season Atlantic Coast Conference victory.

POWER RANKINGS

- Clemson (4-0, 3-0 ACC):** The Tigers made short work of previously unbeaten Miami last week, thanks to an aggressive defense that recorded 11 tackles for loss.
- Notre Dame (3-0, 2-0):** Ran wild against Florida State, amassing 353 yards on the ground en route to posting a school-record 21st consecutive home victory.
- North Carolina (3-0, 3-0):** The Tar Heels snapped a four-game losing streak against Virginia Tech last week to move to 3-0 for the first time since 2011.
- Miami (3-1, 2-1):** Miami took its lumps at top-ranked Clemson last week. Points should come more readily this week vs. Pitt.
- N.C. State (3-1, 3-1):** The Pack has posted back-to-back road victories.
- Virginia Tech (2-1, 2-1):** The Hokies' depleted defense was nowhere to be found last week at North Carolina.
- Boston College (3-1, 2-1):** Quarterback Phil Jurkovec continues to shine for Boston College.
- Pitt (3-2, 2-2):** The hard-luck Panthers are coming off back-to-back one-point losses. Their reward? Back-to-back games against Miami and Notre Dame.
- Virginia (1-2, 1-2):** The Cavaliers fell behind N.C. State 24-0 last week, then lost starting QB Brennan Armstrong to a concussion en route to a 38-21 defeat.
- Georgia Tech (2-2, 2-1):** Freshman QB Jeff Sims is a star-in-the-making for Georgia Tech, which is now one victory shy of matching last season's win total.
- Wake Forest (1-2, 0-2):** QB Sam Hartman has gained confidence in his durability, which might come in handy this week against Virginia's defense.
- Louisville (1-3, 0-3):** The Cardinals, who were pegged for a fourth-place finish in the ACC preseason poll, continued their disappointing start with a loss at Georgia Tech.
- Duke (1-4, 1-4):** Duke broke into the win column last week at Syracuse, racking up 645 yards — the third-highest total of the David Cutcliffe era.
- Florida State (1-3, 0-3):** Could the Seminoles possibly slip to 0-4 in the ACC? If so, that would equal the number of conference losses Florida State had in its first 11 years in the league combined.
- Syracuse (1-3, 1-3):** The Orange should get back on track against Liberty.

BEST OF THE REST

Louisville at Notre Dame

When: 2:30 p.m.
Where: Notre Dame Stadium, South Bend, Ind.
TV: NBC
Notes: The Fighting Irish were a bit sloppy in returning to action last Saturday after a three-week break, but still routed Florida State, 42-26. A sharper performance is inevitable against a slumping Louisville team that has committed six turnovers in the last two games.

North Carolina at Florida State

When: 7 p.m.
Where: Doak Campbell Stadium, Tallahassee, Fla.
TV: ESPN
Notes: Mack Brown was never able to defeat his college alma mater during his first tenure as head coach at UNC. But the Tar Heels' high-powered offense should give Brown the upper hand against an FSU defense giving up 37.2 points and 466.6 yards a game.

Pittsburgh at Miami

When: Noon
Where: Hard Rock Stadium, Coral Gables, Fla.
TV: ACC Network
Notes: The Panthers have dropped out of the Top 25 after consecutive setbacks, including a 31-30 overtime loss against Boston College last week. After an impressive start to the 2020 season, the Hurricanes were derailed by Clemson, 42-17, last Saturday.

ACC LEADERS



Passing yards
Player Yds.
K. Pickett, Pitt1,389
C. Brice, Duke1,277
P. Jurkovec, BC.....1,181
T. Lawrence, Clem....1,140
M. Cunningham, Lou...986



Passing TDs
Player TDs
T. Lawrence, Clem.10
M. Cunningham, Lou.9
K. Pickett, Pitt8
P. Jurkovec, BC.....8
D. Leary, NCSt7



Rushing yards
Player Yds.
J. Hawkins, Lou.....468
K. Herbert, VT450
M. Carter, UNC.....413
D. Jackson, Duke412
T. Etienne, Clem392



Receiving yards
Player Yds.
Z. Flowers, BC405
H. Long, BC.....363
T. Harris, Syr.....338
DJ Turner, Pitt331
J. Addison, Pitt.....297



Scoring
Player Pts.
J. Williams, UNC.....42
J. Borregales, Miami....38
A. Kessman, Pitt37
BT Potter, Clem.36
C. Ham, Duke.....34



PLAYER TO WATCH

Michael Carter

Running back, North Carolina
Carter carved out a career-high 214 yards rushing on 17 carries to spark UNC to a victory against Virginia Tech last Saturday. He now has 413 yards rushing on the season and is averaging 10.3 yards per carry.

ROBERT WILLETT/USA TODAY NETWORK

ROUNDING IT OUT

Saturday (all times Eastern)

Time	Matchup	TV
Noon	Liberty at Syracuse	ACCN Extra
3:30 p.m.	Duke at N.C. State	ACCN Extra
4 p.m.	Virginia at Wake Forest	ACC Network
8 p.m.	BC at Virginia Tech	ACC Network

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A mammogram can detect breast cancer in its earliest, most treatable stages, and many major health organizations recommend annual mammogram screenings for women beginning at age 40. Experts also recommend clinical breast exams and breast self-exams to check for breast abnormalities on a regular basis. Any woman noticing unusual changes in her breasts should contact her healthcare provider immediately. Women of all ages should speak to their doctor about his or her personalized recommendations for breast cancer screening.

