

Vote November 3rd!

"It's an honor to serve you in the NC Senate. I would appreciate your vote."



SAMPSON COUNTRY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

The Sampson Weekly **VOLUME 11, ISSUE 44**



www.thesampsonweekly.com

Week of October 23-29, 2020

INSIDE

WEATHER

Hi: 81 º Lo: 64 º

Hi: 83 º Lo: 64 º

Hi: 74 ° Lo: 62 °

Mon Partly

Hi: 79 ° Lo: 62

Tues Sunny

Hi: 82 º Lo: 64 º

Wed Partly Cloudy

Hi: 81 º Lo: 64 º

Cloudy 20%

Sunny

Mostly

Sunny

10%

Rain **60**%

Fri

Sat

Sun

Clinton Christmas Parade Cancelled



The second Saturday in December traditionally ushers in the beginning of the Christmas season with the Clinton Christmas Parade. The Clinton Christmas Parade is sponsored by the Clinton-Sampson Chamber of Commerce. However, this year the tradition will not happen due to COVID-19. The popular

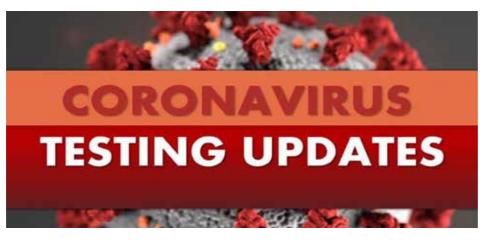
parade has been going on in the City of Clinton for over 60 years. According to the Chamber, "The Clinton Parade is the most coveted Christmas Tradition in the County, celebrating the official opening of the Christmas Season with the arrival of Santa."

But 2020 is unlike any year we have ever experienced before. COVID-19 has changed our lives forever.

The parade is normally filled with local high school bands, clowns, dancers, princesses, and of course rounded out with a visit from ole' Saint Nick himself.

On October 20th, the Clinton-Sampson Chamber Parade Committee announced the cancellation of the parade saying, "Out of an abundance of caution, we are announcing the cancellation of the Clinton-Sampson Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade scheduled to take place Saturday, December 12th, in downtown Clinton. The Clinton-Sampson Chamber of Commerce has hosted the annual Christmas Parade for more than 50 years, drawing large crowds of spectators and participants to the city's downtown area. The number one priority for the Clinton-Sampson Chamber of Commerce

Three New Deaths Reported This Week from COVID-19



The Sampson County Health Department reported 21 new cases on Friday, bringing the total to 2682 positive cases of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The number of deaths increases to 31 with 1 death being reported on Wednesday and 2 deaths being reported on Thursday. COVID testing numbers for Sampson County as of October 23, 2020:

Total Number of Tests Performed: 7,457 Positive Test Results: 2,682 (2,026 recovered) Negative Test Results: 4,760

Pending Results: 15 Deaths: 31

COVID Positive Numbers By Date:

October 19th- 20 new cases October 20th- 30 new cases October 21st- 20 new cases October 22nd- 40 new cases

COVID, see P. 3

Following the Data, North Carolina Will Remain Paused in Phase 3



Gov. Cooper & health officials urge North Carolinians

to recommit to prevention efforts

RALEIGH: Governor Roy Cooper announced Wednesday that North Carolina will remain paused in Phase 3 for three more weeks as health officials continue to monitor North Carolina's viral trends. North Carolina has seen increased hospitalizations and trajectory of cases in recent weeks. Governor Cooper underscored the importance of wearing masks, social distancing, and using good judgment despite fatigue or frustration with the pandemic.

"As this pandemic continues, I know it's difficult and tiring to keep up our guard, especially when we're gathered with people we love. But it's necessary. No one wants to spread COVID-19 accidentally to friends or family, so we must keep prevention at the forefront," said Governor Cooper. "Wearing a mask shows you care about people. Wearing a mask is an easy way to protect our communities and look out for each other. Confronting the virus head on and doing our part as individuals is good for our health and good for our economy."

Also Wednesday, Governor Cooper updated on progress with the NC Housing Opportunities and Prevention of Evictions (HOPE) program. Since Governor Cooper announced the (HOPE) Program last week, 12,000 eligible applicants have filed for assistance. The HOPE Program provides assistance to eligible low-and-moderate income renters experiencing financial hardship due to the pandemic by making direct payments to landlords and utility companies. People can apply for help by calling 2-1-1 or going to nc211.org/hope.

"As the number of applications climbs higher ev-COOPER, see P. 2

WEEKLY VERSE

20%

"Everything is permissible" — but not everything is beneficial

"Everything is permissible" — but not everything is constructive. Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others. 1 Corinthians

WEEKLY INDEX

10:23-24

Farmer Appreciation.....4-8 Classifieds......15

facebook.

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thesampsonweekly.com



Vote For Experience

- 13 Years with Register of Deeds -20 Years with Sampson County

Nov. 3, 2020

Anita Honeycutt Lane

Sampson County Register of Deeds



— LOCAL NEWS

From the Desk of Senator Brent Jackson



As many of you are aware, last week marked the beginning of early voting throughout our state. I encourage you all to make sure you cast your vote.

Please see the early voting locations and times below throughout our District:

Sampson:

October 15th – October 31st:

Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 7:30 PM

Saturday, October 17, 24, & 31 - 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Sunday, October 18 & 25 - 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Old Badcock Building 317 Northeast Blvd Clinton, NC 28328

Plainview Fire Station 5041 Plain View HWY, Dunn, NC 28334

Harrells Fire Department Training Center 915 Ward Road, Harrells, NC 28444

NC Justice Academy 200 W College Street, Salemburg, NC 28385

Newton Grove Fire Station 313 Weeksdale Street, Newton Grove, NC 28366

313 Weeksdale Blieet, Newton Grove

Legislative Recap- S.B. 739

With the election in full swing, it is nice to take a step back and look at something totally unrelated and fun. Senate Bill 739 was passed in June of this year and opens the door for automated home deliveries by robotic delivery services. It allows robotic delivery machines to use pedestrian areas for transporting packages under a certain size and weight and must travel at speeds less than 10 miles per hour. The bill also requires companies that use such a delivery service to maintain liability coverage in the event of an incident.

These robots are designed to drop packages right at your door and some can even interact with recipients. North Carolina is a state full of innovation and it is important that we consider carefully how new technologies such as this may be implemented safely and effectively to improve the lives of the people living here.

From the District

Sampson County-Arts Council Accepting Subgrant Applications

The Sampson Arts Council is now accepting applications for the North Carolina Arts Council's Grassroots Arts Program subgrants through Oct.

27.



Since 1977 The North Carolina Arts Council's Grassroots Arts Program has provided North Carolina citizens access to quality arts experiences. Using a per capita based formula, the program provides funding for the arts in all 100 counties of the state through partnerships with local art councils. The Sampson Arts

Council serves as the NC Arts Council's partner in awarding subgrants to local organizations for arts programs in Sampson County.

rts programs in Sampson County.

Applications are available for non-profit organizations whose purpose is to promote and develop diverse cultural arts programming in Sampson County. Funding priority is given to qualified arts organizations (theatres, galleries, choral societies, festivals), arts in education programs conducted by qualified artists, and other community organizations that provide arts programs in the county.

Grassroots applicants are required to spend their grant on programming that reflects African American, Asian American, Latino, and Native American cultures. This requirement is met through supporting arts programming conducted by artists, ensembles, or organizations of color. It is not met by the multicultural percentage of audiences participating. Projects must occur between July 1, 2020 and June 15, 2021.

Application forms and grant guidelines are available on the Sampson Arts Council's website at www.sampsonarts.net (under "Artists") or may be picked up at the Victor R. Small House at 709 College Street in Clinton. Call 910-596-2533 to schedule a time to stop by. The Sampson Arts Council will also mail applications upon request. Applications must be received no later than Oct. 27 by 5 p.m.

Grant applications are evaluated by a diverse panel of community members and voted on by the Sampson Arts Council Board of Directors. Awards will be announced in November 2020. For questions or more information contact Donatelli at 910-596-2533 or director@sampsonarts.org.

Duplin County- Duplin County boy receives PETA award

A Duplin County boy has won an award from PETA after raising thousands of dollars to help animals that were hurt in a house fire.



Eleven-year-old Kaden Simpson raised more than \$8,000 for 12 dogs and cats who survived a fire at a nearby home. Unfortunately, the pets' owner did not survive. Duplin County Animal Control originally reported that five other animals had died in the fire, but it turns out, only one animal was killed in the fire.

The fire happened back in September. Kaden was honored by PETA with a hero to animals award.

After seeing photos of the injured animals, Kaden, who is autistic, immediately told his mother he wanted to help. He started a GoFundMe to raise money for veterinary care and food.

His mom says he's been donating his own birthday money to the animal shelter for years.

District Spotlight- Midway Student Joins National Society

Anslee Jackson is known around Midway High School to be very humble, but her supporters are thrilled to see her in the national spotlight.

The sophomore and future entrepreneur was selected to become a member of The National Society of High School Scholars, which recognizes academic excellence at the high school level and helps to advance the goals and aspirations of high-achieving students. Unique learning experiences, scholarships, internships, international study opportunities, and peer networks are provided to inductees

NSHSS selected Jackson to become a member of the organization for being one of the nation's top scholars, her leadership, and for being involved in the community.

During the announcement in 2020, Claes Nobel, NSHSS founder, and chairman applauded Jackson for her accomplishment.

Nobel formed the NSHSS with President James W. Lewis.



Kelly Jones Photography

Currently, there are more than 1.5 million Society members in over 170 countries. Jackson and other NSHSS members automatically become lifetime participants as they continue their education through high school, college, and careers. NSHSS officials said the organization connects outstanding young scholars with resources to develop their strengths and pursue their passions. Jackson is currently participating in virtual college tours. Many institutions began contacting her after she joined the NSHSS.

In addition to academics, Jackson played junior varsity basketball and ran track in the spring. When it comes to her participation, Jackson is known as a major team player who doesn't like to take a lot of credit. She is a member of the Bible, Kindness, and Christian Athlete clubs. When Jackson is not at school or spending time with her twin sister Hollee, she volunteers with the Salemburg Food Bank and the Balm in Gilead Family Counseling Ministries in Fayetteville. With her faith and love for God, she attends Central Baptist Church of Dunn.

Her mother Kimberly Jackson is thrilled about NSHSS and the opportunities it's going to provide. After graduating from Midway, Jackson is planning to pursue a business degree related and is planning to own her own hair and cosmetology salon in the future. The 15-year-old began braiding hair when she was a little kid.

Anslee thanked the Midway community and its schools for her development over the years. Congratulations on this fantastic achievement!

