



Local News  
Page 3



Great Food  
Page 8

SAMPSON COUNTY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

# The Sampson Weekly



VOLUME 11, ISSUE 19

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Week of May 1-7, 2020

## INSIDE



NASCAR  
Page 16

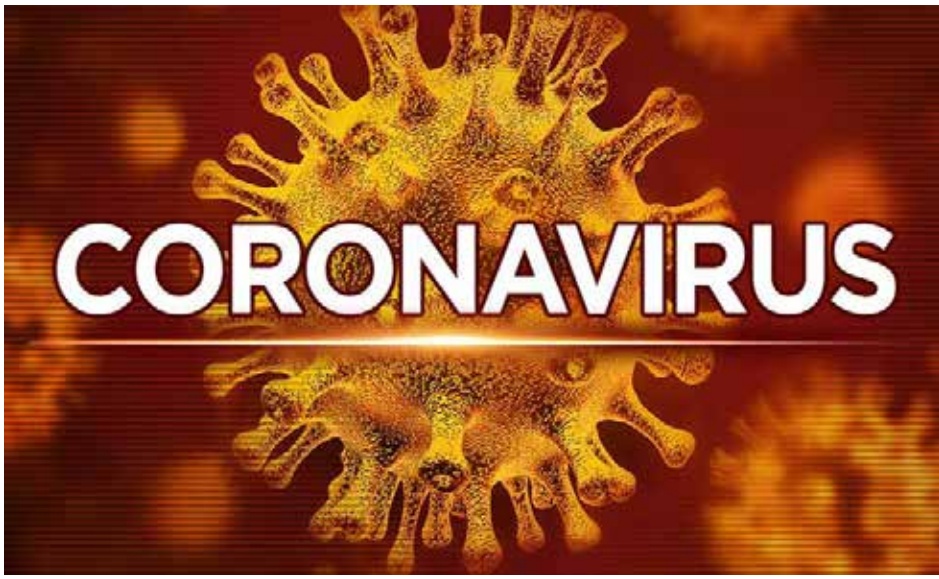


Education  
Page 10



Kids Page  
Page 12

## COVID-19 TESTING REPORT FOR MAY 1 – TOTAL INCREASES TO 81



The Sampson County Health Department reports 7 new positive cases of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), bringing the total positive cases in Sampson County to 81.

The investigations of the 7 new cases are not yet complete. As with all cases, the Health Department staff works to identify close contacts, which the CDC defines as being within approximately 6 feet of a person with a COVID-19 infection for a prolonged period of time of 10 minutes or longer. Based on information provided by the individuals, county health officials then assess risks of exposure, and determine which if any additional measures are needed such as quarantine or

[COVID 19, see P. 3](#)

## Governor Appoints Mario White to Serve as District Court Judge District 4



Governor Roy Cooper has appointed three judges to serve Brunswick, Cumberland and Duplin, Jones, Onslow and Sampson counties.

“Our superior and district courts are a critical part of the state’s justice system,” Gov. Cooper said. “These appointees are remarkable leaders in their communities, and I look forward to seeing them in these new roles.”

Mario White will serve as a District Court Judge in Judicial District 4, which serves Duplin, Jones, Onslow and Sampson counties. He will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Paul Hardison. White has been a solo practitioner at Mario M. White Law Office since 1993. He also taught criminal law, criminal procedure, constitutional law and business law at Sampson Community College from 1994-1998. White is a member of the North Carolina Bar Association, North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers and the Prince Hall Free Masons. He received his Juris Doctor from the North Carolina Central University School of Law and his Bachelor of Science degree from North Carolina Central University.

Mr. White responded to the appointment on Friday, “Governor Roy Cooper made the announcement of the appointment as a District Court Judge in Judicial District 4A. I will be assuming the seat previously held by the Honorable District Court Judge Paul Hardison who retired after a stellar career on the bench. I will be serving Duplin, Jones, Onslow and Sampson Counties.”

The other 2 appointees include: The Honorable Jason C. Disbrow will serve as Superior Court judge in Judicial District 13B, which serves Brunswick County. Disbrow will fill the vacancy created by the passing of former Superior Court Judge Ola Lewis. Since 2015, he has served as a District Court Judge of North Carolina’s 13th District. Prior to being a District Court Judge, he was a partner in Stiller & Disbrow, P.C. Attorneys at Law. Disbrow is active in the Southport community and has served on

[WHITE, see P. 3](#)

## WEATHER

**Fri** Partly Cloudy  
20%

Hi: 71° Lo: 46°

**Sat** Sunny  
10%

Hi: 76° Lo: 56°

**Sun** Sunny  
10%

Hi: 85° Lo: 67°

**Mon** Partly Cloudy  
0%

Hi: 84° Lo: 60°

**Tues** Scattered T-Storms  
50%

Hi: 73° Lo: 56°

**Wed** Rain  
30%

Hi: 73° Lo: 53°

## Smithfield Foods Takes Measures to Ensure Safety Measures After Covid-19 Outbreak in Processing Plants



On Monday, the Sampson County Health Department released the following statement, “Sampson County Health Department has identified an active outbreak at Smithfield Packing Company in Clinton, NC. Five employees of the plant have tested positive for COVID-19. One employee is not a Sampson County resident and is therefore not reported in our total number of 45 cases. Smithfield and the Health Department are working closely together to assure

[SMITHFIELD, see P. 4](#)

## WEEKLY VERSE

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

## WEEKLY INDEX

Local.....	1-4
Home Fix Up.....	5
Faith.....	6
Health.....	7
Food.....	8
Athlete of the Week.....	9
Puzzles.....	11
Kids Page.....	12
Obits.....	13-14
Classifieds.....	15
Nascar.....	16



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## CORONAVIRUS HELPFUL TIPS FROM THE CDC



# wear a mask

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

To learn more, visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

LOCAL NEWS

# Cooper Urges North Carolinians to Stay Vigilant



*Some indicators moving in the right direction, others are not*

Governor Roy Cooper and NC DHHS Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen today shared an update on where North Carolina stands in the fight against COVID-19 and urged North Carolinians not to let their guard down.

“North Carolinians have made tremendous sacrifices and it is making a difference,” said Governor Cooper. “We remain hopeful that the trends will be stable enough to move into Phase 1 next week.”

“We need keep up the actions that will slow the spread of the virus. The good news is that we know we can do this. If we stay home now to protect our loved ones and our communities, we can put ourselves on a path to begin easing restrictions and moving forward as planned,” said Dr. Cohen.

As of today, North Carolina has 10,509 lab-confirmed cases, 546 people in the hos-

pital, and 378 deaths due to COVID-19.

Governor Cooper and Secretary Cohen updated on where North Carolina stands on the following key metrics:

- Sustained Leveling or Decreased Trajectory in COVID-Like Illness (CLI) Surveillance Over 14 Days
- Currently, North Carolina’s syndromic surveillance trend for COVID-like illness is level over past 14 days, but has been on an uptick over the past seven days.
- Sustained Leveling or Decreased Trajectory of Lab-Confirmed Cases Over 14 Days
- Currently, North Carolina’s trajectory of lab-confirmed cases over the last 14 days cases is still increasing.
- Sustained Leveling or Decreased Trajectory in Percent of Tests Returning Positive Over 14 Days
- Currently, North Carolina’s trajectory in percent of tests returning positive over the last 14 days is decreasing.
- Sustained Leveling or Decreased Trajectory in Hospitalizations Over 14 Days
- Currently, North Carolina’s trajectory of hospitalizations over the last 14 days is largely level.

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

- Increase in Laboratory Testing
- North Carolina has surpassed 4,000 tests for the last 6 of 9 days with 6,000 tests reported yesterday.
- Increase in Tracing Capability
- NC DHHS announced the Carolina Community Tracing Collaborative, a new partnership with Community Care of North Carolina (CCNC) and the North Carolina Area Health Education Centers (NC AHEC) to double the state’s current contact tracing capabilities. The Collaborative has started recruiting for these positions.
- Availability of Personal Protective Equipment
- The state has a 30-day supply of most personal protective equipment, except for gowns and N95 masks.

“We need everyone to continue following the Stay At Home order right now so that we can move to the next phases of easing restrictions. Complacency could risk lives and undo these plans,” added Governor Cooper.

## Hobbtton High Graduates Recognized- In An Unusual Way



Residents driving through Newton Grove are seeing something different on the utility poles across town. Poles are now adorned with banners of Hobbtton High School graduates from the class of 2020.

According to Asst. Town Clerk Amanda Bradshaw, the original idea came from Chief Greg Warren who had originally seen a social media post where a town was honoring their local athletes with banners throughout town. Amanda liked the idea too, so the process began to do the same thing for the Hobbtton High School Graduating Class of 2020.

The Town of Newton Grove then partnered with Hobbtton High School and local citizens to start gathering photos and names of graduating students. A local graphic designer and printer, Shannon Rowe Lee, designed the banners and had them printed.

Amanda Bradshaw, who is also the PTO President at Hobbtton High School stated, “Our graduating seniors are missing so much this year due to the Covid-19 quarantine. They deserve to be celebrated!” Also, local high schools are not exactly sure how graduation ceremonies will take place due to the coronavirus. Once the graduation season is over, each banner will be taken down and given to the senior who is graduating this year. What a wonderful token from the town to the students.

According to Mrs. Bradshaw, there are approximately 112 graduating seniors this year. So far, the town has gotten 86 banners made and put up. They are looking to get the picture and information of the few that are left they have been unable to get up with. So, if you are a senior at Hobbtton High school, make sure you call Amanda Bradshaw with the Town of Newton Grove to submit your information. She can be contacted at (910)594-0827.

The banner campaign has been so successful, that the town plans on making it a tradition every year. The main goal is to bring the town together and to salute the Graduating Classes.

Mrs. Bradshaw closed by saying, “Anything that we can do right now that is positive is important.”

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# What's Happening at SCT

By Angela Martin



Our Sampson Community Theatre family is ready to see your smiling faces once again. Our production of Disney's The Little Mermaid was supposed to open this weekend, but as you know, it has been delayed. Our production is sponsored by David H. Hobson, Attorney at Law and is directed by me, Angela Martin. As soon as we have a date when we can resume our production, we will let you know. Until then I thought I would spotlight one of our very own SCT Board Members, who not only has been in numerous productions at SCT but is known nationally and interna-

**COVID 19, cont. from P. 1**

testing.

With the increase in total cases, citizens are reminded that if you think you have the coronavirus, call your health care provider so that he/she can evaluate your symptoms and provide the best course of action. Please stay at home and call your doctor if you have fever of 100.4 or higher, cough, or shortness of breath.

Protect yourself by following these simple rules: practice social distancing-staying 6-feet apart, avoid touching your face, wear protective face covering when in public, cover your cough, wash your hands and disinfect surfaces frequently.

COVID testing numbers for Sampson County as of May 1, 2020:

- Total Number of Tests Performed: 377
- Positive Test Results: 81 (17 recovered)
- Negative Test Results: 279
- Pending Results: 17
- Deaths: 0

Wanda Robinson, Director of the Sampson County Health Department "We just hope that people will adhere to the messages that we have been sending out in the community."

- Citizens need to protect themselves and others by
1. Wear a mask when out in public
  2. Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and always before eating, after using the bathroom and after blowing nose, coughing or sneezing.
  3. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
  4. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then dispose of the tissue in the trash
  5. Stay at home when sick until symptoms are gone.
  6. If you feel sick, with fever, cough, difficulty breathing, contact your doctor to see if you need to be tested.

**WHITE, cont. P. 1**

the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce. He received his Juris Doctor from the North Carolina Central University School of Law and his Bachelor of Arts degree from North Carolina State University.

Frances McDuffie will serve as a District Court Judge in Judicial District 12, which serves Cumberland County. She will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Robert Stiehl. McDuffie has served as an assistant public defender for Cumberland County since 2013. McDuffie has held several board positions in Cumberland and Scotland counties. She received her Juris Doctor from North Carolina Central University School of Law and her Bachelor of Arts degree from Duke University.

tionally as being a member of the Grammy-nominated group, First Choice.

Ursula was born in Philadelphia to Dorothy and Eddie Herring. Dorothy and Eddie were Sampson County natives and decided to take a leap of faith and move to New York City, where they had two sons - Larry and Jerry. The Herrings then moved to Philadelphia where they had their third child, Ursula.

Ursula has always been talented. As a five year old, she began to play the piano and continued playing and studying piano until she was thirteen. She also attended William C. Bryant Elementary School where she was a member of the elementary school band and played the vibes. Not only did Ursula love playing the piano, but she was a gifted ballet dancer. At the age of five, Ursula began taking ballet and as she moved on to Tilden Junior High School, she became a member of the dance team. Her passion for ballet grew as she moved into high school. As a freshman, attending John Bartram High School, Ursula won a full paid scholarship to the Philadelphia School of Ballet for four years. Her love of ballet kept her dancing and in her 10th grade year, she was scouted and recruited as one of the top 100 ballet dancers in Pennsylvania. She was named to the All-State Ballet Troupe. This troupe performed throughout the state and won numerous awards.

Ursula was musically inclined and had a gift for dance, but she never thought she could sing. Ursula has a very distinctive voice. It is low, melodic and booming and it is amazing, however she never thought so until one fateful day in her neighborhood. Ursula would stand on the corner to catch her bus and it just so happened that the legendary group, the Delfonics worked near that corner. One day the lead singer, William "Poogie" Hart said "hey, hey, hey - why don't you ever smile?", to Ursula and that struck up a conversation. Poogie had seen Ursula at her stop on numerous occasions and once they began a conversation; he asked her if she could sing. Ursula told him no, but he asked her to sing for him and the rest is history. She knew from that day forward she could sing and that she did.

