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The Wilson Times

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Parole for double murder convict?

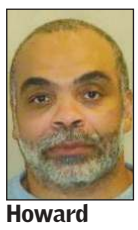
By Lindell J. Kay
lkay@wilsontimes.com
252-265-8117

A Wilson man serving life in prison after pleading guilty to strangling two elderly women in 1985 is being considered for parole.

Donald Ray Howard has served 32 years of a life sentence plus 50 years on two counts of second-degree murder. He was convicted in September 1987.

Howard, now 55, was 23 when he admitted in court to killing 71-year-old Margaret Donoghue and 84-year-old Gladys Tasman.

Howard lived on Cemetery Street in the mid-1980s.


Howard

Residents of the neighborhood where the women were killed said at the time they were relieved but not satisfied with Howard's sentencing.

Attempts to locate either victim's family were unsuccessful.

According to archived news reports, Howard performed yard work for Tasman, who lived on West Kenan Street. After she paid him $25, he began to walk home but realized he had dropped his money. He returned to Tasman's home and asked for more money. When she denied him, Howard strangled her.

In Donoghue's death, Howard had been released from jail after two months for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. The same day of his release, Howard broke into a house on Mount Vernon Drive. He thought no one was home, but Donoghue was asleep in a back bedroom.

"She woke up and began screaming," Howard said in his confession to police. "I didn't want to hurt her; I just wanted her to be quiet. I went over, grabbed her by the neck, tied her arms with a scarf. She said, 'Let me go.' I tied her mouth with a piece of nylon."

Howard left Donoghue lying face-down on her bed and took a television set and $298 cash. He stole Donoghue's car and drove to Rocky Mount where he boarded a bus bound for New York City, according to court documents.

Howard was arrested on rape charges in New York and extradited to Wilson in 1986.

While incarcerated since 1987, Howard received 19 infractions, ranging from disobeying orders to possessing a weapon. His last recorded infraction was in 2012 for possession of an electronic device, according to the N.C. Department of Public Safety.

The N.C. Post-Release Supervision and Parole Commission is considering Howard for parole due to his involvement in the Mutual Agreement Parole Program, a scholastic and vocational program that is a three-way agreement between the inmates, the Parole Commission and the N.C. Division of Prisons.

The state's current structured sentencing law eliminates parole for crimes committed after Oct. 1, 1994. However, the parole commission has the responsibility of paroling offenders who were sentenced under previous guidelines.

Howard is currently housed at the Dan River Prison Work Farm in Caswell County, near Yanceyville.

Anyone with comments for or against Howard's parole can call the N.C. Post-Release Supervision and Parole Commission at 919- 716–3010.

Storms cause creek flooding



Blake Lane of Kenly looks at the Wiggins Mill dam as water from the Wiggins Mill Reservoir rushes by Friday. Drew C. Wilson | Times

By Drew C. Wilson
dwilson@wilsontimes.com
252-265-7818

James Suggs stepped out of his truck on Fairfax Avenue to see how far the Toisnot Reservoir had overspilled its banks Friday.

After 3.3 to 3.8 inches of rain fell on Wilson County with a passing cold front, water levels were high.

Suggs watched as drivers in pickup trucks drove through a flooded Lawndale Drive at Toisnot Park, sending water flying.

"I have seen it a lot higher than this," Suggs said. "I have seen it all the way out to the highway."

Suggs remembers the way it looked on his birthday, Sept. 5, 1999, in the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd.

"I won't ever forget that. A couple of hurricanes came through here, it was like this but a whole lot higher than this," Suggs said. "This is milder than what it used to be when it does a lot of raining. You don't usually see the park where the children play. Most

See **FLOODING,** Page 3A

WATCH IT ONLINE
See story online for a video.
wilsontimes.com/videopage



A truck driving along Lawndale Drive sends water flying at Toisnot Park where the Toisnot Reservoir had risen over its banks Friday following internse rains. Drew C. Wilson | Times

Scott receives ag award

By Keith Barnes
kbarnes@johnstoniannews.com
919-710-5549

RALEIGH — Alice Scott received high praise as she accepted the Excellence in Agriculture Award Friday at "Breakfast with the Commissioner" held at the N.C. State Fairgrounds' Holshouser Building.

The annual fundraiser for the Tobacco Farm Life Museum of Kenly is held in conjunction with the 2020 Southern Farm Show and raised more than $41,000 for the museum, according to Melody Worthington, museum executive director/curator.

Scott is executive secretary and co-owner of Scott Farms Inc. in Lucama.

"Alice Scott has always been a strong advocate for farms and farmers in North Carolina," said N.C. Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "She goes above and beyond in helping the tobacco industry fight for what is right for our families, and together with her husband, Linwood "Sonny" Scott, and sons, Linwood and Dewey, she has helped build and expand the sixth-generation family farming operation which grows corn, wheat, soybeans, tobacco and sweet potatoes."

Troxler added that in 2018, Scott was named as the first female U.S.Department of Agriculture Farm Service

See **AWARD,** Page 3A

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Weathercast With Albert Thomas Jr. Preview of the week posted Tuesdays. Preview of the weekend posted Saturdays. **wilsontimes.com**

SATURDAY Increasing clouds HI **48** LO **34**

SUNDAY Sunny HI **56** LO **40**

MONDAY Partly sunny HI **68** LO **57**

7 89403 33333 4

Child porn convict receives 20-year sentence

From staff reports

A Greene County man will spend 20 years behind bars after pleading guilty to a child pornography charge, federal prosecutors said.

Jeremy Dwight Lane, 38, was sentenced Friday in a Raleigh courtroom. He pleaded to one count of receipt of child pornography in a Nov. 7 agreement with prosecutors. U.S. District Judge James C. Dever III handed down the sentence.

Lane, who lived on N.C. 903 outside La Grange, was arrested after Greene County sheriff's deputies and State Bureau of Investigation agents raided his home in June 2017. A forensic examination of his laptop computer and other devices showed "over 50 images and 100 videos that he had collected from the internet depicting the sexual abuse of minors," according to U.S. Attorney Robert Higdon's office.


Lane

Law enforcement officers in South Carolina identified Lane's internet protocol address as one used to download and share child porn over a peer-to-peer filesharing network, prosecutors said. Investigators traced the IP address to Lane's home and referred the case to SBI agents.

"Lane agreed to be interviewed and admitted that he had been downloading child pornography from the internet for about a year," a news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina states. "Lane also admitted to having previously molested two students who had been under his care."

Federal authorities initially charged Lane with 10 counts of receipt of child pornography. Lane was convicted of one count in the plea arrangement.

Lane will be subject to 10 years of supervised release when his active prison sentence expires.

The SBI investigated the case with assistance from the Greene County Sheriff's Office. Assistant U.S. Attorney Jake D. Pugh prosecuted Lane on the government's behalf.

Higdon's office said the case was part of the Project Safe Childhood initiative, which forms partnerships between local, state and federal law enforcement to investigate and prosecute child exploitation crimes.

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"Thank God For Your Life"

Wilson attorneys earn Super Lawyers honor

From staff reports

Several attorneys with Wilson ties were named to Thomson Reuters' 2020 Super Lawyers list.

Earl W. Taylor of the Taylor Law Office in Wilson earned honors for personal injury law; Jason R. Page of the Wilson-based Law Office of Jason R. Page was listed for estate planning and probate; Stephen L. Beaman of the Law Office of Beaman & Bennington in Wilson was listed for estate planning and probate; and Nicholas J. Ellis, a Wilson resident who practices with Poyner Spruill in Rocky Mount, was honored for his work in business litigation.


Ellis


Page


Taylor

The Super Lawyers list recognizes attorneys through a multi-phase selection process that includes peer nominations, evaluations and independent research.

Each candidate is evaluated on 12 indicators of peer recognition and professional achievement, according to the Super Lawyers website. Selections are made on an annual, state-by-state basis. The objective is to create a credible, comprehensive and diverse listing of outstanding attorneys that can be used as a resource for attorneys and consumers searching for legal counsel.

Thomson Reuters says the top 5% of attorneys from a representative number of small, medium and large firms in each state are rated as Super Lawyers.

Wilson's Raya receives Sailor of the Year honor at Japan-based command

By Ryan Litzenberger
For the Times

FLEET ACTIVITIES YOKOSUKA, Japan — A Tefe, Amazon, Brazil native, Wilson resident and Commander Submarine Group 7's Sailor of the Year is currently serving in Yokosuka, Japan.


Raya

Yeoman 1st Class Silvia Raya joined the Navy in 2005. Yeomen perform administrative and clerical work. They receive visitors, answer telephone calls and sort incoming mail. They type, organize files and operate office equipment such as word processing computers and copying machines.

At CSG 7, Raya is currently serving as the command's flag writer. The flag writer is personally assigned to perform the executive administrative and secretarial duties for current Commander Submarine Group 7 commander Rear Adm. Jimmy Pitts. She also serves as president of the command's First Class Petty Officer Association.

"I love my job. The reason I became a flag writer is because I was in search for a more challenging position. Due to change in my career, I had and continue to have the possibility to grasp the level of impact that decisions and policies discussed and approved by the commanders will have in the fleet," said Raya.

"Since selected as a flag writer, I feel fortunate to learn more about ethics, protocol, high-level correspondences and being able to use my training daily. This experience taught me to maintain a composed attitude during short notice or urgent situations while improving my management skills."

Raya's experience gained working under the Navy's top leaders has made her ready for the next level, according to Chief Hospital Corpsman Tee Menchaca, her leading chief petty officer.

"She is one of the most involved sailors I have ever had the privilege to work with," said Menchaca. "The amount of impact she has on this command is incredible. She has worked very hard to get where she is at, but even more notable is her humility and selflessness. It only takes one glance to know that she truly cares about the sailors, and I look forward to the day that I'm sure will soon come that she puts on anchors. She sets a great example for everyone else."

Raya credits her success to the support of her parents, her kids and husband, as well as the mentors who helped guide her in the right direction.

"My parents, my kids and my husband are the reason why I kept moving and maintained my positive attitude," said Raya. "And without my mentors' honest guidance, I would not be accomplishing my professional goals and would not be making a positive impact in the commands where I serve and in my naval career."

Raya will move on to compete for Pacific Fleet Sailor of the Year.

With more than 50% of the world's shipping tonnage and a third of the world's crude oil passing through the Indo-Pacific region, the U.S. has historic and enduring interests in this part of the world. CSG 7 is responsible for coordinating a diverse fleet of submarines, surface ships and aircraft deployed to the Western Pacific and the Middle East; two forward-deployed submarine tenders and four attack submarines homeported in Guam; Submarine Squadron 21 in Bahrain; five surveillance towed array sensor system vessels and three oceanographic survey vessels when tasked for Theater Anti-Submarine Warfare operations.

Under CSG 7 are two task forces: CTF-74 and CTF-54, which provide theater anti-submarine warfare support from the Red Sea to the International Date Line.

Editor's Note: *The writer is a petty officer first class in the Navy's Commander Submarine Group 7. This story was provided through the Defense Visual Information Distribution Service, a U.S. military resource for media outlets.*

US job market: How big a political edge for Trump?

By Christopher Rugaber
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. hiring jumped last month, and many more people were encouraged to look for work, showing that the economy remains robust despite threats from China's viral outbreak, an ongoing trade war and struggles at Boeing.

The strong job growth gives President Donald Trump more evidence for his assertion that the economy is flourishing under his watch. It may also complicate the argument his Democratic presidential rivals are making that the economy isn't benefiting everyday Americans.

The Labor Department said Friday that employers added a robust 225,000 jobs in January. At the same time, a half-million Americans, feeling better about their job prospects, streamed into the job market. Most found jobs. But those that didn't were newly counted as unemployed, and their numbers raised the jobless rate to 3.6% from December's half-century low of 3.5%.

Seven Democratic presidential candidates were to debate later Friday in New Hampshire. Leading contenders, notably Sens. Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, have built campaigns around the argument that the middle class has been mostly left out of an economic expansion that has disproportionately served the wealthy.

The outcome of the presidential race could hinge in part on whether enough voters agree that inequality and rising costs for services such as health care, housing and college education outweigh the benefits from nearly 11 years of economic growth.

"Democratic primary voters are very open to messages about the economy doing badly," said Jason Furman, a top economic adviser to former President Barack Obama, said.

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Pedestrians walk across a footbridge Friday at the Toisnot Reservoir near floodwaters at Toisnot Park. Drew C. Wilson | Times

Flooding: 'It's pretty rough out here'

continued from page 1A

of it is usually covered up with water, but not this time."

"By morning you might not be able to see nothing out here," Suggs added. "When they open up those dams west of us, all that water comes this way. Wilson, Greenville, Rocky Mount, Tarboro, all of us, they are right in the path of all the water coming this way. There's nothing you can do about it, just stay out of the way."

"When they open up those dams west of us, all that water comes this way. Wilson, Greenville, Rocky Mount, Tarboro, all of us, they are right in the path of all the water coming this way."

JAMES SUGGS, on local flooding

At 3 p.m. Thursday, the National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service stream gauge at the Contentnea Creek just downstream from the Buckhorn Reservoir indicated a level of 13.29 feet, about 3.71 feet shy of flood stage.

Some 14 miles downstream, Blake Lane from Kenly stood at the Wiggins Mill dam watching the water rush over the spillways.

"It's a little high, honestly," Lane said. "I haven't seen it this high since (Hurricane) Matthew."

Lane and a friend had planned to do some shad fishing.

"It's a little high for that," Lane said. "It's pretty rough out here today."

A few minutes later, Daniel Toler of Wilson stopped to look at the rushing water.

"I have lived right outside of Wilson for most of my life toward Fremont," Toler said. "My family and I come past this lake to Parker's (Barbecue) a lot, maybe every other Sunday. We'll stop and take pictures here and I have never seen it quite overflow like this, so I wanted stop and get a picture because that's a lot of water."

Toler, who lives in an apartment on Raleigh Road, said the rain overnight Thursday was intense.

"The parking lot was completely flooded last night," Toler said. "We had to move our cars across the road to the church."

Phil Badgett, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service office in Raleigh, said more rain is not expected in the next few days.

Badgett said water levels in Wilson County's creeks will begin to recede.

"Once the rain actually falls and about a 12-hour lag is when it starts going back down," Badgett said. "What you have had is actually the worst of it, and so everything now should be slowly draining away."

The passing front caused winds to howl in the overnight hours Thursday.

"I know we had a couple instances of trees down," said Gordon Deno, director of Wilson County Emergency Management. "In Rock Ridge, a tree fell on a house and caused minor damage. Overnight they had some isolated street and road flooding in the typical areas."



N.C. Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler, center, is shown with Excellence in Agriculture Award winner Alice Scott, second from left, Innovative Young Farmer of the Year Award winner Michelle Pace Davis, second from right, Tobacco Farm Life Museum Executive Director Melody Worthington, far left, and museum board chairwoman Susan Ford, far right, following Friday's Breakfast with the Commissioner, a fundraiser for the Kenly museum held at the N.C. State Fairgrounds. Keith Barnes | Restoration NewsMedia

Award: 'I believe these are good signs'

continued from page 1A

Agency state committee chair in history, and she and her family were recently honored with N.C. Exporter of the Year Award.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

"I have a great appreciation for all the people that come out each year to support the Tobacco Farm Life Museum," Troxler said. "This museum has always been special to me, and I enjoy coming together at this breakfast to fundraise for a place that celebrates and preserves the history of the farm way of life while honoring our tobacco heritage."

Troxler said he's proud North Carolina has a place like the museum, "where we can take our grandkids to show them how things used to be."

"We have whole generations now that really don't know tobacco's contributions to the state, and I have grandchildren who have never seen tobacco grow on a farm," Troxler said. "The Tobacco Farm Life Museum tells this story in a meaningful and impactful way by highlighting the importance and cultural significance of the tobacco industry in North Carolina."

Troxler said he feels good about the future of agriculture in North Carolina.

"It has been an encouraging few weeks for our farmers with the signing of the first phase of a trade agreement with China and now the passage and signing of the U.S-Mexico-Canada agreement. I believe these are good signs for the agricultural economy, and our farmers welcomed this positive news on trade with our three largest trading partners," he said.

Susan Ford, museum board chairwoman, said she's grateful to Troxler for lending his name to this event, which drew 535 patrons.

"This is the museum's biggest fundraiser of the year, and we thank him," she said.

Also at the event, Michelle Pace Davis, who operates Pace Family Farms in Clayton, received the Innovative Young Farmer of the Year Award sponsored by Farm Credit Associations of North Carolina.

Davis was chosen for the award based on her dedication to the progression of technology and accuracy in agriculture and educational outreach to members of the general public.

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Valentine's Day Sweetheart Special
Friday, February 14th
11am thru 9pm

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OBITUARIES

Johnnie James Ellis Sr.



Johnnie James Ellis Sr.

Johnnie James "Top" Ellis Sr., 86, of Wilson, died Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020. The funeral will be at 1 p.m. on Sunday at Carrons Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Rest Haven Cemetery. Visitation will be 4 p.m. Saturday at Carrons Funeral Home. Arrangements are by Carrons Funeral Home.

David Lee Peoples

David Lee Peoples, 64, of Wilson, died Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020. Arrangements are by Stevens Funeral Home.

Dorothy Rowe

July 19, 1939 — Feb. 7, 2020

Dorothy Rowe, 80, died Friday, Feb. 7, 2020. Arrangements are by Shingleton Funeral Home.

Shirley Crocker Jones

KENLY — Shirley Crocker Jones, 64, died Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020. Arrangements are by Kenly Funeral Service.

Gail Edwards

Gail Edwards, 65, of Wilson, died Friday, Feb. 7, 2020. Arrangements are by Carrons Funeral Home.

Shirley Owens Manning Barringer

Jan. 8, 1935 — Feb. 6, 2020

ELM CITY — Shirley Owens Manning Barringer, 86, passed away Thursday. A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Monday in Maplewood Cemetery, 400 College St. NE, Wilson. The Rev. Carrol Bradberry will officiate.



Shirley Owens Manning Barringer

The family will receive friends 6-8 p.m. Sunday at Joyner's Funeral Home, 4100 Raleigh Road Parkway, Wilson.

Shirley is survived by her daughters, Ann Manning Tucker and husband Tommy of Elm City and Debi Manning Newton and husband Dub of Wilson; sons, Spencer Manning and wife Ann of Wilson and Mike Manning and wife LuEllen of Elm City; granddaughters, Tonia Tucker Cook and husband Clark of Staunton, Virginia, Missy Schmid and husband Ken of Wilson, Dr. Lauren Manning and husband Dr. Peter Dennis of Portland, Oregon and Nickie Manning Warrick and husband Jay of Goldsboro; grandsons, Spencer Manning Jr. of Benson and fiancée Amanda Nunnery and Bobby Manning and wife Lori, of Bailey; 13 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by parents, Charlie and Nealie Owens; brothers, Richard Gaston Owens and Charles Melvin Owens; and her first husband, Joseph Wendell Manning, and second husband, Robert Davis Barringer.

The family would like to express their gratitude and thanks to the staff of Kitty Askins Hospice Center for their wonderful support, kindness and love given to Shirley.

Flowers are welcome or memorials may be directed to Owens Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, 6204 Webb Lake Road, Elm City, NC 27822 or Kitty Askins Hospice Center, 107 Handley Court, Goldsboro, NC 27534.

Condolences directed to Joyner's Funeral Home and Crematory at www.joyners.net.

THE WILSON TIMES *publishes brief death notices at no charge. Full obituaries are published on a paid basis. The obituary deadline is 4 p.m. the day before the obituary is to be published. Contact Lori Parrish at 252-265-7850 with questions.*

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Thank You

We deeply appreciate and gratefully acknowledge your kind expressions of sympathy. It will always be remembered.

— The Family of Donnie Finch

Timothy "Tim" Ward

May 14, 1960 - Jan 22, 2020

We, the Family of Timothy "Tim" Ward, would like to express our sincere thanks for the many expressions of love and benevolence shown during our time of bereavement. Your many acts of kindness and sympathy will not soon be forgotten. Thank you for the many cards, flowers, foods, encouraging words and especially your prayers. Special Thanks to: The Staff of Elm City Assisted Living, Wilson County Transportation System, Wilson Devita Dialysis Center & Stevens Funeral Home. Tim was a very special person and it showed in your many expressions of sympathy.



May God richly bless each and every one of you
The Ward Family

Public Notice

NORTH CAROLINA NC Pre-K Prekindergarten Program

Wilson County Partnership for Children is now accepting Site Applications for the NC Pre-K Program for 2020-2022

BE HERE FOR KIDS

Applications will be available at the Providers' Mandatory Meeting on February 11, 2020 at 10am

Attendance is required for Application to be considered

Applications must be completed and submitted to

Wilson County Partnership for Children
by March 12, 2020

Only 4 and 5 star rated and temporary licensed sites may apply.