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

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LOCAL NEWS

COOPER, cont. from P. 1

ery day, it should make us remember that it's more than a number. Every one of those applications represents a family having to make impossible choices between basic necessities during a global pandemic," said Governor Cooper.

Yesterday, Secretary of Health and Human Services Dr. Mandy Cohen and Secretary of Department of Public Safety Erik Hooks sent a letter to local officials in communities with increased viral spread urging their continued action in fighting COVID-19 and suggesting additional measures to mitigate its spread. Read more about that letter here.

"We are doing everything we can to slow the spread of this virus. This simple fact is we can't do it on our own. Ignoring the virus doesn't make it go away – just the opposite," said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D. "As hard as this is, it will end. We will get through this. Let's do it by looking out for one another. Whatever your reason, get behind the mask."

-North Carolina's syndromic surveillance trend for COVID-like illness is lev-

Trajectory in COVID-Like Illness (CLI) Surveillance Over 14 Days

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 during the last time North Carolina's cases were at their peak in July.

Trajectory in Hospitalizations Over 14 Days

-North Carolina's trajectory of hospitalizations is increasing.

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 is high.

Tracing Capability

-The state is continuing to hire contact tracers to bolster the efforts of local health departments.

There have been almost 250,000 downloads of the exposure notification app, SlowCOVIDNC.

Personal Protective Equipment

North Carolina's personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies are stable.

COVID, cont. from P. 1

October 23rd-21 new cases

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.

PARADE, cont. from P. 1

is the health and safety of our parade marchers which includes many members of our armed forces, first responders, schools and our community college, as well as spectators, volunteers, and staff. Many community partners and organizations have cancelled or postponed events that coincide with the parade over concerns for their members, due to the inability to effectively enforce social distancing. Also taken into consideration was that the event would be in direct conflict with Governor Roy Coopers' current Plan of Reopening Phase 3, which prohibits parades with over fifty (50) people in attendance. Although the state could potentially be under a different Phase in December, the Clinton-Sampson Chamber of Commerce does not feel that there would be sufficient time to organize a Christmas Parade."

sibility to work together to avoid spreading the disease, and the decision to cancel the Clinton-Sampson Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade in the City of Clinton is based solely on the need to protect public health. We know the Clinton-Sampson Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade in the City of Clinton is a time-honored community tradition that many look forward to each year, and we thank the citizens of Sampson County for their patience and understanding. We regret any inconvenience this cancellation may cause for the parade's sponsors, participants, and loyal attendees. We look forward to future events which celebrate and promote Sampson County."

The Chamber announcement continued, "As a community, we have a collective respon-

According to Mary Rose, Main Street Director for the City of Clinton, the Christmas in the City event has also been cancelled due to COVID. Rose stated, "However, we will be posting our Clinton Christmas Tree lighting on Facebook live on Thursday, December 3rd at 5:30 pm. We will be installing a 22' tall Christmas tree at the Milling Around art piece. The Clinton Main Street Program will also be holding another Brunch & Bows event on Small Business Saturday which is Saturday, November 28th. We are encouraging Downtown retailers to stay open until 8:00 pm on Thursday evenings between Thanksgiving and Christmas (December 3rd, 10th, and 17th. We are hoping shoppers will take advantage of these extended hours to shop locally for Christmas.

CRIME -

CRIME REPORTS

10-12 Sammie Lamont Gilchrist, 38, Clinton. OFA-FTA No Operators License. Bond \$500. Trial Date 10-26-20 10-13 Natasha Rae Greenhalgh, 34, Roseboro. Injury to Personal Property, Second Degree Trespass. Trial Date 11-19-20 10-13 Roger Greenhalgh, 36, Roseboro. Injury to Personal Property, Second Degree Trespass. Trial Date 11-19-20 10-13 Jeremy Dail Royal, 37, Clinton. Fail to Work After Paid. Trial Date 11-23-20 10-13 Mary Faye Lockamy, 26, Clinton. DWLR Not Impaired Rev, Fict/Alt Title/

Reg Card/Tag, DRR/Allow Reg Plate Not Display, No Liability Insurance. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 12-10-20 10-13 Michael Jaquan Murphy, 22, Turkey. Speeding, Expired Registration Card/Tag, Second Degree Trespass, Injury to Personal

Property. Bond \$500. Trial Date 01-04-20 10-13 Gregory Joel Smith, 31, Clinton. FTA- Second Degree Trespass. \$2500. Trial Date 11-10-20 10-14 Torana R Stewart, 53, Warsaw. Driv-

ing Under the Influence. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 11-23-20 10-14 Freddy Sanchez, 24, Garland. OFA-

FTC-Child Support. Bond \$500. 10-14 Marcel Terrell Roundtree, 31, Clinton. Communicating Threats, Damage to Property, Assault Individual with Disability.

Bond \$5000. Trial Date 12-15-20

10-14 Ritchie Reynosa, 28, Clinton. Failure to Reduce Speed, DWLR- Not Impaired Rev. Bond \$500. Trial Date 11-10-20 10-14 Malik Allah Peart, 24, Fayetteville.

DWLR Not Impaired Rev, Exceeding Posted Speed. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 11-10-20 10-14 Dylan Shane Smithson, 23, Clinton. Probation Violation Out of County. Bond \$50000. Trial Date 11-12-20 10-14 Janice Allen, 59, Clinton. Violation of

Court Order, Simple Assault. Bond \$5000. Trial Date 11-10-20 10-14 Susan Gilbert, 43, Dunn. Possess Mar-

ijuana, Possess Drug Paraphernalia. Trial Date 10-14 Martin Bryant Boyette, 47, Clinton.

Failure to Appear-Citation. Bond \$500. Trial Date 11-09-20 10-14 Roderick Dewayne Smith, 45, Garland.

Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle. Bond \$500. Trial Date 12-07-20 10-15 Brandon Burgess, 33, Dunn. Assault

by Pointing a Gun, Communicating Threats. Bond \$2000. Trial Date 11-19-20 10-15 Connie Tyndall Burgess, 54, Dunn.

Communicating Threats. Bond \$2000. Trial Date 11-19-20

10-15 Jeffrey Shane Moore, 23, Harrells. Trespassing. Bond \$500. Trial Date 11-16-20 10-15 Jamie Nichole Atkinson, 20, Harrells. Trespassing. Bond \$500. Trial Date 11-16-20 10-15 Tommy L Williams, 41, Clinton. Possess of Meth. Bond \$4500. Trial Date 10-30-

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10-16 Ashley Byrd Hicks, 30, Dunn. Second Degree Trespassing, Resisting Public Officer. Bond \$2500. Trial Date 11-16-20

10-16 Jody Lee Ginn, 40, Dudley. Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle. Bond \$2000. Trial Date 12-14-20 10-16 James Becton, 69, Clinton. Possess Sto-

len Goods. Bond \$4500. Trial Date 10-30-20 10-16 Kevin Terence Jacobs, 53, Autryville. Communicating Threats. Trial Date 12-08-20 10-16 Madeline Grace Causey, 23, Fayetteville. OFA-FTA Maintain Veh/Dwell/Place CS, OFA-FTA PWIMSD Meth, OFA-FTA Sell Meth, OFA-FTA Deliver Meth, OFA-FTA Possess Meth, OFA-FTA Possess Drug Paraphernalia. Bond \$20000. Trial Date 11-09-20

10-16 Enrique Medrano, 62, Clinton. Communicating Threats. Trial Date 11-19-20

10-16 Taylor Alexandria Beene, 23, Smithfield. FTA- Speeding, FTS- Fict/Alt Title/Reg Card/Tag, FTA-Possess Marijuana up to 1/2oz, FTA-Misdemeanor Probation Violation. Bond \$3000. Trial Date 11-18-20

10-17 Clinton Keith Barefoot, 28, Godwin. Felony Possess Heroin, Felony Poss Meth, Possess Marijuana up to 1/2oz, Possess Marijuana Paraphernalia. Bond \$5000. Trial Date 10-23-20 10-17 Ignacio Murillo Sanchez, 38, Dublin. Order for Arrest- Fail to Appear for Criminal Summons/Citation. Bond \$1500. Trial Date 11-10-20

10-17 Johnna Rose Creech, 52, Newton Grove. Communicating Threats. Bond \$1500. Trial Date 12-14-20

10-17 Thomas Kent Thornton, 24, Clinton. Felony Possession Schedule I Controlled Substance, Possess Drug Paraphernalia. \$10000. Trial Date 10-30-20

10-17 Osheonna Shantel Boykin, 23, Clinton. Cyberstalking. Trial Date 11-17-20

10-17 Fatima Hernandez Juarez, 18, Newton Grove. No Operators License, Fictitious Tags. Bond \$500. Trial Date 11-09-20

10-17 Gary Horne, 54, Autryville. Trespass of Real Property. Trial Date 12-08-20

10-18 Samantha Bailey Bradsher, 22, Clinton. Possess Meth, Possess Drug Paraphernalia, Possess Heroin. Bond \$25000. Trial Date 10-

10-18 Mia Evelyn Paragin, 18, Clinton. No Operators License. Bond \$500. Trial Date 10-

10-17 Johnny Cardona, 20, Clinton. Possess Marijuana, Glass Smoking Pipe. Trial Date 11-

Gorge Alexis Castillo, 24, Warsaw. OFA/Misd Probation Violation Out of County, OFA/Felony Probation Violation Out of County, Resist Public Officer, DWLR Not Impaired Rev, Open Container in Motor Vehicle, Operate

Motor Vehicle no Insurance, Fictitious Regis-

tration Plate, Operate Motor Vehicle No regis-

tration. Bond \$55000. Trial Date 11-10-20

10-17 Desmond Tinel Tillery, 21, Magnolia. Simple Possession Sch VI CS. Trial Date 11-05-20 10-18 Jonathan Mack Simmons, 49, Clin-

ton. OFA/Driving While Impaired, OFA/

Wrong Way on Dual Lane Hwy. Bond \$4000. Trial Date 11-10-20 10-18 Tony Donnell Hobbs, 59, Clinton. OFA/Fail to work after being paid. Bond

\$500. Trial Date 10-19-20 10-19 Jeanna Nicole Page, 26, Clinton. WFA Driving While Impaired, WFA

Reckless Driving to Endanger. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 11-18-20 10-20 Jahleek Joyner, 19, Clinton. Break

or Enter Motor Vehicle. Bond \$5000. Trial Date 11-10-20 10-20 Christian Wayne Butler, 33, Clin-

ton. OFA White Light Rear Drive Forward, OFA DWLR Not Impaired Rev. Bond \$500. Trial Date 11-12-20 10-20 Patrick Jerrel Tim, 33 Clinton. OFA DWLR Not Impaired Rec, OFA Ex-

pired Registration Card/Tag. Bond \$1200. Trial Date 11-20-20 10-21 Aaron Ferris, 32, Goldsboro. Pos-

sess Marijuana. Trial Date 12-10-20

INCIDENT REPORTS 10-13 Keith Adams of Roseboro reported

Injury to Personal Property- fence, post, horse \$200. 10-14 Miria Lamb Memorial Library re-

ported a Burglary/Breaking & Enteringstolen money \$25, large window damaged \$500, cash register \$200. 10-13 Cheyenne Renee Ridenhour of

Clinton reported Larceny of Livestockhorse \$3500.