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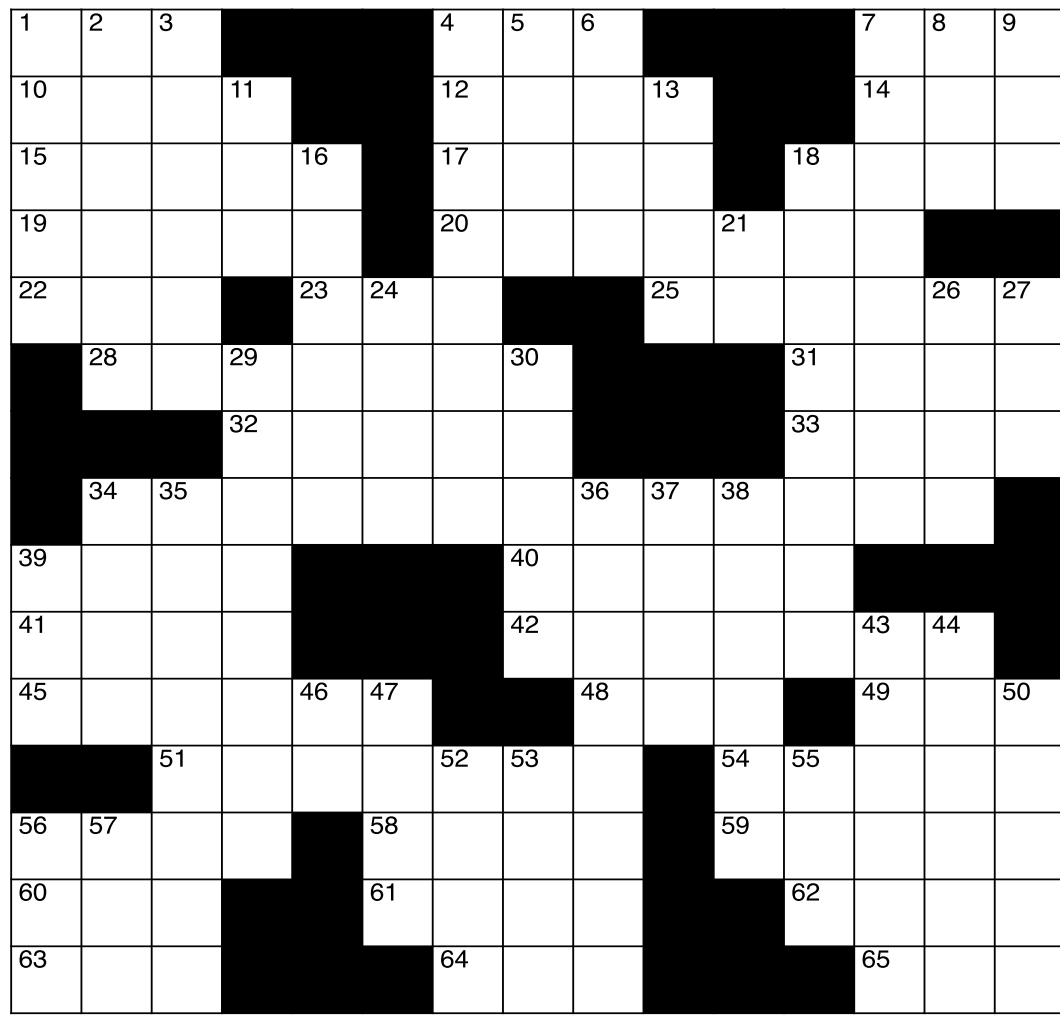
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PUZZLES