Ursula began with talent shows. She was in her first talent show at her high school and was booed. The second talent show, her and her group was booed again. Ursula, at this point moved to West Philadelphia High School where she entered her third talent show. With a song from Friends of Distinction, she did not get booed this time, in fact she won the talent show. From that point, Ursula joined a very well-known band named Tapestry. She stayed with them during her senior year of high school, and then destiny called. The group First Choice was looking for a vocalist and Ursula became one of the group members. Ursula Herring, Annette Guest and Rochelle Fleming, as First Choice performed on a variety of national shows including, "Soul Train", "Dinah" and "American Bandstand." They performed extensively all throughout the world, including tours in almost every state, the United Kingdom, Africa, Germany and the Caribbean Islands. Some of their hits include, "Smarty Pants," "Doctor Love," and "Let No Man Put Asunder." Ursula still performs with First Choice throughout the country, along with her group members, Annette Guest and Andre Jackson. Ursula and First Choice were influential to early house and techno music and have been sampled on major artists songs such as Mary J. Blige's cover of "Let No Man Put Asunder." In 2019, the rapper J. Cole sampled the group's song, "Wake Up to Me" in his song, "Middle Child." They are currently performing reunion shows and are scheduled as a featured act on the upcoming Ultimate Disco Cruise, a six day Celebrity Cruise line cruise that will give you a disco extravaganza like no other. This cruise is being booked now for February 2021 and will feature seventeen groups and bands of the disco era, including KC and the Sunshine Band, Kool and the Gang and First Choice.

Ursula fell in love with theatre in her mid-30s. At the time, there was an advertised audition for the national tour of Ain't Misbehavin'. She decided to go on a whim to the audition and she was selected to replace Nell Carter on the tour. Her passion for theatre took off from there. You may have seen her in productions at SCT, including my personal favorite - not once but twice - as Motormouth Maybelle in Hairspray.

Ursula has loved her career. From her time in First Choice to her moments with various groups throughout her career, she has always loved to travel. Ursula said her time in various countries was amazing because she loved to see how people lived in other areas and learn about their culture. She also loved being in a variety of singing groups including Two Guys and a Doll, who toured and opened for Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes. This is also where she met Teddy Pendergrass, her former fiance.

Ursula also mentioned that without the support of her parents, Dorothy and Eddie Herring and her two brothers Larry and Jerry, her career would not have been possible. They supported her every step of the way and she is so happy and blessed to have the family that she has, including her son, Seann and his wife Melissa. In addition to being a proud mother she is also a proud grandmother to three talented young ladies, Ariana, Chloe and Sasha Herring.

When asked what advice Ursula would give to young people who want to pursue a career in the arts, she says, "You can't be scared to step out on faith . . . you have to be willing to step out of your comfort zone and go for your dreams. Your dreams are your gifts - and if you love performing don't let anyone stop you - always go for it."

We are thrilled to have Ursula as part of our theatre community, as a Board Member, director and actress and I am also happy to call her my friend. Until next time. . . stay happy, stay healthy and stay safe.

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# LOCAL NEWS

SMITHFIELD, cont. from P. 1



adequate follow-up is being provided to all employees.”

On Tuesday it was released that two more cases at the Smithfield Packing Company had come back positive. On Wednesday, the health department reported that there were twelve cases and on Thursday it was reported that the positive case count at Smithfield had jumped to 21 confirmed cases.

On Friday the county saw 7 new confirmed positive cases, but they were not identified as to where they originated from. The Health Department stated, “The investigations of the 7 new cases are not yet complete.”

Smithfield Foods made a response on their website saying, “At Smithfield, we are committed to keeping food on tables across America: today, tomorrow and every day. As a leading global food and protein company, we understand that continuing to deliver nutritious, delicious and affordable food, and protein specifically, to our communities is of vital importance, now more than ever. Our more than 40,000 U.S. team members, thousands of American family farmers and our many other supply chain partners are a crucial part of our nation’s response to COVID-19.”

On Wednesday the company released the following press release:

*“Smithfield Foods, Inc. today expressed its support for the activation of the Defense Production Act which safeguards the country’s food supply that provides sustenance to hundreds of millions of Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic. It also protects the livelihoods of millions of American family farmers who produce bountiful livestock supplies but rely on meat processing facilities to convert that abundance into food. Grocers and restaurants are dependent on farmers, processors and distributors to supply protein to the country. This action helps ensure the American people will not experience protein shortages.*

*The executive order, together with the guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) of the Department of Labor, provides a much-needed framework that prioritizes employee health and well-being, while also stabilizing the country’s food supply and preventing the collapse of the agricultural economy. The company appreciates the Administration’s partnership, along with various other local, state and federal healthcare authorities and public officials and its union representatives during these unprecedented and enormously challenging times.*

*The company is grateful to its employees and its union representatives, who are frontline responders, for their patriotism and willingness to step up in a selfless way to keep food on tables during this global pandemic. Importantly, the company believes that the executive order will provide priority assistance in securing an ongoing supply of critical PPE, as well as aid the company in securing broader COVID-19 testing for its employees.”*

The company stated that it was quick to adopt a series of processes, protocols and protective measures that follow, and in many cases exceed, the strict guidance of the CDC and OSHA. Across all its facilities, the company is providing team members with abundant personal protective equipment (PPE), including masks and face shields, has implemented mass thermal scanning and installed physical barriers on its production floors and in break areas. In addition to guaranteeing pay to employees impacted by COVID-19 and dedicating \$120 million to bonuses for its team members, the company has not furloughed or laid off a single worker, despite closing multiple facilities and numerous lines falling dormant in other locations. The company is evaluating next steps to open its currently shuttered facilities and will make announcements when it is ready to resume operations in each location.

Smithfield stated that they have enacted the following measures:

-Boosted Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Every employee involved in the handling, preparing and processing of food wears personal protective equipment covering their heads, faces (including masks and face shields), hands and bodies.

-Installed Plexiglass Barriers

We have installed plexiglass and other physical barriers on the production floor and in break areas. This is especially important in areas where social distancing is not possible like on production lines.

-Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection

This rigorous deep cleaning and sanitization complements the extensive safety measures in place at all our locations and is on top of the extremely hygienic and sanitary environments maintained at all times in our industry for food safety and quality purposes.

-Implemented Thermal Scanning

Employees undergo temperature checks and are screened for COVID-19 symptoms before entering our facilities.

-Increased Social Distancing

Measures are in place throughout our facilities to prompt employees to remain six feet apart.

-Extensive Employee Communications in Multiple Languages

To ensure our employees are fully informed, signage is posted throughout the facility in multiple languages.

On Friday, Smithfield Foods, Inc. issued the following statement underscoring its ongoing positive and constructive partnership with its team members across the country:

*“Media and other reports pitting the company against its employees are flat out wrong. There is no such division. The company and its team members all want the same thing, namely, to protect employee health and safety while also safeguarding America’s food supply.*

*Demands for things like 100% compliance with all Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidance; access to personal protective equipment (PPE) and hand washing stations; robust communication in multiple languages; generous paid leave policies, including full bonus eligibility; and priority access to voluntary COVID-19 testing are totally and completely reasonable. The company agrees!”* At the core of the company’s COVID-19 response is an ongoing focus on employee health and safety and continued adherence with – at a minimum – the CDC and OSHA guidance. Across all its facilities, the company is providing its team members with PPE, including masks and at least temporary face shields. The company believes that the recent executive order will provide priority assistance in securing an ongoing supply of enhanced PPE, most critically permanent face shields, as well as aid the company in securing broader COVID-19 testing for its employees.

*The company has implemented mass thermal scanning and installed physical barriers on its production floors and in break areas. It also continues to explicitly instruct employees not to report to work if they are sick or exhibiting COVID-19*



*symptoms and that they will be paid, including any and all bonuses, when they are quarantined. These measures remain mandatory and nonnegotiable conditions for the company to operate.”*

**Executive Order Declaring Meat Processing Plants Critical Infrastructure:**

“The 2019 novel (new) coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing outbreaks of the disease COVID-19, has significantly disrupted the lives of Americans. In Proclamation 9994 of March 13, 2020 (Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak), I declared that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constituted a national emergency, beginning March 1, 2020. Since then, the American people have united behind a policy of mitigation strategies, including social distancing, to flatten the curve of infections and reduce the spread of COVID-19. The COVID-19 outbreak and these necessary mitigation measures have taken a dramatic toll on the United States economy and critical infrastructure.

It is important that processors of beef, pork, and poultry (“meat and poultry”) in the food supply chain continue operating and fulfilling orders to ensure a continued supply of protein for Americans. However, outbreaks of COVID-19 among workers at some processing facilities have led to the reduction in some of those facilities’ production capacity. In addition, recent actions in some States have led to the complete closure of some large processing facilities. Such actions may differ from or be inconsistent with interim guidance recently issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) of the Department of Labor entitled “Meat and Poultry Processing Workers and Employers” providing for the safe operation of such facilities.

Such closures threaten the continued functioning of the national meat and poultry supply chain, undermining critical infrastructure during the national emergency. Given the high volume of meat and poultry processed by many facilities, any unnecessary closures can quickly have a large effect on the food supply chain. For example, closure of a single large beef processing facility can result in the loss of over 10 million individual servings of beef in a single day. Similarly, under established supply chains, closure of a single meat or poultry processing facility can severely disrupt the supply of protein to an entire grocery store chain.”

Congressman David Rouzer (NC-7) issued the following statement after President Donald Trump signed the executive order declaring meat processing facilities as critical infrastructure under the Defense Production Act. The order will ensure that these facilities will remain open and continue operating to prevent disruptions to the nation’s food supply chains.

*“This is a bold, visionary action by the President, and it is vitally necessary to help protect America’s meat supply,”* said Congressman Rouzer, ranking member of the Agriculture Committee’s Livestock and Foreign Agriculture subcommittee and co-chairman of the Congressional Supply Chain Caucus. *“This order will help to ensure that our country continues to have as stable a supply of meat as possible during this unprecedented time.”*

The North Carolina Pork Council issued the following statement on Wednesday after President Donald Trump issued an Executive Order intended to keep meat processing plants open:

*“This decisive action has saved countless family farms in North Carolina, while ensuring that health and safety in the workplace remains vital for employees in our essential processing facilities. Our farmers know that difficult days are ahead. The ongoing and severe impacts of the virus remain. We are grateful for actions that have, without question, prevented an entire collapse of the farm economy and this ensures our food supply remains accessible by every American.”*



# Seasonal Home Supplies for *Spring*

## FAMILY FEATURES

Between spring cleaning and spending additional time outdoors (or both), the spring season can bring a lot of changes to your home. From insect prevention to rethinking home organization and adding style to your favorite spaces, it's an opportunity to reimagine your living areas while planning ahead for potential problems.

Visit [eLivingtoday.com](http://eLivingtoday.com) for more ways to spruce up your home for spring.



## Create a Classic Kitchen

Spring is a perfect opportunity to update your kitchen – or create a look from yesteryear. Consider an option like Elmira Stove Works' ranges. Available in seven colors and more than 1,000 custom hues with polished nickel or antique copper trim, the ranges complement styles such as farmhouse, Victorian, log cabin and even more contemporary settings. Full-size, self-cleaning ovens are available in electric, convection electric or gas. Complete the look with matching fridges, wall ovens, dishwashers and microwaves. Find more information at [elmirastoveworks.com](http://elmirastoveworks.com).



## Combat Carpenter Bees with Early Prevention

Don't let carpenter bees get a foothold in your home where they can damage wood. One of the easiest ways to prevent carpenter bees from boring into your house is to capture them before they begin multiplying. Traps, like the TrapStik from Rescue!, lure in carpenter bees with appealing colors and patterns then trap them on a sticky surface. Just hang the weather-resistant, pesticide-free traps where carpenter bees are seen or holes can be found. Learn more at [rescue.com/rescueyourhome](http://rescue.com/rescueyourhome).



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

## A Pleasant Patio Setting

The warmer weather of spring often brings with it the desire to be outside and enjoying the season. You can spruce up the entertaining capabilities and comfort of your outdoor areas with patio furniture built to hold up against the weather. Keep it simple with two chairs and a small table or go all-in with loveseats, end tables and more. For added comfort, look for furniture with removable cushions that can be brought inside or stored away when not in use.



## Optimize Home Organization

For many people, a major part of spring cleaning revolves around reorganization. By adding versatile, ventilated storage to pantries, laundry rooms, mudrooms or just about any space in the house, a solution like ClosetMaid's multi-functional wire drawer organizer kits are perfect for small spaces. Available in 2-, 3- or 4-drawer sizes, the kits can help organize items from food to off-season holiday decorations to toiletries or cleaning supplies. Find more information at [closetmaid.com](http://closetmaid.com).



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

## Keep the Lawn Clean

As the green grass begins to sprout and add beauty to your yard, so do weeds and other undesirable growth. Mowing the lawn regularly may take care of a majority of issues, but for those hard-to-reach areas, a string trimmer can help you clean up spots that simply can't be mowed over. Available in gas, electric and battery-powered, a multitude of options means you can choose the right fit for your yard.

## FAITH

# Is Ok to be Angry During COVID-19?

ARE YOU STRESSED OVER COVID-19?

If you were to attend just about any church in the Bible Belt, maybe even in all of America, somewhere, in some class room, some foyer, maybe even in the sanctuary or the janitor's closet, you will find a picture of Jesus; or at least an artist's rendering of Jesus. Usually he has light brown, sandy hair, blue eyes, feathered hair. He looks like a white guy who listens to disco music—which is probably the furthest image of reality that you could get (we all know that Jesus doesn't listen to disco music!)

In reality, we do not know what Jesus looked like, physically. Luke 19 gives us a picture of Jesus, not of what he looked like, but what his actions were like. I love this passage because there is a picture of raw emotion from Jesus, yet still in-tact is the sinless perfection of Jesus, still qualifying him to be the perfect sacrifice on our behalf.

I say all that to say this: maybe you are like me and you are sick and tired of this COVID. Maybe you are so tired of it, that it's making you border line angry. I'm almost to that point, personally. This week was a week I was looking forward to since Christmas last year. This week my wife and I should be taking our kids to Disney World for the first time ever, but instead I'm stuck at home.

Furthermore, there is a lot of information and misinformation out there to wade through. Wading through it is like trying to do the backstroke through the ocean in the midst of a hurricane. There is talk of opening things back up one day, and there's talk of extending the shutdown the next day. At this point, I don't really know who or what to believe. Eventually, all of this leads to stress and stress leads to anger. Is that even the appropriate response, to be angry?