For more information call
Tammie Ruffin, CCR&R Coordinator at
252-206-4235, ext. 115

Smart Start

Roger Kahn, elegant 'Boys of Summer' author, dies at 92

By The Associated Press

MAMARONECK, N.Y. — Roger Kahn, the writer who wove memoir and baseball and touched millions of readers through his romantic account of the Brooklyn Dodgers in "The Boys of Summer," has died. He was 92.

He died Thursday at a nursing facility in Mamaroneck, a Westchester County suburb, son Gordon Kahn said.

The author of 20 books and hundreds of articles, Kahn was best known for the 1972 best-seller that looked at his relationship with his father through their shared love of the Dodgers, an object of nostalgia for the many fans who mourned the team's move to Los Angeles after the 1957 season.

"At a point in life when one is through with boyhood, but has not yet discovered how to be a man, it was my fortune to travel with the most marvelously appealing of teams," Kahn wrote.

"The Boys of Summer" was a story of lost youth, right down to its title, later borrowed for a hit Don Henley song about a man longing for his past. Kahn's book moved back and forth between the early 1950s, when he covered the Dodgers for the New York Herald Tribune, and 20 years later, when some were ailing (Jackie Robinson), embittered (Carl Furillo) or in a wheelchair (Roy Campanella).

The book was an instant hit, although Kahn was criticized for sentimentalizing his story.

"Here is a book that succeeded for me despite almost everything about it," wrote Christopher Lehmann-Haupt, a late book critic for The New York Times.

Retired Dodgers broadcasting great Vin Scully knew Kahn well from their days with the team — Kahn was a beat writer covering the club, and the same age as Scully.

"You couldn't travel with them without getting emotionally involved. Roger captured that familial spirit of the players in those days," Scully told The Associated Press on Friday. "The feeling in Brooklyn was always us against the world — the world would be the lordly pinstripers in the Bronx and almost lordly Giants in Manhattan."

Scully said Kahn singularly distilled the essence of what it was like to be a Brooklyn player and fan of the team.

"He got it right," Scully said. "Every year in Brooklyn it was wait till next year. It was only right that in all their years they wound up winning only one World Series and then left."

Among those in the book was Carl Erskine, a star pitcher for those Dodgers.

"I turned 93 in December and for a lot of us who played with Brooklyn then and were in that book, I wouldn't say it gave us eternal life, but it certainly enhanced our careers," Erskine told the AP from his home in Anderson, Indiana.

LOTTERY RESULTS

Thursday, February 6

Carolina Pick 3
Daytime— 8-2-0

Carolina Pick 3
Evening—7-1-3

Carolina Pick 3
Evening— 5-0-0

Carolina Pick 4
Daytime— 0-2-6-4

Carolina Pick 4
Evening— 5-9-2-8

Carolina Cash 5
8-9-26-36-39

NC commissioners OK 2nd Amendment resolution

WINSTON-SALEM — Commissioners in one of North Carolina's most populous counties have adopted a largely symbolic resolution declaring the county's support for the Second Amendment rights of individuals to keep and bear arms.

Forsyth County Commissioners voted 4-3 along party lines Thursday for a resolution which declares the county to be what it termed a "constitutional rights protection county," the Winston-Salem Journal reported.

The four Republican commissioners rejected a resolution pitched by their Democratic counterparts that said the county supported the entire Bill of Rights without singling out the Second Amendment.

The resolution adopted by the board, like others before it, is mostly symbolic since county government in North Carolina is subordinate to state government.

Immediately after the vote, Democratic commissioner Tonya McDaniel ripped up a copy of the resolution. She later apologized and indicated that she allowed her feelings to get away from her.

"I am a mother who lost her son to gun violence," said McDaniel, calling the resolution unnecessary because people have the protection of Winston-Salem police and the county sheriff's office.

— The Associated Press

TODAY IN HISTORY

1910: The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated

Today is Saturday, Feb. 8, the 39th day of 2020. There are 327 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Feb. 8, 1924, the first execution by gas in the United States took place at the Nevada State Prison in Carson City as Gee Jon, a Chinese immigrant convicted of murder, was put to death.

On this date:

In 1587, Mary, Queen of Scots was beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle in England after she was implicated in a plot to murder her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I.

In 1862, the Civil War Battle of Roanoke Island, North Carolina, ended in victory for Union forces led by Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside.

In 1910, the Boy Scouts of America was incorporated.

In 1922, President Warren G. Harding had a radio installed in the White House.

In 1952, Queen Elizabeth II proclaimed her accession to the British throne following the death of her father, King George VI.

In 1968, three college students were killed in a confrontation between demonstrators and highway patrolmen at South Carolina State University in Orangeburg in the wake of protests over a whites-only bowling alley. The science-fiction film "Planet of the Apes," starring Charlton Heston, had its world premiere in New York (it went into general release the following April.)

In 1971, NASDAQ, the world's first electronic stock exchange, held its first trading day.

In 1973, Senate leaders named seven members of a select committee to investigate the Watergate scandal, including its chairman, Sen. Sam J. Ervin, D-N.C.

In 1976, Martin Scorsese's violent urban drama "Taxi Driver," starring Robert De Niro, was released by Columbia Pictures.

In 1989, 144 people were killed when an American-chartered Boeing 707 filled with Italian tourists slammed into a fog-covered mountain in the Azores.

In 1992, the XVI Olympic Winter Games opened in Albertville (AL'-bur-vihl), France.

In 1993, General Motors sued NBC, alleging that "Dateline NBC" had rigged two car-truck crashes to show that 1973-to-87 GM pickups were prone to fires in side impact crashes. (NBC settled the lawsuit the following day and apologized for its "unscientific demonstration.")

Ten years ago: Endeavour and six astronauts rocketed into orbit, hauling a new room and observation deck for the International Space Station. Michael Jackson's personal physician, Dr. Conrad Murray, pleaded not guilty to involuntary manslaughter in the death of the pop superstar in Los Angeles Superior Court. (Murray was convicted in 2011 and served two years in jail.) The Nielsen Co. estimated that 106.5 million people watched the New Orleans Saints upset the Indianapolis Colts in the Super Bowl, beating the 1983 "M-A-S-H" finale, which had 105.97 million viewers. U.S. Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., died at a hospital in Arlington, Virginia, at age 77.

Five years ago: A riot erupted outside a major soccer stadium in Egypt, with a stampede and fighting between police and fans killing at least 19 people. At the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, Sam Smith won best new artist, record of the year, song of the year for "Stay with Me" and best pop vocal album; Beck won album of the year for "Morning Phase."

One year ago: A fire swept through the sleeping quarters of an academy for a Brazilian professional soccer club, killing 10 teenage players. A second woman accused Virginia Democratic Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax of sexual assault, saying he had raped her 19 years earlier while they were both students at Duke University. Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam made it clear that he would not resign, defying the demands of fellow Democrats after a racist photo from his 1984 medical school yearbook surfaced and he acknowledged wearing blackface in the 1980s. (State Attorney General Mark Herring, also a Democrat, had also acknowledged wearing blackface at a college party.)

Today's Birthdays: Composer-conductor John Williams is 88. Newscaster Ted Koppel is 80. Actor Nick Nolte is 79. Comedian Robert Klein is 78. Actor-rock musician Creed Bratton is 77. Singer Ron Tyson is 72. Actress Brooke Adams is 71. Actress Mary Steenburgen is 67. Author John Grisham is 65. Retired NBA All-Star and College Basketball Hall of Famer Marques Johnson is 64. Actor Henry Czerny is 61. The former president of the Philippines, Benigno Aquino III, is 60. Rock singer Vince Neil (Motley Crue) is 59. Rock singer-musician Sammy Llanas (formerly w/The BoDeans) is 59. Former Environmental Protection Agency administrator Lisa P. Jackson is 58. Movie producer Toby Emmerich is 57. Actress Missy Yager is 52. Actress Mary McCormack is 51. Rock musician Keith Nelson is 51. Basketball Hall of Famer Alonzo Mourning is 50. Actress Susan Misner is 49. Dance musician Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo (Daft Punk) is 46. Actor Seth Green is 46. Actor Josh Morrow is 46. Rock musician Phoenix (Linkin Park) is 43. Actor William Jackson Harper is 40. Actor Jim Parrack is 39. Folk singer-musician Joey Ryan (Milk Carton Kids) is 38. Actress-comedian Cecily Strong is 36.

Opinion

The Wilson Times
MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER — A COMMUNITY INSTITUTION SINCE 1896

Keven Zepezauer PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
Debbie Boykin CFO
Corey Friedman EDITOR
Lisa Boykin Batts ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Morgan Dickerman CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD/CEO

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Speak to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs; sing and make music to the Lord in your hearts. (Ephesians 5:19)

PRAYER: Dear Father, help us to remember that your love is with us forever. Amen.

IN OUR OPINION

2nd Amendment worthy of defense in Wilson County

Designating Wilson County a Second Amendment sanctuary won't override any gun laws, but as part of a movement sweeping the state, it could stop new gun control efforts in their tracks.

More than 1,600 people have joined a Facebook group dedicated to passing a Second Amendment sanctuary resolution, and many are emailing Wilson County commissioners to solicit their support.

"I believe the declaration sends a message that we will not stand by and allow state or federal legislators to restrict our Second Amendment rights," organizer Michael McCroskey told Times reporter Lindell J. Kay for a story in Friday's newspaper.

Wilson could join several eastern North Carolina counties — including Johnston, Craven and Pamlico — to formalize their support for the Second Amendment. Joel Killion, a Bailey town commissioner and former Wilson Tea Party activist, is spearheading a similar petition drive in Nash County.

The grassroots groundswell mirrors a backlash to gun control bills in Virginia that's seen 91 of the Old Dominion's 95 counties declare themselves Second Amendment sanctuaries. More than three dozen Virginia cities and towns have passed similar resolutions of support for the constitutional right to keep and bear arms.

Gun owners aren't paranoid about the spreading Second Amendment showdown — one of the advocacy groups behind Virginia's legislation, Everytown for Gun Safety, is spending a quarter-million dollars on an advertising campaign to push for gun laws in the N.C. General Assembly, the News & Observer of Raleigh reported this week.

Nearly a year ago, state Rep. Christy Clark, D-Mecklenburg, introduced the Gun Violence Prevention Act, which we described in this space as "a grab bag of restrictions on gun rights that range from the ineffectual to the unconstitutional." One provision sought to require all North Carolina gun owners to buy $100,000 in firearm liability insurance.

Clark's bill was dead on arrival in the Republican-controlled House. But it serves as a reminder that gun control forces remain active in state politics. Each mass shooting triggers an opportunistic push to punish law-abiding gun owners for criminals' unconscionable acts.

We oppose bans on modern sporting rifles — often mischaracterized as "assault rifles" — like the AR-15. The main differences between AR-style firearms and other semiautomatic rifles are largely cosmetic. The guns are no more lethal than dozens of wooden-stock rifles commonly used for hunting.

Red flag laws, which allow authorities to confiscate firearms from those suspected of being a threat to themselves or others, require only ex-parte testimony and deprive the accused of due process. Seizing someone's guns can be called a precaution, but it's also a punishment. Should we punish people before they can mount a defense to the claims made against them?

While it's easy to frame the gun debate in partisan terms, the Second Amendment isn't just for Republicans and conservatives. Gun rights are civil rights. And here in the Old North State, there are plenty of Democrats and liberals who are passionate about preserving their access to firearms for hunting, sport shooting and home defense.

In 13 North Carolina counties that have passed Second Amendment sanctuary resolutions, 76% of Democratic county commissioners voted to support the measures. State Sens. Tom McInnis, R-Richmond, and Brent Jackson, R-Sampson, touted that statistic in a Thursday news release, noting the state's increasing urban-rural divide. Though it's clear they're trying to score election-year points for the GOP, state Democrats would do well to heed the caution and recalibrate their rhetoric on guns.

"You won't find a clearer example of the internal fractures facing the Democratic Party," McInnis and Jackson wrote in a joint statement. "Even elected officials are bucking the extreme urban-focused agenda the Democratic Party elites are pushing."

Why should county commissioners weigh in on an issue they don't have direct control over? Because it can influence those who do. Wilson's legislative and congressional delegations will note the county board's stance. And the cumulative effect of county-level gun rights sanctuary votes throughout the state could help rein in restrictionists' most extreme impulses.

It's also commissioners' duty to advocate for their constituents' interests. In October 2017, our county board adopted a resolution expressing concern over the Atlantic Coast Pipeline's effects on landowners and the "development dead zone" it will create in the underground natural gas transmission line's shadow.

That document didn't change the pipeline's plans, but the Times praised commissioners for standing up for Wilson County residents' property rights just the same. Today, these elected representatives can similarly support law-abiding citizens' Second Amendment rights.

We call on the Wilson County Board of Commissioners to adopt a Second Amendment sanctuary resolution. A unanimous vote from the board's four Democrats and three Republicans would send a powerful message of unity. Civil liberties, including gun rights, ought to transcend partisan politics.



LETTERS

Let's all pitch in to clean Wilson's litter

I was so thankful to read "Can Wilson County work together to curb roadside littering?" by Ashley E. Robbins Jr., Jan. 30.

The author had several suggestions; asking the sheriff to consider inmate details picking up trash, church and civic groups organizing cleanup events, businesses encouraging their employees to work as teams to tackle problem areas and parents teaching our children how to take better care of our world.

During Christmas, I had visitors from Colorado, California and Washington D.C. I found myself constantly apologizing for the embarrassing amount of trash along the side of our roads throughout Wilson County, it really is bad!

Instead of complaining I decided I want to help. I have purchased an extra box of garbage bags and will keep it in my car with some work gloves. Every once in a while I plan to pull over and bag up a load or two. I won't be able to fix the problem, but maybe I'll make a dent. Won't you join me?

Wesley Trump
WILSON

Putin sowing seeds of doubt in America's democracy

Re: "Has Trump awakened the left to communism's threat?" by Mark Levin, Tuesday:

The Russian interference that Mark finds amusing from liberals is not as he describes. The threat and meddling coming out of Moscow is not coming from Communists. It is coming from the oligarchs, of which Putin is the most infamous.

The Russian mob presence is not so evident here in Wilson. Why, you ask, would Putin much care how American elections play out?

First and foremost in his mind was payback for Hillary Clinton meddling in his election of 2011. She openly challenged the fairness and legitimacy of his election. Putin was determined that she should not be in a position of power in America and thus began the cyber-warfare between the two camps.

Clinton was right about Putin's corruption and process. But so was Putin, it turns out, regarding hers. Putin was determined to show the Russian peasants that America and the American system was "just as corrupt" as Russia's.

Putin is still having problems with support among his countrymen, but not with the Russian oligarchs who benefit from his leadership, who get rich off the toil of the peons and peasants.

The unintended consequence of all this is Donald Trump's open adoration of Russia and Putin. Putin has found in Trump a willing apprentice in the destruction of America's trust in its own institutions. Putin's playbook was derived from the Nazis.

Destroy the citizens' faith in a free press. Demoralize them to believe that their lives and votes are meaningless. Lose faith in the goodness of America. Co-opt the so-called Christian right by enabling Armageddon prophecies. Destroy faith in the system of democracy itself.

We've made enemies of our NATO allies. We've lost the leadership and respect of the world. Who has been there at every turn to capitalize on our abdication? Vladimir Putin, Russian oligarch.

Dave Hager
WILSON

Impeachment's now a partisan exercise



HAL TARLETON

Congress has not rescinded the authority of Congress to impeach "all civil officers." Article II, Section 3 has not been erased from the Constitution. But the Senate's action this week has rendered moot Congress' (and by extension the public's) authority to convict public officials of "high crimes and misdemeanors" (a phrase that is open to widely differing definitions).

By acquitting President Donald Trump of two impeachment articles this week, the Senate has demonstrated a scheme to scoff at any impeachment trial. Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell have provided a blueprint for exoneration whenever a public official is impeached. All that is necessary is a Senate majority that is willing to put partisan interests above national interests and a requisite number of senators to renege on their solemn vows to deliver nonpartisan justice in an impeachment trial.

Some senators echoed the claims of the president (i.e., the accused) that he did absolutely nothing wrong, that the whole process was a hoax, a sham, a witch hunt, that all the president did was "perfect." Other GOP senators admitted that Trump's attempt to enlist a sovereign nation in his effort to discredit his political rival, Joe Biden, and that his denials and stonewalling obstructed justice. But, they said, those actions didn't amount to an impeachable offense, or they said Trump would learn from his impeachment and wouldn't do it again.

This claim that conviction after impeachment is unnecessary or excessive punishment makes the entire impeachment process unenforceable. There is no search for facts or justice, simply the assurance of counting partisan votes. You may as well strike all impeachment language from the Constitution.

Keep in mind that impeachment does not apply only to presidents. Article II, Section 3 applies to "all civil officers." Some civil officers can be fired; others, such as federal judges and Supreme Court justices, can only be removed from office by impeachment.

During the debate over Trump's impeachment, a number of loyal Republicans defamed the process as "unconstitutional" — a ridiculous assertion when impeachment is mentioned in the Constitution at least three times: in Article II, Section 4 defining the authority of Congress to impeach high officials; in Article I, Section 3 giving the Senate "sole power to try all impeachments" and in Article III, Section 2 providing trials by jury "except in cases of impeachment."

The Constitution sets a high bar for conviction — two-thirds of all senators must agree to remove the public official from office. McConnell and the Republican caucus made sure they had the votes (one third of senators) to acquit the accused. They even held onto a simple majority needed to prevent witness testimony and new documents in the Senate.

As overtly partisan as the GOP caucus was, Democrats botched an opportunity to hold Trump accountable. Speaker Nancy Pelosi's strategy to hurry up and wait to file impeachment charges badly backfired, playing into GOP criticisms of bias. Had she returned the articles of impeachment to the House, additional witnesses and documentary evidence might have overcome the party loyalty in the Senate.

If Democrats have any positives from the impeachment of 2020, it is that Rep. Adam Schiff, the House impeachment manager so slandered by Trump's angry tweets, marshaled solid evidence in an organized, persuasive format that sought to get around the partisanship and appeal to patriotic principles. Rep. Hakeem Jeffries and Rep. Zoe Lofgren added to Schiff's quietly convincing summaries.

But then the Democratic Party discovered it couldn't count votes in the Iowa caucuses Monday, earning accusations of incompetence at a crucial time.

Hal Tarleton *is a former editor of The Wilson Daily Times. Contact him at haltarleton@myglnc.com.*

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Trump airs impeachment gripes while pushing economic agenda

By Darlene Superville
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE — President Donald Trump came to North Carolina on Friday to showcase a new economic revitalization program, but he quickly took a verbal detour to reprise complaints about his impeachment by the House, saying Democrats should have to list a "failed impeachment hoax" on their resumes.

As he left Washington for his first trip since being acquitted by the Republican-controlled Senate, Trump said of the Democrats, "I think there's a lot of evil on that side."

Trump was speaking to a friendly crowd at the Charlotte summit on economic opportunity for those in low-income areas. The event took on the feel of one of his raucous political rallies, with audience members at one point leaping to their feet and breaking into chants of "Four More Years, Four More Years."

Trump, soaking up the sentiments, wisecracked: "Now, if you want to drive them crazy, go: 'Twelve more years. Sixteen."

Speaking of his Democratic accusers back in Washington, Trump told the audience: "It was the impeachment hoax. That was a thing of the past. Now they have a failed impeachment hoax. They can put that on their resume."

Trump revived portions of this week's State of the Union address and made a few overt appeals for support from African Americans, a demographic that polls show he fares poorly with.

He also took pleasure in making note of the Democratic disarray in Iowa, where problems tabulating votes in the state's leadoff presidential caucuses left the results in dispute.

Trump said he'd heard fretting that "This a disaster. Trump is going to kill us on this one." He added: "They're right. They're right."

Before leaving Washington, Trump told reporters on the South Lawn that reports that acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney was on his way out now that the impeachment drama is over were "false."

People close to Mulvaney, who was among the White House staffers traveling with Trump on Friday, pushed back against the notion that he will soon leave his job.

Trump was in Charlotte to deliver closing remarks at the North Carolina Opportunity Now Summit at Central Piedmont Community College. It's the first in a series of trips he will be taking to promote opportunity zones, the White House said.

He announced a new campaign to revitalize under-served neighborhoods and said the effort would be called "Opportunity Now" but gave few details. He called it "a big deal" that would involve community leaders, workers, entrepreneurs, employers and faith leaders.

Thousands of neighborhoods around the country have been designated as opportunity zones under tax-cut legislation Trump signed into law in 2017. Tax breaks are provided for certain investments in these lower-income areas by businesses and wealthy individuals.

"We believe in no American left behind. That's what it's all about," Trump said.

Trump introduced Tony Rankins, an Army veteran from Cincinnati who turned his life around and overcame homelessness after getting a job with a construction company that invests in opportunity zones. Rankins was one of Trump's guests at the State of the Union address this week, and Trump called him up to speak on Friday.

Trump's remarks included overt appeals for support from African Americans, including mentions of legislation he signed to permanently fund historically black colleges and universities, and to overhaul federal criminal sentencing policy.