Crossword Puzzle

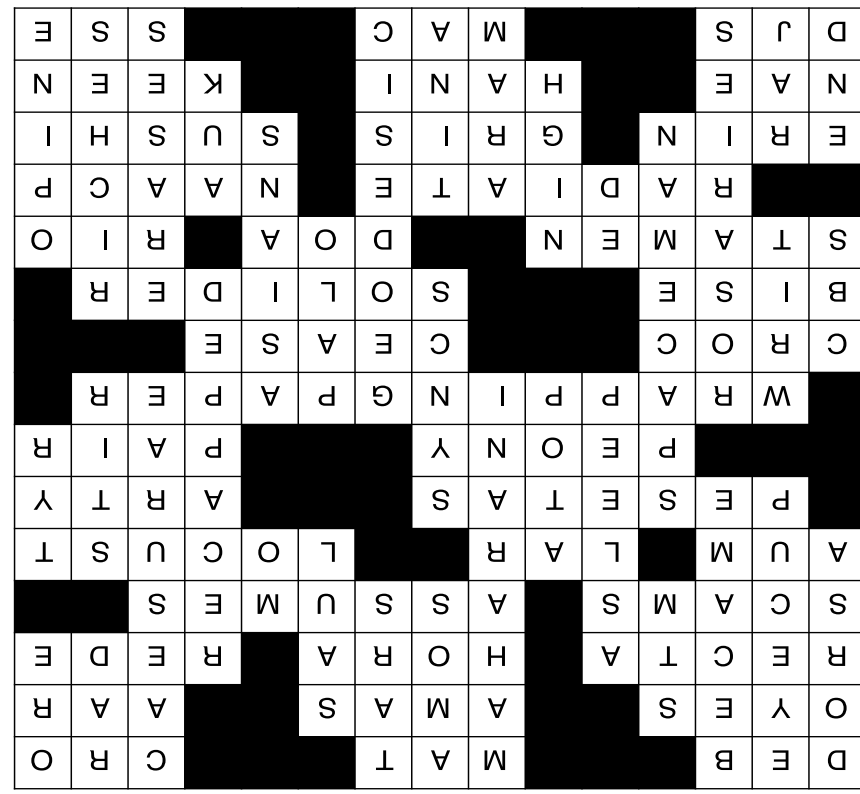


CLUES ACROSS

1. Slang for debutante
4. Gymnastic floor pad
7. ___-Magnon man
10. Hear ye
12. NYC musical theater
14. Swiss river
15. Tabula ___: table of alphabets
17. Israeli dance
18. Interpret
19. Trickeries
20. Bears
22. OM (var.)
23. Roman household god
25. Swarming grasshopper
28. = to 100 centimos
31. Showily imitative of art
32. Chinese tree flower
33. Two corresponding items
34. Gift covering
39. Killer ___: comic supervillain
40. End
41. No. wind in SE France
42. More monolithic
45. Filament + anther
48. Arrived extinct
49. Former capital of Brazil
51. Send out waves
54. Civil Rights group
56. Emerald Isle
58. Spanish cubist painter Juan
59. Japanese dish
60. No (Scottish)
61. Ethnic group in China
62. Loud lament
63. Disk jockeys
64. A waterproof raincoat
65. Point midway between S and SE

CLUES DOWN

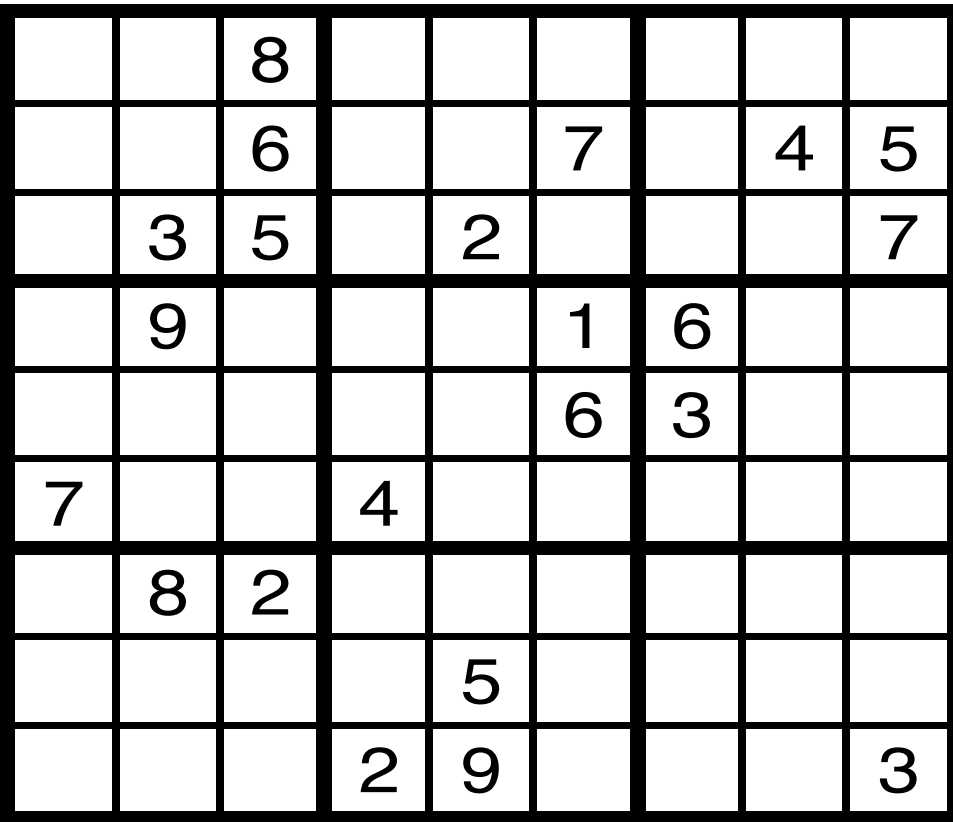
1. Many backs
2. Fits over eye
3. Grew into
4. A great rani
5. ___ and Andy, radio & TV show
6. Seamen
7. Pauses
8. Radioactivity unit
9. Mined metal mineral
11. Immediate memory
13. First king of Israel
16. Not awake
18. Summarized
21. Larry & Curly's sidekick
24. At the peak
26. Mix with a spoon
27. God of sky (Scandinavian)
29. Astronaut
30. Puts together in time
34. Legal document issued by a court
35. Religious beads
36. B. Fuller's dome
37. ___ Alto, California city
38. Largest continent's inhabitants
39. Ed Murrow's employer
43. Removes writing
44. Abundant wealth
46. Actor ___ Norton
47. Near in space or time
50. To state as an opinion
52. Ancient Biblical region
53. ___ Turner, rock singer
55. Am. ornithologists' journal
56. Bring to a conclusion
57. Br. dominion over India



SUDOKU

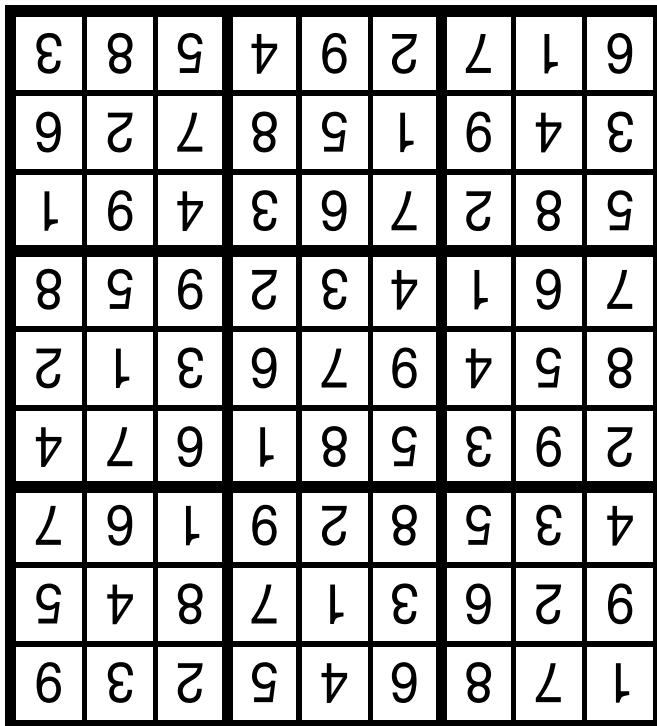
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Word Search