Luke 19 shows us angry Jesus. Verses 45-48 say: "When Jesus entered the temple courts, he began to drive out those who were selling. "It is written," he said to them, "My house will be a house of prayer; but you have made it a den of robbers." Every day he was teaching at the temple. But the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the leaders among the people were trying to kill him. Yet they could not find any way to do it, because all the people hung on to his words.

A fight usually begins when someone gets angry. Angry enough to do something about "it" – whatever "it" may be. Angry enough to stand up for themselves. Angry enough to stand up for right and wrong, truth and lies. In this passage, Jesus gets angry. That's important because if Jesus got angry, then it is ok for you and I to get angry.

We live in a world that operates under the influence and the reality of sin. How can we look at the world around us and not be angry that things are not the way that God intended? How can we look at our lives – the brokenness in our families, our relationships, our situations, and circumstances – and not be angry about some things? How can you consider crime, violence, disease, war, abortion, and moral distress and not be angry? I would argue that you simply cannot look at the world through the lens of truth and with a heart committed to what God says in His Word is right and good, and not be at

least disappointed, if not all out angry at the state of things in this fallen world. For Jesus, though, this sequence of events starts a few verses earlier. When Jesus arrives at Jerusalem, he weeps.

Luke 19:41 says: "As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it." No doubt that as he approached Jerusalem, the temple dominated the skyline, much like the World Trade Center dominated old pictures of the Manhattan skyline. Jesus then goes into the temple. The temple was the place of God's presence; the place where Jews from all over would come and worship and make sacrifices. The temple was built on the rock that Abraham nearly sacrificed his own son, Isaac, before God stopped him and provided a sacrificial lamb. Jesus sees the temple, knows the significance of all of this – and he weeps. Not because he's emotional, or sentimental, but he weeps over the unbelief in Jerusalem. Jesus is going to be the same sacrificial lamb for the people, but they will reject him. He looks at his context and sees that things are not the way they should be.

When Jesus arrives at the temple, he passes by vendors in the temple courts. Since worshippers traveled from all over, there would be businesses around the temple who set up booths. Some of these vendors would sell sacrificial animals for those that maybe didn't have their own animals or just didn't travel with them.

And Jesus passes these people. Now a nice guy would probably stop and chat with the vendors. Maybe bring them some coffee and some donuts, since they've been out there trying to make a living a few days now. A nice guy might even break his wallet out and buy something from them. But instead, Jesus flips over their tables and drives them out of the temple. Anger is such a confusing emotion. Why does anger does not seem like a good thing, yet why do we see Jesus, the sinless image of the invisible God, get angry? Jesus comes in hot and rebukes them for turning a house of prayer into a place where the can scheme to make money. These people aren't providing sacrifices out of the goodness of their heart, they are greedy and extorting people who are in need of God's forgiveness and grace. Jesus is absolutely furious that these vendors profiting off of poor people who have come to worship the Lord.

Add to that the fact that the people who would pass these vendors had already paid a temple tax to get in. Think about going to a concert or a ball game and pulling up to the stadium and having to pay \$20 for parking before you even get in line to purchase your tickets. What made all of this worse was that the temple tax and the fee for vendors to set up a sacrifice booth at the temple, and part of the proceeds went to the High Priest: the man who was there to serve God and serve the people by offering sacrifices. Jesus shows up furious, disrupts everything. He shuts it down because instead of a place of prayer, the temple had become a place of profit.

Jesus was angry because he was bothered by what the temple had become. Let me ask you this – what bothers you?

Some of the things that should make us angry often don't make us angry. Like the high priest, we tend to walk around the problems that don't bother us. When we lose our sense of righteous anger, we begin to develop the sad capacity not to care anymore about things that should break our hearts and stir us up. We tend to lose our moral edge and don't even realize it. Even sadder, the things that God says are not okay become okay to us.

So, is it ok to be angry about this COVID-19? Sure, if we can have a righteous anger like Jesus. When we have righteous anger, the disappointment and turmoil around us can actually stir us to obedience and worship.

In the following verses, Jesus goes into the temple and worships. His anger—that is, his righteous anger, his sinless anger—stirred him to walk with Father. Immediately following the scene with the tables, Jesus walks into the temple to pray, worship, teach, and preach. Luke 19 shows us it's ok to be angry, but it is not an invitation to let anger into our heart and home. It is an invitation to direct our anger towards worship. While we might be angry about our situation, we should use that energy to trust in God, that he has a better plan and a better purpose for us all. Anger can either be a step away from God, or we can use it to step toward God – to trust him more and place our faith in his ability to handle all of our problems.



Will Matthews

## CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) AND THE CHURCH

### COVID-19

**Psalm 23:4, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."**

It seems like the world we are living in is gone into a state of fear. The nightly news has reports that have caused mass anxiety in many homes. A plague of locusts the likes of which have been unseen for over 30 years is about to hit Africa and the Middle East. A strong earthquake struck Salt Lake City recently, damaging some roads and buildings, shutting down a major air traffic hub and scaring millions of people. Retailers in the United States and Canada have started limiting the number of toilet paper packs customers can buy in one trip. Supermarkets and retail stores around the world are sold out of the basic household needs, hours are being reduced, and some are even closing for a few weeks. Grocery stores in Australia have even hired security guards to patrol customers. Just to mention the word, coronavirus, will cause many to have a worried look upon their face.

As believers in Jesus, our lives are in God's hands, and nothing can overtake us apart from His perfect will. We must exercise a confidence in a trustworthy Lord. We must maintain an unshakable faith and belief that God has everything under control, and that nothing can harm us beyond God's plan because we are constantly moving under the shadow of the Almighty. Psalm 34:4 proclaims, "I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears." We need to learn to

exchange our fears for a simple childlike trust.

Using the word fear I hope to encourage you this week with a strategy on becoming an overcomer. The letter F of fear reminds each of us to focus. When we look more at the enemy rather than God we will feel our problems are unbeatable. However, if we turn our attention towards Jesus, we can live in hope, peace and victory. The letter E of fear reminds us to enjoy the blessings we already have from God. Proverbs 17:22, "A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones." Often we forget how blessed we are until we lose something from our life. Several months ago did you walk into a store and even think what a blessing it was to have toilet paper on the shelf? Now people are fighting over something we just took for granted. Look around at what you have and find joy in the small things of life.

The letter A of fear reminds us to come in agreement with other believers. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, "Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up." Do you have someone that is willing to pray with you? Is there a person in your life that you could call anytime at night and know they will answer? When two walk together in the power of Christ, you will see a double blessing from God.

The letter R of fear reminds us to remember that God doesn't change. The writer of Hebrews 13:8 proclaims, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Do any of our fears catch Jesus off guard? God knew about every virus, earthquake and war long before humanity did. Nothing catches our Master by surprise. If God knows the beginning and the end we should always remember the one who saved us from our sins.

Fear is a very natural human emotion in a changing world. The power of Jesus' love can dwell in our hearts once we call upon Him. We learn in 1 John 4:18, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." The next time you find fear sneaking into your mind, make sure you have not forgotten the power of Christ to cast out that fear.



Ken Smith

## 4 Ways to Help Nurses During the Coronavirus Pandemic

America's nurses are on the front lines of the fight against coronavirus, providing safe, quality, compassionate and nondiscriminatory care to those they serve, many of whom are doing so at significant risk to their own well-being.

The American Nurses Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the American Nurses Association, created the Coronavirus Response Fund for Nurses to provide direct financial assistance, mental health support and science- and data-based information to nurses serving on the front lines.

"Nurses always answer the call to serve their patients, communities and country during times of crisis," said American Nurses Foundation Chair Tim Porter-O'Grady, DM, EdD, ScD (h), APRN, FAAN, FACCWS. "As we confront the new and emerging challenges of this pandemic, nurses are and will continue serving on the front lines in extraordinary ways."

To show your support during this uncertain time, consider taking part in these four key actions:

- 1. Text THANKS to 2022 to donate \$10.** One of the easiest ways to directly support nurses is to donate \$10 to the Coronavirus Response Fund for Nurses, spread the word to others using the hashtag #ThanksNurses, and visit [ThanksNurses.org](https://www.thanksnurses.org).
- 2. Stay home.** Only leave home for essentials and maintain a safe distance from other people.
- 3. Wash your hands.** Frequently wash your hands for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating and after blowing your nose, sneezing or coughing. It is also important to wash your hands after going out in public and touching items that others may have come in contact with such as doors, shopping carts or credit card readers.
- 4. Follow local guidelines.** Seek guidance from local public health officials, such as those at your county health department.

Nurses are reliable and proven responders during infectious disease emergencies, providing essential care where it is needed most. Following simple steps like these can go a long way toward keeping people healthy.

Donations will help provide direct financial assistance, mental health support and science- and data-based information to benefit nurses. Visit [ThanksNurses.org](https://www.thanksnurses.org) to learn more.



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

### About the Support Fund

The American Nurses Foundation's Coronavirus Response Fund for Nurses is a nationwide effort to provide direct financial assistance, mental health support and science- and data-based resources to benefit nurses. The Johnson & Johnson company and its TYLENOL brand made a \$1.5 million commitment to launch this fund.

A portion of the donations will help support Nurses House, Inc., a national fund for registered nurses in need. The American Nurses Foundation is partnering with this organization to help nurses affected by COVID-19. Nurses who are unable to work due to COVID-19 infection, are caring for a family member with COVID-19 or are under mandatory quarantine can submit an application for assistance.

JOIN IN THANKING NURSES

**Text THANKS to 2022**

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#ThanksNurses

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AMERICAN NURSES FOUNDATION

The philanthropic arm of the American Nurses Association.

## Unleash Your Inner Home Chef

With many Americans staying home, the pressure is on to maintain fun and variety in the kitchen, so family meals don't get boring. However, cranking out three meals a day can be a burden.

In fact, the average American can only prepare five meals without a recipe, according to a OnePoll survey. Consider these fun tips to add a little diversity to your family's daily menu.

- **Build a taco bar.** This is an easy way to use leftovers from the week. Pull out tortillas or make rice, add any leftover proteins and sides then mix in taco seasonings.
- **Make a family classic.** Think back to your childhood and the one or two dishes that became family favorites. Bust out those family cookbooks and recreate classics by having the kids help with age-appropriate tasks.
- **Try a microwave-friendly meal.** For those nights when no one can decide what to eat, or when you're simply tired of cooking, turn to the microwave. One healthy option is Aqua Star's MicroSteam Seafood Meals, which combine sustainable seafood, including salmon, shrimp, tilapia and cod, with on-trend ingredients like mafalda pasta, sriracha, red quinoa and yellow carrots. In the microwave, the film expands and locks in steam to cook food evenly in just 6 minutes without a "fishy" smell.
- **Pull out the slow cooker.** Being at home all day makes it even easier to prepare a good meal. Choose a recipe, throw it in the slow cooker in the morning and enjoy the delicious aromas as you wait for a meal that's ready just in time for dinner.
- **Try a meal kit.** Meal kits are a fun way to switch up your regular repertoire. They're tasty, easy to make with kids and many of them come frozen so you can stock up. Take, for example, Aqua Star's Cutting Board meal kits, which come with all the ingredients required to prepare and clean up a high-quality and nutritious meal in 30 minutes or less. With flavors such as Cuban-style wild rockfish, crispy fish street tacos and sweet & spicy BBQ chicken flatbread, there's plenty of options for family dinners.
- **Order takeout or delivery.** Many restaurants offer takeout options, and with all the delivery services that exist, eating favorite restaurant meals from the comfort of home is easy to do.
- **Have breakfast for dinner.** Seemingly always a kid-friendly favorite, scramble some eggs, cook some bacon and get creative with pancakes, French toast or waffles by adding fruit, spices or chocolate chips.



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

### Busting Common Cooking Myths

- **Myth No. 1:** Frozen is not as good as fresh. When it comes to nutritional value, frozen foods are packed and frozen at the food's peak freshness, meaning they're still full of nutrients.
- **Myth No. 2:** Cooking seafood is hard. Seafood is a healthy source of protein that can be steamed, baked, grilled or fried. Start with one technique and master it. An easy way to start is to saute shrimp or fish fillets in a bit of oil. Use the same technique as when you fry an egg and don't overcook it.
- **Myth No. 3:** Fish should never be microwaved. Microwaving seafood can actually help preserve nutrients that are typically broken down when heated using other cooking methods. The key is to use steam: Place the fish in a microwaveable bag or choose one of the many ready-to-microwave selections in your grocer's freezer section. Steaming fish in the microwave cooks fish evenly and preserves texture and taste.

If you learn new cooking methods, develop a larger menu and add some new dishes, eating at home can be fun and adventurous. Find more solutions at [aquastar.com](https://www.aquastar.com).

# SUPER SNACKING

Let kids get hands-on with healthy, easy treats



## Red, White and Blue Greek Yogurt Bark

Prep time: 5 minutes  
Servings: 12

- 3 cups plain non-fat Greek yogurt
- 1/3 cup honey, plus additional for drizzling (optional)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 cup strawberries, sliced into rounds
- 1/2 cup blueberries
- 1/2 cup raspberries, halved

In medium mixing bowl combine Greek yogurt, 1/3 cup honey and vanilla.

On parchment paper-lined baking sheet, spread Greek yogurt mixture to 1/4-inch thickness. Press strawberries, blueberries and raspberries into yogurt. Freeze at least 3 hours. Break into pieces upon removing from freezer.

Red, White and Blue Greek Yogurt Bark

### FAMILY FEATURES

Snacks are a way of life for people of all ages, but especially children, who consume about 25% of their daily calories from snacks, according to research published in the "Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior." Providing nutritionally balanced snacks for your children at home can make for a happy and healthy day.

Planning snacks that are as delicious as they are healthy is a winning solution, and snacks are a simple way to add more nutrition to your child's diet.

For example, low-fat and fat-free dairy foods are essential to children's growth and overall wellness. They provide calcium and vitamin D, two nutrients kids don't get enough of, according to the 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The guidelines recommend 2-3 servings of low-fat and fat-free dairy foods every day, depending on the child's age.