President Donald Trump laughs while delivering comments during the North Carolina Opportunity Now Summit in Charlotte on Friday. AP

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Trump's acquittal confronts Dems with election year choices

By Alan Fram and Andrew Taylor
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump's impeachment ended with a reminder of why House Speaker Nancy Pelosi resisted the idea for so long — an acquittal everyone saw coming, followed by a bombastic presidential victory lap and a bump in his poll numbers just as the 2020 campaign officially began.

Now Democrats have to decide how to navigate the legislative and political landscape that they've helped reshape.

Pelosi's nationally televised ripping of her copy of Trump's State of the Union address Tuesday night underscored the acrid atmosphere that will make partisan cooperation on any issue difficult. Major legislative compromises were always going to be hard this election year, but the impeachment fight only deepened partisan bitterness and made progress less likely.

"Because we have to," No. 2 House Democratic leader Steny Hoyer of Maryland said when asked how Congress and Trump could cooperate on health care and other issues. He added, "I'd be foolish to be optimistic because we have not done that so far."

Democrats must also decide how vigorously to continue investigations, including into impeachment's focus: Trump's effort to pressure Ukraine's leaders to bolster his reelection by seeking dirt on rival Joe Biden. The GOP-controlled Senate acquitted Trump on Wednesday of both articles of impeachment, with Utah Sen. Mitt Romney the sole lawmaker defying party lines.

Former White House national security adviser John Bolton could still have damaging information about Trump and has expressed a willingness to testify if subpoenaed. House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., told reporters Wednesday that House panels would likely summon Bolton and pursue other Trump probes as well.

"When you have a lawless president, you have to bring that to the fore, you have to spotlight that," Nadler said.

Speaking to reporters at the White House on Friday, Trump pushed back once again and argued that his impeachment should be expunged from the congressional record. He also claimed that he was willing to work with Democrats, but then accused the party's elected leaders of suffering from "Trump derangement syndrome."

"They've got a bad case of it," Trump said. "That was on display the other night when (Pelosi) ripped up the speech. That was terrible ... so disrespectful to our country." He added that the Democrats were "not constructive people."

Even as they consider the path ahead, neither Pelosi nor Democrats controlling the House are second-guessing their decision to impeach Trump.

Pelosi stood as a bulwark against impeachment for months as pro-impeachment sentiment rose steadily in her caucus, but when Trump's dealings with Ukraine came to light in September, the floodgates were forced open.

"Once Ukraine happened, we had no choice but to proceed," said Rep. Peter Welch, D-Vt.

"And had we not (acted)," Welch added, "there would have been a huge price to pay politically."

While that's a popular view with Democrats' dominant liberal wing, many think an overemphasis on Trump investigations risks feeding the Republican narrative that overreaching Democrats are obsessed with pursuing him. They also worry about detracting from Democrats' focus on pocketbook issues that helped them capture House control in the 2018 elections.

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Sports

The Wilson Times
www.wilsontimes.com



Hunt High senior Ethan Maddrey, swimming the 50-yard freestyle at the 3-A Big East Conference championships Jan. 23 at the Harrison Family YMCA in Rocky Mount, is entered in the 200 freestyle and 100 backstroke as well as the 400 freestyle relay in the NCHSAA 3-A championship meet, set for Saturday at Triangle Aquatic Center in Cary. Jack Frederick | Times

Hunt's Maddrey leads area contingent at state 3-A meet

From staff reports

Hunt High senior Ethan Maddrey will look to make history again at the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 3-A swimming and diving championship meet Saturday at Triangle Aquatic Center in Cary.

Maddrey set a school record in finishing seventh in the 200-yard freestyle last year at the state 3-A meet with a time of 1 minute, 47.84 seconds. The Barton College signee will compete again in the 200 as well as the 100 backstroke and on a relay team. Maddrey's entry time of 1:48.43 in the 200 — set at the 3-A East Regional meet in which he finished third last Friday, Jan. 31, at the TAC — sits 11th out of 24.

Maddrey's entry time of 55.65 seconds in the 100 backstroke is listed as 14th out of 24.

Classmate Sanjeev Francis is entered in the 100 butterfly and the 100 backstroke. His entry time of 58.32 in the 100 butterfly ranks 20th of 24 and his 59.63 in the 100 back is 22nd of 24.

Hunt's Ben Tong enters with the 24th-best time in the 100 breaststroke at 1:13.07.

Maddrey, Francis, Tong and Nolan Parrish comprise the Warriors 400 freestyle relay that enters as the No. 17 seed at 3:35.37.

See **3-A MEET,** Page 4B

Demons denied finals trip

Fike tops CBA, falls to N. Guilford in 3-A wrestling semis

By Jack Frederick
jfrederick@wilsontimes.com | 265-7824 | Twitter: @_jack-frederick

CHAPEL HILL — The Fike High wrestling team completed one successful comeback, but came up just short in a second, ending its season as runner-up in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 3-A East Regional final held at Chapel Hill High on Friday night.

In the quarterfinals match against C.B. Aycock, the Big East Conference-champion Golden Demons trailed C.B. Aycock 33-31 headed into the next-to-last match — pitting 2019 3-A 160-pound champion Aaron Bancroft against Aycock's Dawson Sauls. Bancroft won by fall, securing the victory for Fike with CBA forfeiting the final weight class at 195 pounds in the 43-33 verdict.

Led by wins from unbeaten seniors, 113-pound Christian Decatur and 152-pound Tyler Hughes, the Golden Falcons fought hard to the end.

"Of course, we came in with expectations to win," Hughes said. "We were expecting to, but we started off good, we started off with energy, just a couple matches didn't go our way."



Vincent Page, back, works against Northern Guilford's Chase Crews in the 160-pound match of the NCHSAA dual-team wrestling 3-A East final Friday at Chapel Hill High. The Golden Demons lost after advancing to their first regional final by downing C.B. Aycock. Jack Frederick | Times

A similar tactic in the East final against Northern Guilford, a 41-26 winner over Chapel Hill in the other quarterfinal, proved less successful and Fike could not secure a spot in Greensboro at the NCHSAA 3-A state championship Saturday, losing 39-24 to the Nighthawks.

Though the Demons finished one victory shy of playing for the title for the first time in school history, they had plenty to be proud of in a season as successful as any in program annals.

"We are a final four team and they were the stronger team, but we've accomplished a lot more than wins and losses this year," Fike had coach Brad Watson said. "I mean it's been a learning experience for a lot of guys. Like I told my athletic director, I love my team, you know, I think about them 24 hours a day and each one of my guys are just important as the other ones."

In the first match of the night, CBA took a strategy of trying to get out ahead with strong Fike wrestlers in the higher weights. The Golden Falcons achieved that goal,

See **DEMONS,** Page 4B

Spring training: Time for pitchers, catchers — and cheaters — to report

By Ronald Blum
AP Baseball Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. — Baseball returns to the field next week when pitchers, catchers and cheaters report to spring training.

Fans await the annual sunny scenes of favorites stretching on bright green grass in Florida and Arizona.

This year the players bring along dark clouds of scandal — the 2017 World Series champion Houston Astros have been tainted by their sign-stealing scam and the 2018 champion Boston Red Sox have been accused of similar subversion.

Teams hope once workouts start, the stain will fade.

"I think those stories lines will weave in and out, but that spring training is that juncture for individual fan bases to be optimistic about what the season ahead holds and it shifts back to that," Toronto Blue Jays President Mark Shapiro said. "There's a natural kind of rhythm to spring training that diverts to the positive stories."

But first, confessions?

Some regard baseball's blemish from sign stealing as vivid as the acne on the backs of steroids-swelled sluggers of the 1990s and early 2000s.

None of the current members of the Astros have publicly expressed contrition for breaking prohibitions against using a video camera to swipe signs from opposing catchers in 2017 and 2018. Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said spring training might be the appropriate time for a group mea culpa because fessing up individually during the offseason "could be sort of a treacherous road to go down."

Former Astros pitcher Mike Fiers, now with Oakland, sparked the scandal in November when he went public in an interview with The Athletic. He took down 10% of major league managers and became for some an MVP — Most Virtuous Player.

Houston manager AJ Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow were suspended for the season

See **SPRING TRAINING,** Page 3B



Oakland Athletics pitcher Mike Fiers waits to speak with the media Jan. 24 in Oakland, Calif. Fiers, the Oakland pitcher and whistleblower in the Houston Astros sign-stealing scandal, appeared with teammates and manager Bob Melvin at team offices. AP

Johnson drops "Chasing 8" motto before final NASCAR season

By Jenna Fryer
AP Auto Racing Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Jimmie Johnson has been chasing NASCAR history for so long that his relentless pursuit of rewriting the record books has become part of his legacy.

Johnson, tied with Richard Petty and Dale Earnhardt with seven Cup Series titles, has been racing for sole possession of the record since 2017. He made a hashtag for his social media posts — #Chasing8 — and his push to make history has never wavered.

As he heads into his 19th and final full season in stock car racing, Johnson has dropped the motto. He'd love to close his full-time career with a record eighth title, but the 44-year-old Californian said he would rather remove self-inflicted pressure and enjoy his final season in the No. 48 Chevrolet.

His new motto will be 'One Final Time' and it begins Saturday with practice at Daytona International Speedway. The season-opening Daytona 500, a race Johnson has won twice, is Feb. 16.

"Through reflecting back since I made the (November retirement) announcement it just kind of dawned on me — the more I thought about it, I never chased anything," Johnson said. "One final time just felt like the correct thing to say and now we've struck the chasing eight from everything and one final time just fits well."

It's been a bumpy ride for Johnson since winning his seventh title. Hendrick Motorsports stalwarts Jeff Gordon and Dale Earnhardt Jr. retired, leaving Johnson as the veteran on a team of 20-somethings. Chevrolet was not competitive with the Camaro it rolled out two years ago, a setback for Johnson and an organization in a rebuild.

The slide was gradual – Johnson won three races in 2017 – but now the winningest driver of his era is in a full slump. He has gone two full seasons

See **JOHNSON,** Page 3B



Jimmie Johnson (48) enters pit road during a NASCAR Cup Series race at Texas Motor Speedway on Nov. 3, 2019, in Fort Worth, Texas. As he prepares for his final season of full-time racing, the most accomplished driver of his generation is determined to enjoy his 19th and final Cup season. AP

AREA CALENDAR

Saturday, February 8

College Men's Basketball
Lees-McRae at Barton, 4 p.m.

College Women's Basketball
Lees-McRae at Barton, 2 p.m.

College Baseball
Millersville at Barton (DH), noon

College Men's Volleyball
Barton at Sacred Heart, 7 p.m.

College Men's Lacrosse
Tusculum at Barton, noon

High School Varsity Boys Basketball
1-A/2-A Coastal Plain Independents Conference tournament, championship — Greenfield at Wayne Country Day, 4 p.m.; Rocky Mount Prep at Wilson Prep, 6 p.m.; 1-A/2-A Coastal Independents Conference tournament at Rocky Mount Faith Christian, championship

High School Varsity Girls Basketball
Rocky Mount Prep at Wilson Prep, 4:30 p.m.; 1-A/2-A Coastal Independents Conference tournament at Rocky Mount Faith Christian, championship

High School Junior Varsity Boys Basketball
Rocky Mount Prep at Wilson Prep, 3 p.m.

High School Junior Varsity Girls Basketball
1-A/2-A Coastal Plain Independents Conference tournament at Rocky Mount Faith Christian, championship

Sunday, February 9

College Baseball
Millersville at Barton, noon

College Softball
Shaw at Barton (DH), noon

College Track and Field
Barton at Vince Brown Invitational, Christopher Newport University

WEEKEND TV SPORTS

Schedule subject to change and/or blackouts
By The Associated Press
All Times EST

Saturday, February 8

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)
6 p.m.— Duke and North Carolina renew their storied rivalry at the Smith Center in Chapel Hill with each team wearing uniforms specially made for the occasion. (ESPN)

NHL HOCKEY
10 p.m.— Stay up late to catch the Hurricanes on the second stop of their southwestern swing as they visit the Golden Knights in Las Vegas. (FSCR)

ALSO ON

AHL HOCKEY
3 p.m.— Hersey at Lehigh Valley (NHLN)

AUTO RACING
11:30 a.m.— NASCAR Monster Energy Cup Series: Practice, Daytona Beach, Fla. (FS1)
1:30 p.m.— NASCAR Monster Energy Cup Series: Practice, Daytona Beach, Fla. (FS1)
3 p.m.— NASCAR Monster Energy Cup Series: Practice, Daytona Beach, Fla. (FS1)
4:30 p.m.— ARCA Series: The Lucas Oil 200, Daytona Beach, Fla. (FS1)
7 p.m.— NHRA: Lucas Oil Winternationals, Qualifying, Pomona, Calif. (FS1)
10 p.m.— Monster Energy AMA Supercross: Round 6, San Diego (NBCSN)

BOXING
9 p.m.— Showtime Championship: Gary Russell Jr. vs. Tugstsogt Nyambayar (Men's Featherweight), Allentown, Pa. (SHO)

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)
Noon— Miami at Florida State (ACCN); Rhode Island at George Washington (CBSSN); Louisiana State at Auburn (ESPN); Kansas at Texas Christian (ESPN2); Southern Methodist at Temple (ESPNU); Michigan State at Michigan (FOX); Boston College at Virginia Tech (FSCR)
1 p.m.— Kentucky at Tennessee (CBS); Texas A&M at South Carolina (SECN)
2 p.m.— Saint Louis at Dayton (CBSSN); Purdue at Indiana (ESPN); Florida at Mississippi (ESPN2); Georgia Tech at Pittsburgh (FSCR); West Virginia at Oklahoma (ESPNU)
2:30 p.m.— Seton Hall at Villanova (FOX)
3 p.m.— St. Bonaventure at Duquesne (NBCSN)
3:30 p.m.— Arkansas at Missouri (SECN)
4 p.m.— Minnesota at Penn State (BTN); South Florida at Memphis (CBSSN); Virginia at Louisville (ESPN); Texas Tech at Texas (ESPN2)
5 p.m.— St. Joseph's at La Salle (NBCSN)
6 p.m.— Nebraska at Iowa (BTN); St. John's at Creighton (CBSSN); Oklahoma State at Baylor (ESPN2); East Carolina at Tulane (ESPNU); Stanford at Colorado (PAC-12); Alabama at Georgia (SECN)
8 p.m.— Wake Forest at Syracuse (ACCN); San Diego State at Air Force (CBSSN); Kansas State at Iowa State (ESPN2); Fresno State at UNLV (ESPNU); Providence at Xavier (FS1); California at Utah (PAC-12)
8:30 p.m.— Vanderbilt at Mississippi State (SECN)
10 p.m.— Boise State at Utah State (CBSSN); Gonzaga at St. Mary's (ESPN); UCLA at Arizona (ESPN2); California (Irvine) at California (Santa Barbara) (ESPNU); Southern California at Arizona State (FS1)
10:30 p.m.— Oregon at Oregon State (PAC-12)

COLLEGE GYMNASTICS (WOMEN'S)
1:30 p.m.— Michigan State at Indiana (BTN)
3:30 p.m.— Utah at California (PAC-12)

COLLEGE LACROSSE
2 p.m.— Loyola Maryland at Virginia (ACCN)

COLLEGE SOFTBALL
11 a.m.— Kajikawa Classic: Arizona vs. Portland State, Tempe, Ariz. (PAC-12)
1:30 p.m.— Kajikawa Classic: Western Michigan vs. Arizona, Tempe, Ariz. (PAC-12)

COLLEGE WRESTLING
4 p.m.— Columbia at Princeton (ESPNU)
8 p.m.— Iowa at Michigan (BTN)

FIGURE SKATING
7 p.m.— Four Continents Championships: Women's Free Skate, Seoul, South Korea (taped) (NBCSN)

GOLF
1 p.m.— PGA Tour: The AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, Third Round, Pebble Beach, Calif. (GOLF)
3 p.m.— PGA Tour: The AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, Third Round, Pebble Beach, Calif. (CBS)
8:30 p.m.— EPGA/LPGA Tour: The ISPS Handa Vic Open, Final Round, Victoria, Australia (GOLF)

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS
8 p.m.— UFC 247 Prelims: Undercard Bouts, Houston (ESPN)

NBA BASKETBALL
8:30 p.m.— LA Lakers at Golden State (ABC)

NHL HOCKEY
2 p.m.— Ottawa at Winnipeg (NHLN)
7 p.m.— Toronto at Montreal (NHLN)

RUGBY
10 a.m.— Six Nations: Ireland vs. Wales, Round 2 (taped) (NBCSN)
Noon— MLR: Colorado at Houston (ESPNEWS); Six Nations: Scotland vs. England, Round 2 (taped) (NBCSN)

SKIING
2 p.m.— FIS Alpine World Cup: Women's Downhill, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany (taped) (NBCSN)
3 p.m.— FIS: Freestyle World Cup, Deer Valley Resort, Utah (taped) (NBC)

SOCCER (MEN'S)
7:25 a.m.— Premier League: Crystal Palace at Everton (NBCSN)
9:30 a.m.— Bundesliga: Fortuna Düsseldorf at VfL Wolfsburg (FS1); Bundesliga: SC Paderborn at Schalke (FS2)
12:20 p.m.— Bundesliga: Borussia Dortmund at Bayer Leverkusen (FS2)
12:30 p.m.— Premier League: Watford at Brighton (NBC)

TENNIS
5 a.m.— ATP: Montpellier-ATP, Pune-ATP, Fed Cup (TENNIS)
6 a.m.— ATP: Montpellier-ATP, Pune-ATP, Fed Cup (TENNIS)
1 p.m.— USTA: USTA Men's Pro Circuit Dallas, USTA Women's Pro Circuit Midland Semifinals (TENNIS)
5 p.m.— ATP/USTA: Córdoba-ATP, Fed Cup, USTA Pro Circuit Dallas & Midland (TENNIS)
6:30 a.m. (Sunday)— ATP: Montpellier-ATP, Pune-ATP Finals (TENNIS)

TRACK AND FIELD
4 p.m.— The Millrose Games: From New York (NBC)

XFL FOOTBALL
2 p.m.— Seattle at D.C. (ABC)
5 p.m.— LA Wildcats at Houston (FOX)

Sunday, February 9

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

ALSO ON

AUTO RACING
Noon— NASCAR Monster Energy Cup Series: Qualifying, Daytona Beach, Fla. (FOX)
3 p.m.— NASCAR Monster Energy Cup Series: The Busch Clash, Daytona Beach, Fla. (FS1)
5 p.m.— NHRA: Lucas Oil Winternationals, Pomona, Calif. (FS1)

BOWLING
5 p.m.— PBA: Tournament of Champions, Fairlawn, Ohio (FOX)

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)
Noon— Cincinnati at Connecticut (CBSSN); Butler at Marquette (FS1)
1 p.m.— Ohio State at Wisconsin (CBS)
2 p.m.— Evansville at Bradley (CBSSN)
2:30 p.m.— George Mason at Massachusetts (NBCSN)
3 p.m.— Wichita State at Houston (ESPN)
4 p.m.— Valparaiso at Loyola Chicago (ESPNU)
6 p.m.— Notre Dame at Clemson (ACCN); Washington at Washington State (ESPNU)
6:30 p.m.— Northwestern at Rutgers (BTN)

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)
Noon— Virginia at Florida State (ACCN); Rutgers at Maryland (BTN); Temple at Florida State (ESPNU); Boston College at Clemson (FSCR)
1 p.m.— Mississippi State at Texas A&M (ESPN); Georgia at Florida (SECN)
2 p.m.— Duke at Miami (ACCN); Louisville at Syracuse (ESPN2); Texas Tech at Texas (ESPNU); Virginia Tech at North Carolina (FSCR)
3 p.m.— Villanova at Butler (FS2); Arizona at Oregon State (PAC-12); Auburn at Alabama (SECN)
4 p.m.— Pittsburgh at Notre Dame (ACCN); Kentucky at Arkansas (ESPN2)
5 p.m.— Arizona State at Oregon (PAC-12); Mississippi at Vanderbilt (SECN)

COLLEGE GYMNASTICS (WOMEN'S)
4 p.m.— Ohio State at Michigan (BTN)

COLLEGE SOFTBALL
11 a.m.— Kajikawa Classic: Kansas vs. Utah, Tempe, Ariz. (PAC-12)

COLLEGE WRESTLING
2 p.m.— Penn State at Minnesota (BTN)

FIGURE SKATING
4 p.m.— Four Continents Championship: Men's and Women's Free Competition, Seoul, South Korea (taped) (NBC)
11 p.m.— Four Continents Championship: Men's Free Skate, Seoul, South Korea (taped) (NBCSN)

GOLF
1 p.m.— PGA Tour: The AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, Final Round, Pebble Beach, Calif. (GOLF)
3 p.m.— PGA Tour: The AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, Final Round, Pebble Beach, Calif. (CBS)

NBA BASKETBALL
3:30 p.m.— Boston at Oklahoma City (NBATV)
7 p.m.— Utah at Houston (NBATV)

NHL HOCKEY
12:30 p.m.— Boston at Detroit (NBC)
7:30 p.m.— Colorado at Minnesota (NBCSN)

RODEO
Noon— PBR: Iron Cowboy, Los Angeles (taped) (CBS)

RUGBY
4:30 p.m.— Six Nations: France vs. Italy, Round 2 (taped) (NBCSN)
5 p.m.— MLR: Seattle at San Diego (CBSSN)
8 p.m.— MLR: Toronto at Austin (FS2)

SKIING
3 p.m.— FIS: Freestyle World Cup, Deer Valley Resort, Utah (taped) (NBC)
1 a.m. (Monday)— FIS Alpine World Cup: Women's Super-G, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany (taped) (NBCSN)

SOCCER (MEN'S)
8:55 a.m.— Serie A: Lece at Napoli (ESPN2); Premier League: Bournemouth at Sheffield United (NBCSN)
9:30 a.m.— Bundesliga: Köln at Borussia Mönchengladbach (FS1)
11:25 a.m.— Premier League: West Ham at Manchester City (NBCSN)
Noon— Bundesliga: RB Leipzig at Bayern Munich (FS2)

SOCCER (WOMEN'S)
6 p.m.— CONCACAF Olympic Qualifying: Teams TBD, Final, Carson, Calif. (FS2)

TENNIS
6:30 a.m.— ATP: Montpellier-ATP, Pune-ATP Finals (TENNIS)
1 p.m.— USTA: USTA Women's Pro Circuit Midland Singles Final (TENNIS)
3 p.m.— USTA: USTA Men's Pro Circuit Dallas Singles Final (TENNIS)
4 p.m.— ATP: The Córdoba Open, Singles Final, Córdoba, Argentina (TENNIS)
3 a.m. (Monday)— ATP/WTA: Rotterdam-ATP, St. Petersburg-WTA, Hua-Hin-WTA Early Rounds (TENNIS)
6 a.m. (Monday)— ATP/WTA: Rotterdam-ATP, St. Petersburg-WTA, Hua-Hin-WTA Early Rounds (TENNIS)

XFL FOOTBALL
2 p.m.— Tampa Bay at NY Guardians (FOX)
5 p.m.— St. Louis at Dallas (ESPN)

UNC looks for home win vs No. 7 Duke

By The Associated Press

No. 7 Duke (19-3, 9-2) vs. North Carolina (10-12, 3-8)

Dean E. Smith Center, Chapel Hill, North Carolina; Saturday, 6 p.m. EST

BOTTOM LINE— North Carolina looks for its fourth straight win over No. 7 Duke at Dean E. Smith Center. The last victory for the Blue Devils at North Carolina was a 74-73 win on Feb. 17, 2016.