- adoption
- cage
- dog
- injury
- shelter
- bark
- canine
- family
- pet
- society
- bowls
- caring
- humane
- rescue
- vaccinations

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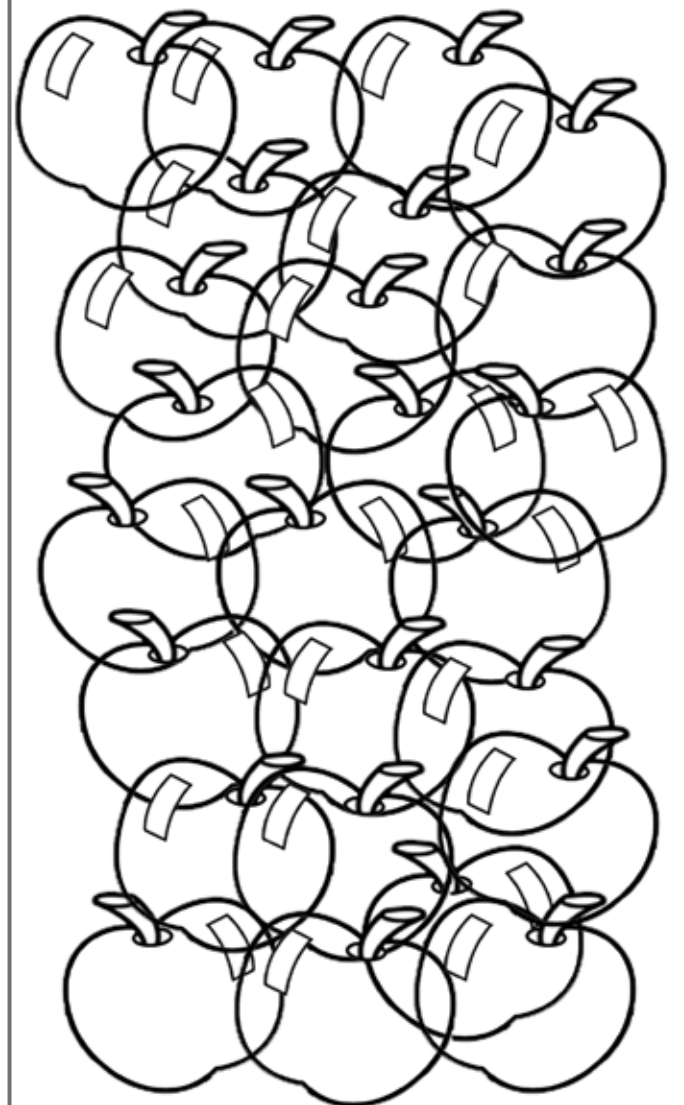
“JT’S GRJJT FJN SWJNGJNG JNTJ FJLL!”

“ _____ !”

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OBITUARIES



CLINTON

Norma Jean Blagg, 83, passed away on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, at Mary Gran Nursing Center. Born in 1937 in Sampson County to the late Arthur and Charlotte Holland Williams, Norma is the widow of Mr. Benjamin "Shorty" Blagg. In addition to her parents and husband Norma is also preceded in death by sons: David Blagg and Roger Blagg, siblings: Mae Tyndall, Earl Williams and Joseph Williams. Visitation was held from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm on Friday, October 16, 2020 at Hope Valley Hawkins Funeral Service & Cremation, 1246 Hobpton Hwy. Clinton. Graveside services will be held privately at the family's request. Norma leaves to cherish her memories: her children; W.C. Blagg and wife Martina of Germany, Charles Blagg and wife Kathy of Clinton and Deborah Blagg of Turkey, Betty Williams of Rhode Island, Gracie Martin of Virginia, Ruth Grantham of Clinton, Robert Blagg of Turkey, Shelia Bladford and husband Kevin of Harrells and Helen Blagg of Turkey, 15 grandchildren and 33 great-grandchildren.



CLINTON

Ms. Annie Jane Blue, 68, of 103 Nutmeg Lane, Clinton, NC passed away Monday, October 5, 2020 at home. A Graveside Service was held at 12 p.m., Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at the Sandhill Cemetery, Clinton, NC with Rev. Robert Blue officiating. Ms. Blue is survived by a SON-Gabriel Blue of the home; SISTERS-Esther Pope, Eliza Vann and Willa Robinson all of Clinton, NC; BROTHERS-Bobby Blue of Connecticut, NY and Edward Charles Blue of Clinton, NC. There will be NO Viewing. Service was live-streamed via Worley Funeral Home Facebook page. NOTE: To access the graveside service via Facebook, log on to your Facebook account and type in Worley Funeral Home. The live-stream will be available at the service time and afterwards for viewing.