Giving kids a role in the preparation can give them added incentive to enjoy healthy treats, and these recipes are all easy enough that kids can make them on their own (or with minimal assistance). Giving your kids the ability to play a role in the kitchen and create is a gift that can last a lifetime. The culinary skills they develop early in life can give them the confidence and know-how to cook nutritious meals for themselves as teens and adults.

Get more ideas to get kids cooking and snacking smart at [milkmeansmore.org](http://milkmeansmore.org).

### Dairy: Did You Know?

Dairy foods can add taste and versatility to your plate, but they also deliver a unique package of essential nutrients important for good health.

- Milk has a unique combination of nine essential nutrients: protein; calcium; potassium; phosphorus; vitamins A, D and B12; riboflavin and niacin. Each of these nutrients is a key ingredient of milk and they all work together to help keep bodies healthy.

- Milk, cheese and yogurt are good sources of high-quality protein, which is essential for growth and maintenance of muscle and other proteins within the body.
- Enjoying dairy foods like milk, cheese and yogurt as part of a healthy diet is associated with many health bonuses, including reduced risk of heart disease, Type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure.

## Peanut Butter Yogurt Dip

Prep time: 5 minutes  
Servings: 4

- 3/4 cup vanilla Greek yogurt
- 1/4 cup peanut butter
- 1 dash cinnamon
- apples, graham crackers or other dipper of choice

In bowl, mix Greek yogurt, peanut butter and cinnamon until smooth. Serve with apples, graham crackers or another dipper of choice.

## Good Morning Yogurt Parfait

Prep time: 5 minutes  
Servings: 1

- 1/2 cup sliced or diced fruit, any variety
- 6 ounces low-fat or fat-free vanilla yogurt
- 1/4 cup granola or other cereal (optional)

In small bowl or cup, layer fruit and yogurt, starting with fruit on bottom. Top with cereal or granola, if desired.

**Note:** This recipe can be made using low-fat or non-fat cottage cheese sweetened with honey and cinnamon.



Good Morning Yogurt Parfait



Peanut Butter Yogurt Dip



Frozen Banana Pops

## Frozen Banana Pops

Prep time: 2 hours  
Servings: 8

- 4 large bananas, peeled
- 8 wooden ice pop sticks
- 2 cups vanilla non-fat Greek yogurt
- 1/2 cup creamy natural peanut butter

Cut each banana in half and carefully insert wooden ice pop stick in bottom of each, about one-third into banana. Place bananas on large baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Freeze bananas until partially frozen, about 30 minutes.

Carefully dip each banana in tall pint glass of vanilla yogurt to coat, leaving 1/2-inch at bottom of banana uncoated. Return yogurt-coated bananas to parchment paper-lined baking sheet and freeze until completely firm, about 1 hour.

Microwave peanut butter until smooth and creamy, about 30-45 seconds. Drizzle peanut butter evenly over bananas then place on baking sheet to freeze until peanut butter is firm, about 30 minutes.

Serve immediately or wrap each banana in plastic wrap and store in freezer up to 3 months.



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**SPRING 2020**  
**ATHLETE OF WEEK RECAP**



*Lilyana Wilson*  
 Clinton High School



*Derrick Mitchell*  
 Lakewood High School



*India Alston*  
 Hobbton High School



*Taylor Faircloth*  
 Mintz Christian Academy



*Katelynn Fann*  
 Mintz Christian Academy



*Emma White*  
 Mintz Christian Academy



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## EDUCATION

## CCP Students Named Outstanding Students



*Sam Holloman plans to attend North Carolina State University this fall. (Courtesy photo)*

Each year at Sampson Community College, each division at the College selects an Outstanding Student from its graduates. Despite the unusual turn of events, this year was no exception. Selection is based upon the following criteria: scholastic excellence, leadership ability and potential for future achievement, citizenship and service to school, maturity in on-the-job situations, and participation in civic and professional activities. This year, two of the Outstanding Students are Career and College Promise students, Alana (Quinn) Schmidlin from Midway High School and Samuel Holloman from Clinton High School. They each exemplified great involvement at their schools and in their communities—making them ideal candidates for the Outstanding Student honor.

Schmidlin is a senior at Midway High School and plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this fall. This May, she will receive her Associate in Arts from SCC. She says finding out she received the Outstanding Student Award was an honor.

Schmidlin is a senior at Midway High School and plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this fall. This May, she will receive her Associate in Arts from SCC. She says finding out she received the Outstanding Student Award was an honor.

“It was awesome and really great to know that all of the work that I put in at Sampson and everything I put towards my academics and scholarly work is being rewarded and recognized,” she commented.

Like several other CCP students, Schmidlin is no stranger to the workload that comes as a part of the program. She’s a four-year Women’s Varsity Soccer player, Service Coordinator for her school’s Beta Club, and works two jobs, at Carolina Therapy Services in Dunn and as a tutor at Academic Success Center at SCC.

Schmidlin is actively involved in her community through her role as Service Coordinator with her school’s Beta Club, where she’s helped organize three separate blood drives. She also serves in the role of Youth President at her church, Divine Street United Methodist Church, where she volunteers with Rise Against Hunger and regularly compiles safety and hygiene kits.

When begins at UNC Chapel Hill, Schmidlin plans to pursue studies that lead to a career in Psychiatry or Speech and Language Pathology. Mostly, she looks forward to the opportunity to meet new people with different experiences.

“The thing I’m most looking forward to is being exposed to those wider ranges of experiences and cultures and meeting people who come from different states, different communities, and different countries. I’m so excited to jump into that and be able to meet different people and grow by meeting them,” Schmidlin expressed.

Perry Gillespie, Jr., Director of Career and College Promise, says that Schmidlin’s determination will allow her to be successful, no matter what career path she chooses. “Quinn is an amazing student. She is just so smart and mature for her age. She is going to do amazing things in whatever she chooses to do,” he commented.

When he learned he was named an Outstanding Student, Sam Holloman says he felt genuinely surprised. After the news settled in, he felt delighted to be recognized. “I was very ecstatic. It was such a good honor and I was so excited,” Holloman noted.

Holloman is a senior at Clinton High School, with plans to attend North Carolina State University and study Applied Mathematics. In May, he will receive his Associate in Arts and his Associate in Science. Holloman served as the Men’s Varsity Soccer Captain this year. He’s also a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, and Spanish Honor Society. Holloman works with the Clinton Recreation Department as a referee and scorekeeper, and lifeguards at Coharie Country Club during summers.

Aside from athletic events and a chance at independence, Holloman knows there’s much to look forward to about attending a large university. “I’m excited to meet new people. I’m excited about taking the next step in my life and seeing where the road leads me,” Holloman shared.

Gillespie says Holloman’s attitude will help him go far at NC State. “Sam is just an all-around great guy. He is smart, hard-working, gracious, and just great to work with,” he remarked.

Holloman and Schmidlin are two of 33 CCP students who will receive Associate degrees from Sampson Community College, in addition to their high school diploma. Both students continue to take courses at their high schools and Sampson Community College as dually enrolled students.

For more information about Career and College Promise, visit <https://www.sampsoncc.edu/> or email [pgillespie@sampsoncc.edu](mailto:pgillespie@sampsoncc.edu).



*Quinn Schmidlin plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this fall. (Courtesy photo)*

## SCC Secures Funding for Creation of Sampson Trades Center



*Once completed, the Sampson Trades Center at Sampson Community College will house three of the new four programs coming to the College this fall. (File photo)*

Last week, the Golden LEAF Foundation announced \$12.2 million in funding, included was a \$1 million grant for Sampson Community College, solidifying the College’s plan for the renovation and development of the Sampson Trades Center. The grant, along with several other investments, allows for the expansion of vocational trades education and opportunities at the College, including courses in areas such as HVAC, masonry, and electrical.

Leaders at Sampson Community College and around the county see the partnership as an opportunity to keep the rich history of the College intact, while also bringing about fresh change, and meet the needs of industry leaders in the county.

“The awarding of this grant will allow SCC to provide students with a new and upgraded facility while maintaining some of the foundational histories of the College. It will be the beginning of professional careers in the areas of trades, both in curriculum and continuing education classes,” said Wanda Capps, Vice President of Academic Affairs. “We are thrilled to have received these funds to provide training and a better life for our students.”

Barney Grady, Applied Technical Division Chair, remarked, “This grant will allow for the construction of a new facility to house our new vocational programs. These programs are of great need in our county and this will allow us to provide skilled workers to help meet those needs.”

The notion of developing the Trades Center began when representatives from several community colleges across the region met. Amid discussions, it was determined that there was an immense need for more vocational training. Dean of Advancement for the College, Lisa Turlington, worked with the Rural Center, Golden LEAF, and school districts in the county to create a model for how the Trades Center could best serve students at the College.

The renovation and upgrade of the old welding building at Sampson Community College also allow the College to continue expanding its partnerships with local area high schools by beginning training in these areas for interested students at these schools through the Career and College Promise program. Clinton City Schools Superintendent, Dr. Wesley Johnson, says the Sampson Trade Center will be a benefit to all students throughout Sampson County and benefit the community accordingly.

“We are excited by the recent news of the \$1 million Golden LEAF Grant to support the Sampson Trades Center. This center will provide education and training for students of both Clinton City and Sampson County Schools in key career occupations that will benefit our community and local economy for many years,” Johnson remarked. “We thank all the constituents who were involved to make the dream of the Sampson Trade Center a reality.”

Sampson County Schools Superintendent, Dr. Eric Bracy, echoed Johnson’s views, stating, “I am excited that our students will be prepared for post-secondary opportunities because of their hands-on, real-world educational experiences at the Sampson Trades Center.”

The Sampson Trades Center matters for the future of Sampson County, but its immediate impact will be evident relatively soon. The building will house new programs in electrical, HVAC, and masonry, and be adaptable for industry needs. Therefore, the Trades Center can be utilized by the Workforce Development and Continuing Education division of the College, short-term training courses that lead to licenses, certifications, and credentials. These courses can be advantageous to adults looking to advance their careers, or for other students looking to begin a degree pathway in the future.

“The trades are necessary in so many facets of keeping Sampson County vibrant and growing,” shared Amanda Bradshaw, Dean of Workforce Development and Continuing Education.

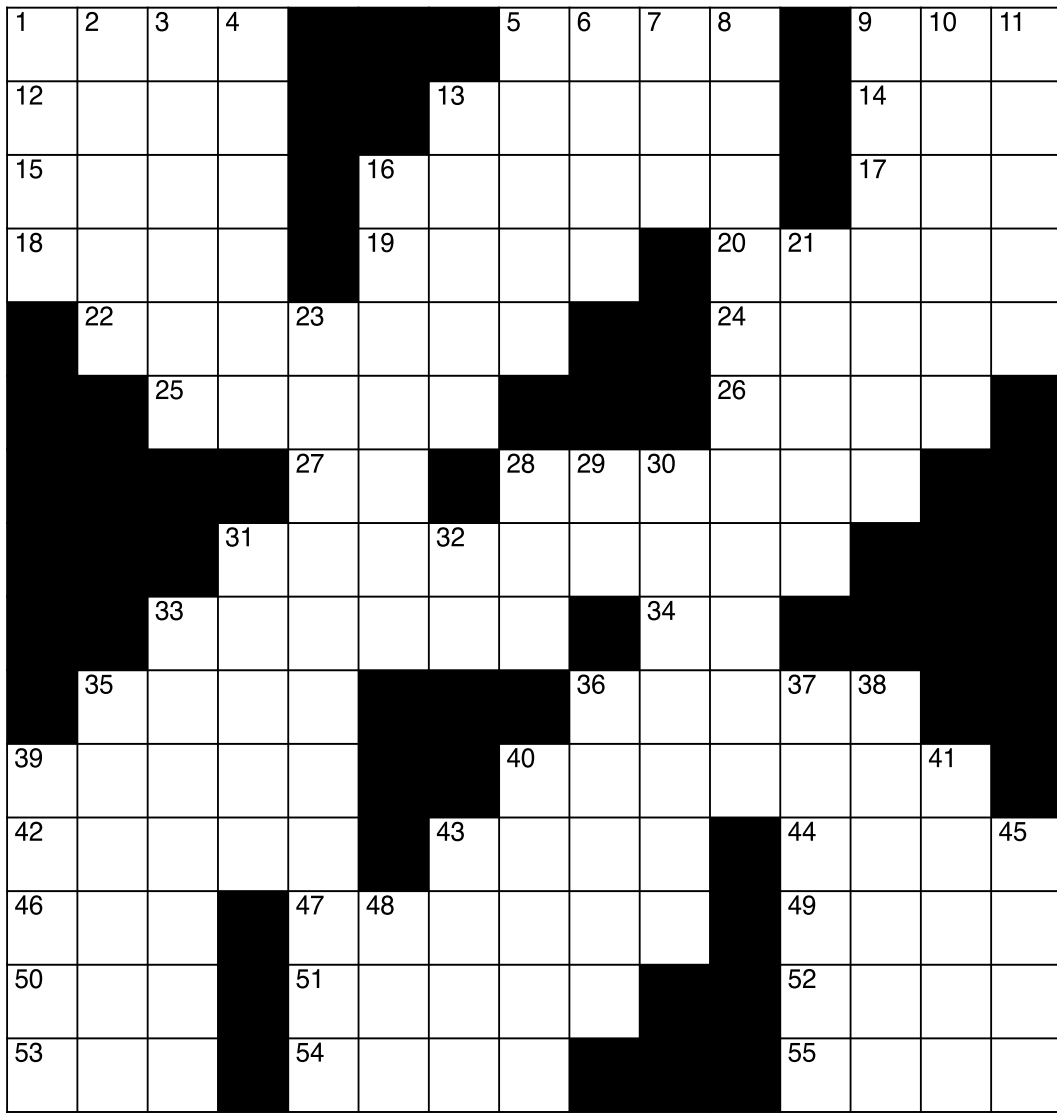
Leaders at the college and in the community expect that the development will have a significant effect on the local economy. In addition to the Golden LEAF Foundation, several other investors contributed to the renovation project, including The Lonnie and Carol Poole Family Foundation, which was the first to invest in the project last fall. Other investors include Bill Prestage and Prestage Farms and Waste Industries/GFL Environmental.