YOUTH MOVEMENT— Duke has benefited heavily from its freshmen. Vernon Carey Jr., Cassius Stanley, Matthew Hurt and Wendell Moore Jr. have collectively accounted for 55% of the team's scoring this year and 64% of all Blue Devils points over the team's last five games.

CREATING OFFENSE— Tre Jones has either made or assisted on 40% of all Duke field goals over the last five games. The sophomore guard has 26 field goals and 31 assists in those games.

WINLESS WHEN— North Carolina is 0-7 this year when it scores 65 points or fewer and 10-5 when it scores at least 66.

THREAT FROM DEEP— Duke's Hurt has attempted 85 3-pointers and connected on 40% of them, and is 9 for 23 over the last five games.

DID YOU KNOW— Duke is ranked third among Division I teams with an average of 82.5 points per game.

Conference Glance

ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE

	Conference W	L	Pct	All Games W	L	Pct
Louisville	11	1	.917	20	3	.870
Duke	9	2	.818	19	3	.864
Florida St.	9	2	.818	19	3	.864
Virginia	7	4	.636	15	6	.714
Syracuse	6	5	.545	13	9	.591
NC State	6	6	.500	15	8	.652
Notre Dame	5	6	.455	14	8	.636
Pittsburgh	5	7	.417	14	9	.609
Virginia Tech	5	7	.417	14	9	.609
Clemson	5	7	.417	11	11	.500
Boston College	5	7	.417	11	12	.478
Georgia Tech	5	7	.417	11	12	.478
North Carolina	3	8	.273	10	12	.455
Miami	3	9	.250	11	11	.500
Wake Forest	3	9	.250	10	12	.455

Saturday's Games
Miami at Florida St., Noon
Boston College at Virginia Tech, Noon
Georgia Tech at Pittsburgh, 2 p.m.
Virginia at Louisville, 4 p.m.
Duke at North Carolina, 6 p.m.
Wake Forest at Syracuse, 8 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Notre Dame at Clemson, 6 p.m.

AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

	Conference W	L	Pct	All Games W	L	Pct
Houston	8	2	.800	18	5	.783
Cincinnati	8	2	.800	15	7	.682
Tulsa	7	2	.778	15	7	.682
Memphis	6	3	.667	17	5	.773
SMU	6	3	.667	16	5	.762
Wichita St.	5	4	.556	17	5	.773
UConn	3	6	.333	12	10	.545
South Florida	3	6	.333	10	12	.455
UCF	3	7	.300	12	10	.545
Temple	3	7	.300	11	11	.500
East Carolina	3	7	.300	9	14	.391
Tulane	2	8	.200	10	12	.455

Thursday's Games
UCF 68, East Carolina 64
UConn 72, Tulsa 56
Cincinnati 80, Wichita St. 79
Houston 75, Tulane 62

Saturday's Games
SMU at Temple, Noon
South Florida at Memphis, 4 p.m.
East Carolina at Tulane, 6 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Cincinnati at UConn, Noon
Tulsa at UCF, 2 p.m.
Wichita St. at Houston, 3 p.m.

Warriors make tough call to make deals

By Janie McCauley
AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — In Brooklyn a couple of days back, Bob Myers realized something he has rarely seen as Golden State's general manager or even dating to his days as a busy sports agent: Nobody wanted to be traded from the NBA's worst team.

"That's unprecedented," Myers said Friday after dealing much of the Warriors roster this week.

Golden State dealt D'Angelo Russell, Jacob Evans III and Omari Spellman to the Minnesota Timberwolves ahead of Thursday's trade deadline for Andrew Wiggins and draft picks — Minnesota's first-rounder and second-rounder in 2021, unless the first-rounder is in the top three and then it would roll over to 2022.

It was "somber" as Myers put it after Golden State opted to send so many players packing for new opportunities. He felt it. Coaches felt it. The young Warriors said heartfelt farewells, having built tight bonds by being thrown into the fire because of injuries to stars such as Splash Brothers Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson and following Kevin Durant's offseason departure to the Nets.

Myers appreciates how this group competed and cared so much despite a 12-40 record that ranks last in the league for a franchise that reached the past five NBA Finals during a remarkable run that included championships in 2015, '17 and '18.

"I hope our environment makes me better, makes players better. We were talking about the difficulty of trading those guys the other night in Brooklyn and somebody mentioned to me, 'This is really rough on our culture,' and I said, 'You know what's amazing, we have the worst record in the NBA, not one player wanted to go.' That's unprecedented," Myers said, applauding coach Steve Kerr's role and the support of owner Joe Lacob.

"I promise you there's a lot of good players on a lot of good teams that don't want to be there, so that says something about what Steve has built with his staff, what Joe's done with what he's provided for the players but you just don't see that. I promise you as an agent, trade deadline I had guys on really good teams saying 'I don't want to be here.' ... If our environment can't make people better then we're doing something wrong."

Now, Golden State will go forward looking to the future with an ability to spend big come free agency this summer.

Even with all the change, Myers still expects that "we're still going to spend a lot."

"As painful as it was to move some of these guys and do that, the thinking was that going into 2020 summer it provided some flexibility and maneuverability with our payroll," he said. "... But there are degrees where you have to be responsible and just say, 'Listen, we can do this, it's going to be a short-term pain but maybe an ability to provide more optionality going forward."

To help fill out the roster Friday, Golden State signed Ky Bowman and Marquese Chriss after they had previously been two-way players splitting with the G-League Warriors. Juan Toscano-Anderson was promoted from the G League club.

"Sometimes you just do what you do in the moment and you live with whatever comes after it," Myers said. "If it works, great, you get applauded. And if not, you get criticized, and that's the job."

Myers took a moment Friday and pondered just how fast things change in professional sports.

"I was walking over here thinking last year we had the best record in the NBA, now we have the worst," he said. "In 24 months. And our roster has lost Durant. It's just crazy."

NBA Glance

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	37	14	.725	—
Boston	35	15	.700	1½
Philadelphia	31	21	.596	6½
Brooklyn	23	27	.460	13½
New York	16	36	.308	21½

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	34	16	.680	—
Orlando	22	30	.423	13
Washington	17	32	.347	16½
Charlotte	16	35	.314	18½
Atlanta	14	38	.269	21

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	44	7	.863	—
Indiana	31	20	.608	13
Chicago	19	34	.358	26
Detroit	19	34	.358	26
Cleveland	13	39	.250	31½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	33	18	.647	—
Dallas	31	20	.608	2
Memphis	26	25	.510	7
San Antonio	22	29	.431	11
New Orleans	21	31	.404	12½

NORTHWEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	36	16	.692	—
Utah	32	18	.640	3
Oklahoma City	31	20	.608	4½
Portland	24	28	.462	12
Minnesota	15	35	.300	20

PACIFIC DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	38	12	.760	—
L.A. Clippers	36	15	.706	2½
Phoenix	20	31	.392	18½
Sacramento	19	31	.380	19
Golden State	12	40	.231	27

Thursday's Games
New York 105, Orlando 103
New Orleans 125, Chicago 119
Milwaukee 112, Philadelphia 101
Portland 125, San Antonio 117
Houston 121, L.A. Lakers 111

Friday's Games
Dallas at Washington, 7 p.m.
Memphis at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Indiana, 8 p.m.
Houston at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Miami at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Portland at Utah, 10:30 p.m.

Saturday's Games
Milwaukee at Orlando, 5 p.m.
Dallas at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
New York at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Brooklyn at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
New Orleans at Indiana, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Golden State, 8:30 p.m.
Denver at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
San Antonio at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Boston at Oklahoma City, 3:30 p.m.
Chicago at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Memphis at Washington, 6 p.m.
New York at Atlanta, 6 p.m.
Utah at Houston, 7 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Miami at Portland, 9 p.m.

WILSON RECREATION GLANCE

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RESULTS

Matches from Jan. 25-Feb. 1

AGES 5-6

Orange 3 – Purple 4: Orange- Max Nichols 1, Christian Wilkins 2; Purple- Ezra Harrell 3, Jaxson Tripp 1
Blue 9 – Orange 7: Blue- Ryker Evans 9; Orange- Christian Wilkins 5, Max Nichols 1, Amalisa Troyer 1

AGES 7-8

Purple 4 – Red 5: Purple- Walston Langley 4; Red- Emerson Hatch 4, Marvin Munoz 1
Blue 2 – Gray 2: Blue- Ryker Evans 1, Gavin Lalata 1; Gray- William Maragh 2
Red 6 – Blue 1: Red- Harrison Hatch 5, Emerson Hatch 1; Blue- Emiliano Cardenas 1
Gray 8 – Green 11: Gray- Christian Harvey 1, William Maragh 4, Isabelle Troyer 1, Radley Sexton 1, Graylee Propst 1; Green- Benjamin Darden 11
Purple 2 – Orange 4: Purple- Libby Edwards 2; Orange- Tucker Byrd 1, Oliver Garcia 3

AGES 9-10

Purple 1 – Green 1: Purple- Mack Wiggins 1; Green- Simon Harrell 1
Red 9 – Blue 5: Red- Kenaize Williams 5, Enrique Arizpe 3, Aleyna Mendoza 1; Blue- Braxton Hall 4, Daniel Pacheco 1
Orange 5 – Purple 9: Orange- Giovanni Ponce 4, Patience Sharpe 1; Purple- Caylee Rountree 3, Cali Rountree 3, Gideon Propst 2, Mack Wiggins 1
Red 3 – Orange 2: Red- Enrique Arizpe 1, Kenaize Williams 2; Orange- Preston Hatch 1, Giovanni Ponce 1
Purple 2 – Red 5: Purple- Caylee Rountree 1, Jake Joyner 1; Red- Enrique Arizpe 2, Braxton Mayo 1, Kenaize Williams 2
Blue 4 – Green 9: Blue- Autumn Bradshaw 1, Sean Salazar 1, Rayan Rodriguez 2; Green- Anthony Hamilton 6, Simon Harrell 2, Yael Alarcon 1

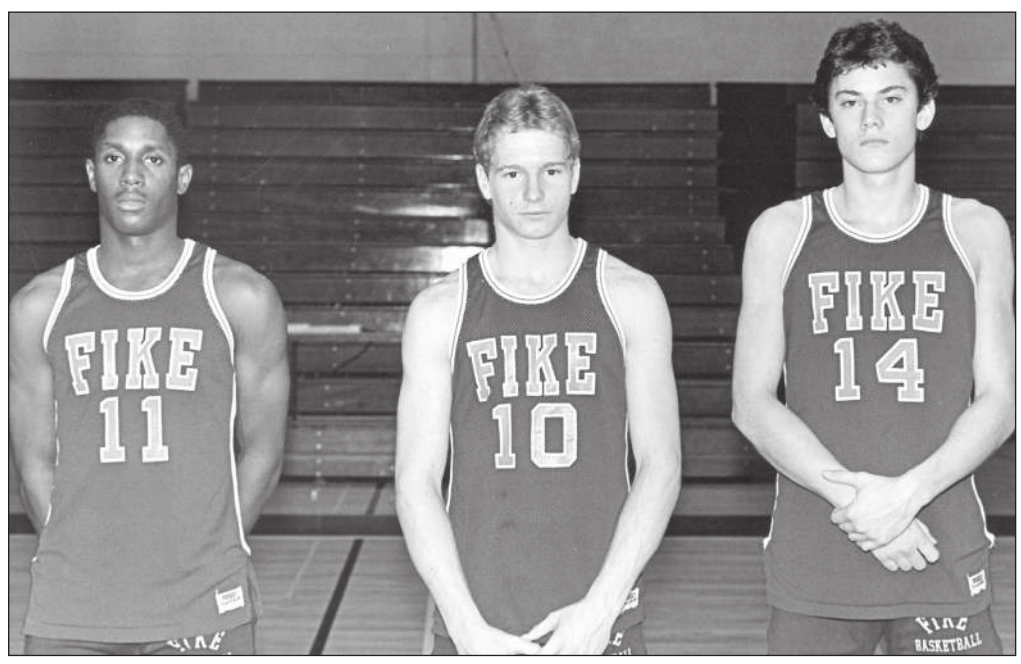
AGES 11-12

Red 5 – Blue 3: Red- David Hudson 1, Connor Dorough 1, Mason Fitch 2, Jimena Alvarez 1; Blue- Landyn Coolbaugh 2, Noah Wright 1
Orange 1 – Gray 1: Orange- Noah Bailey 1; Gray- Kenan Collins 1
Blue 8 – Green 6: Blue- Dominick Hamilton 2, Landyn Coolbaugh 5, Owen Etheridge 1; Green- Cooke Rhodes 4, Adrian Salazar 1, Joaquin Rincon 1
Gray 3 – Red 1: Gray- Adrian Salazar 1, Kenan Collins 2; Red- David Hudson 1

AGES 13-15

Green 3- Red 0: Green- Edwin Hernandez 1, Kullan Lamond 2
Blue 4 – Red 2: Blue- Aisha Ramsey 1, Nick Reida 2, Ian Wallig 1; Red- Nathan Vilaverda 1, Chance Greene 1
Blue 7 – Red 1: Blue- Willa Boyer 1, Koen Clauer 2, Nick Reida 3, Ian Wallig 1; Red- Gabriella Propst 1
Blue 3 – Green 3: Blue- Koen Clauer 2, Nick Reida 1; Green- Edwin Hernandez 3

GUESS WHO?



"Guess Who?" is a weekly photo feature from The Wilson Times sports photo archives that will run each week in the Times sports section. If you know or would like to guess who is in the photo, please leave a comment below.

Swinney: Clemson focused on getting back to title game

By Pete Iacobelli
AP Sports Writer

CLEMSON, S.C. — Clemson coach Dabo Swinney first task after the Tigers' national title loss was crystal clear: Make sure his players weren't crushed by the defeat.

After all, a good chunk of Clemson's roster — including quarterback Trevor Lawrence — had never lost a game in college before LSU's 42-25 win ended a 29-game win streak.

"From that standpoint, it was something that I paid close attention to, especially with Trevor," said Swinney, who just complete his 11th year as head coach and has won two national titles. "I'd never lost a game with him, but he was amazing, how he handled it, how the team responded."

That focus, according to Swinney, has carried over into the past month as Clemson prepares to start its program of winter workouts and, on Feb. 26, start spring practice.

The Tigers, who went 14-1 last season and won their fifth straight Atlantic Coast Conference, are already strong favorites to win a sixth league crown and make it back to the College Football Playoff.

to that, Swinney has to make sure players are not hung up on their first defeat in more than two years.

"It was a gut punch, for sure. Down for a couple of days," Swinney said. "But it's a decision in how you respond to the win, respond to the loss and our team has been amazing, our leadership, it's been good for me to be able to see that."

Especially given Clemson's CFP history. Twice before the Tigers followed playoff losses by winning championships the following year. Ex-Clemson quarterback Deshaun Watson and the offense, which fell to Alabama in the 2015 title game, rallied past the Crimson Tide a year later for the school's first national title in 35 years.

The Tigers lost to Alabama in the CFP semis after the 2017 and pushed by an experienced defensive line led by All-Americans Christian Wilkins, Clelin Ferrell and Dexter Lawrence and freshman Lawrence, routed the Crimson Tide in 2018.

Swinney and his staff has liked what they've seen since the LSU loss. Lawrence spent time in the locker room and on the trip home talking with teammates and pointing them toward success in 2020, Swinney said.

And it surely helped when the Tigers learned that two-time defending ACC player of the year in tailback Travis Etienne — like Wilkins and Ferrell



Clemson head football coach Dabo Swinney speaks during signing day at the Allen Reeves Football Complex in Clemson, S.C., on Wednesday, Feb. 5. AP

did after the 2017 playoff defeat — was coming back to school for his senior season instead of jumping to the NFL.

Swinney said Etienne, who became Clemson's all-time rushing leader during the championship game, had received a second-round NFL draft grade from the College Advisory Committee. But Etienne had told Swinney before the playoffs he was strongly considering a fourth college season.

Swinney was slightly surprised, but understood what another experienced, talented player like Etienne would mean to next year's championship efforts.

"I think he's got a chance for this to really, really pay off for him," the coach said.

Lawrence will look to have what many expect to be his final college season to have a championship payoff, too.

The 6-foot-5 quarterback will be a junior and could be the overall No. 1 pick in next year's NFL draft should he forego his senior season.

There are plenty of steps ahead before that, Clemson quarterbacks coach Brandon Streeter said.

Lawrence had one of his worst showings in college against LSU, completing just 18 of 37 passes for 234 yards as he continually overthrew receivers against a fierce pass rush.

Brandon Streeter, Clemson's quarterbacks coach, said a big part of the plan for Lawrence is enhancing his role as a team leader. Lawrence was led by the older players two years ago as a freshman taking over the starting job in midseason.

This year, Lawrence was more vocal and active in guiding the offense, Streeter said.

On the field, Lawrence will look to refine his solid technique and innate ability to successfully read defenses.

Streeter worked with Watson's development with the an eye to the NFL. He'll do the same for Lawrence.

"You've got to groom him, not just for his time here, but for the NFL," Streeter said.

And it may just lead the Tigers to another championship season.

Johnson: Has clicked with crew chief Daniels

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without a win, missed the playoffs last year for the first time and had a pair of crew chief changes.

"It was definitely frustrating (not making the playoffs), I was angry, embarrassed, all of those things," Johnson said. "One thing that helped me with all of it is it didn't happen at once. I knew in my heart of hearts, it was months prior to that where the real opportunity lied and where we missed it."

Team owner Rick Hendrick hired Chad Knaus in 2001 when he launched the 48 team to be built around Johnson, and the driver and crew chief were together for all seven championships and 17 seasons. Then Hendrick made a change before last year, moving Knaus to William Byron's team; his replacement didn't work out and Johnson was given Cliff Daniels midseason.

Daniels has helped Johnson relax and believes the team is headed in the right direction. In fact, pairing Johnson with Daniels was the catalyst in Johnson deciding to make 2020 his final year. He knew all of last year he'd need to make a decision on contract talks with Hendrick and it weighed on Johnson until Daniels arrived and changed the mindset of a struggling driver.

"I was thinking about it pretty hard through the course of the year knowing I was going to have to talk to Rick about a contract extension. I started feeling less likely to come back when I started working with Cliff," Johnson said. "When I sat Cliff down to talk to him, I wasn't sure how he was going to react to that. But the peace he brought me and the leadership he has for our race team and where I know our team is going really helped me identify with 2020 as probably my best chance to win a championship."