10-14 Garland Gas and Service of Garland reported Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property- front door damaged

\$150, money \$50, cash register \$200. 10-16 Rickie Jones of Clinton reported a Burglary/Breaking & Entering- stolen money \$300.

10-16 David Beard of Clinton reported Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property- mailbox and post \$50.

10-17 Rube Bragg of Clinton reported Breaking & Entering- tools \$100, logging equipment \$200, lawn and garden equipment \$100.

10-17 Shanna Lewis of Clinton reported a Motor Vehicle Theft- dirt bike \$600.

10-18 Michael Matthis of Clinton reported a Burglary/Breaking & Entering- stolen wall heater \$200, tanning bed \$1000, wall heater \$350, damage to back door \$100. 10-19 Zarya Ashley of Clinton reported Theft from Motor Vehicle- credit cards. 10-20 Willie Newkirk reported a Breaking and Entering Residence- damage to

door \$250.

This is Banks and he is 2 years old.

Can you be his "furever" 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.

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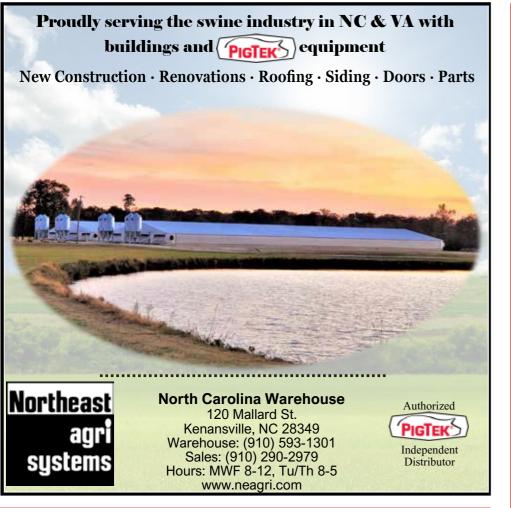
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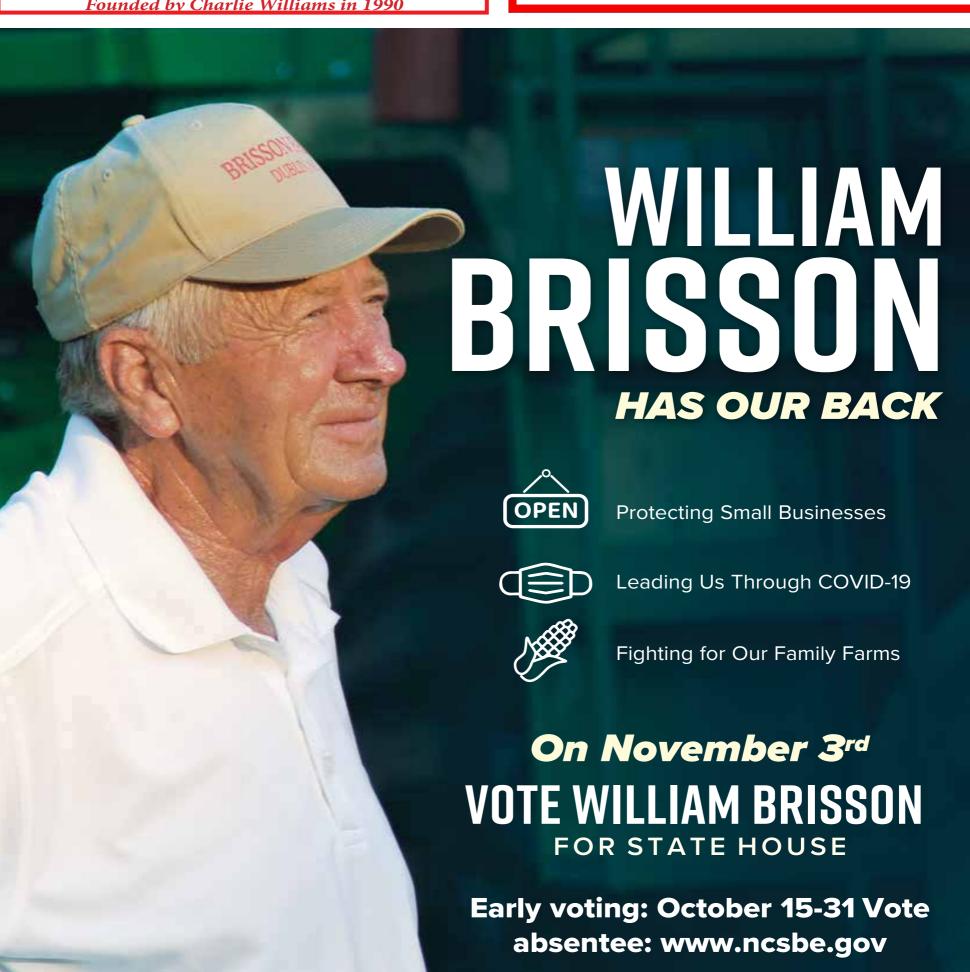
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Kent Daughtry CIC, LUTCF





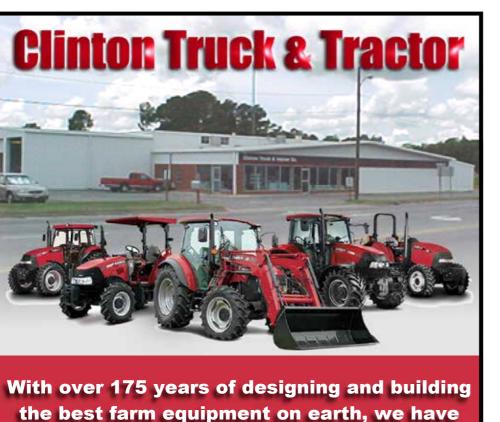


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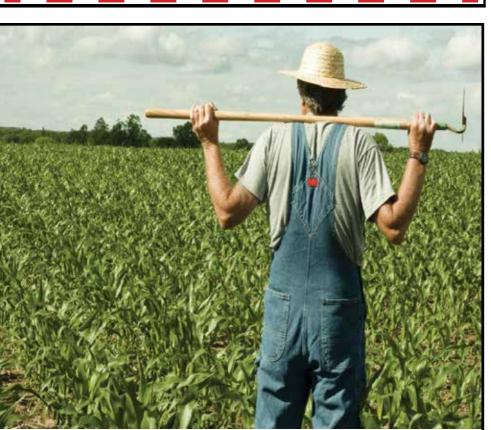


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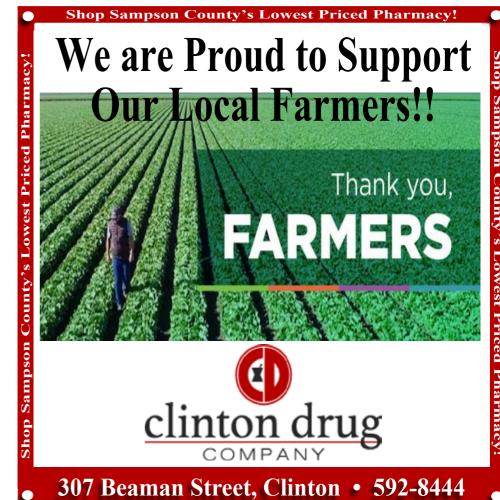
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I am Graham "Freddie" Butler Sampson County's Register of Deeds. On November 3rd I will be on the ballot and I am asking for your vote! But today, I'm asking you to join with me in standing up for the protection and appreciation of our Farmers.

"NO FARMERS=NO FOOD"!

Without our Farmers, all issues we face daily will not matter! Tell a Farmer today that you appreciate them and you are standing up for them!

Thank You

Graham "Freddie" Butler, Register of Deeds

*Paid for by Graham "Freddie" Butler Register of Deeds of Sampson County



GREAT GAME DAY GRUE

hile you may not be able to enjoy game day with thousands of your closest friends at the stadium this year, that doesn't mean you can't still enjoy tailgate-worthy grub at home with a smaller group of friends and loved ones.

Step up your home-gate with an appetizing pre-game lineup featuring customized hot dogs and bratwursts as the main course with other platefilling appetizers on the side to keep the noshing going right up to game time like bacon-wrapped potatoes, sweet cinnamon churros and a savory take on guacamole.

Find more game day recipes worth cheering about at Culinary.net.

Build-Your-Own **Brat Bar**

A simple and tasty main course, hot dogs and bratwursts are mainstays on game day and can be easily topped and customized to match each guests' taste buds, regardless of age. Consider setting out a variety of garnishes and topping options such as these:

- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Relish Onions
- Chili
- Nacho cheese ■ Shredded cheese
- Jalapeno peppers ■ Diced tomatoes
- Sauerkraut
- Cole slaw
- Pickle spears
- Barbecue sauce
- Sriracha



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

A Bacon-Wrapped Winner

Creating a mouthwatering game day spread is all about teamwork, and it's hard to find a better set of teammates than crispy bacon and potatoes.

Take one to the house with these Pigskin Potatoes that cut down on prep time and cleanup as an easy-toeat finger food that can be made in advance. Just prep the potatoes and wrap with bacon a day or two ahead of time then throw in the oven an hour or so before kickoff.

Your base ingredient in these tasty, touchdown-worthy snacks, Wisconsin Potatoes, are low in calories, high in fiber and a source of vitamin B6, potassium, vitamin C and antioxidants.

Find more game day inspiration at eatwisconsinpotatoes.com.

Pigskin Potatoes

Recipe courtesy of The Little Potato Company on behalf of Wisconsin Potatoes Prep time: 20 minutes Cook time: 44 minutes Serves: 8

1 1/2 pounds Boomer Gold Little Potatoes 6 ounces plain cream cheese, at room temperature

1/3 cup orange cheddar cheese, finely shredded

3 tablespoons fresh chives, finely chopped

1/8 teaspoon salt

1/8 teaspoon pepper jalapenos, to taste (optional)

1 pound bacon, thinly sliced, rashers cut in half

Preheat oven to 400 F.

Boil potatoes until fork tender, approximately 15-20 minutes. Cut in half and allow to cool.

In bowl, use spatula to combine cream cheese, cheddar, chives, salt pepper and jalapenos, if desired.

Once potatoes cool, spread cream cheese on one half of each cut potato and sandwich using other half. Wrap each potato using half rasher of bacon around cut middle to secure cheese filling.