CLINTON

James Alfred Brewington. Born on March 2, 1945 in Clinton NC to the late Pearl and Paul Brewington. James attended school at Eastern Carolina Indian School. At an early age he was married to Carolyn and three girls were born from that bond. In his adult life he worked at Dunn Meat Packing, Burlington Industries, and Swift of Erwin as a CDL driver. When his children were growing up he taught them how to ride motorcycles, 4-wheelers and how to swim. He was at major events such as taking his kids to get their driver's license, attending every graduation, and his daughter's marriages. James loved to ride motorcycles. He especially loved sneaking up on his family for visits whether they were home or not. He loved loaded baked potatoes, milkshakes and Wendy's frosty. Once he learned how to do group text messages, he would text his daughters every morning. He enjoyed taking pictures and framing them on lacquered wood. James was a very private man. He was never a church going man but let it be known to his family that Jesus Christ was his savior and that he knew if anything happened he would be ok. James married his wife Carrie on July 09, 1983 and out of that precious bond came another daughter. James was the proud father of all his daughters: Bridget, Rose, Michelle and Carrondra. A public viewing was held from 2 PM - 7 PM, Tuesday, October 12, 2020 at Crumpler-Honeycutt Funeral Home, with the family present from 5 PM - 7 PM. A private service will be held at a later date. To cherish his loving memory: wife Carrie, three daughters: Bridget of Benson, Michelle of Lake Waccamaw, and Carrondra of Benson. Five grandchildren Nichole, Natalie (Brian), Jhati, Joshua, and Rae-Onna. Five great-grandchildren: Celia, Nova, Patrick, Asher, and Ja'Ceyon and one grand-dog Max (Michelle's son). Siblings Bobby and Susan. Cherished riding buddy Delorse of Benson. Preceded in death by his parents: Pearl and Paul Brewington, his daughter Rose, two sisters: Gail (Sis) and Elise, five brothers: Paul (PW), Ronnie, Clifford, Gene and Tim. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:** The family of James Alfred Brewington expresses gratitude for your heartfelt words, thoughts and prayers of encouragement in our bereavement. Acts of kindness have not gone unnoticed and we are greatly appreciated. The family also wishes to extend a special thanks to the CCU staff at Wake Med and Transitions Life Center of Raleigh for the exceptional care provided to dad during his last days.



FAYETTEVILLE

Mr. Macio Carlton, Jr., 77, of 138 Bunker Hill Road, Fayetteville, NC passed away Monday at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center, Fayetteville, NC. The graveside was held at 12 p.m., Thursday, October 15, 2020 at Devotional Gardens, Warsaw, NC with Elder Bryan Farland. Mr. Carlton is survived by his DAUGHTER-Sonya Carlton of the home; SON-Macio Carlton, III of Wake Forest, NC; SISTERS-Jacqueline Hill of Rose Hill, NC, Angela Graham of Romeoville, IL, JoAnn Graham of High Point, NC and Carolyn Graham of Hartford, CT; BROTHER-Ellie Graham of Magnolia, NC; 2 grandchildren and one great grandchild. Viewing at Worley Funeral Home (Mask are Required) Wednesday, October 14, 2020 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

NEW BERN

Joe C. McLamb, 92, passed away Saturday, October 10, 2020 at Wake Medical Center, with his loving family by his side. A private graveside service for family was held at 11:00 AM Thursday, October 15, 2020, at Harnett Primitive Baptist Church, Roseboro, NC, with the Reverend Stephen Burrow and the Reverend Trevor Burrow officiating. The family received friends from 10:00-10:50 AM on Thursday prior to the service in the Harnett Primitive Baptist Church. Joe was born in Newton Grove, NC the son of the late Joseph A. McLamb and Beulah Williams McLamb on March 23, 1928. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of New Bern and retired from R.W. Moore Equipment Company in 1994. Joe grew up on a farm in Wade, NC. He then graduated from Central High School. He also honorably served his country during the Korean Conflict in the U.S. Army. He was preceded in death by wife, Sylvia Tew McLamb; brothers, John, Jamie and Jack; sisters, Sybil, Mary and Ann. Joe is survived by two daughters, Denise Burrow and husband Stephen of Salisbury, NC and Karen Spilman and husband Sam of Raleigh, NC; son, Jeffrey McLamb of New Bern, NC; sister, Edna Edwards and Darwin of Eastover, NC; brother, Jerry McLamb and wife Judy of Autryville, NC; two sister-in-law's, Donna McLamb of Wade, NC and Carolyn Tew; and brother-in-law, Kenneth Tew and wife Pasty. He also leaves his grandchildren, Lauren White, Chelsea McLamb, Timothy Burrow, Tyler McLamb, Tessa Burrow, Trevor Burrow and wife Laura, Rosemary Spilman; and nine great-grandchildren with two



on the way. He was also survived by many nieces and nephews whom he loved. Memorials in Joe's name may be made to Harnett Primitive Baptist Church c/o Ronald Jackson, 128 Gordon Rd. Clinton, NC 28328. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC.



CLINTON

Frances McLamb Royal, 76, of 5730 Hobpton Hwy., passed away on Friday afternoon, October 9, 2020 at Kitty Askins Hospice Center in Goldsboro. Graveside Services was held Monday, October 12th at 2 pm at the Hopewell United Methodist Church Cemetery with Rev. Charles Ray Jernigan and Elder Terrell McClain officiating. Born on June 19, 1944 in Harnett County, Frances was the daughter of the late Harry Clelean McLamb, Sr. and Lillie Hobbs McLamb and widow to Mr. James Rassic Royal. She was a teacher's assistant for Hobpton Elementary School and worked in the school system for over thirty-four years. She was a member of St. Paul Original Free Will Baptist Church. She cherished her family and friends and will be greatly missed. She also loved to travel with her husband and friends on weekend trips. Frances leaves behind a Daughter, Joan R. Gainey and husband, Jeffery of Clinton; Son, James Marcus Royal of Newton Grove; Two Sisters: Sylvia Hansley and husband, David of Kinston, Jewell Crumpler and husband, Robert of Whiteville; Brother, Harry McLamb and wife, Toree of Wilmington; Two Grandsons: Tyler Erastus Royal and Jared Wilson Gainey and several nieces and nephews. A walk-through viewing was held Sunday from 1 until 6 PM at the funeral home and also on Monday from 9 until 11 am. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Paul Original Free Will Baptist Church, c/o Karen Sinclair, P.O. Box 64, Newton Grove, NC 28366. The family would like to thank Ms. Willie Smith, the staff of Rolling Ridge Assisted Living and Kitty Askins Hospice Center for their compassionate care. Your kindness is greatly appreciated. Royal-Hall is honored to serve the Royal Family.