Johnson said he is encouraged by an updated Camaro that Chevrolet will use starting this weekend, as well as a second year adapting to NASCAR's new rules package.

NASCAR next year will move to entirely new car, and Johnson indicated he was leery of going through another overhaul. He wants to enjoy life with his two daughters, pick and choose the kinds of races he competes in going forward, and he remains adamant he'd like to give IndyCar a try on a road or street course.

"In my own head, I'm not done yet, and I don't want to get to a point where I'm pissed off going to the track and don't want to be there," Johnson said. "I want to give 100% and through reflection, I know I can do that in 2020, knowing what I can give and what level I want to give it. It just feels right."

Spring training: Baker tasked with keeping Astros on track

continued from page 1B

by Major League Baseball on Jan. 13, and the pair were fired by the Astros later that day. Manfred's conclusions led to the departures of Boston manager Alex Cora, the Astros' bench coach in 2017, and new New York Mets manager Carlos Beltrán, Houston's senior player during the title run.

A third of the teams changed managers, including the Mets twice. Milwaukee's Craig Counsell, hired in May 2015, already is the National League's senior skipper. New faces include Dusty Baker (Astros), Joe Girardi (Phillies), Gabe Kapler (Giants), Joe Maddon (Angels), Mike Matheny (Royals), Luis Rojas (Mets), David Ross (Cubs), Derek Shelton (Pirates) and Jayce Tingler (Padres), with the Red Sox yet to announce Cora's successor.

Baker, at 70 the oldest big league manager, is tasked with keeping the Astros on track to become the first team to win 100 or more games in four straight seasons. He also will try to steady a core branded as villains by players and fans in other cities.

"You got to go forward and make sure that it doesn't happen again," Baker said. "It certainly is not going to happen on my watch here, and I don't foresee it happening ever again because this has been an embarrassment for a lot of people."

Cora's punishment was delayed by Manfred pending MLB's investigation into the Red Sox, which could conclude next week. Boston's turmoil extended to the trade market, with a deal that would send former MVP Mookie Betts and former Cy Young Award winner David Price to the Los Angeles Dodgers as part of a three-team trade involving Minnesota. The delay in the deal being finalized prompted criticism from the players' association, still smarting over the grievance loss of Chicago Cubs third baseman Kris Bryant, who unsuccessfully claimed the team violated the labor contract by delaying his big league debut until the day his free-agent eligibility would be delayed a year.

Bryant's trade value increased with arbitrator Mark Irvings' decision, because acquiring teams can be certain he cannot go free for two more seasons. The cost of top free agents was never more vivid than this offseason.

Players who switched teams included pitcher Gerrit Cole ($324 million from the Yankees), third baseman Anthony Rendon ($245 million from the Angels), right-hander Zack Wheeler ($118 million from the Phillies), third baseman Josh Donaldson ($92 million from the Braves) and left-hander Madison Bumgarner ($85 million from the Diamondbacks).



New Houston Astros manager Dusty Baker speaks during a baseball press conference at Minute Maid Park on Jan. 30 in Houston. AP

Right-hander Stephen Strasburg became a free agent shortly after winning the World Series MVP award, then stayed with the Nationals for $245 million.

On the December day he signed with the Yankees, Cole thanked pioneering player Curt Flood, former union head Marvin Miller and others who fought to gain free agency and then to preserve it.

"It's so important that players know the other sacrifices that players made in order to keep the integrity of the game where it is," Cole said.

All those big bucks and pre-Christmas deals contrasted with the slow markets of the prior two offseasons. Spending followed MLB's fourth straight attendance drop, to 68.5 million, down from 73.8 million in 2015.

"It's a more competitive environment. More teams are trying to win," New York Mets general manager Brodie Van Wagenen said.

Washington will raise the championship flag for the first time in franchise history and will try to become the first repeat winner since the Yankees from 1998-2000. The previous longest stretch was between the 1977-78 Yankees and the 1992-93 Blue Jays.

Houston will go for its third AL pennant in four seasons, and the Yankees will try to reach the Series for the first time since 2009 — following their first decade since the 1910s without a World Series appearance.

"We can all look each other in the eyes and know, when it counts, we can all count on each other," Nationals ace Max Scherzer said, "and we're a bunch of winners."

Champions always believe that. But it hasn't worked out for any one them in two decades.

MLB BASEBALL

Arbitration Winners-Losers

By The Associated Press

Teams 3, Players 0

Player, Club	Asked	Offered
Joc Pederson, LAD	$9.5M	$7.75M
Shane Greene, Atl	$6.75M	$6.25M
José Berríos, Min	$4.4M	$4.025M

Free Agent Signings

NEW YORK — The 114 free agents who have signed, with name, position, former club if different, and contract. The contract information was obtained by The Associated Press from player and management sources:

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BALTIMORE (1) — Signed José Iglesias, ss, Cincinnati, to a $3 million, one-year contract.

BOSTON (2) — Signed Martín Pérez, lhp, Minnesota, to a $6.5 million, one-year contract; re-signed Mitch Moreland, 1b, to a $3 million, one-year contract.

CHICAGO (7) — Re-signed José Abreu, 1b, to a $50 million, three-year contract; signed Yasmani Grandal, c, Milwaukee, to a $73 million, four-year contract; signed Gio González, lhp, Milwaukee, to a $5 million, one-year contract; signed Dallas Keuchel, lhp, Atlanta, to a $55.5 million, three-year contract; signed Edwin Encarnación, dh-1b, to a $12 million, one-year contract; signed Steve Cishek, rhp, Chicago Cubs, to a $6 million, one-year contract; re-signed Ross Detwiler, lhp, to a minor league contract ($800,000).

DETROIT (5) — Signed Austin Romine, c, New York Yankees, to a $4.15 million, one-year contract; signed Jonathan Schoop, 2b, Minnesota, to a $6.1 million, one-year contract; signed Iván Nova, rhp, Chicago White Sox, to a $1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Héctor Santiago, lhp, Chicago White Sox, to a minor league contract ($1 million); re-signed Jordy Mercer, ss, to a minor league contract ($2 million).

HOUSTON (2) — Re-signed Joe Smith, rhp, to an $8 million, two-year contract; re-signed Martín Maldonado, c, to a $7 million, two-year contract.

KANSAS CITY (1) — Re-signed Alex Gordon, of, to a $4 million, one-year contract.

LOS ANGELES (3) — Signed Anthony Rendon, 3b, Washington, to a $245 million, seven-year contract; signed Julio Teheran, rhp, Atlanta, to a $9 million, one-year contract; signed Jason Castro, c, Minnesota, to a $6.85 million, one-year contract.

MINNESOTA (9) — Announced Jake Odorizzi, rhp, accepted $17.8 million qualifying offer; re-signed Michael Pineda, rhp, to a $20 million, two-year contract; signed Alex Avila, c, Arizona, to a $4.25 million, one-year contract; re-signed Sergio Romo, rhp, to a $5 million, one-year contract; signed Tyler Clippard, rhp, Cleveland, to a $2.75 million, one-year contract; signed Rich Hill, lhp, Los Angeles Dodgers, to a $3 million, one-year contract; signed Homer Bailey, rhp, Oakland, to a $7 million, one-year contract; signed Josh Donaldson, 3b, Atlanta, to a $92 million, four-year contract; signed Jhoulys Chacín, rhp, Boston, to a minor league contract ($1.6 million).

NEW YORK (5) — Signed Gerrit Cole, rhp, Houston, to a $324 million, nine-year contract; re-signed Brett Gardner, of, to a $12.5 million, one-year contract; signed Adam Warren, rhp, San Diego, to a minor league contract ($800,000); signed Luis Avilán, lhp, New York Mets, to a minor league contract; signed Dan Otero, rhp, Cleveland, to a minor league contract.

OAKLAND (1) — Re-signed Jake Diekman, lhp, to a $7.5 million, two-year contract.

SEATTLE (2) — Signed Kendall Graveman, rhp, Chicago Cubs, to a $2 million, one-year contract; signed Yoshihisa Hirano, rhp, Arizona, to a $1.6 million, one-year contract.

TEXAS (6) — Signed Kyle Gibson, rhp, Minnesota, to a $28 million, three-year contract; signed Jordan Lyles, rhp, Milwaukee, to a $16 million, two-year contract; signed Robinson Chirinos, c, Houston, to a $6.5 million, one-year contract; signed Todd Frazier, c, New York Mets, to a $5 million, one-year contract; signed Juan Nicasio, rhp, Philadelphia, to a minor league contract ($1.3 million); re-signed Edinson Vólquez, rhp, to a minor league contract ($600,000).

TORONTO (2) — Signed Tanner Roark, rhp, Oakland, to a $24 million, two-year contract; signed Hyun-Jin Ryu, lhp, Los Angeles Dodgers, to an $80 million, four-year contract.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

ARIZONA (6) — Signed Stephen Vogt, c, San Francisco, to a $3 million, one-year contract; signed Madison Bumgarner, lhp, San Francisco, to an $85 million, five-year contract; signed Kole Calhoun, of, Los Angeles Angels, to a $16 million, two-year contract; signed Héctor Rondón, rhp, Houston, to a $3 million, one-year contract; signed Jon Jay, of, Chicago White Sox, to a minor league contract ($1.5 million); signed Edwin Jackson, rhp, Detroit, to a minor league contract.

ATLANTA (10) — Re-signed Nick Markakis, of, to a $4 million, one-year contract; re-signed Tyler Flowers, c, to a $4 million, one-year contract; re-signed Darren O'Day, rhp to a $2.75 million, one-year contract; signed Will Smith, rhp, San Francisco, to a $40 million, three-year contract; re-signed Chris Martin, rhp, to a $14 million, two-year contract; signed Travis d'Arnaud, c, Tampa Bay, to a $16 million, two-year contract; signed Cole Hamels, lhp, Chicago Cubs, to an $18 million, one-year contract; re-signed Adeiny Hechavarría, inf, to a $1 million, one-year contract; signed Félix Hernández, rhp, Seattle, to a minor league contract ($1 million); signed Marcell Ozuna, of, St. Louis, to an $18 million, one-year contract.

CHICAGO (1) — Re-signed Brandon Morrow, rhp, to a minor league contract ($1 million).

CINCINNATI (5) — Signed Mike Moustakas, 3b-2b, Milwaukee, to a $64 million, four-year contract; signed Wade Miley, lhp, Houston, to a $15 million, two-year contract; signed Nate Jones, rhp, Texas, to a minor league contract ($1.5 million); signed Nick Castellanos, of, Chicago Cubs, to a $64 million, four-year contract; signed Pedro Strop, rhp, Chicago Cubs, to a $1,825,000, one-year contract.

LOS ANGELES (1) — Signed Alex Wood, lhp, Cincinnati, to a $4 million, one-year contract.

MIAMI (4) — Signed Francisco Cervelli, c, Atlanta, to a $2 million, one-year contract; signed Corey Dickerson, of, Philadelphia, to a $17.5 million, two-year contract; signed Matt Joyce, of, Atlanta, to a $1.5 million, one-year contract; signed Brandon Kintzler, rhp, Chicago Cubs, to a $3.25 million, one-year contract.

MILWAUKEE (7) — Signed Brett Anderson, lhp, Oakland, to a $5 million, one-year contract; signed Avisaíl García, of, Tampa Bay, to a $20 million, two-year contract; signed Justin Smoak, 1b, Toronto, to a $5 million, one-year contract; signed Eric Sogard, 2b, Tampa Bay, to a $4.5 million, one-year contract; signed Jedd Gyorko, inf, Los Angeles Dodgers, to a $2 million, one-year contract; signed Logan Morrison, 1b, Philadelphia, to a minor league contract ($1 million); signed David Phelps, rhp, to a $1.5 million, one-year contract.

NEW YORK (6) — Re-signed Brad Brach, rhp, to a $850,000, one-year contract; signed Michael Wacha, rhp, to a $3 million, one-year contract; signed Rick Porcello, rhp, Boston to a $10 million, one-year contract; signed Dellin Betances, rhp, New York Yankees, to $10.5 million, one-year contract; re-signed René Rivera, c, to a minor league contract ($1 million); signed Matt Adams, 1b, Washington, to a minor league contract ($1.25 million).

PHILADELPHIA (6) — Signed Zack Wheeler, rhp, New York Mets, to a $118 million, five-year contract; signed Didi Gregorius, ss, New York Yankees, to a $14 million, one-year contract; signed Neil Walker, 1b-3b, Miami, to a minor league contract ($2 million); signed Francisco Liriano, lhp, Pittsburgh, to a minor league contract ($1.5 million); signed Logan Forsythe, inf, Texas, to a minor league contract; signed Anthony Swarzak, rhp, Atlanta, to a minor league contract.

PITTSBURGH (1) — Signed Derek Holland, lhp, Chicago Cubs, to a minor league contract ($1.25 million).

ST. LOUIS (2) — Re-signed Adam Wainwright, rhp, to a $5 million, one-year contract; re-signed Matt Wieters, c, to a $2 million, one-year contract.

SAN DIEGO (2) — Signed Drew Pomeranz, lhp, Milwaukee, to a $34 million, four-year contract; re-signed Craig Stammen, rhp, to a $4 million, one-year contract.

SAN FRANCISCO (4) — Signed Drew Smyly, lhp, Philadelphia, to a $4 million, one-year contract; signed Jerry Blevins, lhp, Atlanta, to a minor league contract ($1.25 million); signed Tyson Ross, rhp, Detroit, to a minor league contract ($1.75 million); re-signed Pablo Sandoval, 3b, to a minor league contract ($2 million).

WASHINGTON (9) — Re-signed Stephen Strasburg, rhp, to a $245 million, seven-year contract; re-signed Howie Kendrick, 2b, to a $6.25 million, one-year contract; re-signed Yan Gomes, c, to a $10 million, two-year contract; signed Will Harris, rhp, Houston, to a $24 million, three-year contract; signed Starlin Castro, inf, Miami, to a $12 million, two-year contract; re-signed Asdrúbal Cabrera, 2b-3b, to a $2.5 million, one-year contract; signed Eric Thames, 1b, Milwaukee, to a $4 million, one-year contract; re-signed Daniel Hudson, rhp, to an $11 million, two-year contract; re-signed Ryan Zimmerman, 1b, to a $2 million, one-year contract.

JAPAN CENTRAL LEAGUE

YOMIURI (1) — Signed Gerardo Parra, of-1b, Washington, to a $2 million, one-year contract.

JAPAN PACIFIC LEAGUE

CHIBA (1) — Signed Jay Jackson, rhp, Milwaukee, to a one-year contract.

FUKUOKA (1) — Signed Matt Moore, lhp, Detroit, to a one-year contract.

ORIX (1) — Signed Adam Jones, of, Arizona, to an $8 million, two-year contract.

Remaining Free Agents

AMERICAN LEAGUE

NEW YORK — The 54 remaining free agents:

BALTIMORE (1) — Mark Trumbo, dh-of-1b.

BOSTON (3) — Andrew Cashner, rhp; Brock Holt, inf-of; Steve Pearce, 1b-of.

CLEVELAND (3) — Ryan Flaherty, inf; Jason Kipnis, 2b; Yasiel Puig, of.

DETROIT (1) — Gordon Beckham, 2b.

HOUSTON (1) — Collin McHugh, rhp.

LOS ANGELES (1) — Trevor Cahill, rhp.

NEW YORK (3) — Cory Gearrin, rhp; Cameron Maybin, of; CC Sabathia, lhp.

SEATTLE (3) — Wade LeBlanc, lhp; Tommy Milone, lhp; Arodys Vizcaíno, rhp.

TEXAS (3) — Welington Castillo, c; Shawn Kelley, rhp; Hunter Pence, dh-of.

TORONTO (1) — Clay Buchholz, rhp.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

ARIZONA (2) — Jarrod Dyson, of; Wilmer Flores, of.

ATLANTA (3) — Billy Hamilton, of; Brian McCann, c; Josh Tomlin, rhp.

CHICAGO (4) — Tony Barnette, rhp; Xavier Cedeño, lhp; Jonathan Lucroy, c; Ben Zobrist, inf-of.

COLORADO (2) — Yonder Alonso, 1b-of; Drew Butera, c.

LOS ANGELES (2) — David Freese, 3b; Russell Martin, c.

MIAMI (2) — Curtis Granderson, of; Martín Prado, 1b-3b.

MILWAUKEE (1) — Matt Albers, rhp.

NEW YORK (2) — Rajai Davis, of; Juan Lagares, of.

PHILADELPHIA (7) — Jared Hughes, rhp; Tommy Hunter, rhp; Brad Miller, inf-of; Pat Neshek, rhp; Sean Rodríguez, inf-of; Jason Vargas, lhp; Nick Vincent, rhp.

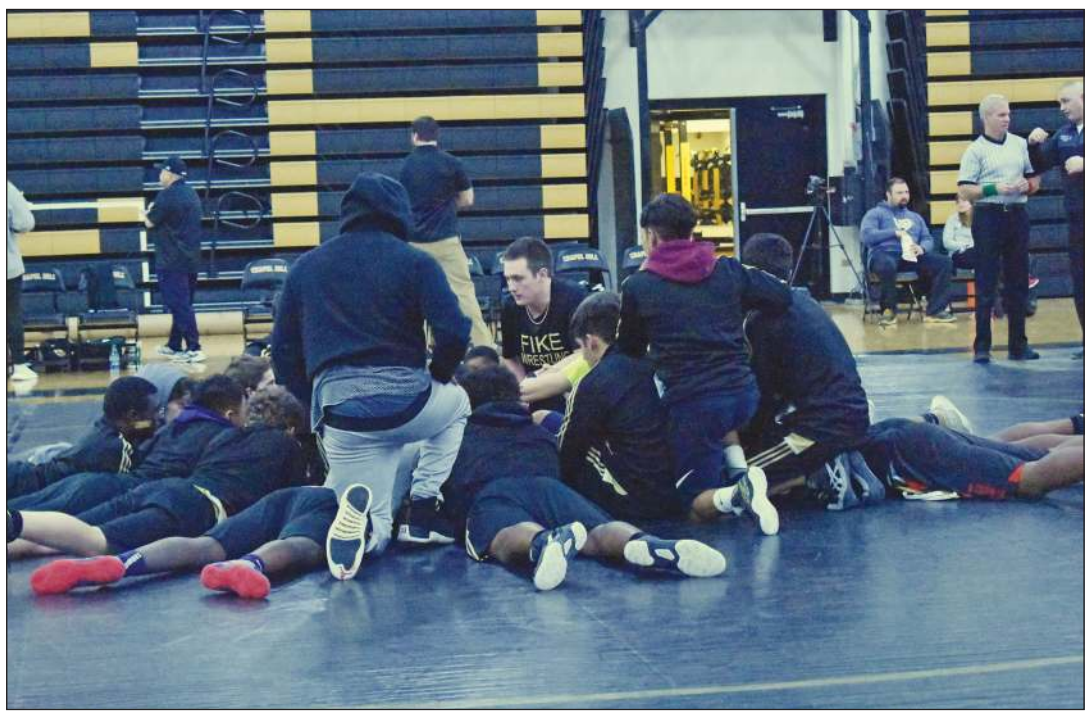
PITTSBURGH (2) — Melky Cabrera, of; Lonnie Chisenhall, of.

ST. LOUIS (1) — Tony Cingrani, lhp.

SAN DIEGO (1) — Aaron Loup, lhp.

SAN FRANCISCO (1) — Fernando Abad, lhp.

WASHINGTON (4) — Brian Dozier, 2b; Jeremy Hellickson, rhp; Fernando Rodney, rhp; Jonny Venters, lhp.



Fike head coach Bradley Watson talks to his wrestlers during Friday's NCHSAA 3-A East Regional at Chapel Hill High. The Golden Demons defeated C.B. Aycock in the regional semifinals but lost to Northern Guilford in the final. Jack Frederick | Times

Demons: Second comeback attempt falls short

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leading by as much as 27-9 midway through the match.

But Aycock could not hold off a late push from Fike that yielded two pins, a victory and a forfeit in all four of the final matches. Bancroft dispatched his opponent in a matter of seconds.

"I just knew I had to get a pin," Bancroft said. "I didn't worry about who the dude was, I just knew I had to pin him. That was my goal and until that was met, I wasn't going to stop working."

After the early strategy left 3-A/4-A Eastern Carolina Conference champion CBA without a wrestler at 195 and Fike moved on to the East finals by a forfeit that gave junior Jayleen Bullock a victory.

Against the 2-A/3-A Mid-State Athletic Conference-champion Nighthawks, Fike set up to work in a similar situation. Desaun Avent was dispatched in the heavyweight senior Jahmez Settles was victorious in the 106. After Andrew Woodard lost in the 113-pound competition and Barrett Klutey won by 13-5 decision in 120, it marked the start of a four-match win streak for Northern Guilford.