Bake on middle rack 10 minutes to allow bacon to set. Flip and bake 10 minutes.

Turn oven to broil. Broil 2 minutes, turn and broil 2 minutes until bacon reaches desired crispiness.

Tip: Bacon-wrapped potatoes can be made ahead of time and kept in refrigerator until ready to bake.



Photo courtesy of C&H Sugar

A Tasty Take on a **Tailgate Favorite**

Even at home, game day means good times with friends and family while enjoying moments together watching vour favorite teams. A menu full of flavorful favorites takes the experience to another level, and tackling your spread by starting with a tasty dip is a sure way to fire up the crowd.

No tailgate or home-gate is complete without fresh guacamole made with the Avocados From Mexico brand. Because they're always in season, you can enjoy guac during your favorite sporting events and beyond.

Take it to the house with a twist on a game day classic by testing out this Bacon Chipotle Guacamole, a tailgateworthy snack loaded with crowdpleasing flavor. Because it's such a fan-favorite, you might find yourself making another round at halftime.

To find this recipe and more ways to take your tailgate to new heights, including more than 200 guacamole recipes to choose from, visit avocadosfrommexico.com.

A Sweet Cinnamon Snack

Sweet, handheld snacks make for perfect teammates while watching a game at home, and these Churros are an ideal example of a quick, fun bite that's made with ease.

Requiring less than an hour in the kitchen, they can be made in short order without missing your favorite team's first play. Lightly coated with fresh cinnamon and flavored with C&H Golden Brown Sugar, these deep-fried delights are as simple to make as they are delicious. Find more home-gating recipe ideas at chsugar.com.

Churros

Prep time: 20 minutes Cook time: 20 minutes Yield: 45 churros

1 1/4 cups water

1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter

2 teaspoons C&H Golden Brown Sugar

cup all-purpose flour large eggs, lightly beaten

cups canola oil, for frying cup C&H Granulated Sugar

2 tablespoons ground cinnamon In medium saucepan over high heat, combine water, butter, sugar and

Reduce heat and add flour. Using wooden spoon, mix vigorously

until mixture forms into dough. Remove from heat. While stirring, gradually add eggs into dough. Mix well. Place

dough in pastry bag fitted with large star tip.

In heavy pot over medium-high heat, heat oil until it reaches 365 F. On plate, mix granulated sugar and cinnamon; set aside. Squeeze churro dough in 4-inch strips into hot oil. Fry 5-6 churros

in batches until golden brown, about 2 minutes per side. When ready, transfer to plate lined with paper towels.

Roll churros in sugar-cinnamon mix.



Photo courtesy of The Little Potato Company

Bacon Chipotle Guacamole

- 3 Avocados From Mexico, halved, pitted and peeled
- 3 tablespoons shallot, minced 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 cup cilantro,
- finely chopped
- 1 lime, juice only 8 ounces applewood smoked bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1/2 cup tomatoes, small diced
- 2 canned chipotle chiles, finely chopped ground cumin. to taste salt, to taste pepper, to taste

In large bowl, mash avocados with shallots, garlic, cilantro and lime juice to desired consistency. Fold in bacon, tomatoes and chipotle chiles until well combined. Season with cumin, salt and pepper, to taste.

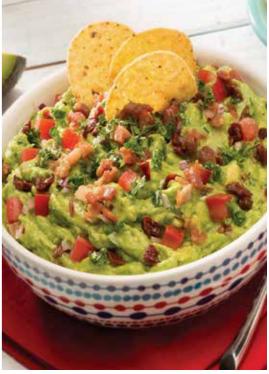


Photo courtesy of Avocados From Mexico

Bacon Chipotle Guacamol

ACC THIS WEEK

GAME OF THE WEEK N.C. STATE AT NORTH CAROLINA

When: Noon, Saturday

Where: Kenan Stadium, Chapel Hill, N.C. TV: ESPN



UNC senior receiver Beau Corrales (15), who had four catches for 141 yards and a touchdown in last week's loss at Florida State, is one of several weapons available to quarterback Sam Howell. DON JUAN MOORE/CHARACTER LINES

UNC looks to rebound vs. rival

Keys for N.C. State

The Wake Bailey: Junior Bailey Hockman gets a second chance as N.C. State's starting quarterback after sophomore Devin Leary went down with a broken fibula in last week's victory against Duke.

The Wolfpack is hoping to see the Hockman who directed a season-opening victory against Wake Forest and not the one who was replaced by Leary after tossing two interceptions in game two against Virginia Tech.

Contain explosive receivers: North Carolina boasts one of the top receiving corps in the ACC, led by Dazz Newsome and Dyami Brown. Those two, along with Beau Corrales, have the potential to create big plays on every down.

Containing them will be a major challenge for N.C. State's secondary, which has been hurt by injuries and ejections in recent weeks. Nine of the 11 players on the Wolfpack's secondary depth chart for Saturday are true freshmen, redshirt freshmen or sophomores, so it'll be a youthful group trying to hang with UNC's veteran receiver corps.

Keys for North Carolina

Pressure the QB: Despite being aggressive with its blitzes, UNC hasn't racked up a large number of sacks through the first four games. The Tar Heels rank in the middle of the ACC with 12 entering Saturday's game.

But ramping up that pass rush against the Wolfpack will be essential to keep Hockman off balance and force him into making quick decisions that could result in turn-

Pound 'em with the run: When you have a running back tandem like Michael Carter and Javonte Williams, you have to turn them loose early and often. If they're successful racking up yards early, it will serve two purposes. First, it'll wear down N.C. State's defense, especially its front-line players. Second, it'll loosen up the secondary and give quarterback Sam Howell to take some shots downfield with his big-play receiving corps.

Prediction

North Carolina 36, N.C. State 21: This is a heated rivalry, so anything can happen. But with the Wolfpack missing an important piece on offense in quarterback Devin Leary, and the Tar Heels anxious to redeem themselves after last week's embarrassing loss against Florida State, this should be a second straight win in the series for UNC.

Virginia at Miami

When: 3:30 p.m. When: 8 p.m.

Where: Heinz Field, Pittsburgh, Pa. TV: ABC

BEST OF THE REST

Notre Dame at Pittsburgh

Notes: The game will feature two outstanding defenses, but only one offense with much punch. The Fighting Irish hammered Louisville for 232 yards rushing last week in a 12-7 win and figure to use the same approach against a Pitt team riding a three-game losing streak.

Where: Hard Rock Stadium, Miami Gardens, Fla. TV: ACC Network

Notes: The Hurricanes bounced back from a disappointing performance against No. 1-ranked Clemson to beat Pitt last week. They'll try to record win No. 5 against a Virginia defense that has surrendered an average of 38.4 points over the last three games.

Syracuse at Clemson

When: Noon

Where: Memorial Stadium, Clemson, S.C.

TV: ACC Network

Notes: The Tigers are averaging

48.4 points and are coming off a 73-point effort in last week's romp against Georgia Tech. Syracuse has the ACC's worst offense, statistically speaking (20.3 points, 268.3 yards per game), so this could turn ugly fast.

POWER RANKINGS



1. Clemson (5-0, 4-0 ACC): This week's foe is Syracuse, which was drubbed by Clemson 41-6 last season. A similar result might qualify as a moral victory for Syracuse.



2. Notre Dame (4-0, 3-0): The Irish head to Pitt for their first road game. A change of scenery could be good for Notre Dame, which beat Louisville 12-7 last week.



against Virginia up next, Miami has a good chance to be packing a 5-1 record heading into upcoming back-to-back road games. 4. North Carolina (3-1, 3-1): The Tar Heels get a chance to respond to their first de-

feat of the season - at Florida State

against rival N.C. State.

3. Miami (4-1, 3-1): With a home game



5. N.C. State (4-1, 4-1): The Wolfpack lost QB Devin Leary. The timing couldn't be worse what with North Carolina and Miami up next on N.C. State's schedule.

6. Virginia Tech (3-1, 3-1): Running back



Khalil Herbert continues to roughshod over all opponents and leads the nation at 148 yards per game. 7. Florida State (2-3, 1-3): Florida State

jumped out to a 31-7 lead against North Carolina last week then disappeared for



the majority of the second half. 8. Wake Forest (2-2, 1-2): Wake posted its fourth consecutive victory against Virginia last week, which is the longest ever in its

series against the Cavaliers.

loss at Virginia Tech.



lost three in a row after a 3-0 start, will need QB Kenny Pickett to return to have a chance to knock off Notre Dame. 10. Boston College (3-2, 2-2): The Eagles

committed five turnovers in last week's

9. Pitt (3-3, 2-3): The Panthers, who have



11. Louisville (1-4, 0-4): Louisville has more than its share of offensive weapons; they just seem to engage - or fail to engage - at the wrong times.

12. Virginia (1-3, 1-3): Virginia and Miami

have split their past 14 meetings, but this

version of the Cavaliers is a far cry from



last season's Coastal Division champ. 13. Georgia Tech (2-3, 2-2): The Yellow Jackets are coming off a 66-point loss to Clemson – the largest margin of defeat



much-needed Saturday off this week before kicking off a three-game homestand. 15. Syracuse (1-4, 1-3): Syracuse solidified

between ACC opponents in league history.

14. Duke (1-5, 1-5): The Blue Devils get a



its lock on last place by being whipped at home by Liberty, which outgained the Orange 520-308.

PLAYER TO WATCH



Linebacker, N.C. State The sophomore earned ACC Linebacker of the Week honors after collecting 19 tackles and making two interceptions in last Saturday's win against Duke. Wilson now leads the league in tackles per game (11.0) and has 44 stops overall.

FTHAN HYMAN/ EHYMAN@NEWSOBSERVER.COM

ACC LEADERS



Passing yards Player Yds.