SALEMBURG

Mr. Donnie Ray Sessoms, 61 of Salemburg passed away on Monday, October 12, 2020. The funeral service was held at 4:30 PM Friday, October 16 at Butler Funeral Home in Roseboro with Rev. William Ammons and Rev. Andy Wood officiating. Burial followed in the Sessoms-Faircloth Cemetery. The family received friends from 3:30 - 4:30 PM prior to the service at the funeral home. Mr. Sessoms was a native of Sampson County, the son of Donnie Preston Sessoms. He was preceded in death by his father; daughter, McKenzie Mae Sessoms. He was a diesel mechanic for Soles Truck and Auto. He is survived by two sons, Ray Sessoms and William Sessoms both of Salemburg; daughter, Catherine Ann Herring of Salemburg; mother and step-father, Catherine Sessoms and Archie Sessoms of Salemburg; two brothers, Ricky Sessoms and Gary Wayne Sessoms both of Salemburg; sister, Mary Phyllis Thompson of Salemburg; and eight grandchildren. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC.



ROCKY POINT

Betty Irene Strickland, 77, passed away Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at Laurels of Pender. A funeral service will be held at 1 PM, Saturday, October 17th, at Harmony Baptist Church with Pastor Griffin officiating. Interment will be in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends from 12 PM - 1 PM, at Harmony Baptist Church just before the service. Betty born in 1943 in Sampson County, was the daughter of the late Willie Milbert Coats and Irene Lockamy Coats. She was a seamstress and previously attended Harmony Baptist Church. In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, Albert Lewis Strickland. Survivors include; children, Ronnie Lewis Strickland of Rocky Point, Nancy Rebecca Strickland, Maxton Lee Strickland and wife Helen, MA, Jeffery Wayne Strickland of Rocky Point, and Albert DeLeon Strickland wife Ronda of Burgaw; grandchildren, Justin Strickland (Christina), Jeremy Strickland (Danielle), James Adam Strickland, Joseph Strickland, Jackson Lee Strickland and Caroline Strickland; five great-grandchildren; brothers, Gary Coats and Dorman Coats (Connie); and sisters, Sandra Coats, Cathy Harpster (Dick), and Linda Collier and Karen Capps (Michael). Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.crumpler-honeycutt.com. Memorials may be made to Harmony Baptist Church at 1357 Harmony Church Road, Clinton, NC 28328.

CLINTON

Mr. Dora Tyndall, 45, of 215 Lisa Lane, passed away on Monday, October 12, 2020, at his home. Dora was born on March 19, 1975, in Little Washington, NC to the late Norman Ray Tyndall and Idell Elizabeth Rackley. Dora worked as a laborer on a farm for years. Mr. Dora Tyndall leaves behind to cherish his memories, wife: Tracy Marie Tyndall of the home, children: Sara Rose Hogan of the home, Helen Lynmarie Hogan of the home, Michael David Hogan of Autryville, NC, Timothy Ryan Hogan of Autryville, NC, sisters: Sylvia Caton of Clinton, NC, Cindy Renfrow of Clinton, NC, Sandra Cooper of Florida, Patricia Tyndall, Mary Matthis, Judy Jackson of Clinton, NC, Marilyn Barnhill, Sharilyn Weeks of Clinton, NC, Linda Blackburn, Brenda Norris of Clinton, NC, brothers: RC Tyndall of Clinton, NC, Clifton Tyndall of Fayetteville, NC, Willie Cahoon of Ohio, nieces: Allyson Fisher, Haley Tyndall, nephews: Preston Tyndall and Grayson Tyndall. Dora also leaves behind to cherish his memories, soon to be grandson, Sebastian. A memorial service was held at 2:00 pm on Thursday, October 15, 2020, at Hope Valley Hawkins in Clinton, NC.



CLINTON

Mr. William "Pete" Underwood, 62, of 4190 William R. King Road, passed away Sunday at UNC Rex Healthcare, Raleigh, NC. The graveside will be held at 12 p.m., Sunday, October 18, 2020 at Hillside Cemetery, Newton Grove with Elder Fernando Geddie officiating. The burial will follow the service. Mr. Underwood is survived by his WIFE-Mary Palmer-Underwood of the home; DAUGHTER-Kendra Underwood of Morrisville, NC; SISTER-Charlene Tatum of Clinton, NC; BROTHER-Timothy Underwood of Newton Grove, NC. Viewing at the Funeral Home (Mask are required) Saturday, October 17, 2020 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Service will be live-streamed via Worley Funeral Home Facebook page. NOTE: To access the graveside service via Facebook, log on to your Facebook account and type in Worley Funeral Home. The live-stream will be available at the service time and afterwards for viewing.



ROSEBORO

Mr. Jake Delano "Bud" Vinson, 83 of Roseboro passed away

on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at his home. The funeral service will be held at 2:00 PM Saturday, Oct. 17 at Beaver Dam Baptist Church with Rev. Tim McQueen and Rev. Michael Shook officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends from 1:00 - 1:50 PM prior to the service in the church fellowship hall. Mr. Vinson was a native of Cumberland County, the son of Ingram J. and Ethel Smith Vinson. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, D. H. Vinson and two sisters, Elizabeth V. Benton and Valeria Byrd. He was a graduate of N. C. State University and a mason with the Lillington Masonic Lodge. He was a member of Beaver Dam Baptist Church, where he was a deacon, music leader and Sunday school teacher. He is survived by his wife, Dot Vinson of the home; son, Jason D. Vinson and wife, Elizabeth of Roseboro daughter, Amy Vinson Porter of Roseboro; two sisters, Nina V. Crumpler of Goldsboro and Carol Ann Smith of Richmond, VA; four grandchildren, Taylor Porter, Jacob, Madison and Matthew. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Beaver Dam Baptist Church, 4693 Beaver Dam Church Road, Roseboro, NC 28382. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC.