Junior Vincent Page put an end to that run with a near-pin of Chase Crews, then Bancroft pinned his opponent, just like against CBA. Only this time, the start of a comeback was not enough. Fike junior Zametrie Bagley was pinned by Cameron Kluttz and Fike was mathematically eliminated from even tying the score with two more matches left.

"I feel like it was a really close match. We I thought we had in the bag," Fike's Page said. "I thought we were going to the state finals in Greensboro for sure."

Trio of area teams have games postponed Friday

From staff reports

Due to the aftermath of Thursday's severe weather, three slates of basketball games involving teams from The Wilson Times readership area have been postponed.

Wilson Prep-Rocky Mount Prep, SouthWest Edgecombe-Farmville Central and Hunt-Franklinton have all moved their respective games to new dates, with the Tigers and Jaguars now playing a tripleheader at Wilson Prep beginning at 3 p.m. Saturday with the junior varsity boys contest. Varsity games in the 1-A Tar Roanoke Conference will folow.

Both Hunt-Franklinton and SouthWest Edgecombe-Farmville Central will now be contested Monday.

The Warriors begin a three-game week to close the 3-A Big East Conference regular season schedule Monday at Hunt, with the junior varsity girls game set to begin the customary tripleheader at 4 p.m. The postponement became necessary after Franklin County Schools was not in session Friday. The Warriors and Red Rams will meet again Tuesday in Franklinton.

A pair of highly anticipated 2-A Eastern Plains Conference showdowns between the Cougars and Farmville Central in Pinetops are now set for Monday after Edgecombe County Schools canceled all after-school activities set for Friday. Instead, the teams will play a tripleheader beginning at 4:30 p.m.

AREA ROUNDUP

Knights down Friendship Christian, return to CPIC tourney final for 3rd straight year

From staff reports

GOLDSBORO — After foul weather postponed Thursday's 1-A/2-A Coastal Plain Independents Conference varsity boys basketball tournament semifinals, top-seeded Greenfield School didn't miss a beat Friday in returning to the championship game.

The two-time defending champion Knights earned a third finals matchup with a 105-68 romp over Friendship Christian at Wayne Country Day. Greenfield will meet the host Chargers at 4 p.m. Saturday in the championship game for the third straight year.

Senior Dji Bailey led the Knights with 21 points and 10 rebounds while classmates Jordan Lynch (18), Creighton Lebo (15) and Collin Guilford (13) also scored in double figures. Hampton Evans, an eighth grader, added 14 points for Greenfield, which improved to 27-5.

The Falcons (2-19) were led by Tre Brown's 32 points.

FRIENDSHIP CHRISTIAN (68)
Jones 6, Tre Brown 32, Tahtinen 15, McGee 15.
GREENFIELD (105)
Lebo 15, Guilford 13, Lynch 18, Bailey 21, Pittman 6, Evans 14, Peten 5, Holland 5, Sessoms 2, Woodard 6.

Score by quarters:

Friendship Chr.	**19**	**19**	**13**	**17**	**— 68**
Greenfield	**32**	**33**	**28**	**12**	**— 105**

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lady Chargers get Senior Night win

With a Senior Night game looming and no opponent after the scheduled foe had to cancel, Wilson Christian turned to DASH home school team of Wilson and Rocky Mount and the United came through Friday night.

But the third time wasn't the charm for DASH, which already had two losses against the Lady Chargers this season, as Wilson Christian prevailed 57-48.

The Lady Chargers, now 18-9, were led by seniors Madison Carnes and Ashley Hartsfield with 12 points each while another senior, Olivia Vick, produced nine points and four assists. Junior Lea Gossett added four points, six assists and four steals.

Honored along with Carnes, Hartsfield and Vick before the game were fellow seniors Lydia Renfrow, Kayla Tant, Paige Petty, Madison Bass and Kayla Provo.

Julianna Lancaster led the United with 19 points while Alyse Skinner netted 15 points.

Wilson Christian looks to complete a perfect run through the North Carolina Christian School Association 2-A East Region as it hosts Faith Christian of Goldsboro on Monday.

DASH (48)
Julianna Lancaster 19, Alyse Skinner 15, Rasmussen 6, Handley 6, Dienes 2.
WILSON CHRISTIAN (57)
Carnes 12, Hartsfield 12, Vick 9, Barnes 6, Gossett 4, Nesbit 4, Tant 3, Hoskins 3, Parker 2, Hunter 2.

Score by quarters:

DASH	**9**	**16**	**8**	**15**	**— 48**
Wilson Chr.	**17**	**12**	**19**	**9**	**— 57**

JUNIOR VARSITY

Lady Chargers notch 20th win

The host Wilson Christian girls basketball team reached the 20-win plateau with a 32-19 defeat of visiting DASH home school team on Friday.

The Lady Chargers (20-2) were led by Reagan Barnes' eight points while Avery Wall netted five points for DASH.

Wilson Christian will play Tuesday at Alamance Christian in Graham.

SWE's Perdomo takes 6th in 2-A 500 free

From staff reports

CARY — SouthWest Edgecombe's Berlyn Perdomo reached the finals in two events Thursday at the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 1-A/2-A swimming and diving championships at Triangle Aquatic Center.

She placed sixth out of 24 swimmers in the girls 500-yard freestyle, touching the wall with a time of 5 minutes, 18.63 seconds. Salisbury's Emily Knorr was the winner with a time of 4:52.40.

Perdomo took ninth in the 200 freestyle prelims in 2:01.32 then placed 10th in the finals, finishing in 2:00.67.

She scored 20 points for SouthWest Edgecombe, which finished tied with Langtree Charter Academy of Mooresville for 26th place out of 40 teams.

3-A meet: Hunt enters two boys relay teams

continued from page 1B

Senior Dante Gaetano joins Francis, Tong and Parrish in the 200 medley relay that is also the 17th seed at 1:51.05.

Fike will be represented by Ryo Nakaya in the boys 50 and 100 freestyles. A repeat qualifier for the state meet, Nakaya's time of 23.18 puts him as the 18th seed in the 50 and his 53.09 in the 100 is 22nd.

The Lady Demons 200 freestyle relay quartet of Catharine Hill, Chandler Hill, Kate Berry and Kaiya Patton is the No. 24 seed with a time of 1:55.56.

Southern Nash's Alex Terry will compete in the boys 50 and 100 freestyles. He is seeded No. 19 in 23.40 and No. 234 in 53.69, respectively.

The meet will start with preliminary races at 9 a.m. with the finals set to begin at 4:45 p.m.

Ovechkin 700: Opponents helpless vs. NHL's best goal-scorer

By Stephen Whyno
AP Hockey Writer

WASHINGTON — Alex Ovechkin arrived in Washington in the summer of 2005 wearing mismatched flip flops and Daisy Duke shorts. He looked like a lost tourist.

Ovechkin went No. 1 in the draft and was touted as a can't-miss prospect, but Capitals teammates wondered aloud if this guy really was supposed to be the new face of the franchise, much less an elite player.

A decade and a half later, Ovechkin is the grinning, gap-toothed face of NHL goal-scoring, much to the continued bewilderment of his opponents.

The big Russian left winger is on the verge of becoming just the eighth player to score 700 career goals thanks to a once-in-a-generation combination of physicality, power and a unique shot that has made him nearly impossible to stop.

"He just can score from anywhere," Calgary defenseman Mark Giordano said. "You sort of think teams would come up with a game plan to stop him, but you can't."

No game plan has worked.



Washington Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin (8) celebrates his second goal of the night, during the third period of Tuesday's game against the Los Angeles Kings in Washington. The Russia native is on the verge of becoming just the eighth player in NHL history to score 700 goals in his career . AP

Like the cutter flustered batters knew was coming from New York Yankees closer Mariano Rivera, Ovechkin comes at goaltenders and defensemen with the same relentless, masterful approach — and the numbers keep climbing.

Ovechkin has never scored fewer than 32 goals in a season, and his 11 seasons of 40 or more trails only Wayne Gretzky for the most in league history. He has averaged 0.5 goal every playoff game, 10th-best all time, and contributed to winning the Stanley Cup and postseason MVP honors in 2018.

A dozen goaltenders and defenders who have tried to contain Ovechkin described the task to The Associated Press as his milestone approached.

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

"Whatever small inch you give him, he's going to find a way to throw it through your legs from the blue line top cheese and you're like, 'What the heck just happened?'" said Colorado forward Pierre-Edouard Bellemare, who faced Ovechkin in the 2018 final with Vegas. "Maybe you're thinking your goalie should have it and you look at the replay like, 'OK, that was a heck of a shot.' ... It's just that at any time in a game he can have an off night and out of nowhere, boom, he can have a hat trick."

Bellemare made that observation just days before Ovechkin had no shots with six minutes left against Los Angeles. He then scored once to tie it, a second time to give Washington the lead and a third into an empty net to seal another win.

Those were goal Nos. 696, 697 and 698.

PROLIFIC SNIPER

Ovechkin's job from day one has been to shoot the puck as much as possible. He has an NHL-best 5,483 shots since 2005-06. No other player has 4,000. Ovechkin's stick — an open blade with a big curve at the toe — and how he releases a shot also puts him in a class of his own.

"His puck flies not straight," said Tampa Bay Lightning goalie Andrei Vasilevskiy, who has allowed nine goals to Ovechkin. "It's kind of changing direction every time, so it's pretty hard to stop for a goalie. It's like knuckleball."

A knucklepuck with a 6-foot-3, 235-pound linebacker's strength behind it. It's not just Ovechkin's release but how the puck feels when it gets on net.

"His shot is absolutely a rocket or missile," said Toronto Maple Leafs goalie Frederik Andersen, who has given up six of Ovechkin's goals. "He shoots from anywhere and he shoots it hard and heavy."

LETHAL SPEED

Ovechkin has made a living — roughly $113 million so far with another contract expected to start in 2021-22 — by not only making goalies but the league's best defensive defensemen miss. Norris Trophy winner Drew Doughty believes the only way to slow Ovechkin down is to get in his face in the neutral zone before he can pick up steam.

Problem is, even at 34 and past the prime of most scorers, Ovechkin still has the lower-body strength and footspeed to glide around opponents like they're pylons.

"He still has that ability from when he was younger to beat you one-on-one, so you can't just play the shot or you can't just back off," said Avalanche defenseman Ian Cole, who battled Ovechkin for years as a member of the Pittsburgh Penguins. "You're in a bit of a quagmire when you're playing against him just because there's so many ways that he can beat you and he is so good, he's so good at cutting to the middle, too, on his off side and letting these pucks go through traffic."

FELONY ARRESTS

EACH SATURDAY, *The Wilson Times publishes the names, booking photos and charges of individuals who law enforcement agencies have charged with felony offenses in Wilson County. A charge is a formal allegation of a criminal offense. Each defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court. Felony arrests are updated throughout the day at www.wilsontimes.com/crime via an automated feed from public safety agencies. Today's listings are from January 30 to February 5.*

REQUESTS FOR REMOVAL: *The Times will remove felony arrest listings from WilsonTimes.com upon request only when charges have been dismissed or a criminal record has been expunged. Individuals requesting removal must provide documentation of dismissals and expunctions. If a felony arrest listing has been posted online but has not yet appeared in print, it can be removed from the felony arrests page if proof of a dismissal or expunction is received by 4 p.m. on the Friday prior to publication. The Times does not charge a fee for removal. For questions, call 252-265-7813 or email editor@wilsontimes.com.*



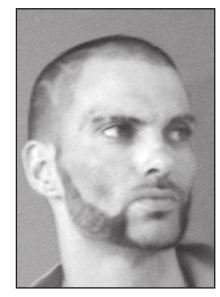
Melissa Jean McCormick
Sex: Female
Age: 41
Charge: Obtaining property by false pretense
Arrested at: 100 block of Green Street E.
Date: Feb. 5



Phillip Wayne Morgan
Sex: Male
Age: 33
Charge: Forgery of endorsement, attempted uttering and attempting to obtain property by false pretense
Arrested at: 100 block of Green Street E.
Date: Feb. 4



William Curtis Cannady
Sex: Male
Age: 22
Charge: Possession of a stolen firearm, breaking or entering and six counts of breaking or entering of a motor vehicle
Arrested at: 100 block of Green Street E. and 200 block of Cone Street NW
Date: Feb. 4



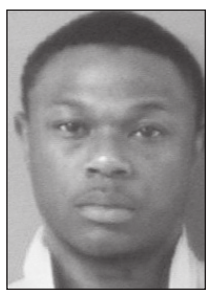
Christopher Alex Grady
Sex: Male
Age: 32
Charge: Second-degree burglary, larceny after breaking or entering and possession of burglary tools
Arrested at: 100 block of Green Street E.
Date: Feb. 4



Antonio Devon Barnes
Sex: Male
Age: 35
Charge: Breaking or entering of a motor vehicle, selling or delivering cocaine and possession with intent to manufacture, sell or deliver cocaine
Arrested at: 700 block of Black Creek Road SE
Date: Feb. 4



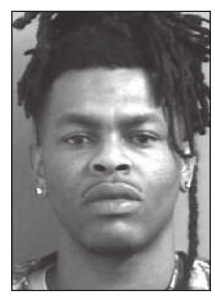
Ashley Nicole Richardson
Sex: Female
Age: 33
Charge: Breaking or entering
Arrested at: 2100 block of Barefoot Park Lane SW
Date: Feb. 3



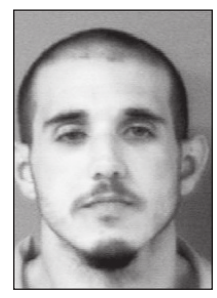
Frankie Shine
Sex: Male
Age: 24
Charge: Free-text felony
Arrested at: 100 block of Green Street E.
Date: Feb. 3



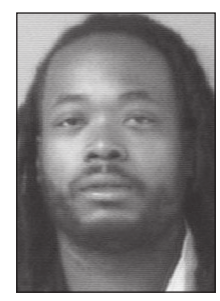
Melinda Laurel Reeves
Sex: Female
Age: 34
Charge: Second-degree burglary, larceny after breaking or entering and possession of burglary tools
Arrested at: 3200 block of London Church Road
Date: Feb. 3



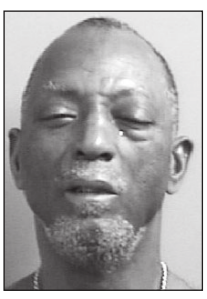
Victor T. Scarboro
Sex: Male
Age: 27
Charge: Possession of a controlled substance in a penal institution, possession of a Schedule II controlled substance and possession of marijuana
Arrested at: 100 block of Green Street E. and 1500 block of Airport Boulevard
Date: Feb. 3



Caleb Windell Ammons
Sex: Male
Age: 28
Charge: Second-degree burglary, larceny after breaking or entering and possession of burglary tools
Arrested at: 3200 block of London Church Road
Date: Feb. 3



Shamauri Arki Eddie
Sex: Male
Age: 34
Charge: Failure to appear on a felony
Arrested at: 6400 block of Ward Boulevard
Date: Feb. 1



Ralph Jerome Lee
Sex: Male
Age: 58
Charge: Assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury
Arrested at: 1600 block of Kincaid Avenue N.
Date: Jan. 31



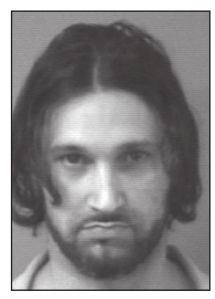
Amaru Caevon Carroll-Lee
Sex: Male
Age: 21
Charge: Possession with intent to sell or deliver marijuana
Arrested at: 500 block of Belmont Avenue SW/Wilson Street SW
Date: Jan. 31



Mintrell Ikeem Farmer
Sex: Male
Age: 23
Charge: Possession with intent to sell or deliver marijuana and possession of a Schedule I controlled substance
Arrested at: 1200 block of Wilson Street SW/Belmont Avenue SW
Date: Jan. 31



Christopher Scott Howell
Sex: Male
Age: 36
Charge: Obtaining property by false pretense greater than or equal to $100,000
Arrested at: 4700 block of Old Stantonsburg Road
Date: Jan. 31



Alexander Narvaez
Sex: Male
Age: 35
Charge: Two counts each of obtaining property by false pretense and possession of stolen goods
Arrested at: 3900 block of Chickasaw Court
Date: Jan. 31



Kevin Dale Edge
Sex: Male
Age: 34
Charge: Forgery and attempting to obtain property by false pretense
Arrested at: 600 block of Broad Street W.
Date: Jan. 30

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Johnathan Thomas Steinke
Sex: Male
Age: 18
Charge: Breaking or entering of a motor vehicle
Arrested at: 4200 block of Old Raleigh Road
Date: Feb. 2

Man charged with fatally shooting passenger in rideshare car

CHARLOTTE — A North Carolina man has been charged with murder in the fatal shooting of a 19-year-old passenger using a rideshare service.

Trevor Lloyd Powell, 28, was also charged with attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon and other related drug and firearm charges on Wednesday, according to Charlotte-Mecklenburg police.

Powell is accused of shooting into a moving vehicle that was carrying passengers using a rideshare service on Saturday, news outlets reported. Jacquez Keyshawn Moore died of his wounds, and a 22-year-old corider suffered non-life threatening injuries, police said at the time.

Moore and the woman were shot just before 5 p.m. shortly after they were picked up by the rideshare service. The driver told officers that a vehicle pulled up to next to his car during the ride, and someone in the other car began firing multiple times at the rear of his vehicle, striking both of the passengers in the back seat, according to a police statement. Investigators haven't said whether Powell knew the victims, or what led to the shooting.

Powell was in custody of the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office on Wednesday. It's unclear whether he has an attorney who can comment on his behalf.

— The Associated Press

Syrian advance sends hundreds of thousands fleeing in Idlib

By Sarah El Deeb and Suzan Fraser
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — Turkey on Friday sent more troops and tanks to bolster its military presence in northwestern Syria, where President Bashar Assad's forces have been advancing in a devastating, Russian-backed offensive that has sparked a massive wave of people fleeing in wet and blustery winter weather.

Syria's Idlib region near the border with Turkey is the last rebel-held bastion in the war-ravaged country. The push by Assad's forces into towns and villages in the province over the past months has uprooted more than a half-million people who fled the advancing troops. Many of them already have been displaced several times in the 8-year-old Syrian war.

The campaign also has angered Turkey, which backs the rebels, and brought the two countries' troops into a rare, direct confrontation: At least eight Turkish troops and civilians and 13 Syrian soldiers have been killed.

As Syrian and Russian warplanes indiscriminately pounded hospitals, clinics and schools in the enclave, civilians packed their belongings in cars, taxis and pickup trucks. They streamed toward the Turkish border with few options left that are outside Syrian government control.

Many end up in tents or sheltering in abandoned buildings during rainy and windy weather, with temperatures hovering around freezing but predicted to fall over the weekend.

"If they stay, they run the risk of falling victim to the indiscriminate violence taking place in urban areas. If they leave, they have nowhere to go, " said Lorenzo Redalié, head of the Aleppo office of the International Committee of the Red Cross. "The shelters can't accommodate everyone, and it is more and more challenging for humanitarians to reach them and meet their needs."

The Syrian offensive appears aimed for now at securing a strategic highway in rebel-controlled territory, as opposed to an all-out campaign to retake the entire province, including the city of Idlib, the densely populated provincial capital.

Earlier this week, Syrian government troops took control of the former rebel town of Saraqeb, which is strategic because it sits on the intersection of two major highways. One of them leads to the capital, Damascus, to the north, and another connects to the country's western and eastern regions.

Turkey, which backs the Syrian opposition and has been monitoring a cease-fire in the rebel enclave, has protested the government assault, calling it a violation of the truce it negotiated with Russia. In recent weeks, Ankara sent in troops and equipment to reinforce monitoring points it set up to observe a previous cease-fire, which has since crumbled, and also deployed forces around towns that are threatened by the Syrian advance.

82% of consumers who purchased or leased a new vehicle read **The Wilson Times** in an average week.



American Opinion Research April 2013

Aide who testified against Trump escorted out of White House

By Deb Riechmann
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The decorated soldier and national security aide who played a central role in the Democrats' impeachment case against President Donald Trump was escorted out of the White House complex on Friday, according to his lawyer, who said he was asked to leave in retaliation for "telling the truth."

"The truth has cost Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman his job, his career, and his privacy," David Pressman, an attorney for Vindman, said in a statement.

"He did what any member of our military is charged with doing every day: he followed orders, he obeyed his oath, and he served his country, even when doing so was fraught with danger and personal peril," Pressman said. "And for that, the most powerful man in the world — buoyed by the silent, the pliable, and the complicit — has decided to exact revenge."

The White House did not respond to Pressman's accusation.

"We do not comment on personnel matters," said John Ullyot, spokesman for the National Security Council, the foreign policy arm of the White House where Vindman was an expert on Ukraine.

Vindman's status had been uncertain since he testified that he didn't think it was "proper" for Trump to "demand that a foreign government investigate" former Vice President Joe Biden and his son's dealings with the energy company Burisma in Ukraine. Vindman's ouster, however, seemed imminent after Trump mocked him Thursday during his post-acquittal celebration with Republican supporters in the East Room and said Friday that he was not happy with him.