I. Lawrence, CLEN	/II,544
P. Jurkovec, BC	1,526
C. Brice, DUKE	1,461
K. Pickett, PITT	1,389
S. Howell, UNC	1,151



Passing TDs Player TDs

T. Lawrence, CLEM	15
M. Cunningham, LOU.	10
D. King, MIAMI	10
P. Jurkovec, BC	10
S. Howell, UNC	9



Rushing yards Plaver Yds.

rence, CLEM15	K. Herbert, VT	592
nningham, LOU10	J. Hawkins, LOU	519
g, MIAMI10	K. Williams, ND	486
kovec, BC10	M. Carter, UNC	478
well, UNC9	D. Jackson, DUKE	446



Receiving yards

Player Yds.	
Z. Flowers, BC	462
J. Addison, PITT	444
T. Harris, SY	;434
A. Rogers, CLEM	429
H. Long, BC	416



Scoring

Player Pts.
J. Williams, UNC54
A. Kessman, PITT50
BT Potter, CLEM47
J. Borregales, MIAMI45
Two players tied42

ROUNDING IT OUT

Saturday (all times Eastern)

-	` '	
Time	Matchup	TV
Noon	Florida State at Louisville	ESPN3
3:30 p.m.	Virginia Tech at Wake Forest	ESPN3
4 p.m.	Ga. Tech at Boston College	ACC Networ

ACROSS THE NATION

Thursday, Oct. 22 Arkansas St. at Appalachian St. Friday, Oct. 23 Tulsa at South Florida Louisiana-Lafayette at UAB Illinois at Wisconsin Saturday, Oct. 24 Georgia Tech College Virginia at Miami Tech at Boston Virginia at Miami
Texas State at BYU
Florida St. at Louisville
Tulane at UCF
Missouri at Florida
Georgia St. at Troy
Temple at Memphis
Cincinnati at SMU
NC State at North Carolina
West Virginia at Texas Tech
Virginia Tech at Wake Forest
Notre Dame at Pittsburgh Notre Dame at Pittsburgh Baylor at Texas Oklahoma at TCU Georgia Southern at Coastal Carolina Georgia at Kentucky

lowa St. at Oklahoma St. Syracuse at Clemson Louisiana-Monroe at South Alabama Alabama Houston at Navy Auburn at Mississippi Kansas at Kansas St. Alabama at Tennessee Alabama at Tennessee
South Carolina at LSU
Mercer at Army
FAU at Marshall
Louisiana Tech at UTSA
UTEP at Charlotte
Middle Tennessee at Rice
Chattanooga at W. Kentucky
Southern Miss. at Liberty
Nebraska at Ohio State
Michigan at Minnesota
Penn State at Indiana
lowa at Purdue Iowa at Purdue Maryland at Northwestern Rutgers at Michigan State Thursday, Oct. 29 South Alabama at Georgia South Al Southern

Friday, Oct. 30 East Carolina at Tulsa Marshall at FIU Minnesota at Maryland Saturday, Oct. 31 UTSA at FAU Kentucky at Missouri Navy at SMU Iowa St. at Kansas IOWA ST. AT KANSAS
Virginia Tech at Louisville
Charlotte at Duke
Kansas St. at West Virginia
Oklahoma at Texas Tech
Louisiana-Lafayette at Texas
State Boston College at Clemson Memphis at Cincinnati Memphis at Cincinnati E. Kentucky at Cent. Arkansas W. Kentucky at BYU Troy at Arkansas St. Wake Forest at Syracuse Temple at Tulane TCU at Baylor North Carolina at Virginia Coastal Carolina at Georgia St. Notre Dame at Georgia Tech

UCF at Houston Texas at Oklahoma St. Rice at Southern Miss. UAB at Louisiana Tech LSU at Auburn Mississippi at Vanderbilt North Texas at UTEP Mississippi St. at Alabama Appalachian Louisiana-Monroe St. Louisiana-Monroe Arkansas at Texas A&M Indiana at Rutgers Michigan State at Michigan Northwestern at Iowa Ohio State at Penn State Purdue at Illinois Wisconsin at Nebraska Thursdaw, Nov. 5 Thursday, Nov. 5 SMU at Temple Friday, Nov. 6 Miami at NC State Saturday, Nov. 7
Air Force at Army
North Carolina at Duke Tulane at East Carolina Pittsburgh at Florida St.

Miss. UTSA at Rice Jacksonville Charlotte at Middle Tennessee

Kansas at Oklahoma West Virginia at Texas Louisville at Virginia Tulsa at Navy Louisiana-Monroe at Georgia

Stephen F. Austin at E. Appalachian St. at Texas State Apparachian 3. at lexas state
Boston College at Syracuse
South Alabama at Coastal
Carolina
South Florida at Memphis
Arkansas St. at
Louisiana-Lafayette
Melabama St. at Kansas St. Coulsiana-Larayette
Oklahoma St. at Kansas St.
Texas Tech at TCU
Baylor at lowa St.
Liberty at Virginia Tech
Houston at Cincinnati
North Alabama at South at Southern Georgia, at Troy at Georgia Southern FIU at UTEP Vanderbilt at Mississippi St. Louisiana Tech at North Texas W. Kentucky at FAU Texas A&M at South Carolina Clemson at Notre Dame Tennessee at Arkansas Michigan State at Iowa Maryland at Penn State Maryland at Penn State
Purdue at Wisconsin
Rutgers at Ohio State
Michigan at Indiana
Minnesota at Illinois
Nebraska at Northwestern
Arizona at Utah
Arizona State at USC
Stanford at Oregon
ILLA at Colorado UCLA at Colorado Washington at Cal Washington State at Oregon State Friday, Nov. 13 FAU at FIU Utah at UCLA Iowa at Minnesota

Saturday, Nov. 14 Pittsburgh at Georgia Tech Arkansas at Florida Army at Tulane South Carolina at Mississippi Baylor at Texas Tech Baylor at Texas Tech Notre Dame at Boston College Duke at Virginia TCU at West Virginia South Alabama at Louisiana-Lafayette South Florida at Houston Auburn at Mississippi St. Louisiana-Monroe at Arkansas Vanderbilt at Kentucky Florida St. at NC State SMU at Tulsa Miami at Virginia Tech

North Texas at UAB Georgia at Missouri

Memphis at Navy East Carolina at Cincinnati Temple at UCF Texas A&M at Tennessee Wake Forest at North Caro

Middle Tennessee at Marshall W. Carolina at Liberty Georgia St. at Appalachian St. UTEP at UTSA TEP at UTSA pastal Carolina at Troy cros State at Georgia Texas State at Southern Rice at Louisiana Tech Rice at Louisiana Tech Southern Miss. at W. Kentucky Alabama at LSU Cal at Arizona State Colorado at Stanford Oregon at Washington State Oregon State at Washington USC at Arizona Ohio State at Maryland Penn State at Nebraska Wisconsin at Michigan Illinois at Rutqers Illinois at Rutgers Northwestern at Purdue Indiana at Michigan State Friday, Nov. 20 Syracuse at Louisville Syracuse at Louisville UCLA at Oregon Purdue at Minnesota

PERFORMANCE AUTOMOTIVE SALUTES THE STUDENT ATHLETE OF THE WEEK!

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EDUCATION -

Local Teenager Recognized by Governor Cooper



On Wednesday, Governor Roy Cooper announced that a coding education initiative, an auto repair and tire shop, and four individual North Carolinians have won NCWorks Awards of Distinction. The recipients were recognized during the 33rd annual NCWorks Partnership Conference, organized by the N.C. Department of Commerce and held this year in a virtual format.

"These award winners are focused on getting North Carolina job ready, connecting workers to the skills they need as well as employers who need those workers. Each of these honorees stand out for their contributions to develop our state's workforce and has a big role in helping our state recover from economic challenges that we face," said Governor Cooper.

The Governor's NCWorks Awards of Distinction honor outstanding examples from the state's workforce development system - including the students and jobseekers who receive training, the professionals who provide career services, and the employers and other organizations that support a skilled workforce. Awards were presented to the following recipients:

Yadira Paz-Martinez of Clinton: Outstanding Teen. Paz-Martinez comes from a farmworker family and enrolled in the National Farmworker Jobs Program in 2019. She is a senior at Sampson Early College High School. While dedicated to her academics, Paz-Martinez is also involved in various school and community activities, including the Student Government Association, Key Club, Beta Club, Rotary Youth Leadership, and the Migrant Education program. She volunteers at a local nursing home, serves as an interpreter for the community and school system, tutors part-time at Union Intermediate School for students of migrant farm workers, and helps math students at Sampson Community College. Paz-Martinez is on track to graduate in 2021 with both a high school diploma and an associate degree. She aspires to attend a state university and obtain undergraduate degrees in Political Science and Economics. Martinez has ambitions to attend Duke University or either UNC Chapel Hill. She eventually wants to enter the political realm and represent the Hispanic community and low-income communities and to help educate the youth of the United States.

Yadira said that she was surprised to be the winner, "My supervisor from Telemon in Dunn NC told me that I was a finalist. When I watched the video of the winners on October 21st, I was excited to win this award. I want to represent teenagers who want to do what is best for the Hispanic community." Martinez received a plague and a check for \$500.

Others winners included: Stephanie Preacher of Raleigh: Outstanding Adult, David Meads of Hertford: Outstanding Young Adult, Earl Wright of Charlotte: Wayne Daves Award for Outstanding Achievement in Workforce Development, CB's Auto Tire and Service of Elizabeth City: Outstanding Employer, Code Guilford: Community Coding Workforce Initiative of Guilford County: Outstanding Innovative Partnership.

SCC Rolls Out 'Viking Works' GEER Funds



Several of the 10 programs, like construction, included in the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund are available through Workforce Development and Continuing Education at SCC. (Stock photo)

In August, Governor Cooper directed \$95.6 million in funding to help support K-12 and postsecondary students impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic for the 2020-2021 school year. The funding is North Carolina's share of the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund, a part of the federal CARES Act. Included in that funding are scholarships for

Workforce and Continuing Education students enrolled in the following ten programs of study: Automotive, Aircraft Maintenance, Construction, Criminal Justice, EMS, Healthcare, Industrial/ Manufacturing, Information Technology, Transportation, and Fire and Rescue Services.

> GEER scholarships, called Viking Works at Sampson Community College, help cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, supplies, credentialing tests, etc. for students enrolled in any of the Workforce Development and Continuing Education program pathways mentioned. Up to \$750 of scholarships may be awarded per course.

> These funds are available to all Workforce Development and Continuing Education students who have been affected by COVID-19 in anyway and are enrolled in a class or pathway that is at least 96 hours or more and leads to a credential. Some examples available at Sampson are EMS, Nurse Aid I and II, EKG, Information Technology, Truck Driving, and the Fire Academy. New courses in the spring, Medical Administrative Assistant and Electronic Health Records Specialist, are also eligible for Viking Works funds.

> Dean of Workforce Development and Continuing Education, Amanda Bradshaw, says the Viking Works funds will be instrumental in allowing students the opportunity to pursue short-term workforce training without the worry of cost.

> "These funds will allow barriers to be removed for students looking to further their education opportunities with short-term workforce training. The impact of this will be huge on our local, state, and regional economy as Sampson County takes strides toward returning to work," Bradshaw explained.

> Contact the Workforce Development & Continuing Education offices for more details at 910.592.7176 or visit sampsoncc.edu/



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For more information: **Pastor John Hobbs** 910.385.6545



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I Am Weak, But He Is Strong



Hebrews 11:32-34, "And what more can I say? Time is too short for me to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the raging of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, gained strength after being weak, became mighty in battle, and put foreign armies to flight."