“This project will have a huge impact on the Sampson County workforce, and we appreciate the investment of the Poole and Prestage families and GFL Environmental as well as the Golden LEAF grant. The collective approach to narrowing the skills gap will ensure success in addressing these needs,” Turlington acknowledged.

The programs will be open for enrollment on a limited basis this fall until adequate space is completed. The Sampson Trades Center is expected to be completed in 2021. Students interested in degree pathways related to these programs can contact Barney Grady, [bgrady@sampsoncc.edu](mailto:bgrady@sampsoncc.edu).

PUZZLES & GAMES

# Crossword Puzzle

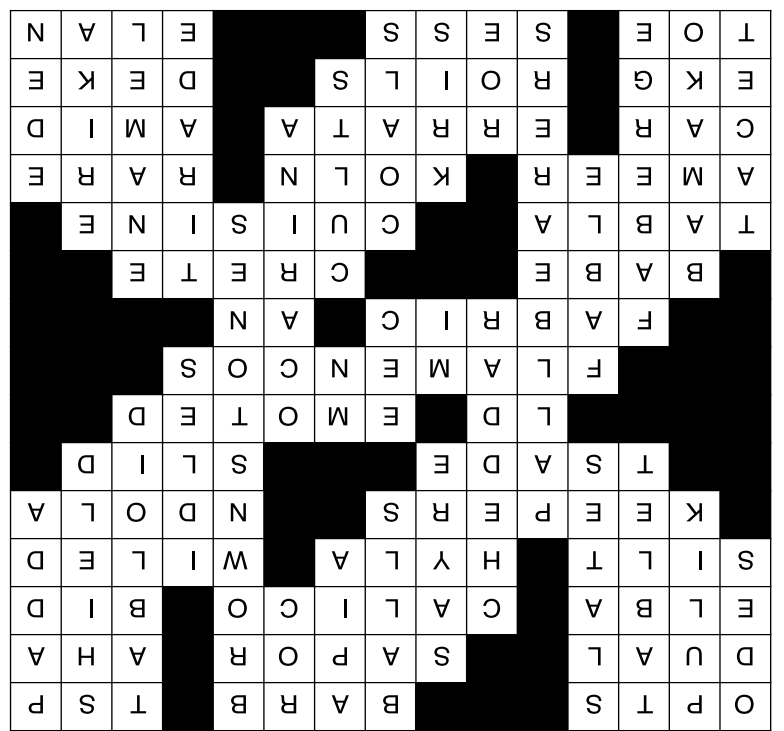


**CLUES ACROSS**

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

**CLUES DOWN**

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

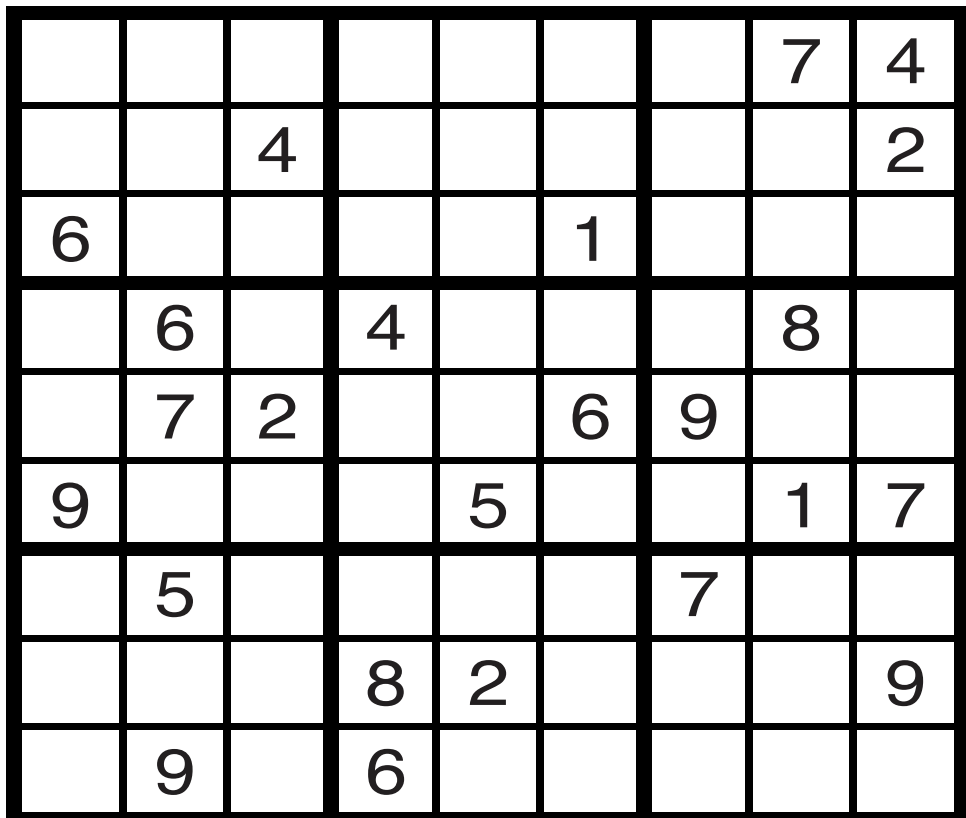


PUZZLE SOLUTION

# SUDOKU

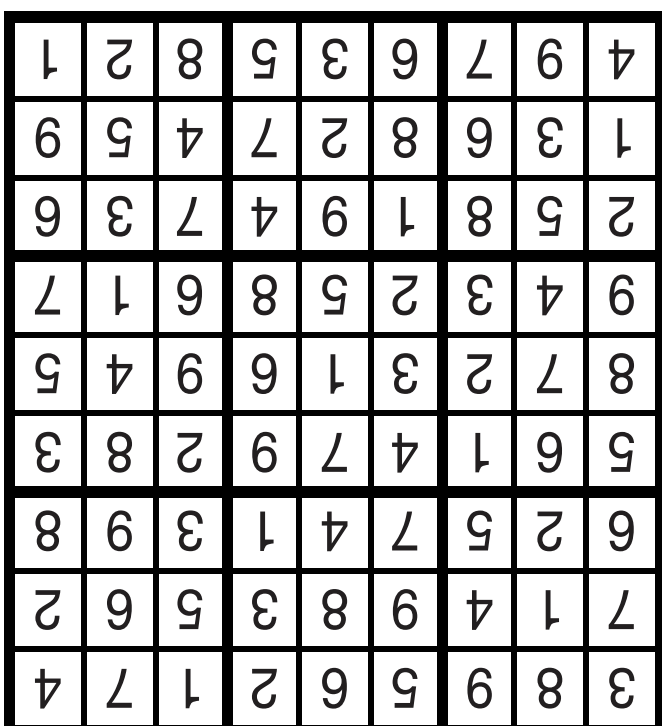
**Fun By The Numbers**

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



**Here's How It Works:**

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

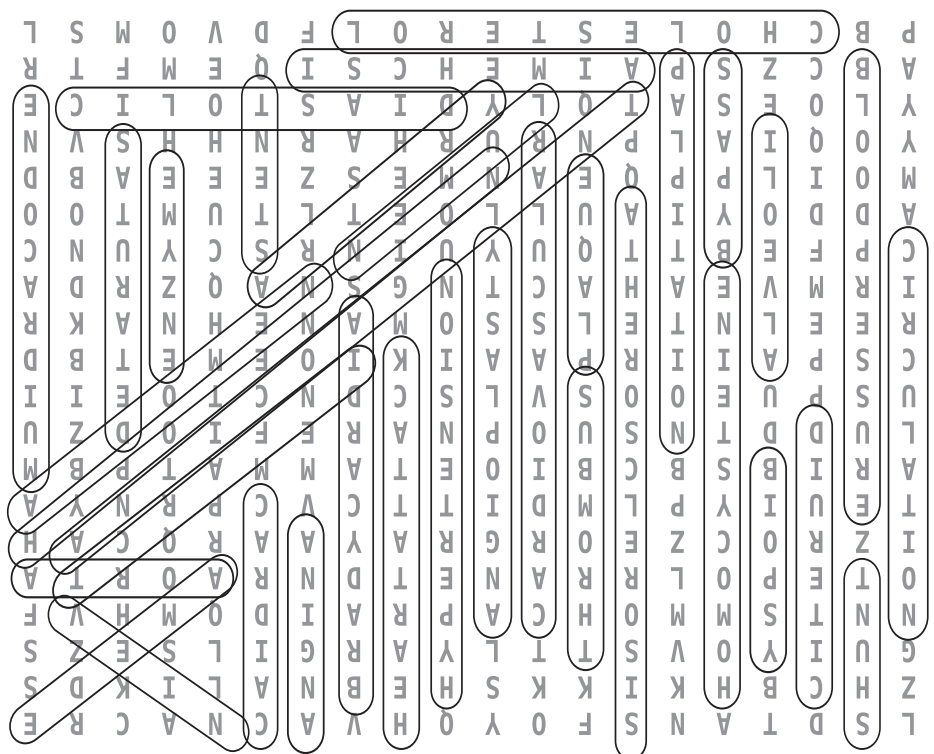


## HEART HEALTH WORD SEARCH

**WORDS**



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



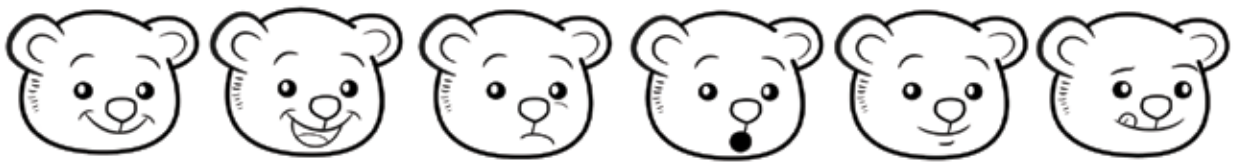
# ROCCO



# BRUIN™

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BY MARK MARDEROSIAN



## ROCCO BRUIN FUN PAGE

### HANDYBEAR REPAIR!

Rocco Bruin travels around the country. He's very happy when he can *try* to repair and fix things for people he meets along the way.

## COLORING FUN!

CHAPTER 1 of 5 story chapters.

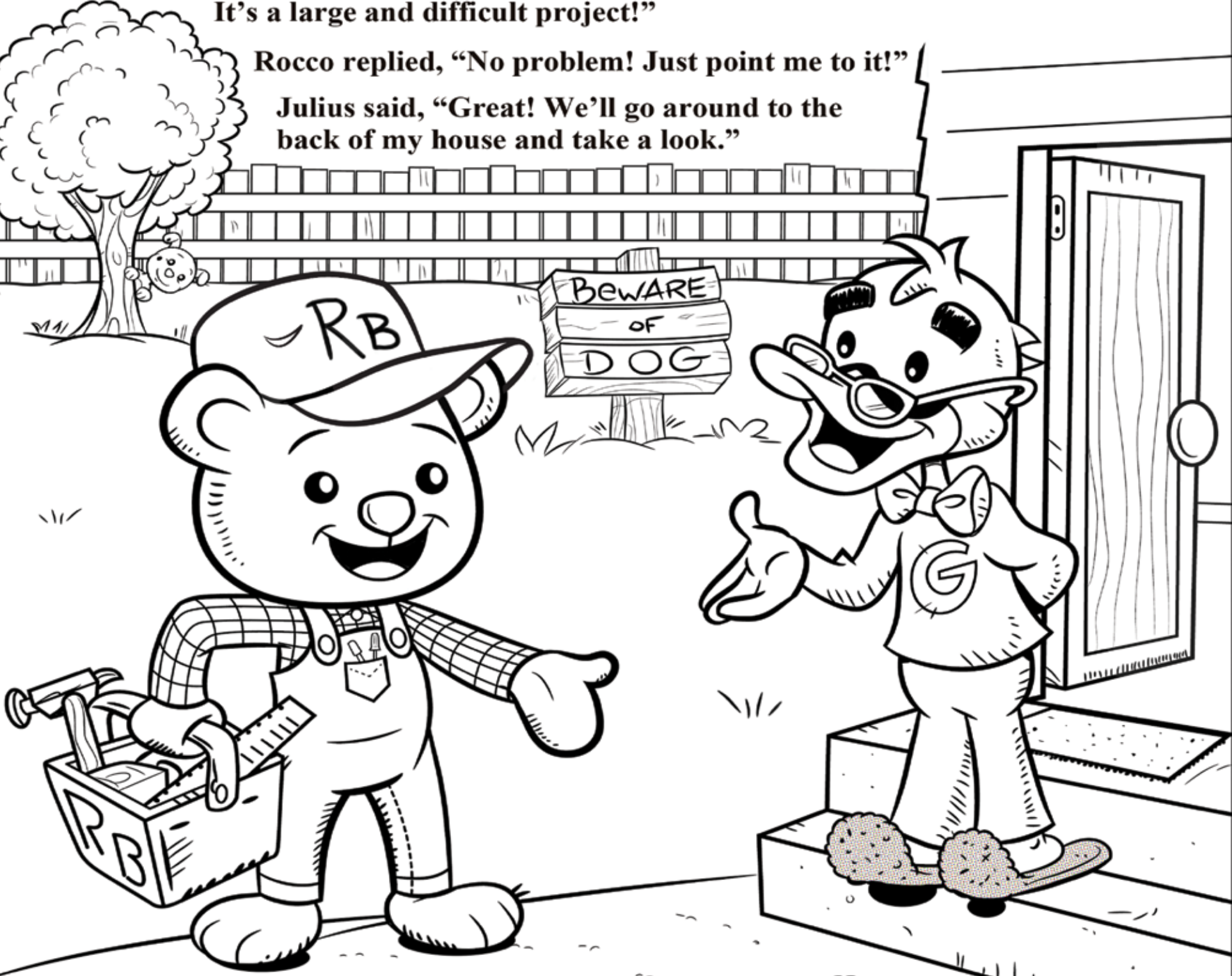
During a nice sunny day, Rocco Bruin decided to stop at the house of Julius Duck.

“Hello,” said Rocco. “I’m passing through town. I have two hours to spare. Do you need anything built or repaired?”

“Yes, as a matter of fact, I do,” said Julius. “It’s in the back yard. But I must warn you... It’s a large and difficult project!”

Rocco replied, “No problem! Just point me to it!”