AUTRYVILLE

Mr. Clinton Morris Whitt, Jr., 72 of Autryville passed away on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at his home. The funeral service was held at 2:00 PM on Friday, October 16 at Butler Funeral Home in Roseboro with William Whitt officiating. The family received friends from 1:00 - 1:50 PM on Friday at the funeral home prior to the service. Mr. Whitt was a native of Joppa, Maryland the son of the late Clinton Morris Whitt, Sr. and Christine Crumline Whitt. He was an Army veteran during the Vietnam War and was a retired Maintenance Manager for Waste Industries. He is survived by his wife, Shirley Whitt of the home; son, Clinton Morris Whitt, III of Michigan; daughter, Michelle Smith and husband, Wayne of Churchville, MD; two grandchildren, C. M. Whitt, IV of Virginia and KaLynn Miller of Baltimore, MD; three great grandchildren, Savannah Chapa, Helena Chapa and Rio Chapa, Jr.; five brothers, Allen, Hall, Ed, Jack and Billy Whitt; six sisters, Nancy, Bonnie, Susie, Cindy, Debbie and Lucy. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Wounded Warriors Project, 1990 Fordham Drive, Suite 100, Fayetteville, NC 28304. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC.



ROSEBORO

Becky Hall Williams, 55, of 124 Bulldog Lane, passed away on Sunday, October 11, 2020, at her home. Becky was born in Sampson County on October 24, 1964 to George and Edith Sessoms Hall Jr. Becky worked as a District Manager at the Hardees Corporation. Becky leaves behind to cherish her memories, husband: Edward Williams of the home, children: Jessica Fye (Michael) of Roseboro, Rodney Williams (Maloree) of Wilmington, Justin Williams (Brittany) of Roseboro, parents: George and Edith Sessoms Hall Jr., siblings: Vicky Hall (Eddie) of Roseboro, Billy Hall (Connie) of Roseboro, grandchildren: Karli Fye, Tyler Fye, Tayler Fye, Kamren Williams, Summerlyn Williams, Saelor Williams, Penelope Williams, Addison Lane, and Gracelynn Williams. Becky also leaves behind her four-legged child, Pocket. A memorial service was held at 4:00 pm on Thursday, October 15, 2020, at Mill Creek Baptist Church in Roseboro, NC.



RALEIGH

Mr. Mike Castro, 57 of Raleigh passed away on October 11, 2020. No Services will be held at this time. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC.

GARLAND

Mr. Isiah Herring, 97, of 7331 Old Mintz Hwy, Garland passed away Friday, October 09, 2020 at Mary Gran Nursing Center in Clinton. Mr. Herring was born March 18, 1923 in Sampson Co., the son of the late Henry Herring and Eular Cox Herring. Mr. Herring was a W.W.II Army Veteran. He was preceded in death by wife, Brownie Melvin Herring and two brothers; James Herring & Clearance Herring. A graveside service was held at 3:00 P.M. Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at Smith Chapel Church. Mr. Herring is survived by one son; Isiah "Sonny" Herring Jr. and one daughter; Brenda Herring. A public viewing will be held on Monday, October 12, 2020 from 1:00P.M.-6:00P.M. at Carter Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers a memorial may be made to the Smith Chapel Building Fund. The family would like to thank all the Doctors Nurses and staff at Mary Gran Nursing Center for their excellent care to our father.

CLINTON

Mildred Williams McPhail, 78, passed away on Wednesday, October 14, 2020, at her home in Clinton, NC. Graveside services will be held at 2:00 pm on Monday, October 19, 2020 at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, with Rev. John T. Oliver officiating. Family will receive friends prior to the service from 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm at Hope Valley Hawkins Funeral Service, 1246 Hobpton Hwy. Clinton, NC

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may fail, but God is the
strength of my heart
and my portion forever."

PSALM 73:26

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NASCAR THIS WEEK

The Daytona Beach News-Journal's Godwin Kelly & Ken Willis have covered NASCAR for more than 70 years combined. godwin.kelly@news-jrnl.com and ken.willis@news-jrnl.com

SPEED FREAKS

Any chance Kyle Busch salvages something from 2020?

GODSPEAK: All he wants is a Cup win. I think he can get that done. And don't forget, he was the question to a "Jeopardy" answer last week. That's huge!

KEN'S CALL: Short answer is "nope." Longer answer is, this became a lost cause in midsummer, for whatever reason. Going forward, I doubt it'll hinder his longterm future.

Biggest surprise among the eight remaining championship hopefuls?

GODSPEAK: Alex Bowman gets the nod here. Can he make it to the Championship Round? Doubtful. **KEN'S CALL:** The only possible surprises are Alex Bowman and Kurt Busch, and I'll go with Kurt, because that Vegas win was a bit happenstance.

GODWIN'S PICKS FOR KANSAS

WINNER: Brad Keselowski

REST OF TOP 5: Denny Hamlin, Chase Elliott, Martin Truex Jr., Joey Logano

FIRST ONE OUT: Ryan Preece

DARK HORSE: Ricky Stenhouse Jr.

DON'T BE SURPRISED IF: Keselowski uses some sort of pit strategy to steal this race from Hamlin.