The writer of the book of Hebrews describes several men that accomplished great things for God. Gideon defeated 30,000 Philistines in one amazing battle. Barak defeated Jaban, the king of Canaan, and his mighty people who dwelt in Hazor; and Samson took down 3,000 Philistines who were mocking him in their pagan temple. The amazing way each of these men went about gaining great victory was not in their own strength, but in God's authority. The Creator of the universe stripped these individuals of their own ability so they would have to become reliant upon His ability.

At the beginning, Gideon didn't even have enough courage to thresh wheat in the open; he feared the Philistines would see him and come take his grain by force. However, after God got through with him, he became a mighty man of faith. Barak was so weak in military genius that he insisted that a prophetess go into battle with him. Once Deborah went with Barak, he began to become stronger in his faith. Samson had his eyesight violently taken from him by his enemies. However, at the end of his life he showed great strength. What these men had in common was after they embraced their weakness they became strong in God.

God has a purpose in bringing victories out of our weaknesses. He does this to get all the glory after the victory comes in our lives. Jesus set the example for us found in 2 Corinthians 13:4, "For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you." It's a wonderful thing to know that God's grace and strength increases in our daily weakness.

Christian author Warren Wiersbe stated, "The remedy for discouragement is the Word of God. When you feed your heart and mind with its truth, you regain your perspective and find renewed strength." Do we see our earthly weakness as an advantage to allow God to have full control over our life? We are strongest as Christians when we submit to the will of God. You might wonder how we can know what God's personal will in our life might be. The answer is found in the pages of Bible. We can turn to the scriptures at any moment and know that our Master is speaking to us.

I encourage you this week not to forget there's a source of strength available to you every moment of every day. Kay Arthur co-founder of Precept Ministries International, proclaimed, "We have fainted when we could have persevered by exchanging our strength for His! With His strength, not only could we have kept on walking, we could have run!" Take time to memorize this week the following Bible verses about God's strength Psalm 71:5, Isaiah 40:31 and Psalm 18:2. What you will quickly discover is God is always able to deliver you from the pains and suffering of this world.



Ken Smith

Keep Your Focus On God



I could almost go back to the exact church pew on which I was sitting that afternoon, over forty years ago. We were participating in a class for Sunday School Teachers when unexpectedly the leader asked a question: "Can anyone quote Galatians 2:20 for us?" It must have caught everyone off guard, no one spoke up. And I just sat there! Oh, how much I wanted to be able to quote that verse, but I had not committed it to memory either, wasn't sure if I could even find Galatians quickly to read it. Finally one timid soul near the back very quietly recited - from the K J V of the Bible: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now

live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me."

Those simple few moments, half a lifetime ago, have had a profound effect on my life as a Christian. To this day, Galatians 2:20 is one of my most cherished verses in all of Scripture. More importantly, the Holy Spirit impressed upon me that, as a teacher, I needed to be more attentive to, and spend more time in, the inspired Word of God. Reading further in Galatians I came upon these words of Paul:

"But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ..."

Recently, I was given a little book on prayer. As usual I delved right in, and to my delight were these thoughts by Elizabeth George: "Am I seeking the favor of men, or of God? Keep your focus on God. If your focus is on pleasing God, you can relax because you will say and do the right thing -- the Christ

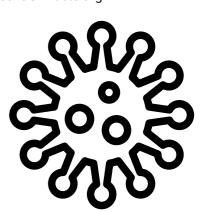
honoring thing. Focus on Him - not 'them' - and live for Him. When you realize you are empowered by God there is no limit to what God can do in and through you."

My friends, don't lose sight of who God is to you and who you are to Him. When what we DO becomes more important than who we ARE in Christ, we lose the true center of our lives. God so much wants a personal relationship with each of us! As much as possible, live your life in the best perspective: striving to do the will of God, to be the person He wants you to be. One day in eternity you will hear Him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" Prod us, Lord, to live each day with this goal in

Martha M. Pierce

More than 3,800 North Carolinians have died from Covid-19.

Source: USAFacts.org



Covid-19
is on the ballot.
Vote Nov. 3



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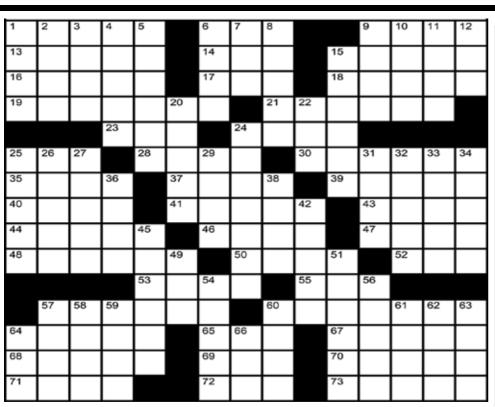
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ELECTION DAY NOV. 3

PD BY LET'S RE-ELECT JUDGE CAROL JONES COMMITTEE



PUZZLES



68. Give the boot

73. Not slouching

2. Sweater eater

Dead against

4. Kind of pad

5. Sacred spot

7. Relieve from

8. Falstaffian in body

10. Evening purse

11. Lion's share

20. Drug agents

12. Single

proprietor

mission 27. "Four" prefix 29. Indian flatbread

69. Breathing matter

70. Famous Bolshevik

71. London art museum

1. Andy's radio partner

72. "Owner of a Lonely Heart"

6. *"Eye of newt, and toe of

9. Christian of haute-couture

15. Kindergartener's textbook

24. Nonprofit's purpose

26. Terminate, as in

31. Homemade swing

*"Psycho" motel

for the course'

HALLOWEEN

- 1. Accumulate
- 6. To and
- Audition tape
- 13. October, e.g. 14. Adam's body part
- 15. Mountain climber's spike
- 16. Weasel's aquatic cousin
- 17. Gentry's "___ to Billie Joe"
- 18. Agitate 19. *Stanley Kubrick's "The
- 21. *Ghost or ghoul
- Can See Forever"

 24. Cloth:
- 24. Clothing joint 25. *Nighttime radar flyer
- 28. European sea eagle
- 30. Not wholesale 35. In the sack
- 37. Popular dieter's foe Laundromat setting
- 40. Carrying bag
- 41. Enjoy, as in food 43. Parks on a bus
- 44. Made a mistake 46. In 1492, it sailed the ocean
- 47. Outback birds 48. Stadiums
- _pit
- 52. Hitherto 53. Genuflecting
- 55. Feather glue 57. *She played
- Laurie Strode 60. *Dead one
- 64. Bipolar disorder phase
- Marienbad e.g. 67. Blind alterna-

32. Societal breakdown of moral standards

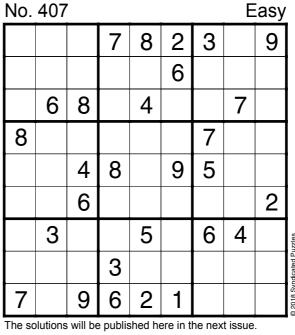
33. October edition of

- "Vogue," e.g. 34. Minimum
- 36. Ownership document
- -chilling 42. Haile Selassie's disciple
- 45. Stalin's order, e.g. 49. "Wheel of Fortune" re-
- 51. Equestrian's seat
- 54. Op-ed piece 56. More raw
- 58. g or cm
 59. *"The Vampire Chroni-
- cles" author 60. *Christine and such
- 61. Weather
- 62. Homer's "Iliad" 63. Monthly due
- 64. Came together
- 66. Crusty dessert

STR8TS No. 407 Tough 9 1 2 4 3 5 8 You can find more help, tips and hints at www.str8ts.com

Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But.. rows and columns are divided by black squares into compartments. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A straight is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, eg [4,2,3,5]. Clues in black cells remove that number as an option in that row and column, and are not part of any straight. Glance at the solution to see how 'straights' are formed.

SUDOKU



4 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 2 1 2 4 9 6 8 3 7 5 8 5 7 4 3 2 3 6 9 1 7 5 2 4 8 6 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 7 5 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 1 7 4 2 6 To complete Sudoku, fill the

Previous solution - Very Hard

board by entering numbers 1 to 9 such that each row, column and 3x3 box contains every number For many strategies, hints and

tips, visit www.sudokuwiki.org

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Gideon (Judges 6:1–40)

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G	U	C	U	Т	K	Р	D	Н	1	D	Ε	О
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Naomi and Ruth Return (Ruth 1:6-22)

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GIVE ARRIVAL **BLESS HOME** LIVE **LORD**

NAOMI

RETURN

MARRY

OBITUARIES



NEWTON GROVE

Ms. Shae Barefoot Darden, age 72, passed away on Friday, October 16, 2020 at Kitty Askins Hospice Center in Goldsboro. A graveside Funeral Service was held 2:00PM, Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at Unity Presbyterian Church Cemetery. Newton Grove, NC. Surviving include her son, Johnathan Darden and Labreeska, grandchildren,

Mackenzie and Amberlie Darden, brothers, J. L. Barefoot and Mary, Louie Logan and Amanda, sister Toni Fiehler. Ms. Darden is preceded in death by her husband; David Edward Darden, parents; Louvert and Ioda Barefoot, sisters; Ella Mae Logan and Piddie James. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Unity Presbyterian Church, 11551 NC Hwy 50 South, Newton Grove, N.C. 28366. Condolences may be made at www.westanddunn. com. A Service of West & Dunn Funeral Home of Newton Grove, North Carolina

NEWTON GROVE

Gracy Devone 67 of 68 Windsong Lane died Saturday October 17, 2020 at UNC Rex HealthCare in Raleigh. Minster Gracy



Sue Devone was born on March 28, 1953, to Hazel Borden and the late J. W. Underwood. She graduated from Southern Wayne High School in 1971. On January 7, 1972, she met and married the love of her life, Mr. Bobby Ray Devone. Preceding her in death is one brother, Malachi Baggett. Minister Gracy joined Union Freewill Baptist Church at our early age. She later joined House of Praise Church in Newton Grove

under the leadership of Apostle Eva Darden, where she is currently a member and has been for approximately 30 years. A graveside service was held at 1:00 pm on Saturday, October 24, 2020 at Piney Green Disciples Church, 2937 W. Darden Road, Newton Grove, NC. Left behind to cherish her memories are, two sons: Bobby Ray Devone Jr. (Marsha Devone) of Clinton, NC, and Terrance Devone of the home, one daughter: LaWanda McNeill (Cornell McNeill) of Dunn, NC, one sister: Nancy Gertrude Carroll of Salemburg, NC, and one brother: Levi Baggett (Diane Baggett). Minister Gracy Sue Devone also leaves behind to cherish her memories, six grandchildren: Gracelynn Devone, whom she raised as her own, Donavon, Victoria, Bobbie Rae, Brianna, & Abigail, two great-grandchildren: Eli and Carlos Rivera, four nieces: Adriane McNeill, Sharon Blood, Trachelle Broadnax, Nancy Tucker, four nephews: Marcus Underwood, Julius Baggett, Dennis Carroll Jr., Michael Baggett, and one special cousin/friend/sister: Gertie Stevens. A host of other relative and friends are also left to cherish her memories. A visitation was held on Friday, October 23, 2020 at Hope valley Hawkins Funeral Service, 1246 Hobbton Hwy., Clinton from 2:00 pm – 6;00 pm with family present from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm.