"I'm not happy with him," Trump told reporters on the South Lawn of the White House. "You think I'm supposed to be happy with him? I'm not. ... They are going to be making that decision."

Vindman, a 20-year Army veteran, wore his uniform full of medals, including a purple heart, when he appeared late last year for what turned out to be a testy televised impeachment hearing. Trump supporters raised questions about the Soviet Jewish immigrant's allegiance to the United States and noted that he had received offers to work for the government of Ukraine — offers Vindman said he swiftly dismissed.

"I am an American," he stated emphatically.

The Trump campaign cheered Vindman's removal, while Democrats were aghast.

A Twitter account used by the president's reelection campaign, @TrumpWarRoom, claimed Vindman leaked information to the whistleblower, whose complaint about Trump's call ignited the investigation, and "colluded with Democrats to start the partisan impeachment coup."

Former Trump NSC official Tim Morrison testified that others had brought concerns that Vindman may have leaked something. Vindman, in his own congressional testimony, denied leaking any information.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said the firing was another example of how the "White House runs away from the truth."

"Lt. Col. Vindman lived up to his oath to protect and defend our Constitution," Schumer said in a statement. "This action is not a sign of strength. It only shows President Trump's weakness."

Hillary Clinton, the 2016 Democratic presidential nominee, recalled how Vindman in testimony before the House impeachment panel said that he reassured his worried father that would be "fine for telling the truth."

"It's appalling that this administration may prove him wrong," Clinton said in a tweet.

At last fall's hearing, when the senior Republican on the House Intelligence Committee, Rep. Devin Nunes, addressed him as "Mr. Vindman," the Iraq War veteran replied: "Ranking member, it's Lt. Col. Vindman please."

The statement from Vindman's lawyer did not say whether he would be reassigned to the Defense Department, where he worked before being detailed to the White House.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper was asked what the Pentagon would do to ensure that Vindman faces no retribution if he is reassigned to the Pentagon. "We protect all of our service members from retribution or anything like that," Esper said. "We've already addressed that in policy and other means."

Esper referred questions about Vindman's next assignment to Army officials.

Pressman released a one-page statement saying that Vindman was among a handful of men and women who courageously "put their faith in country ahead of fear" but have "paid a price."

"There is no question in the mind of any American why this man's job is over, why this country now has one less soldier serving it at the White House," Pressman said. "Lt. Col. Vindman was asked to leave for telling the truth. His honor, his commitment to right, frightened the powerful."

Mexico won't really raffle off huge presidential jet

The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Mexicans will no longer have to worry about where to park a Boeing Dreamliner when the government raffles off the luxurious presidential jet: the air force will keep it.

In fact, nobody will win the actual $130 million Boeing 787 plane in the lottery-style raffle to be held in coming months.

Among the many desperate attempts to get rid of the expensive plane, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador had toyed with the idea of actually awarding the plane to the winner, along with a year's paid maintenance and parking.

But López Obrador had worried that would cause problems for the winner, both because of the greed it could unleash among friends, relatives and acquaintances, and because the idea had been lampooned on social media, with people posting pictures of shacks or taco stands with a jetliner parked outside.

So the president announced Friday that the raffle will actually be symbolic, awarding total prize money of $100 million, which lottery tickets state is "equivalent to the value of the presidential jet." One hundred winners will divide equal shares of the $100 million pot.

"We did not want to award a prize that would be a problem," López Obrador said. "You know, the memes, 'where would I park it?'"

Instead, he said, a cash prize winner would be free to use some of their winnings to rent the plane for a few trips, at the current hourly operating price of about $13,500 per hour.

The latest scheme didn't convince Mexico City graphic designer Antonio Pérez, who had hoped the president could simply sell the white elephant, without hitting up Mexicans to buy lottery tickets.

"I agree with some of the president's initiatives, but on this one, specifically, I don't agree, because the ones who wind up paying for the plane are going to be the people of Mexico," said Pérez.

López Obrador had tried to sell it, but the plane failed to find a buyer after a year on sale at a U.S. airstrip, where it piled up about $1.5 million in maintenance costs.

Novelist Eric Marváz agreed the whole thing seemed comic, but noted that at least the president was speaking directly to the people, and not trying to hide anything.

"I think it is quite a hilarious situation, but at least for the first time we're laughing, not crying," said Marváz.

The government hopes to sell 6 million tickets at about $25 apiece, raising $150 million. The remaining money will pay to keep the airplane in flight condition while López Obrador tries to sell or rent it. Any net proceeds would go to buy medical equipment.

López Obrador flies tourist class on commercial flights and views the jet, bought for more than $200 million by his predecessor, as wasteful.

The plane failed to find a buyer after a year on sale at a U.S. airstrip, where it piled up about $1.5 million in maintenance costs.

The jet is expensive to run and is configured to carry only 80 people, with a full presidential suite with a bedroom and private bath. Experts say it would be too expensive to reconfigure back into a commercial airliner that normally carries as many as 300 passengers.

Previously, López Obrador had suggested bartering the plane in exchange for U.S. medical equipment or selling it in shares to a group of businessmen for executive incentive programs. He has also offered to rent it out by the hour, in hopes of paying off the remainder of outstanding loans on the plane.

ROARING 2020
VISION FOR THE FUTURE

49th Human Relations
Awards Banquet

Friday, February 28, 2020

PLACE:
Darden Alumni Center
1600 Lipscomb Road E.

TIME:
6:30pm
(Doors open at 6:00pm)

TICKETS:
$15 each

SEMI-FORMAL ATTIRE

GUEST SPEAKER
Anthony "Ant" Atkinson, Jr.
Harlem Globetrotter, Former and Wilson Preparatory Academy Head Basketball Coach

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Schools

The Wilson Times
www.wilsontimes.com

SCHOOL MENUS

Wilson County

MONDAY
Breakfast: Cinni minis, fruit juice and orange.
Lunch: Pepperoni pizza or chicken fillet sandwich, baked beans, coleslaw and pineapple.

TUESDAY
Breakfast: Pancake on a stick, fruit juice and applesauce cup.
Lunch: Cheeseburger or hot dog with chili, baked beans, fries and pears.

WEDNESDAY
Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, fruit juice and banana.
Lunch: Cheese sticks with marinara or spaghetti with meat sauce and garlic bread stick, green beans, garden salad, juice rush and peaches.

THURSDAY
Breakfast: Maple mini waffles, fruit juice and applesauce cup.
Lunch: Tornados or beef nachos, corn, baby carrots and peaches.

FRIDAY
Breakfast: Sausage biscuit, fruit juice and orange.
Lunch: Confetti pancakes with sausage or chicken and waffle, gold rush vegetable juice, potato smiles and cherries with cream.

Nash-Rocky Mount

MONDAY
Breakfast: Taco frittata and applesauce.
Lunch: Pizza sticks with dipping sauce or chicken Alfredo with garlic bread stick, seasoned broccoli, corn, peaches and cookie.

TUESDAY
Breakfast: Breakfast pizza and peaches.
Lunch: Chicken nuggets with roll or corn dog on stick, carrot cup, green peas, cream potatoes and mixed fruit.

WEDNESDAY
Breakfast: Mini pancakes and berry cup.
Lunch: Buffalo popcorn chicken with roll or meatball sub, potato smiles, tomato cup and rosey pears.

THURSDAY
Breakfast: Sausage biscuit and mandarin oranges.
Lunch: Mandarin chicken with rice and roll or deli sandwich, spinach, sweet potato fries and cinnamon apples.

FRIDAY
Breakfast: Cinnamon roll and apple slices.
Lunch: Fiesta taco with scoops or chicken fillet on bun, salsa, green beans, Mexi-beans and fruit freeze cup.

Johnston County

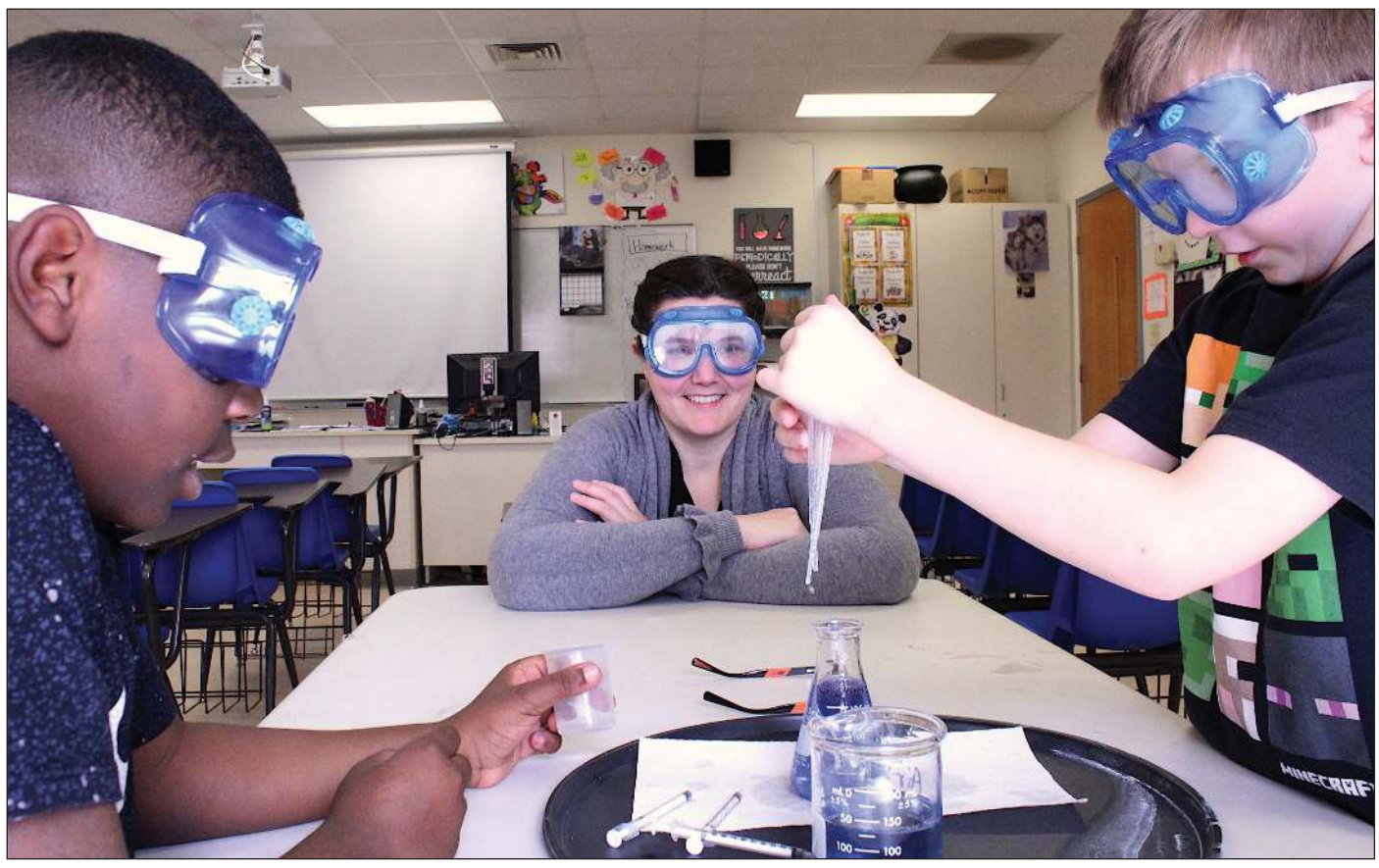
MONDAY
Breakfast: Apple strudel and assorted fruit.
Lunch: Bone-in breaded chicken with biscuit or fiestada pizza, seasoned broccoli, sweet maple roasters, assorted fruit and peanut butter and jelly Uncrustable.

TUESDAY
Breakfast: Confetti pancakes and assorted fruit.
Lunch: Cheesesteak or general Tso chicken, Asian rice, glazed sweet potatoes, Asian veggies, assorted fruit and barbecue sandwich.

WEDNESDAY
Breakfast: Chicken biscuit and assorted fruit.
Lunch: Chicken nuggets or chicken Alfredo with roll, California veggies, spicy pinto beans, curly fries, assorted fruit and chef salad.

THURSDAY
Breakfast: Turkey sausage bagel and assorted fruit.
Lunch: Chili in bread bowl or chicken quesadilla pizza, potato roasters, spinach salad, assorted fruit and peanut butter and jelly Uncrustable.

FRIDAY
Teacher Workday



Greenfield School science teacher Covey Denton, center, watches as students Frederick Myles, left, and Jack Dougherty, right, perform an experiment in class Monday. Drew C. Wilson | Times

Greenfield teacher gets national award

Lesson plans emphasize hands-on learning

By Drew C. Wilson
dwilson@wilsontimes.com
252-265-7818

For Monday's lesson in science, third graders in Covey Denton's class pretended to be a pancreas.

With hands gloved and eyes goggled, students used syringes to simulate regulation of blood sugar levels and insulin levels for Fred the Flask, Frank the Flask and Felicity the Flask.

"If my blood is purple, that means my blood is perfect, perfect purple," Denton told the children. "If my flask goes any other color, I am going to start feeling pretty lousy, so our job as our pancreas is to keep ourselves at perfect purple where we are feeling primo."

Monday's lesson is the kind of hands-on activity that's a regular part of the lesson plans in Denton's class.

Denton, a science teacher at Greenfield School, is the recipient of the Sylvia Shrugrue Award. The award honors one elementary school teacher in the country each year.

Denton pointed to a well-thought-out lesson plan as possibly the reason she was recognized.

"You had to submit that and show that it was cross-curricular and that it really was the kids doing the science and not the direct teaching," Denton said.

Science education is now moving away from memorizing words and definitions where students are regurgitating everything, she said.

The new approach favors more exploration.

"I think the more senses you engage, the more meaningful it is to them, and when they can tie it into their own experiences and their own curiosity, it just sticks, and it makes them feel like real scientists," Denton said. "When they get a taste of that discovery, that excitement of figuring out the puzzle, you sort of whet their appetite, and they just want more and more and more. So I think it is really a way of getting kids enthusiastic about their own learning. Memorizing definitions is not that interesting."

Denton said children these days are a little bit one-dimensional.

"A lot of them are on screens so much that they are just used to seeing it, and they are very visual," Denton said. "When you are able to incorporate other senses like get the smells and get their hands dirty and get them to actually be experiencing the science, it just triggers parts in their brain that they are not using on a regular basis, so I think they get really excited."

Denton said she was honored to receive the Shugrue Award.

"I was very, very humbled. The other awards I have won up to this point, I have been one of five or one of seven recipients," Denton said. "They only chose one elementary teacher out of the entire country for this one, and it just felt like a huge honor. It is a huge honor."



Third grade science student Frederick Myles, left, tries to keep his sugar and insulin levels properly regulated while students studied the function of the pancreas in Covey Denton's class at Greenfield School this week. Drew C. Wilson | Times



Greenfield School science teacher Covey Denton prepares a lesson for students at the school Monday. Drew C. Wilson | Times

Denton will be traveling to Boston April 2-5 to the National Science Teaching Association Conference to receive her award. The award includes $1,000 plus $500 to attend the conference as a presenter.

"I am going share the lesson plan that I submitted here for this, which is about how hurricanes impact the North Carolina coast," she said.



Celebrating the 100th school day

Students at Rock Ridge Elementary School this week marked the 100th day of class by dressing as 100-year-olds.

Contributed photo

Emerson leaves 19th century ideas for 21st century society



SANDA BAUCOM HIGHT

Every generation has its trailblazers, its gifted politicians, its builders and shakers, its artists and poets; every generation has its wise people, thinkers and philosophers. We rely on all these people to help define our culture and to help us understand who we are and where we want to go.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, who lived his entire life in 19th century America, is thought by many to be one of those national treasures who left America and the world a body of ideas and writings that continue to give our lives fullness and meaning into the 21st century.

The Harvard graduate, one-time teacher and Unitarian minister and eventually a poet, essayist, lecturer, transcendentalist, abolitionist and conversationalist, still stands tall in the world of American thought. Many scholars believe he is the most significant American writer of the 19th century.

A number of sources, including the biography, "Emerson, the Wisest American" by Phillips Russell, attest to Emerson's contribution to America. Most of Emerson's ideas are as contemporary today as they were in his lifetime, and we continue to find inspiration, challenge and wisdom in his essays and lectures.

Emerson believed that everything is fluid, that plants, animals, people and societies are in flux. He said, "Society is a wave," and he thought that our understanding of that fact is crucial if we are to survive.

Waldo, as he preferred to be called, struggled with physical weakness but excelled in the pursuit of intellectual things. He hired the young Henry David Thoreau to maintain his property and his gardens to relieve him of the physical responsibilities that he found difficult. It is believed that Emerson learned volumes about nature from Thoreau and that Thoreau benefited from the library and thought of Emerson.

Thoreau, who lived at the Emerson home for a couple of years, was an excellent handyman and gardener and relieved his host of tedious physical work. Emerson had admiration for physically strong people such as farmworkers, sailors and carpenters, probably because of his own physical weakness. He once said, "I like people who can do things."

Emerson's essays were admired around the world, and he was thought to be a lecturer of the highest rank. After he gave up teaching and preaching, he found his niche and devoted the rest of his life to writing, speaking and contributing to literary magazines such as The Dial and The Atlantic, which he was instrumental in founding.

The essay that many people think of first when they think of Emerson is "Self-Reliance." Numerous excerpts from his essays are still remembered and pondered, and they are often quoted in the media. How many of the following quotations from Emerson's works have you heard?

"To be great is to be misunderstood."

"Trust thyself; every heart vibrates to that iron string."

"All history resolves itself into the biography of a few stout and earnest men."

"A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds." (People who say "We have always done it that way" should take note of this one.)

"Adapt the pace of Nature; her secret is patience."

"Live in the sunshine; swim in the sea; drink the wild air."

"Do not go where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

"Write it on your heart that every day is the best day of the year."

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-82) is a giant in American culture. His essays are food that helps to sustain us in our modern lives.

Would it not be fine if people of great physical strength and ability admired Emerson's intellect as much as he admired their physical strength?

Emerson would be pleased to know that we are still talking about him and reading his works in 2020.