Julius said, “Great! We’ll go around to the back of my house and take a look.”



Can you help find Julius Duck’s dog?

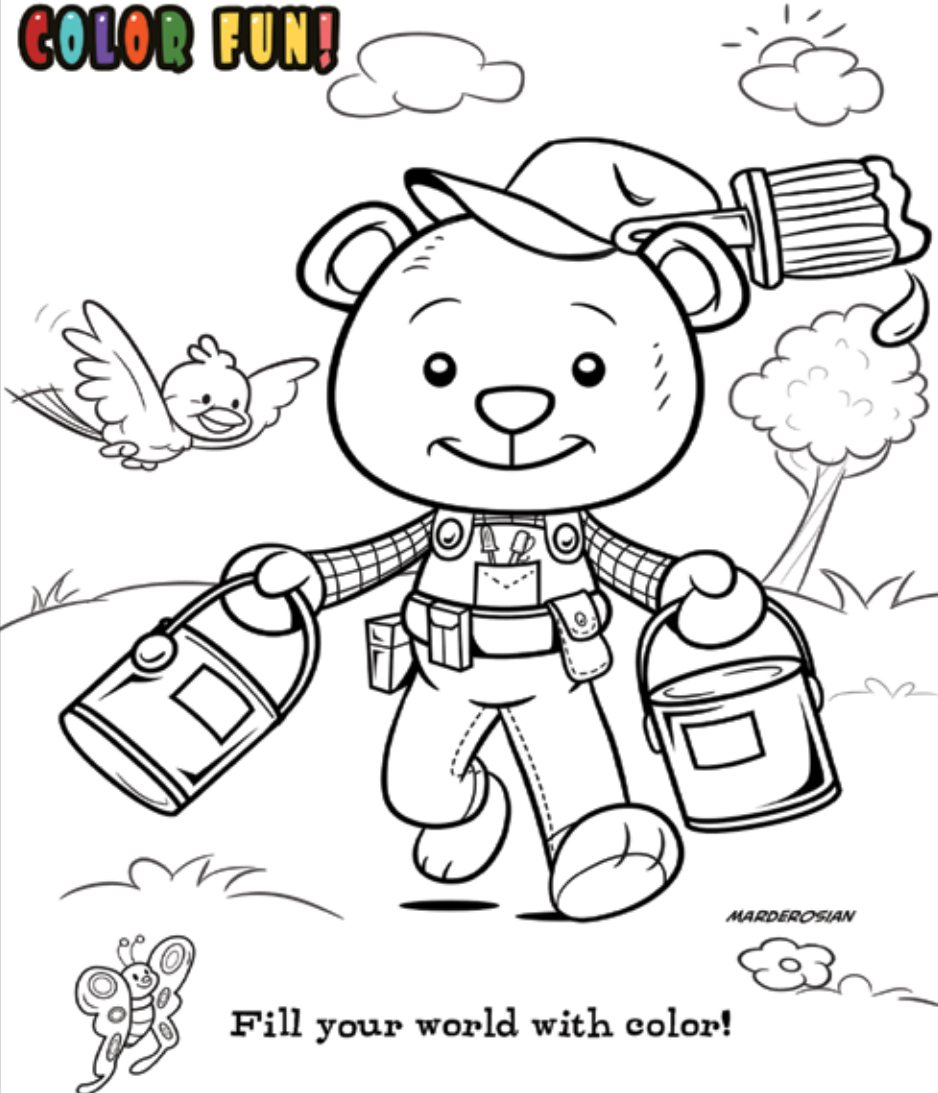
Send answer to: [BigCityPublishing1@gmail.com](mailto:BigCityPublishing1@gmail.com)  
Receive a FREE PDF coloring page via email!

CHAPTER 2 next!

Don't miss it!

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### COLOR FUN!



Fill your world with color!

### COLOR FUN!



Rocco Bruin is on the job!

Write to Rocco Bruin at: [BigCityPublishing1@gmail.com](mailto:BigCityPublishing1@gmail.com). Receive a FREE PDF coloring page via email!

**CRIME REPORTS**

04-23 Ellis Avance Cogdell, 61, Parkton. Possess/Manufacture Fraudulent ID, Att Obtain Property by False Pretense. Bond \$15000. Trial Date 06-01-20  
 04-24 Jaylen Raheam Horton, 19, Clinton. Possess Marijuana. Trial Date 06-23-20  
 04-24 Jeffrey Scott Melvin, 32, Clinton. Driving after Consuming, DWLR- Not Impaired Rev. Trial Date 06-25-20  
 04-25 William Earl Faison III, 24, Clinton. Possess Marijuana. Trial Date 04-25-20  
 04-25 Sarah Elizabeth Griffin, 26, Turkey. Felony Larceny- FTA, Resisting Public Officer, Assault Inflicting Physical Injury to Gov Official, Larceny after Breaking and Entering, Burglary/Breaking & Entering. Bond \$40000. Trial Date 06-26-20  
 04-26 Derrick Bernard McLymore, 26, Fayetteville. Locate Wanted Person (Parole Violation-No NCAWARE-Hold Only for Parole Officer), Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property  
 04-26 Martin Garcia, 42, Godwin. Assault on a female. Trial Date 07-17-20  
 04-26 Andre Pope, 35, Homeless. Breaking or Entering, Second Degree Trespass. Bond \$1500. Trial Date 06-09-20  
 04-26 Abraham Cabrera Rivera, 24, Clinton. DWI. Bond \$750. Trial Date 07-08-20  
 04-26 Michael Lamar Crumpler, 29, Elizabethtown. Domestic Assault on a Female, Domestic Interfere Emergency Communication. Trial Date 07-23-20  
 04-26 Jahleek Joyner, 18, Greensboro. MO-Possess Firearm by Felon. Bond \$2500. Trial Date 05-15-20  
 04-26 Francisco Rivera, 22, Clinton. CIT-Possess Marijuana, CIT-Possess Marijuana Paraphernalia.

Trial Date 07-23-20  
 04-27 Kevin Ryan Hall, 27, Auntryville. Shoplifting, Possess Meth, Stolen Property Offenses. Bond \$5500. Trial Date 07-10-20  
 04-27 Victoria Lynn Haney, 23, Clinton. Shoplifting, Stolen Property Offenses. Bond \$3000. Trial Date 07-10-20  
 04-27 John Christopher Merritt, 27, Clinton. Shoplifting, Poss Stolen Goods/Prop/Resisting Public Officer. Bond \$4000. Trial Date 06-26-20  
 04-27 Edwin Lloyd Mathis Jr, 32, Clinton. Domestic Simple Assault, Second Degree Trespass. Trial Date 07-07-20  
 04-27 Anthony Lavel Parker, 47, Godwin. DWI, DWLR Aft Impaired Rev Notice. Bond \$1000. Trial Date 07-07-20  
 04-27 Lana Ellinger Elmquist, 50, Wilmington. Possess Sch IV, Drug Equipment Violation, Rear Lamp Violation. Trial Date 07-06-20  
 04-27 Justin Crouter, 33, Fayetteville. Misdemeanor Larceny. Bond \$500. Trial Date 07-21-20  
 04-27 John Dillon Johnson, 28, Fayetteville. Human Trafficking Adult Victim, Promote Prostitution-Advance. Bond \$250000. Trial Date 06-30-20  
 04-27 Zachary Tanner Thornton, 26, Clinton. Simple Assault. Trial Date 07-07-20  
 04-27 Nathan Thomas Jackson, 30, Clinton. First Degree Trespass. Bond \$500. Trial Date 05-11-20  
 04-27 Nathan Thomas Jackson, 30, Clinton. Felony Larceny, Breaking & Entering, DWLR Not Impaired Rev, FTA- Expired/No Inspection, Felony Poss/RCV Stolen Prop Cert, FTA- Expired Registration Card/Tag. Bond \$10500. Trial Date 06-12-20  
 04-27 Tommy Lee Jones, 34, Newton Grove. FTA- Possess Marijuana Up To 1/2oz, FTA- Possess Marijuana Paraphernalia. Bond \$2000. Tri-

al 07-22-20  
 04-27 Kenneth Wayne Bryant, Clinton. Misdemeanor Flee To Elude, Felony Possession Sch II, Violation Of Court Order. Bond \$15000. Trial Date 07-10-20  
 04-28 Anna Belle Rogers, 24, Newton Grove. Misdemeanor Larceny, Traffic in Methamphetamine -FTA, PWIMSD Methamphetamine -FTA, Possess Drug Paraphernalia, Assault on a Female, Possession of Firearm by Felon - FTA. Trial Date 06-29-20  
 04-28 Andrew Jackson Oates, 72, Clinton. Assault on a Female. Trial Date 07-08-20  
 04-29 Tiffany Shonelle Colindres, 30, Clinton. Second Degree Trespass. Trial Date 05-12-20  
 04-29 Truman Lee Talton, 43, Benson. Assault on a Government Official/Employee, Resisting Public Officer. Bond \$4000. Trial Date 07-22-20

**INCIDENT REPORTS**

04-24 Leonard Renzo of Dunn reported Larceny of utility trailer valued at \$2000  
 04-24 Larry Hall of Dunn reported Motor Vehicle Theft- recreational vehicle (\$2000) and chainsaw (\$284)  
 04-25 Lester Freeman of Roseboro reported Burglary/Breaking & Entering  
 04-25 Billy Melvin of Roseboro reported Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property- Hancock tires (\$1000)  
 04-25 Peggy Gill of Clinton reported Breaking & Entering- damage to door (\$500)  
 04-26 Joyce Joyner Stevens of Clinton reported Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property- automobile (\$500)  
 04-27 Walmart of Clinton reported Shoplifting- socks, milk, water, beef, HIG (\$45)  
 04-27 Martin Sanchez Jr of Clinton reported Larceny of wallet and money (\$810)  
 04-27 Anne Faircloth of Clinton reported a Burglary/Breaking & Entering- stolen lagoon pump (\$1023), pressure washer (\$300), extension

cord (\$50), utility light (\$25)  
 04-27 Epiphany Decole Royal of Roseboro reported a Larceny Of Four Wheelers  
 04-27 Walmart of Clinton reported Shoplifting- clothing \$28.52 and brake fluid \$4.93  
 04-27 Walmart of Clinton reported Shoplifting- assorted clothing- \$105.00  
 04-28 Steven Wayne Harris of Clinton reported Burglary/Breaking & Entering, Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property. Damage to Carport door (\$300)  
 04-28 Deacon Jones Chevrolet of Clinton reported Obtaining Property by False Pretense- money \$195,647.00  
 04-28 Kathleen Peterkin of Clinton reported Damage to Property- Automobiles \$100  
 04-29 Perscilla Ann Washington of Clinton reported Damage to Property- automotive paint \$1500  
 04-29 Sarah Rose Hemingway of Clinton reported Damage to Property- auto \$330  
 04-29 Shady Branch Farms of Rose Hill reported a Burglary/Breaking & Entering- stolen extension cord (\$80), Leaf blower (\$40), Gas trimmer (\$359)  
 04-29 Lori King of Clinton reported a Burglary/Breaking & Entering  
 04-29 George E Swansbrough of Dunn reported a Burglary/Breaking & Entering, Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property. Stolen steel beams (\$2400), car hauler (\$15000), damage to structure (\$10000), air condition

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

Prescription opioids can be **addictive and dangerous.**

It only takes a little to lose a lot.



[cdc.gov/RxAwareness](https://cdc.gov/RxAwareness)

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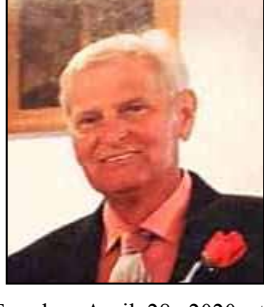
# OBITUARIES



**DUNN**  
**John Grayson Ballard**, was born May 15, 1949 to the late John Marshall and Marjorie Colville Ballard. He attended Erwin School through 6th grade and graduated from Dunn High School in 1967. After graduation, he married his high school sweetheart, Joyce. In 1971, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Campbell College. He began his professional career conducting population genetics research at N.C. State University. This is when he became an avid Wolfpack fan. His desire in life was to find "an opportunity unlimited" where he could utilize his problem solving skills while exploring his art of craftiness. His career then transitioned into chemical sales when he began working for Klenzade Chemical Company. This fostered his expertise in the use of chemicals in a production environment. During the mid-1970s his passion for crafts led him and Joyce to begin their own business, "JoJo Crafts". His sales and chemical experience presented him with the once in a lifetime opportunity to join DuBois Chemicals. Over the course of this 25-year journey with DuBois, he received numerous awards and recognition for his outstanding accomplishments in sales, leadership and chemical management. In 1997, his analytical drive and curiosity led him to seek out each functioning component for the most sensitive fishing rod. Through research and hours-long discussions with anglers who shared his love for the sport, he founded J.B. Custom Rods. While building on his past experiences, he realized this was his life's ministry and blessing. Through this ministry he's had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people and develop a special friendship and bond with many anglers from across the country. John was a family man who loved his family above all. He and Joyce were married for 51 years. They have 2 daughters, 2 sons-in-law and 4 grandchildren. Those that knew "Poppy" before and after his "grandbabies", were amazed at the instant change in him. He loved them tremendously and each knew they were the center of his world. During their younger years, he enjoyed being their dress up/hair model (wearing all hair bows and rollers at once). As their interests grew toward electronics and social media, he enjoyed watching and laughing at their silliness, such as doing TikTok dances. Through their daily visits, he got enormous pleasure from watching them enjoy life and growing up to be more like siblings than cousins. He left this world exactly as he wished, from the arms of his loving soulmate, directly into the arms of His Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He is survived by his wife, Joyce Turnage Ballard, daughters, Nicole B. Fischer and husband Mike of Dunn, Paula B. Jones and husband Joe of Dunn, grandchildren, Cara and Allie Fischer, Katie and Grayson Jones, brother, Gary Ballard and wife Ellen, five sisters-in-law, their husbands and a multitude of nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, John and Marjorie Ballard. A graveside service was held on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at Devotional Gardens of Dunn beginning at 11:00 am. and officiated by Rev. Riley Puckett and Rev. Ed Ivey. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