BY THE NUMBERS

3 Races to determine Championship Round field

4 Drivers knocked out of NASCAR playoffs at Charlotte Roval

8 Drivers still in NASCAR postseason play

32 Length of Kyle Busch's winless streak

42 Chase Elliott's all-time road-course winning percentage

DAYTONA MOTOR MOUTHS

Godwin Kelly and Ken Willis measure their motorsports coverage experience in decades. And more than a handful, at that.



THROUGH THE GEARS



Kyle Busch has four more chances to make the 2020 season a little bit better.

JARED C. TILTON/GETTY IMAGES

Goodbye '19 champ

Godwin Kelly

Daytona Beach News-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The NASCAR Cup Series playoff continues on but without defending champion Kyle Busch, who has suffered through a weird, winless season.

The last kick to the gas can was a 30th-place finish on the Charlotte Motor Speedway Roval.

"It's just been the year," he said, after parking his bruised and battered car on pit road. "Nothing has played out and been on our side. It's just been unfortunate circumstances, a lot of bad luck."

The 35-year-old Busch, who drives the No. 18 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota, has only one goal to close out the pandemic-plagued tour and that is to nab one win in the last four races.

The two-time Cup champion has won at least one time each year on the series since 2005. He doesn't want to see that streak disappear down the gutter.

"It's just frustrating to know how good we are and what we're capable of and being champions from last year to not come out here and be able to succeed and be able to win," he said. "Fact of the matter, if we could win, we would be a heck of a lot better off."

First gear

Misery loves company, so Busch will be joined on the playoff sidelines by Austin Dillon, Ryan Blaney and William Byron when the Cup Series rolls into Kansas Speedway.

The day was particularly heart-breaking for Byron, who tied race winner Chase Elliott for most led-laps at 27. Byron finished sixth.

"Yeah, today was a tough one," he said. "We led a lot of laps and felt like our car was capable of running up front with the No. 9 (Elliott). I would

have liked to see what we could have done there at the end and battled with him. Either way, it was a good day for us and we'll go on to Kansas and try get a win."

Second gear

And then there were eight. There are eight drivers competing in the next three Cup races for one of four positions in the Championship Round at Phoenix.

The highest finishing of the four at Phoenix will be crowned 2020 Cup champion, but there is a ton of racing business left. Kevin Harvick will enjoy a 13-point advantage on Denny Hamlin to start Round 3. Harvick and Hamlin have won half of the races (16 of 32) to date.

In Round 2, Harvick's average finish was 10.3 while Hamlin checked in with a 6.3 and won Talladega.

"This wasn't a great round for us, so we definitely need to do better," Harvick said.

Third gear

Chase Elliott is truly the King of NASCAR Road Racing after winning his fourth consecutive road-course race, tying a record set by Jeff Gordon. Elliott had a few things fall his way during the Roval race.

"Like I've always said, they're way too hard to get to get picky about when and where and how," he said. "So, I'm just glad to be here. Hopefully we can do something with this next round."

Fourth gear

NASCAR Silly Season continued with Clint Bowyer announcing his retirement as a driver to chase a microphone in the booth for Fox Sports.

"This is a fantastic opportunity," Bowyer said.

QUESTIONS & ATTITUDES

How'd Chase get so road-racy?

Chase Elliott is the latest oval-tracker to handle road courses like a duck takes to water (Jeff Gordon, Mark Martin and others preceded him). When considering bloodlines, some like to point out that dad Bill — practically synonymous with superspeedway ovals — got his first Cup win on the road course at Riverside. Good point, but we should also point out it was Bill's only road win in 45 career starts.

Why would Clint retire?

At just 41, it does seem a tad premature for Clint Bowyer to accept the offer to join Fox's broadcast team next year. Maybe he suspects such a nice gig might not be available in a few years, or maybe he weighed his options for next year and realized the quality of cars and the financials weren't there. Or, of course, a combination of both of those.

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

NASCAR CUP STANDINGS

1. Kevin Harvick 4'067
2. Denny Hamlin 4'054
3. Brad Keselowski 4,035
4. Chase Elliott 4,027
5. Joey Logano 4,022
6. Martin Truex Jr. 4,017
7. Alex Bowman 4,009
8. Kurt Busch 4,006
9. Kyle Busch 2,187
10. Austin Dillon 2,186
11. Ryan Blaney 2,160
12. William Byron 2,155
13. Clint Bowyer 2,154
14. Aric Almirola 2,143
15. Matt DiBenedetto 2,131
16. Cole Custer 2,123
17. Erik Jones 786
18. Jimmie Johnson 778
19. Tyler Reddick 715
20. Chris Buescher 608



Denny Hamlin. USA TODAY SPORTS

WHAT'S ON TAP?

(All times Eastern)

CUP SERIES: Hollywood Casino 400
SITE: Kansas Speedway (1.5-mile oval)
TV SCHEDULE: Sunday, race (NBC, 2:30 p.m.)

XFINITY: Kansas Lottery 300
SITE: Kansas Speedway
TV SCHEDULE: Saturday, race (NBC Sports Network, 7 p.m.)

GANDER RV & OUTDOORS TRUCK SERIES: Clean Harbors 200
SITE: Kansas Speedway
TV SCHEDULE: Saturday, race (Fox Sports 1, 4 p.m.)

KEN WILLIS' TOP 10 NASCAR DRIVER RANKINGS



KEVIN HARVICK

DENNY HAMLIN

CHASE ELLIOTT

MARTIN TRUEX JR.

ALEX BOWMAN

ERIK JONES

KURT BUSCH

JOEY LOGANO

BRAD KESELOWSKI

RYAN BLANEY

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