On Sunday, October 18, 2020, Irene Godwin, devoted wife and loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, passed away at the age of 90. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ellis Godwin, and her daughter-in-law, Sherion Godwin. She is survived by sons Randy (Vickie) and Dwight; grandchildren, Angela Godwin,



Laura Blair (Jeremy), Carrie Sheets (William), Michael Godwin (Holly), and Steven Godwin (Megan); and great-grandchildren. She was married to Ellis Godwin for 62 ½ years until his death in 2008. They were charter members of North Clinton Avenue Baptist Church and she was a long-time employee in the medical records department at Betsy Johnson Hospital. With social distancing observed and face coverings requested, the family received friends at 2:00 PM on Thursday, in the fellowship hall of North Clinton Ave. Baptist Church. The funeral followed at 3:00 PM in the sanctuary with Rev. Grover Blackburn and Rev. Billy Steins officiating. Burial took place at Devotional Gardens. Arrangements are by Skinner & Smith Funeral Home in Dunn.



Kenneth "Kenny" Larry Harrell, 57, of 100 Fulton Street, passed away Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at his home. A funeral will be held at 2 PM, Saturday, October 24, 2020 at Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Raiford Carter, Jr. officiating. Interment will follow in Clinton City Cemetery. Family will receive friends from 1 PM - 2 PM, at the church just before the funeral

service and at other times at the home of his father, Larry Harrell at 1943 Ozzie Road, Clinton. Kenny, born in Sampson County in 1963, was the son of Larry Harrell and the late Judy McCullen Harrell. He was the shop manager for Smith Tire Sales, Inc. Survivors include; father, Larry Harrell; siblings, Lisa Harrell, Julie Smith and husband Darrell, Greg Harrell and wife Patricia and Deanna Barefoot and husband Tracey; nieces and nephews, Heather Hope Pope (Kaleb), Carmen Hering, Zach Worley, Jenna Worley, Aaron Smith, Chance Barefoot, Anna Harrell, Jon Shelton Barefoot and Ella Barefoot. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.crumpler-honeycutt.com. Flowers are welcome or memorials may be made to Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, c/o Kathy Jones, PO Box 35, Turkey, NC 28393.

STEDMAN

Mrs. Bettye Kelly Matthews, 80 of Stedman passed away on Friday, October 16, 2020 at her home. A graveside service was held at 11:00 AM Thursday, Oct. 22 at Magnolia Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Travis Hoke and Rev. Jerry Parsons officiating. The family received friends from 10:00 - 10:50 AM prior to the graveside in the Magnolia Baptist Church. Mrs. Matthews was a native of Durham County, the

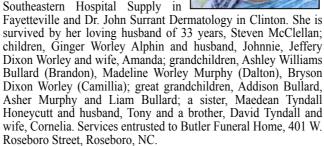


daughter of the William Henry and Vida Woody Kelly. She was preceded in death by her parents and husband, Wesley Ransom Matthews. She was a retired school teacher with the Moore and Cumberland County School Systems. She was also a member of Magnolia Baptist Church. She is survived by two daughters, Lynette Matthews Clark and husband, Mark and Kelly Denise Matthews all of Pinehurst; three grandchildren, Garrett Clark, Matthew Noonan and wife, Lauren and Benjamin Noonan and fiance, Danielle Hotchkiss; three great grandchildren, Isabelle, Henry and Jack. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro.

SALEMBURG

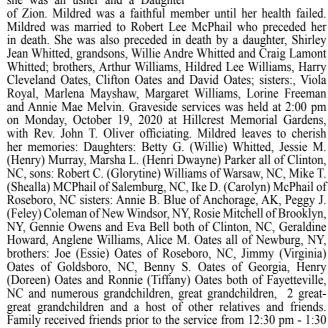
Mrs. Carolyn Tyndall McClellan, 76 of Tyndall Bridge Road, Salemburg went to be with her Lord and Savior on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at Wake Medical Center. A graveside service will be held at 3:00 PM Saturday, Oct. 24 at the Tyndall Family Cemetery, Tyndall Bridge Road, Salemburg with Rev. David Williams officiating. There will be a walk-through-viewing from 1 PM - 5 PM Friday, Oct. 23 at Butler Funeral Home in Roseboro.

Mrs. McClellan was born on March 19, 1944 in Sampson County to the late Ollin Alton Tyndall and Ella Mae Holland Tyndall. She was a devoted mother and grandmother. She loved holidays and family gettogethers; any chance to spend time with her family was important to her. She was a member of Union Grove Baptist Church and was retired from



CLINTON

Mildred Williams McPhail, 78, passed away on Wednesday, October 14, 2020, at her home in Clinton, NC. Mildred Lee McPhail was born on May 15, 1942 to the late Lillie Franklin and Charlie Preston Williams. She was raised by her aunt, the late Lessie Mae Oates. Mildred attended First Missionary Baptist Church of Roseboro, where she was an usher and a Daughter



pm at Hope Valley Hawkins Funeral Service, 1246 Hobbton Hwy.



Clinton, NC.



James Ayers Mitchell, "Jimmy", 73, passed away, Saturday,
October 17, 2020 at Sampson Regional Medical Center. A funeral was held at 2 PM, Tuesday, October 20th at Elizabeth Baptist Church with Rev. John Hobbs and Rev. Johnathan Lewis officiating. Interment with military honors followed in the Elizabeth Baptist Church Cemetery. The family received friends from 6 PM - 8 PM, Monday, October 19, 2020 at Crumpler-Honeycutt Funeral Home and at other times at the home

of his brother, Marvin, at 500 Beaverdam Drive, Clinton, NC. Jimmy, born in 1947 in Sampson County, was the son of the late Frank Darnell Mitchell and Lillian Hollingsworth Mitchell. He was a Quality Control Inspector with Hamilton Beach. Jimmy was an avid Wake Forest Demon Deacon and Boston Red Sox Fan and loved golfing with his many friends. He was a Veteran of the US Airforce. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his siblings, Janice Coats, William Edward "Billy" Mitchell Mason and Harold Franklin Mitchell. Survivors include his brother, Marvin Mitchell (Janet), several nieces and nephews, and sister-in-law's, Esther Lee Mitchell, Cathy Mitchell Moore and dear cousin, Jeanette Miller Goodman. Memorials may be made to Gary Sinise Foundation, PO Box 368, Woodland Hills, CA 91365 or the Kiwanis Club of Clinton, P.O. Box 1194 Clinton, NC 28329. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.crumplerhoneycutt.com.

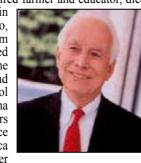
CLINTON

Glenn Anthony Naylor, 63, of 2490 Church Road, passed away Monday, October 19, 2020. A graveside service was held at 4 PM, Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at Hopewell United Methodist Church Cemetery with Rev. Gregg Presnal officiating. Anthony, born in Sampson County in 1957, was the son of the late Charles Anthony Naylor and Louise Wilson Naylor. He was a farmer

of various crops and livestock. He was a member of Hopewell United Methodist Church. Survivors include; mother, Louise Naylor; sister, Karen Naylor Parham and husband Ben; brother, Larry Naylor and wife Beverly; nephews, Christopher Naylor and wife Cherish, Alan Parham and Alex Parham; and great niece and nephews, Charleigh Anna Naylor, Carver Allen Naylor and Cohen Anthony Naylor. Flowers are welcome or memorials may be made to Hopewell United Methodist Church, 4641 Church Road, Newton Grove, NC 28366. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.crumpler-honeycutt.com.

Nurham Osbie Warwick, 80, a retired farmer and educator, died October 21, 2020, at his home in

Clinton, NC. He grew up on a tobacco, row crop, livestock and produce farm in Sampson County and graduated from Clinton High School where he excelled in agricultural education and public speaking. While in high school he was elected to be a North Carolina State Officer for the Future Farmers of America. He continued his service to the Future Farmers of America organization throughout his career



and was awarded a lifetime achievement award by the organization in 2018. He graduated from North Carolina State University and attended graduate school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Pennsylvania State University. Beginning his career as a vocational agriculture teacher in Pitt County, NC, he later became the North Carolina State Director of the Alternative School Programs, a Liaison for US Congress and NC Education, and the North Carolina State Director of Education Programs for Handicapped and Disadvantaged and Education and Work Programs. After retiring from the North Carolina education system, he was elected and represented Sampson and adjoining counties for three terms in the North Carolina House of Representatives from 1996 to 2002. Nurham Warwick is preceded in death by his parents, Lawet Osbie and Mary Danzel Warwick, and daughter Ashley Claire Longmire. He is survived in life by sister Mary Jo Claud of Clinton, NC, and brother Peter D. Warwick and sisterin-law Ellen M. Warwick of McLean, VA. A private graveside service is planned for October 26th, 2020, at Grandview Memorial Gardens, in Clinton, NC.

GARLAND

Mr. Robert Crowder Rand, 75, of 220 Smith Mill Pond Road, Garland, died Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at Elizabethtown Nursing Center, Elizabethtown. Mr. Rand was born June 19, 1945 in Wake County to the late Otis Crowder Rand and Elizabeth White Smith. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date. Mr. Rand is survived by special



friends Randy and Connie Guyton of Garland. Services provided by Carter Funeral Home, Garland. www.carterfh.com.

MOUNT OLIVE

Mr. Dennis Jerome Ward, 63, of 251 Robert F. Hargrove Road, Mt. Olive, NC passed away Friday, October 16, 2020 at home. The service was held at 2pm, Friday, October 23, 2020 at the homeplace with Elder Donald Graham officiating. Burial in Vancie Ward Cemetery, Mt. Olive, NC. Mr.

Ward is survived by WIFE-Belinda Ward of the home; DAUGHTERS-Mechelle Ward-Barksdale of Mt. Olive, NC, Belinda Ward-Morrisey of Faison, NC and Sierra Ward Lekoy of Beaufort, SC; SISTER-Glenda Davis of Mt. Olive, NC; BROTHER-Ronald Ward of Mt. Olive, NC; four grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be made to



The American Heart Association. Visitation at St. Luke Church of Christ DOC, 636 Waller Road, Mt. Olive, NC Thursday, October 22, 2020 4pm - 6pm. 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.