## CLINTON

**James Andrew Byrd 69** passed away on Friday, April 24, 2020 at his home surrounded by his family. James and his wife Helen have been members of the Clinton Family Worship Center in Clinton for several years. James drove trucks for many years coast to coast; he was a truck driver by trade. James loved to sit and talk about the years on the road to friends and family. A Graveside Service was held at 11:00 am on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at Pine Crest Cemetery in Warsaw with Pastor Lynn Blackburn officiating. James is survived by his wife Helen Marie Byrd of the home, Children: Missie Thomas and husband Steven Thomas and their children Brittany, Luke and Carmen and their grandchildren Allison, Bryce Andrew all of Sneads Ferry, Teresa Byrd and husband James Marable, their children Kaitlyn Byrd and Jaziyah Marable of Clinton, Andrea (Pebbles) Lynn Byrd and her fur babies Mollie and Bailey of Durham, Shane and Rachael Phipps and their children Skyler and Harley of Clinton, Shannan and Gary Bachelor and their children Logan and Abigail of Turkey, a special friend Angela Antilla, James also leaves behind his sisters: Carol Stancil and husband Larry Stancil of Turkey, Becky DeLuca and husband James Deluca of Warsaw, Ann Carter of Warsaw and Shirley Faircloth of Turkey, many nieces and nephews. James will be remembered as always expressing his love for his wife, children and grandchildren, great-grandchildren. He loved his church family. RIP Hippie until we meet again. Walk though was held 2:00 pm until 5:00 pm Monday April 27, 2020 at Hope Valley Hawkins Funeral Service Chapel 1246 Hobbton Hwy Clinton NC



**FAYETTEVILLE**  
**Ms. Jane Catherine (Thompson) Close, 86** passed away on Sunday, April 26, 2020. A private service will be held by the family. She is survived by her children, Gary Close and Gay Tyndall; sister, Janet Cooper; 4 grandchildren, Billy and David Close, Jeffrey Tyndall and Amanda Nuntery; 9 great-grandchildren, Alyssa, Adam, Michael, Parker, Bella, Hayley, Jordan, Trey and Macy; and 1 great-great grandchild, Gracelyn. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Stoney Point Baptist Church, 6554 Rockfish Road, Fayetteville, NC 28306. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 6535 Clinton Road, Stedman, NC 28391.



**ROSEBORO**  
**Mr. Rufus William Hall, 93** of Roseboro passed away on Sunday, April 26, 2020 at The Magnolia of Clinton. A graveside service was held at 11:00 AM Tuesday at the Roseboro Cemetery with Rev. William Tew officiating. Mr. Hall was a native of Sampson County, the son of Lewis W. and Sallie Owens Hall. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Clarice

Autry Hall and a sister, Christine Edwards. He was a retired saw operator for Hardwood Dimensions in Dunn. He is survived by a daughter, Brenda Owen and husband, Keith of Roseboro; a son, Scott Hall of Roseboro; sister, Mary Horne of Stedman; three grandchildren, Laura Gray, Brandon Owen and Judy Hall; two great grandchildren, Owen Gray and Ayden Gray. In light of the government restrictions, friends visited Butler Funeral Home in Roseboro on Monday, April 27 from 12:00 - 5:00 PM to pay their respects to Mr. Hall. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC.



**FAYETTEVILLE**  
**Ms. Redonna Jean Helmick, 40** passed away Saturday, April 25, 2020. Redonna was born in Cumberland County and worked for Smithfield Packing Company. A graveside service will be held at 11:00am Saturday, May 2, 2020 at Wiley Autry Cemetery in Autryville, officiating will be Rev. Scott Orischak. In lieu of the recent restrictions, family and friends may

come by the funeral home on Friday, May 1, 2020 from 12:00pm to 3:00pm to pay their respects to Redonna. She is preceded in death by her biological father, Gerald Lee Helmick; maternal grandfather, Jasper W. Lewis; and uncle, Keith Lewis. She is survived by her parents, Beth L. & Joseph Tazell; brother, Jeremy Tazell & wife, Ashlea; maternal grandmother, Pearl Lewis; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 6535 Clinton Road, Stedman, NC 28391.

## DUNN

**Noble Elton Hudson, 81**, died on April 30th at Wayne Memorial Hospital. Born on Halloween to Pearl and Blanchard Hudson, he was raised on the family farm in the Mingo Community outside of Dunn, NC and attended Mingo High School before marrying Joyce McMillian in 1957. After earning his barber license, he and Joyce moved to Goldsboro where he and J.R. Daughtry ran Jefferson Park Barber Shop for 50+ years developing friendships with several generations of customers. He was an active member of Jefferson Methodist Church for most of his adult life before moving back to "The Farm" in 2011 and joining Wesley Chapel Methodist Church. Noble loved his family, fishing and UNC basketball. He was a great husband, father, brother and friend, but he was at his best in the role of "Gran" showing his biggest smiles when he was playing with his grandchildren. While the family celebrates his presence with his Savior, Jesus Christ, he will be deeply missed by his wife of 63 years, Joyce, four sons and their wives, Elton Jackson Mack & Chloe, Mike & Allison, Tony & Patti and Noble Dwayne & Jodie, 10 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, 3 sisters (Jewel Grantham, Betty Evans & Bess Cooper), 2 brothers (Weldon Hudson & Norman Hudson) and multiple nieces and nephews. Noble Elton was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Edna Holland. A private service for immediate family will be held at the family cemetery located on the family farm he so dearly loved. The service will be available for viewing after 2 p.m. Saturday on Mr. Hudson's obituary page under the Tributes tab at [www.skinnerandsmith.com](http://www.skinnerandsmith.com). In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Parkinson Foundation, 2101 Sardis Rd N STE 102A, Charlotte, NC 28227.



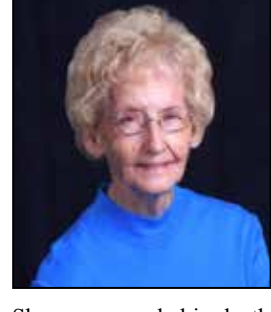
## ROSEBORO

**Lori Ann Thompson Maness, 57**, of 502 East North Street died Thursday April 23, 2020, at Sampson Regional Medical Center. Born in 1962 in Sampson County, NC to the late Charlie B. & Wilma G. Carr Thompson. Lori loved her family and church, she was a former member of the Roseboro Fire Department, she was also a member of the Sampson County Fireman's Honor Guard.

Lori was a faithful member of Faith Chapel Church in Roseboro. In addition to her parents Lori was preceded in death by a sister Darlene Thompson William, brothers Larry Wayne Thompson and Billy Ray Thompson a niece Mildred Gray Williams, nephew Carley Ray Faircloth. Graveside services were held on Monday, April 27, 2020 at 2:00 pm at Roseboro Town Cemetery Hwy. 242 Roseboro. A visitation was held on Sunday, April 26, 2020 from 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm at Hope Valley Hawkins, 1246 Hobbton Hwy. Clinton. Lori leave to cherish her memories: her loving husband: Richard Maness of the home, sister: Sandra Faye Melvin (JC) of Roseboro, Children she raised: Michelle Faircloth of Roseboro and Donald Gene Williams of Roseboro, grandchildren: Tristan Smith of Garland and Aerial Smith also of Garland.

## ROSEBORO

**Tracie Leigh McGee, 51**, of 201 Justice Street, Roseboro, NC, passed away on Thursday, April 23, 2020, at her home. Born on April 2, 1969, to the late Henry McGee Jr. and Shirley J. (Kennedy) McGee, Tracie worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant. Tracie McGee leaves to cherish her memories, son: Bryan Goodman of Roseboro, NC, daughter: Daesia Fennell of Roseboro, NC, sisters: Pamela Aman of Clinton, NC, Lori McGee of Roseboro, NC, brother: Henry McGee of Roseboro, NC, and grandchildren: Amiya Goodman and Prince Wiggins.



## AUTRYVILLE

**Mrs. Gertie Jean Draughon Spell, 81** of Autryville passed away on Sunday, April 26, 2020 at her home. A graveside service was held at 11:00 AM Wednesday, April 29 at Union Grove Baptist Church Cemetery with Pastor Bryan Strickland and Bishop Warren H. Barfield, Sr. officiating. Mrs. Spell was a native of Cumberland County, the daughter of Vetron and Larrie Bass Draughon.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Harold Spell; and two brothers and two sisters. She was a homemaker. She is survived by two daughters, Debbie Mann and husband, Scott and Dean Purvis and husband, William all of Autryville; one son, Allen Spell and wife, Michelle of Autryville; two step-sons, Gibson Spell of Autryville and Ray Spell and wife, Pat of Macon, GA; sister, Vickie Draughon and Autryville; and brother, Johnnie Draughon of Autryville; thirteen grandchildren and seventeen great grandchildren. In light of the government restrictions, friends may visit Butler Funeral Home in Roseboro on Tuesday, April 28 from 12:00 - 5:00 PM to pay their respects to Mrs. Spell. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 401 W. Roseboro Street, Roseboro, NC.



## AUTRYVILLE

**Mr. Rufus Robert Starling, 77** of Autryville passed away on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at his home. The funeral service will be held privately for the family on Saturday at Northwood Temple with Dr. John Hedgepeth and Rev. Michael Couillard officiating. Burial will follow in the Stedman Church of God of Prophecy Cemetery. Mr. Starling was a native of Cumberland County,

the son of Wesley E. and Annie Mae Davis Starling. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Joe Starling, Waymond and Raymond Starling, who were twins, Johnny Starling and David Starling and a sister, Martha Starling. His first job was working for the Bus Station in Fayetteville and then he worked for 45 years as warehouse manager for Tile, Inc. He currently worked with the Department of Transportation. He is survived by his wife, Alice Faye Tyndall Starling; two daughters, Loretta I. Starling Bullard (Benny) and Rebecca J. Starling Merritt (Walter); three step children, Rita F. Anderson Cashwell, Angie K. Anderson Hall and Larry D. Anderson (Judy); sisters, Elizabeth Horne (Curwood), Linda Mae Starling and Bernice Starling; brothers, James Starling, Curtis Starling (Sharon), Thomas Starling and Roger Starling (Susie) and grandchildren, Benny Ray Bullard, Jimmy Hayner, Jr. (Mindy), Marvin Bullard (Nicki), Candace Purvis (Michael), Alicia Watkins (Darrin), Tina Anglea (Pat), Christopher Reites (Lauren), Danielle Cashwell (Michael), Amber Merritt and Parker Anderson; great grandchildren, Kelsey, Kendall, Lexie, Riley, Brayden, Haven, Jordan, Johnathon, Skylar, Konner, Aria, Hayley

and William. In light of the government restrictions, friends may visit Butler Funeral Home in Stedman on Friday, May 1 from 3:00 - 6:00 PM to pay their respects to Mr. Starling. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 6535 Clinton Road, Stedman, NC.

## ROSEBORO

God saw that you were getting tired, and here was no cure to be. He put his arms around you and whispered, "Come to me my child". Although, we loved you dearly, we could not make you stay because God his plan in his special way. A golden heart stopped beating, hardworking hands at rest, God broke our hearts to prove to us, He only takes the best. Tera Clyde Butler Culbreth was born on October 4, 1926 to the late Alice Robinson and the late Marion A. Butler. She had six brothers: Ivy, Perry Lee, Paul, Murphy, Clifton, and Lutrell and also two sisters: Minnie and Ada which preceded her in death. Tera attended Roseboro School. After graduating from Roseboro Colored School, she attended and graduated from Deshazor Beauty College in Durham, North Carolina. She began and continued her career as a cosmetologist with a shop owner in Clinton, NC until she met and married Muriel Culbreth of Mount Pleasant Community until his death. To their union, three children were born, Muriel McArthur, Patricia and Harold. She chose and remained in a small setting of Snow Hill Community to rear her family and shield from the hustle and bustle of city life. Tera worked at Countrywide Sewing Factory using her skills and knowledge that provided helpful in starting her own private business as a seamstress after her retirement from Countrywide. Tera joined and remained an active member at Snow Hill Missionary Baptist Church. She held the position of Church Treasurer for many years. She was a member of the Senior Choir where she loved to sing. She strongly believed in prayer and loved the Lord. She was also known for her loving smile and kind words to other. Tera leaves to cherish her memories: Muriel McArthur Culbreth (Iris) of Clinton, NC, Patricia Goodman (Ervin) of Oxon Hill, Maryland, and Harold Culbreth (Bettye) of Roseboro, NC. Grandchildren: Muriel III (Ella), Keith (Carson), Christopher (Lynn), Angela, Terria, and Terrance (Kitta); Great Grandchildren: Ebony, Keavon, Aulani, Aiden, Marchellis, Lauren, and Landon. A host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. A very Special Aunt, Sannie Purdie of Salemburg, NC. A private graveside service will be held Saturday, May 2, 2020 at Noon in Roseboro Cemetery in Roseboro, NC. Service will be live streamed through Butler & Son Funeral Home Facebook Page.

## NEWTON GROVE

**Infant baby Jackson Dean**, son of Eric and Alycia McLamb Thornton, of Newton Grove, was born sleeping on Tuesday, April 21, 2020, at WakeMed North, Raleigh, N.C. He was a beautiful baby weighing 5lbs .6oz and was 18.5 inches long. Jackson brought so much joy to his parents and family throughout the pregnancy and when he arrived. Surviving are his parents; his maternal grandparents, Paul 'Phil' and Carol McLamb, of Clinton, his paternal grandmother, Connie Thornton, of Newton Grove; his uncle, Matthew Thornton, of Newton Grove, loving great-grandparents and a number of cousins, relatives and family friends. A private memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorials can be made in memory of Jackson Dean Thornton to a non-profit charity of your choosing. Another way to honor Jackson's memory is to provide an act of kindness in your community. Online condolences may be made at: [www.westanddunn.com](http://www.westanddunn.com). West & Dunn Funeral Home, Newton Grove is honored to service the Family of Baby Jackson.

## NEWTON GROVE

**Minerva Nava Herenegildo, 56**, passed away on April 30, 2020, at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill, NC. Visitation will be held on Sunday, May 3, 2020, at Hope Valley Hawkins Funeral Service & Cremation from 11:00 am to 9:00 pm. A graveside service will be held on Monday, May 4, 2020, at Our Lady Of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Newton Grove, NC, at 10:30 am.

## CLINTON

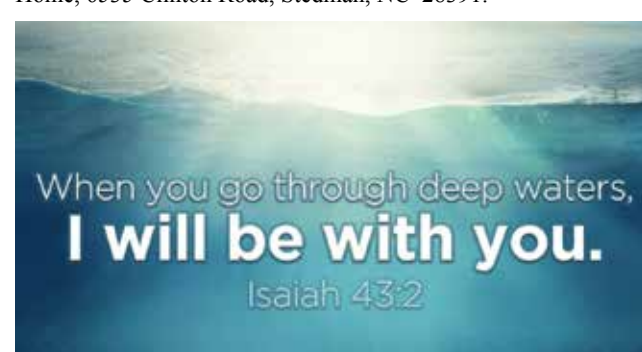
**Mr. Ronald Jermaine Melvin, 48**, of 290 Mathis Road, Clinton, passed away Wednesday at Duke University Hospital, Durham, NC. The graveside will be held at 2 p.m., Sunday, May 3, 2020 at Garland Community Cemetery, Garland, NC with Pastor Sharon Lane officiating. The burial in Garland Community Cemetery. Mr. Melvin is survived by his WIFE-Roslyn Melvin of the home; DAUGHTER-Jalesia Autry of Clinton, NC; SONS-Jermaine Equan Melvin of Clinton, NC, Alex Kendall Melvin of Garland, NC, Anthony Bryant of Waldorf, MD, Robert Autry, Jr. of Fayetteville, NC; SISTERS-Kristie McDonald of Hinesville, GA, Sonya Vargas of Stedman, NC, Tammy Melvin of Garland, NC, Janee Oates of Roseboro, NC; BROTHERS-Christopher Melvin of Garland, NC and Javon Melvin of Garland, NC; 6 grandchildren. Viewing at the Cemetery Sunday, May 3, 2020 1:30 - 2:00 p.m. Brock Memorial & Worley Funeral home Inc.

## DUNN

**Mrs. Waunita Kay Stewart, 64**, of Dunn passed away Thursday April 23, 2020 at her home. She was born January 22, 1956 in Crown Point, Indiana to the late Richard Jackson and Ruth Ruhl Bond. Mrs. Stewart was preceded in death by her brother Richard Bond. Mrs. Stewart worked for many years as a data entry clerk before retiring from Food Lion Distribution Center in Dunn. Mrs. Stewart was a big supporter of the Midway Band Boosters. Mrs. Stewart loved her family, making crafts and cooking for them. She was a self-proclaimed Professional Grandma. A private graveside service will be held. Mrs. Stewart is survived by her husband, Richard Stewart; son, Richard Anthony Hickman; daughters, Deborah Hickman, Annamarie Hickman, Christina Hickman; Kathryn Edwards grandchildren, Carolyn, Miranda, Summer and Samantha Hickman, Gabriel and Adriana Parker; sisters, Jacqueline Flatt and Marcia Prescott. Arrangements by Skinner & Smith Funeral Home in Dunn.

## WADE

**Ms. Ann Jeanette (McLamb) Strickland, 84** passed away at her home on Monday, April 27, 2020 surrounded by her family. A graveside service will be held at 3:00pm Friday, May 1, 2020 at Oasis Bethany Church of God Cemetery, officiating will be Rev. Jeff Burkhardt. The family will receive friends from 12:00pm to 2:00pm Friday at Butler Funeral Home Chapel in Stedman. She is preceded in death by her parents, Joseph Adam McLamb and Beulah Edna Williams McLamb; step-mother, Lillian McLamb; her husband, Francis Cordell Strickland; son, Roger Strickland; sister, Mary Buffalo; and brothers, Jack, John & Jamie McLamb. She is survived by her children, Connie Strickland & wife, Pamela of Fayetteville, Greg Strickland & wife, Kim of Wade and Mike Strickland & wife, Tonya of Hope Mills; brothers, Joe Curtis McLamb of New Bern and Jerry "Bud" Randall McLamb & wife, Judy of Autryville; sister, Edna Jean McLamb Edwards & husband, Darvin of Eastover; 9 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Ann's honor to Oasis Bethany Church of God, 7350 Maxwell Road, Stedman, NC 28391. Services entrusted to Butler Funeral Home, 6535 Clinton Road, Stedman, NC 28391.



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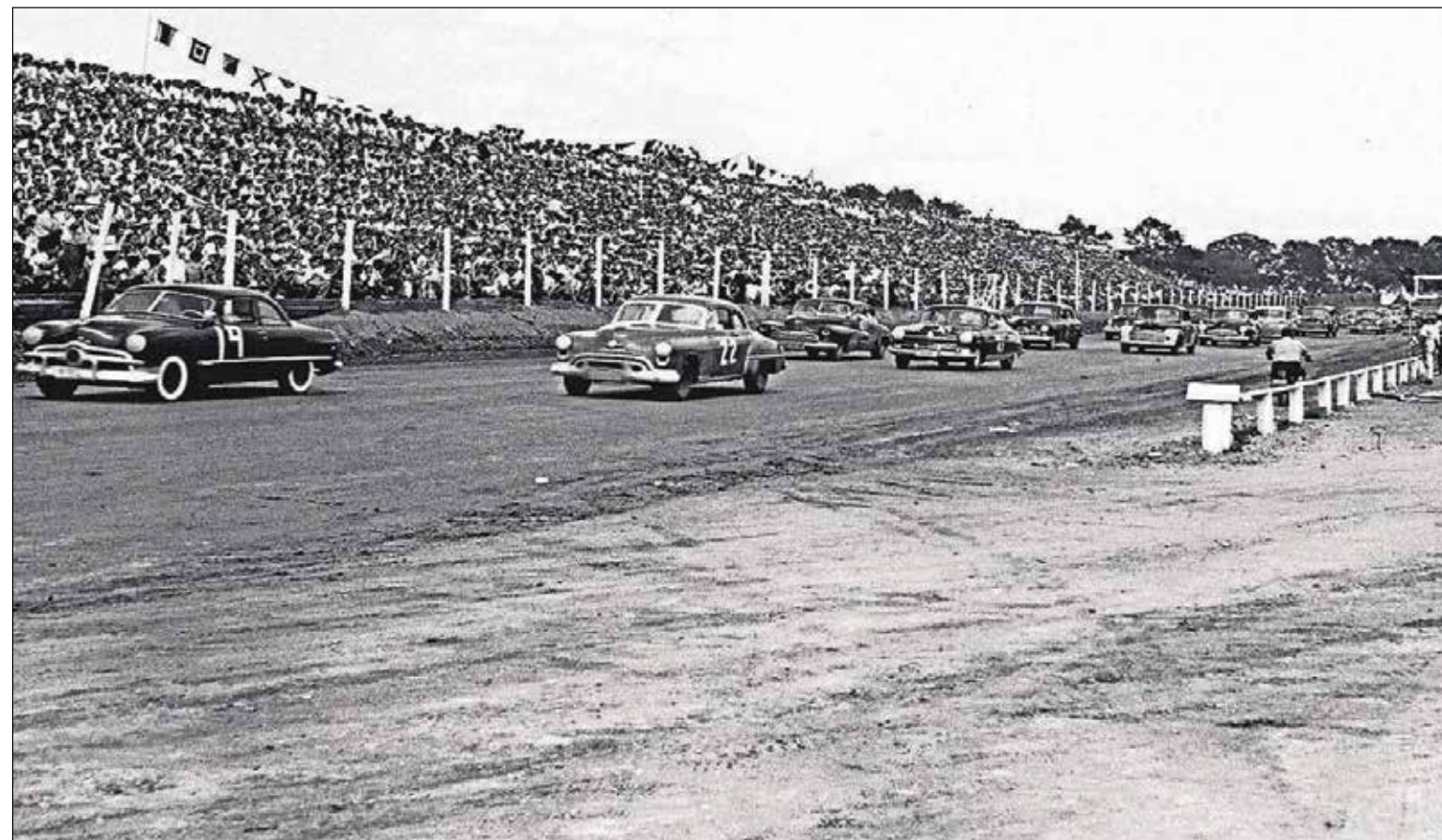
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The 33-car field prepares to get the green flag in NASCAR's inaugural Cup Series race held at Charlotte Speedway on June 19, 1949. [PHOTO/MOTORSPORTS IMAGES AND ARCHIVES]

## Backstories surface from one-hit wonders

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

In last week's edition of NASCAR This Week, we highlighted one-time winners throughout NASCAR history.

There have been 60 drivers who have scored only one win over their short or very long careers. NTW looked at 10 of those drivers and their special day at the race track.

Among those highlighted were Jim Roper, who won the inaugural NASCAR Cup Series race in 1949 at a now defunct dirt track in Charlotte, North Carolina, and Sam McQuagg, whose only victory in 62 starts came in the 1966 Firecracker 400 at Daytona International Speedway.

It was noted that McQuagg's win was helped along when Chrysler engineers added a rear spoiler to the trunk lid of his Dodge. But it turns out there was more trickery in McQuagg's only triumph.

Bob Guy, 82, from Revere, Missouri, said he worked on the car that had been built and engineered by Ray Nichels. Guy and the boys in the shop rigged the front left end of the chassis to drop when it passed through the once notorious bumps around Turn 4 of Daytona's 2.5-mile tri-oval.

"The lower the car is to the ground,

the faster it goes," Guy said in a recent telephone interview. "Sam was 1 to 2 mph faster than any other car on the track that day."

Guy said Richard Petty and McQuagg were running side by side in the opening laps in the early going and when McQuagg's stock car dipped in that area, Petty got out of the gas thinking his opponent had broken a chassis part and was about to crash.

McQuagg finished 66 seconds ahead of second-place Darel Dieringer, driving a Mercury.

"It was cheating, but if you didn't get caught, it wasn't cheating," Guy said with a laugh.

"Sam was a great guy," he added. "We worked hard but we had a lot of fun together. You know in those days drivers were in the shop helping get the cars ready."

Meanwhile, a 13-year-old kid by the name of Hill Overton watched the very first Cup Series race at Charlotte Speedway won by Roper. The now 83-year-old Overton said he bugged his father into taking him to the track that day. By the time they reached the ticket window, the grandstand was sold out.

Undeterred, Overton watched the race with his father from the side of hill next to the track in Turn 3.

"You could see over the fence into



Hill Overton

the track from that area," Overton said.

Over the years, Overton, who works as a racing radio announcer, discovered that Humpy Wheeler (11 at the time), the famed president at Charlotte Motor Speedway, and Richard Petty (12) were also witness to that history-making moment.

Petty's pop, Lee Petty, competed in that first race. He rolled and crashed his 1948 Buick in that race.

"You know, that car that Lee Petty raced, he had drove it down from Level Cross," Overton said. "They had to hitch a ride home. Lee was worried about how he would explain all this to his wife."

Of course, 10 years later Lee Petty won the inaugural Daytona 500 and all was forgiven.

Overton, who lives in Monroe, N.C., said he thought it was an exciting idea to race passenger cars that were modified for safety.

"I got hooked on them," Overton said of the Cup Series concept. "I told myself, 'This is so novel and neat seeing cars compete like we see on the street.' The sport has come a long way since 1949."

### QUESTIONS & ATTITUDE

Compelling questions ... and maybe a few actual answers

#### Will 'Virtual NASCAR' still be viable when normalcy returns?

The guess here is, two scenarios are possible. First, by the time actual racing returns and some sort of rhythm develops, we'll be very glad to have iRacing in the mirror. The mere thought of it, much less a televised iRace, will just remind us of this dark period and turn us away.

#### OK, and the second scenario?

The consensus is, NASCAR's future schedules will likely fall within a smaller hunk of the calendar. Maybe over seven months instead of nine. Minimal math tells us that means five months of offseason instead of three, and sports-entertainment industries don't like to be out of sight and out of mind for long stretches. So maybe it lives as a winter-time appetizer.

#### Which way do you lean?

I think the second scenario, largely because the cable TV partners have seen the numbers iRacing has drawn, and they're willing to air shows with a fraction of those numbers, so yes, iRacing will live on, but most likely not until the winter of 2021.

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

### NASCAR ARCHIVE STATS

Joe Weatherly won the 1963 NASCAR Cup Series championship by running for nine different car owners during the season. The bulk of his starts were in cars owned by Bud Moore, but Weatherly needed more starts in that 55-race season to run for title honors. Here is a list of Weatherly's car owners that year:

- Bud Moore (34 races)
- Cliff Stewart (10)
- Floyd Powell (2)
- Wade Younts (2)
- Pete Stewart (1)
- Major Melton (1)
- Worth McMillion (1)
- Petty Enterprises (1)
- Possum Jones (1)

### MOTOR MOUTHS PODCAST

We may be deemed essentially unessential, but we'll eventually come back anyway. Stay tuned, as they say.

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



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

Is virtual racing still worthwhile, or are you over it?

**GODSPEAK:** It is amusing but the initial excitement has worn off. I haven't watched the last two cartoon races. I'm ready for the real thing, baby.

**KEN'S CALL:** Let's put it this way ... I was busy with a couple of chores Sunday, blew right past the Talladega time frame, and didn't even realize it until Sunday evening. What's that tell you?

#### A bonus race at Darlington?

**GODSPEAK:** Southern states seem to be opening quicker than the rest of the country, so it makes sense that NASCAR

jumpstarts the Cup Series down here where it all started.

**KEN'S CALL:** That's the current rumbling, NASCAR's return could be at Darlington without fans. As long as it doesn't affect the Labor Day weekend there, what better way to crank back to life?

#### Reaction to Ryan Newman's good news?

**GODSPEAK:** To me the fact Newman is alive and well is a miracle. Postponing races worked in his favor. This all tells me he will win the championship this year.

**KEN'S CALL:** It's the icing on the cake, considering the most amazing news came a couple of months ago when he walked



Virtual racing might give way to the Darlington stripe, if rumors are true. [AP FILE]

out of the hospital. Wait, that's only been two months ago? Seems like forever.

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