Wade Bass, 89, of Richmond, VA, passed away Saturday, October 17, 2020 at his home. A private graveside service was held at 1 PM, Wednesday, October 21st, at Grandview Memorial Garden, with Rev. Clay Carter officiating. Wade, born in 1931 in Sampson County, was the son of the late Joseph P. Bass and Sallie Bradshaw Bass. He worked as a service station attendant and farmed. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death siblings, Gurnie "Jack" Bass, Charlie H. Bass, Dewey L. Bass, Pete Bass, USAF, Prentice Pope, Joseph Bass, Danzle Mary Warwick, and Mildred Louise Merritt. He is survived by his wife, Lola Mae Hudson Bass of the home and sister, Susan Walls of Burgaw, NC. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.crumpler-honeycutt.com.

Ava Raye Pate Boone, 81, passed away Saturday, October 17, 2020 at Parish Family Care Home of Warsaw. Mrs. Boone was born November 17, 1938 in Duplin County, NC to the late Major Franklin Pate and Mary Summerlin Pate. A funeral service was held 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 21, at Warsaw Free Will Holiness Church, with burial following in Pate Cemetery Visitation was held at 1:00 p.m. Mrs. Boone is survived by two daughters, Anita Johnson and husband, David of Rose Hill, Betty Sanderson and husband, Andy of Warsaw; four grandchildren Cynthia Blackmore (JD), Amanda Burch (Alex), Tracey Johnson (Anthony) and Harley Loomis (AJ); four great grandchildren Ryker Burch, Case Loomis, John Edward "JEB" Blackmore and Landon Kennedy; three step daughters; six step grandchildren; seven step great grandchildren; sister, Janie Tarry (Dave) of Turkey; Robert Pate (Annelle) of Smithfield and several nieces and nephews. She is also survived by special daughter Jennie Wallace of Clinton and special grandchildren and great grandchildren, Jennifer Daw, Joseph Daw (Brandy), James Young, Jaden Turlington, and Avaona Turlington. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Boone was preceded in death by husband, Raymond Boone, several brothers and sister, step grandson, Dallas Foss, and mother-in-law and best friend, Rachel Boone.

Doris G. Hunter, 76, of Fayetteville, went home to join her husband, Andrew Hunter, with the Lord on Wednesday, October 21, 2020. She was born in Sampson County on November 9, 1943 to the late Richard and Tiny Ammons. Left to cherish Doris's memory are her sons, Ricky Hunter and Ken Hunter; grandson. Jordan Hunter; great granddaughter, Elizabeth Hunter; brothers Pete Ammons and Willie Ammons; sister, Hilda Faircloth; and many nieces and nephews. A funeral service will be held at 3pm on Saturday, October 24, 2020, on the lawn of Sullivan's Highland Funeral Service. Online condolences may be expressed at www. sullivanshighland.com. Services are entrusted to Sullivan's Highland Funeral Service & Crematory.

ROSEBORO

Mrs. Wynona Carol Keel, 78 of Roseboro passed away on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at the Cape Fear Valley Medical Center. A memorial service will be held at 11:30 AM on Saturday, October 24, 2020 at Butler Funeral Home in Stedman with Rev. Tommy Honeycutt officiating. The family request that everyone attending please wear a mask and practice social distancing. Mrs Keel was a native of New York, the daughter of the late James and Emma Ruhl Medlock. She was preceded in death by her parents: husband, Jessie Keel and brother, Leland Medlock. She was a certified nursing assistant. She is survived by two sons, David Keel and wife, Cathi of Roseboro and Alan Keel and wife, Yukari of Cary; daughter, Christine Ketchum and husband, Charles of Roseboro; sister, Jackie White of Roseboro; four grandchildren. Kyndra Keel, Alisa Keel, Peyton Ketchum and Garrett Ketchum two nephews, Jimmy White and Jay White. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Beaver Dam Fire Department 11042 NC Hwy. 210 S. Roseboro, NC 28382 or to St. Jude Children Research Hospital P.O. Box 50 Memphis, TN 38101 Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 6535 Clinton Road, Stedman, NC.





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SPEED FREAKS

The 2021 playoff races aren't among the changes for next season. If you could swap one out ...?

GODSPEAK: Since we are in the land of make believe NASCAR, let's go pedal to the metal. Pull Phoenix out as the season finale and insert Talladega. KEN'S CALL: I'm OK with the roster of tracks, but I wouldn't mind seeing a swap of the first and final playoff race. Move Phoenix to the first and grand ol' Darlington to the championship weekend.

Which non-playoff driver from 2020 will be in next year's playoffs?

GODSPEAK: Give me Tyler Reddick. Why? In 2021 there will be one Chevy engine and this kid knows how to use horsepower.

KEN'S CALL: Christopher Bell for sure and Bubba Wallace is probable, assuming the financing is as good as advertised. And we might add Chase Briscoe to the mix.

GODWIN'S PICKS FOR TEXAS

WINNER: Kyle Busch
REST OF TOP 5: Chase Elliott, Denny
Hamlin, Kevin Harvick, Ryan Blaney
FIRST ONE OUT: Michael McDowell
DARK HORSE: Tyler Reddick
DON'T BE SURPRISED IF: Busch's 33race skid finally comes to an end.

BY THE NUMBERS

44 Daytime high temperature in Kansas City last Sunday

67 Playoff points earned by Kevin Harvick this season

156 Sum total when eight remaining playoff car numbers are added together

224 Days between Joey Logano's second and third victories this season

3,331 Points gap between Cup leader Kevin Harvick and 18th-place Jimmie Johnson

DAYTONA MOTOR MOUTHS

Godwin Kelly and Ken Willis remember when Cup Series championships were practically clinched with three races remaining in the season.



THROUGH THE GEARS



Joey Logano had to wait 224 days between NASCAR victory burnouts.

JAMIE SQUIRE/NASCAR GETTY IMAGES

Logano win creates chaos

Godwin Kelly

Daytona Beach News-Journal USA TODAY NETWORK

The NASCAR Cup Series has started its quick stretch run to the finish line. Only three races are left, and there is plenty of unfinished business.

Joey Logano locked up a Championship Round spot with his win at Kansas, which rippled through the playoff standings. Logano was fifth in points going in and now jumps to the head of the line.

Kevin Harvick and Denny Hamlin are way ahead in points, which means the other five drivers almost have to win to make Round 4.

Brad Keselowski is on the right side of the cut line, eight points ahead of fifth-place Chase Elliott.

Harvick, Hamlin and Logano have all scored wins at Texas. There are other drivers not in the playoffs with their own agendas.

On to the Lone Star State . . .

First gear

In a stark illustration of how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected NAS-CAR competitors, look no further than Joey Logano's Cup Series wins this season.

Logano won twice in NASCAR's first four races then the series shut down because of the pandemic.

The 30-year-old driver won at Las Vegas on Feb. 23 then at Phoenix on March 8 and then everything stopped cold in its tracks.

The NASCAR Cup Series got back to racing on May 17 and Logano went winless until Sunday's race at Kansas Speedway, or a span of 224 days.

"It's been an amazing challenge, if I'm being honest with you," Logano said. "The beginning of the year with practice, we were able to get to know each other, get to know what I needed with the car, and work on it during practice. COVID started. Coming back with no practice, we started getting our butts handed to us pretty hard."

Second gear

The two drivers to watch as the season winds down are Jimmie Johnson and Kyle Busch.

Johnson wants to end his illustrious Cup Series career with a win in his final season of full-time competition. He is sitting on 83 career wins to go with those seven Cup Series championships.

Busch desperately wants to keep his season-to-season win streak alive. He has won at least one race every year since 2005.

Third gear

NASCAR Silly Season is winding down. As of this writing, no driver has been named to fill the No. 14 Ford seat of departing Clint Bowyer. Richard Petty Motorsports is still shopping for a 2021 driver.

Meanwhile Kyle Larson, who seems to win everything he enters in dirt-track racing these days, has applied for NAS-CAR reinstatement, and talented Erik Jones continues to work the phones.

Fourth gear

Chase Elliott suffered an odd setback at Kansas when his two-way radio system went haywire when the race started.

"They could hear me, I just couldn't hear them once we went green," said Elliott, who finished sixth. "Once we kind of had the situation understood, that they could hear me and I just couldn't hear them, that helped, obviously."

QUESTIONS & ATTITUDES

With six points races on road courses next year, and the four "plate races" ...

Stop right there. I believe I heard Junior Earnhardt recently talking about that schedule being a dream for someone like AJ Allmendinger, who must be tempted to consider a return beyond his current part-time status. Or someone similar to AJ, who's basically a road-course ringer but also willing to mix it up in the lead pack at Daytona and Talladega. I often wonder if sports-car ace Ricky Taylor has stock-car ambitions.

Could it ever lead to a "fluke" champion at season's end?

Highly doubtful. With five road courses during the regular season and one in the second round of the playoffs, a Juan Pablo Montoya or Marcos Ambrose could go deep in the postseason, but would have a hard time advancing past the third round. But, at minimum, we should hopefully see a return to the old days of bringing in a Ron Fellows or Boris Said, or the very old days of hiring a Dan Gurney or Parnelli Jones.

NASCAR CUP STANDINGS

1. Kevin Harvick	4,115
2. Denny Hamlin	4,094
3. Brad Keselowski	4,082
4. Chase Elliott	4,074
5. Joey Logano	4,064
6. Alex Bowman	4,055
7. Martin Truex Jr	4,051
8. Kurt Busch	4,009
9. Kyle Busch	2,220
10. Austin Dillon	2,212
11. Ryan Blaney	2,205
12. William Byron	2,184
13. Aric Almirola	2,167
14. Clint Bowyer	2,166
15. Matt DiBenedetto	2,160
16. Cole Custer	2,146
17. Erik Jones	809
18. Jimmie Johnson	784
19. Tyler Reddick	
20. Chris Buescher	

WHAT'S ON TAP?

quad-oval)

(All times Eastern)

CUP SERIES: Autotrader EchoPark

Automotive 500

SITE: Texas Motor Speedway (1.5-mile

TV SCHEDULE: Sunday, race (NBC Sports Network, 3:30 p.m.)

XFINITY: O'Reilly Auto Parts 300 SITE: Texas Motor Speedway TV SCHEDULE: Saturday, race (NBC Sports Network, 4:30 p.m.)

GANDER RV & OUTDOORS TRUCK SERIES: SpeedyCash.com 400 SITE: Texas Motor Speedway TV SCHEDULE: Sunday, race (Fox Sports 1, noon)

KEN WILLIS' TOP 10 NASCAR DRIVER RANKINGS



KEVIN HARVICK Won't be as patient at Phoenix



JOEY LOGANO Gets two weeks off



DENNY HAMLIN Starting to sweat



CHASE ELLIOTT Really starting to sweat



BRAD KESELOWSKI Best finish since Richmond



ALEX BOWMAN Don't look at Texas stats



MARTIN TRUEX JR. Probably needs a win to get in



KURT BUSCH Definitely needs a win to get in



RYAN BLANEY Showing speed, but too late



WILLIAM BYRON See above

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