Sanda Baucom Hight *is retired from Wilson County Schools after serving as an English teacher and is currently a substitute in Wilson County. Her column focuses on charms and ideas for a fuller life. Email her at srbhight8@gmail.com.*

DEED TRANSFERS

The following deed transfers for the week of Jan. 27-31 have been recorded in the Wilson County Register of Deeds Office:

From Melissa Sutton and Darrick Sutton to Artis Properties LLC, 301 Minshall Drive, Stantonsburg, $49,000;

From Elvin G. Pittman to Elvin G. Pittman, quitclaim deed for 4305 Georgetown Drive N., no stamp;

From Alma E. Cooper and Trustee Services of Carolina LLC, substitute trustee to Federal National Mortgage Association, trustee deed for 1204 Crawford St. S., no stamp;

From Vicus Development LLC to B.W. Skinner Construction Inc., commercial lot on N.C. Highway 42 W.; patio homes on Cranberry Ridge Drive SW and lot 37 Phase II-Section Two, Cranberry Ridge, $30,000;

From Catherine Carter Gill to Gill Rental LLC, 912 Atlantic St.; 704 Briggs St.; 905, 911, 913 and 915 E. Nash St.; 327 Finch St., 403, 408 and 601 Lane St.; 507 N. Pender St.; 1609 Queen St.; 904 Rountree Ave., portion of lots 5,6 and 7; and 1204 and 1206 Woodard Ave., no stamp;

From Brenda S. Galeazzi to John S. Galeazzi Sr., 3100 Fieldstream Drive N., no stamp;

From Danny K. Taylor and Wendy L. Taylor to Justin B. Waddell and Elizabeth Waddell, 8356 Byrd Road, $25,000;

From Johnny W. Hendricks and Mary J. Hendricks to Albert T. Hendricks and Patricia Hendricks, lot 1, no stamp;

From SECU*RE, Inc. to Travis Eugene Kinney and Lindsey Kinney, 5517 Rock Quarry Road, $268,500;

From Sandra Lane Owens to Brandon Patrick Massey and Crystal Gayle Causby, lot 3, first tract and second tract, $174,000;

From Jerry Zachary Aycock to Guillermina Sanchez Sierra, 803 Crestview Ave. SW, $50,000;

From Tracey R. Brown to Tracey R. Brown and Wendy Y. Brown, 2825 Springflower Drive N., no stamp;

From Holmes B. Smoot to Jeffrey A. Harris, 309 Glendale Drive W., $95,000;

From James A. Pender Sr. and Alfreda Pender to Jerrett Wilson, Greg Giauque and Jay Thiessen, 6301 Ward Blvd., portion of lot 6, $15,000;

From James A. Pender Sr. and Alfreda Pender to Jerrett Wilson, Greg Giauque and Jay Thiessen, 6312 Ward Blvd., $45,000;

From Dorothy Pridgen Leach to Dorothy Pridgen Leach and Julia Leach Matthews, 1226 Robert Road W., no stamp;

From Curtis Allen to Curtis Allen and Tonya Allen, 204 Vick St. E., no stamp;

From Vicus Development LLC to B&B Home Builders LLC, Cranberry Ridge lot 57, Phase II, Section Two, $29,000;

From Jamestown Ventures, Inc. to B&B Home Builders LLC. 4832 Jamestown Drive NW, $32,000;

From Carl Bynum, Carolyn Bynum and Trustee Services of Carolina LLC, substitute trustee, to Bayview Loan Servicing LLC, foreclosure deed for 5210 U.S. Highway 264 Alternate E., $49,000;

From Charles Wayne Holland and Rebecca B. Holland to Charles Wayne Holland and Rebecca B. Holland, 3806 Baybrook Drive, no stamp;

From Billy R. Oakey and Betty L. Oakey to Billy R. Oakey Jr. and Amanda Summerlin, 3646 London Church Road NE, no stamp;

From Romaine Woodard irrevocable trust, Steven J. Crowell, trustee for C. Paxton Peters Jr., Steven J. Crowell, trustee for Romaine P. Hauser, David W. Woodard, trustee for Anderson P. Griffin, Romaine P. Hauser, executor, Romaine C. Woodard estate, to Romaine P. Hauser, 1701 Nash St. N., $182,000;

From Allen G. Thomas and Lynette J. Thomas to Affordable Maintenance, Inc., commercial lot on Green Street East, no stamp;

From Farrierís Ridge Development LLC to Abel Escobedo Avila and Rosa Maria Corona Escobedo, 3210 and 3212 Grapevine Court W., $25,000;

From Troy S. Malpass & Son Inc. to Kenneth Emmons and Judy Kay Emmons, correction deed for 2108 Fieldcrest Road E., no stamp;

From Kingsmill Homes of Wilson Inc. to Thomas A. Piggott and Mary T. Piggott, 104 North Carolina Ave., $205,000;

From Kingsmill Homes of Wilson, Inc. to Thomas A. Piggott and Mary T. Piggott, 102 North Carolina Ave., $205,000;

From Kingsmill Homes of Wilson Inc. to Thomas A. Piggott and Mary T. Piggott, 100 North Carolina Ave., $205,000;

From Kingsmill Homes of Wilson Inc. to Thomas A. Piggott and Mary T. Piggott, 1703 Nash St. NW, $205,000;

From Teddy R. Lamm and Willis Teen G. Lamm to Jason Randall McKeel and April Renee McKeel, 6924 Teeny Road, $12,000;

From Laura R. Harris and Jeffrey A. Harris, attorney in fact, to Dorothy M. Patterson, 1704 Parkway St. W., $145,000;

From Alberta P. Bynum, Lettie Pernell, Timothy Jamal Pernell, John W. Pernell III, Ivan Anthony Pernell, Damon Pernell Jr., Danielle Pernell, Delmar A. Pernell, Pamela Pernell Harris, Tonya Pernell Hooks and Andrew J. Whitley, commissioner, to Three Tís Properties, LLC, commissioners deed for 6623 Shannon Road, $29,500;

From Frances J. Watson, trustee, Linwood R. Watson and Frances J. Watson revocable living trust dated July 1, 2003, to David J. Hinnant and Vickie F. Hinnant, rural homesite on N.C. Highway 581, $110,000;

From Lou Ann Turner and Danny Turner to Robert W. Combs II and Dorothy J. Combs, 5732 Scott Church Road, Lucama, $77,000;

From Wilson CFA LLC to M&S Real Estate Investments IV LLC, 5601 Lamm Road, lots 2 and 2A, $325,000;

From Juana Olivia Catana-Estrada, Gonzalo Rodriguez, Lisbeydy Alvarado-Rodriguez and Patricio Alvarado Rivera to Nelida Catana Estrada and Gilberto Ruiz Valdez, 7620 Judge Road, no stamp;

From Vicus Development LLC to Redemption Church of Wilson Inc., single-family residential property on Merck Road West, $75,000;

From W.M. Wiggins & Co. Inc., Joseph Michael Webb and Victoria Nicole Morris Webb to Owens Rentals LLC, 4910 Upchurch Road, $210,000;

From William Ranson Carter to Michael V. Arnette and Julia Arnette, 306 Grace Drive NW, $110,000;

From Wendy Sue White and Matthew Wayne Creech to Gordon William Deno and Christie Deno, 6340 Everette Lane, Elm City, $52,000;

From Southpointe Capital Inc. to Jason H. Young and Heather T. Young, 6308 Crossmoor Drive, $59,000;

From Lola Evette Lewis-Cobb to Amanda Webb, 6043 N.C. Highway 581, $195,000;

From Carl T. Meador to Crystal C. Meador, quitclaim deed for 7112 Woodbridge Road, no stamp;

From James A. Edmundson and Demita L. Edmundson to Charles Alexander Simmons, 1604 Dartmore Drive N., $55,000;

From Mark McKay Bunn and Pamela Marie Nanney Bunn to Ian Stanley Brooks, 1011 Ensworth Road, $174,000;

From Annie W. Ricks, Joseph I. Ricks Jr. estate, Derek Wayne Ricks, administrator, to Donielle Coe, 2512 Crystal Drive SW, $124,000;

From Kenneth D. Bowman and Stephanie D. Bowman to KBS Mini Storage LLC, 6209 N.C. Highway 581, no stamp;

From Pamela M. Dixon and Betty Mitchell Muenze to GJV Properties LLC. 919 College Circle N., $19,000;

From Clearwater Developments Inc. to Sam H. Thomas and Kari P. Thomas, 8517 and 8521 Clearwater Drive, $50,000;

From Pamela Smith Orcutt to Van Paul Etheridge and Dana L. Etheridge, 1012 Brookside Drive NW, $300,000;

From Jane Honeycutt Bass to World of R/C, Inc., 5320 U.S. Highway 301 S., $460,000;

From Michael Scott Bunn and Connie Jo Bunn to Edward L. Church and Regina M. Church, 6490 Sid Road, $395,000;

From Rosemary Gossett to Rosemary Gossett and Ronald W. Gossett, 8638 Revell Road, no stamp;

From B&B Home Builders LLC to Jordan K. Dupree, Cranberry Ridge, lot 34 Phase II, Section Two, $146,500;

From Andrew J. Whitley, administrator, Donnie Hugh Britt estate, to Owens Rentals LLC, 3830 Newton Ave. NW, $73,000.

STATE BRIEFS

Judge: NC falls short in service access for disabled

RALEIGH — North Carolina has failed to do enough to ensure people with certain disabilities receive access to services in their communities, a judge has determined.

A ruling issued this week by Superior Court Judge Allen Baddour said the state and the Department of Health and Human Services violated a portion of the North Carolina Persons With Disabilities Protection Act.

The ruling stems from a 2017 lawsuit alleging that the obstacles people with intellectual and developmental disabilities encounter when trying to get services put them at a higher risk of being institutionalized.

Baddour ruled that the state violated a nearly 30-year-old legal mandate prohibiting situations that would force people to leave their homes to obtain treatment, Disability Rights said in a news release.

"We are pleased that the judge ruled in favor of people with disabilities having the choice to live in the community," said Disability Rights CEO Virginia Knowlton Marcus.

In his ruling, dated Tuesday and filed in Wake County court, the judge said he would issue further decisions outlining actions that should be taken to comply with the law.

North Carolina's Department of Health and Human Services said in a statement on Friday that it is committed to providing services and support to people with disabilities "in the most integrated setting possible, as appropriate to their needs."

"Over the past several years, key initiatives at the department pushed toward this future, but we recognize much work remains," the statement said.

93% The number of advertisers that were pleased with the response to their classified ad in **The Wilson Times**

Pulse Research, November 2013



FedEx will shift final delivery of some express parcels

FedEx Express will funnel some packages to the company's ground unit for residential delivery to improve efficiency as online shopping continues to grow.

The company said Friday that the change will begin next month in Greensboro, North Carolina.

FedEx Express currently uses its own vehicles for so-called last-mile delivery of packages that come off its airplanes. Company executives say they believe that giving those packages to FedEx Ground will reduce costs and increase the number of packages carried by drivers on their rounds, making them more efficient.

"This move makes residential deliveries more efficient by putting the right package in the right network at the right cost to serve our customers," Chief Operating Officer Raj Subramaniam said.

The change will let FedEx Express focus on parcels shipped from one business to another and on premium online-shopping deliveries to consumers, Subramaniam said.

NC schools chief pitching to end Common Core

RALEIGH — North Carolina's schools chief wants a review of the state's K-12 Common Core standards — with a goal of ending them — and aims to ensure U.S. history classes remain robust in light of new graduation requirements.

State Superintendent Mark Johnson said this week that his Department of Public Instruction will survey teachers and parents about the language arts and math standards that comprise Common Core.

Johnson said he opposes Common Core, which was first approved by the State Board of Education in 2010 and reaffirmed in 2017. So any change would still require the reversal of the board, which now includes many appointees of Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper.

Johnson, who is running for the GOP nomination for lieutenant governor in the March 3 primary, said he still hears a lot of criticism about Common Core from the public, The News & Observer of Raleigh reported. He pointed to Florida, where elected officials are replacing Common Core with new standards.

"Now there's a clear path we can replicate in North Carolina to remove Common Core, and I encourage the State Board to closely examine this new option with us," Johnson said in a news release Thursday. The lieutenant governor is also a state education board member.

Common Core was started by top education officials and governors across the nation. Opponents decried them as a nationalization of education policy and standards.

Johnson also said his department would review U.S. history requirements in light of recent board action to eliminate one of the two required high school U.S. history courses that's been needed to graduate. The change was made to comply with a new General Assembly mandate that incoming high school students pass a new financial literacy course to get a diploma.

Police: Knife-wielding man boarded bus, threatened attack

GRIFTON — A road rage incident in North Carolina escalated when a knife-welding motorist climbed aboard a school bus carrying students, yelled racial slurs at the driver, then threatened to stab the driver, police said in a statement late Wednesday.

The school bus was driving through an intersection in Grifton when Jeffrey Garris boarded it and confronted the person behind the wheel, the police department confirmed. The driver, who hasn't been identified, ordered the man off the bus, the statement said. No injuries were reported.

The bus driver told investigators Garris became enraged and accused the bus of cutting off his truck in traffic.

— The Associated Press

Boyfriend's prison record opens him up to judgment



DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: I have never been in love before, and I have just learned the man I'm seeing is a former felon. It was nothing having to do with sexual violence or killing anyone. I'm afraid if my family finds out, they will judge him. He works seven days a week and lives in a shelter because most places don't want to rent to felons. He treats me good and takes me out for dinners.

Maybe I'm stupid for not being judgmental, but he's a good person who has served his time for his crimes, and he's still being punished. Are people like him not allowed to be in love and have families too? — *In Love In Nebraska*

Dear In Love: People make mistakes. People "like him" also fall in love, marry and have families. While there is bias against individuals with prison records, the fact that they served time does not guarantee they can't go on to live successful lives after their release. Explain that to your family, and suggest they take the time to get to know him before jumping to conclusions and making any final judgments.

DEAR ABBY: I've always been sensitive, but it has gotten worse since I became a mom a year ago. I dread watching or reading the news for fear of seeing a child, parent or animal has been hurt or mistreated. I'm a religious person, and I find myself asking God why bad things happen.

I know the tragic stories tend to make the headlines, but how would you suggest I learn to still see the good in the world? I can't quit seeing the news. We are inundated. I just wish the negativity of the world didn't get to me like it does. Advice, Abby? — *Super Sensitive In Kentucky*

Dear Super Sensitive: That you have recently become a mother and are responsible for a helpless little person may have something to do with your feelings. But please don't judge the whole world or the people in it by the horror stories featured in the headlines, because they are misleading. Many people do positive things to help their neighbors and their communities that don't make the news. Consequently, we hear less about them.

I combat feelings like those you are experiencing by taking a "vacation" from reading or watching the news for a few days or a week when I think it is affecting me emotionally. I suggest you try it. Also, while your schedule as a new mother may be a busy one, if you can make the time, consider volunteering at your local library or a senior citizens' center. If you do, it may help you feel less helpless, knowing you are not only doing something positive but also making a significant difference in someone else's life.

DEAR ABBY: I have been retired for a little more than a year, and I enjoy it, except for one problem. My husband seems to think that since I'm home, I should be constantly busy — cleaning, cooking, doing SOMETHING. He accuses me of being lazy. I think he may be jealous that I don't work anymore. What do you think? — *Retiree In Georgia*

Dear Retiree: I think you may have hit the nail on the head. Things might improve if you tell him less often how much you're enjoying it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Eggplant lowers high blood pressure



PEOPLE'S PHARMACY

Q. I have essential high blood pressure, which means my pressure goes up and down without any discernible reason. One day I accidentally discovered the benefits of eggplant. A medium-sized eggplant made a good supper. It was delicious browned in olive oil with a gravy into which I put some onion, dill, arugula, basil, bay leaf, parsley and rosemary. Those were chosen simply because that's what I have growing in pots on my porch!

After consuming the entire eggplant and some gravy, I took my blood pressure again. It had dropped quite a bit, from around 200 over 100 before I ate. When it got down to 80 over 50, I was beginning to wonder if I should go to the hospital, but I felt fine. The BP leveled off.

When I searched the internet, I was stunned to find out that eggplant can lower BP! So now, in addition to my meds, if my pressure goes up, I eat a little eggplant. That works every time! I am not sure how important the herbs may be, so I've been very careful with the process of elimination.

A. Japanese researchers noted that eggplant is rich in acetylcholine, a neurotransmitter with an effect on blood pressure. When they conducted an experiment with hypertensive rats, they found that feeding them eggplant lowered their blood pressure (Food Chemistry, March 15, 2019).

Other Japanese scientists have experimented with eggplant powder to lower blood pressure in human beings (Nutrients, Nov. 16, 2019). Thank you for sharing your intriguing observation.

Q. Thanks for saving my bacon. You wrote about the diabetes drug metformin and vitamin B12 deficiency. The question was reversibility.

I knew more than three years ago that my eyesight was deteriorating. Four different eye doctors could not tell me why I could read eye charts but needed bright light to read a book. This was a serious problem, as reading was my favorite pastime.

When I read about metformin, I stopped taking it and started taking high-dose vitamin B12. I am seeing significant improvement.

A. We trust you discussed the metformin with your doctor, so that you could switch to a different diabetes medication. Your story is fascinating.

Doctors know that metformin can deplete the body of vitamin B12. Such a deficiency could lead to optic neuropathy (American Journal of Pathology, January 2018).

Other symptoms of vitamin B12 deficiency include numbness or tingling in hands or feet, burning tongue, fatigue, dizziness, depression, weakness and changes in personality. You can learn more about correcting this deficiency as well as how other drugs may affect nutritional status in Dr. Tieraona Low Dog's book "Fortify Your Life: Your Guide to Vitamins, Minerals, and More." You should find a copy in your local library, or you can purchase a paperback copy at www.PeoplesPharmacy.com.

Q. While I was on a cross-country ski trip some years back, I had painful leg cramps at night. Another skier suggested I take a teaspoon of yellow mustard followed by clear water. This worked like magic, and the pain was gone within 10 minutes.

A. Yellow mustard likely stimulates TRP (transient receptor potential) channels in the mouth. We suspect this is how mustard reverses muscle cramps. Whether the action is due to the mustard, the vinegar or the turmeric that gives mustard its yellow color, we don't know. It might be all three.

In their column, Joe and Teresa Graedon answer letters from readers. Write to them in care of King Features, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803, or email them via their website: www.PeoplesPharmacy.com. Their newest book is "Top Screwups Doctors Make and How to Avoid Them."

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Sister-in-law keeps 'being pregnant at me'



MISS MANNERS

DEAR MISS MANNERS: I have been married for eight years. We reside in my husband's family's house with his younger sister, who is a nurse.

We have had trouble conceiving, and have been going through fertility work-ups and treatments. Both our families are aware and supportive of our journey.

However, last year I had a falling-out with my sister-in-law. She got pregnant, which surprised us all, since we weren't aware that she had a boyfriend. What irked me is that she just paraded around her pregnancy without even considering my or my husband's feelings. She didn't talk to me for the whole duration of her pregnancy.

Insensitive relatives would tell us, "She got pregnant ahead of you!" or "What are you two waiting for?" and so on.

My husband has talked to his sister about how she treated me. Instead of speaking to me personally, she just messaged me after she gave birth that she was sorry that she left me out of the whole pregnancy thing. So we became friends again.

Three months ago, we found out through our maid that his sister is pregnant again, yet she has not taken the courtesy to talk to us. I feel that I am not being treated as a family member. The maid is more like her sister than me.

She should be the one to tell us, but how long should we wait? We are noticing her growing bump. The thing that I hate the most is insulting my intelligence.

She does not help with chores; she is messy and lazy. She is unappreciative of the help we give her by taking care of her child. She acts like a brat when her parents come for a visit.

I think I am going to explode. How do we break the ice with this second pregnancy?

Gentle Reader: There is a soap-opera level of activity going on in this (apparently) exceedingly large house, what with your sister-in-law's gentleman callers coming in and out unnoticed, maids who are confidantes — but who do not seem to help with chores and messiness — as well as the seeming ability to reside there without talking to household members for months at a time.

Miss Manners is sympathetic to your situation — to a point. She noticed, however, that you did not like it when your sister-in-law "paraded" her pregnancy and family members talked about it. But then, you also do not like it when you get left out or are not told things upfront and firsthand.

Your sister-in-law might see it otherwise, thinking that she is being responsive to your feelings by hiding her pregnancy and finding another confidante. While usually never a supporter of pointing out ladies' pregnancies before they are officially announced (the chance of being mistaken is too great a risk), Miss Manners suggests that in this case, you take your sister-in-law aside and kindly say, "You know, we are so excited about your growing family and hope that we can continue to help in any way we can. We do so love having babies around the house."

You may find yourself with more babysitting duties, but you will have made the point that you are, in fact, intelligent enough to be aware of the situation.

Please send your questions to Miss Manners at her website, www.missmanners.com; to her email, dearmissmanners@gmail.com; or through postal mail to Miss Manners, Andrews McMeel Syndication, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106.

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CHURCH NEWS

Restoration

Restoration Church Ministries will have Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. and morning worship at 10:30 with the Rev. Rita Batts as speaker. Mid-week Bible study is 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Grace Baptist

Grace Baptist Church will have Sunday school at 10 a.m. and morning worship at 11. Mid-week Bible study is at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Unitarian — Rocky Mount

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship will have service at 10 a.m. on Sunday.

Tabernacle — Walstonburg

Tabernacle United Methodist Church, 417 Appie Road, will have The Harmony Boys in concert at 6 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is free; a love offering will be taken. Refreshments will be served after.

Evening Light

Evening Light Mission Church will have service at 11 a.m. Sunday with the Rev. James Lucas as speaker.

Union Grove — Fremont

Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church will have a black history program at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Willing Worker — Lucama

Willing Worker Holiness Church will have a joy night and friend and family service at 6 p.m. on Saturday with Retha Hooper of First Baptist Church of Eureka as speaker.

Christian Life

Christian Life Fellowship International Ministries will have service at 10 a.m. on Sunday with the Rev. Torase Barnes as speaker. Mid-week Bible study is at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Union View — Bailey

Union View Church will have Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. and morning worship at 11 with the Rev. J.N. Perry delivering the message. A pastor aide service will be at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday with Thelma Edwards of Faith Temple No. 1 and No. 2 Extension Church as the invited guest.

Standing

Standing on His Word Ministry will have Sunday school at 10 a.m. and morning worship at 11 with the Rev. Dwight Davis as speaker. Mid-week Bible study is at 6 p.m. on Wednesday.

St. James — Fountain

St. James Free Will Baptist Church will have a fruit of the spirit service at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Burning Bush

Burning Bush Free Will Baptist Church will have Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. and morning worship at 11 with the Rev. Donnie Daniels and music by the male chorus. Mid-week Bible study is at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Patterson Chapel

Patterson Chapel Holiness Church will have service at 11 a.m. Sunday with Beatrice Hopkins as speaker and music by the Inspirational Choir.

Beyond the Cross

Beyond the Cross Ministries will have service at 11 a.m. Sunday with the Rev. Carl Massey Jr. as speaker. Mid-week Bible study is at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Rountree

Rountree Missionary Baptist Church will have service at 9 a.m. on Sunday with the Rev. Norvell Cooper as speaker and music by the male chorus.

St. Paul

St. Paul Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ will have Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. and morning worship at 11 with the Rev. Chester L. Aycock as speaker and music by the mass choir. Mid-week Bible study is at noon on Tuesday and 7 p.m. on Thursday.

Lewis Chapel — Farmville

Lewis Chapel Free Will Baptist Church will celebrate black history at 11 a.m. Sunday with the Rev. Leccie Edwards as speaker.

Mitchell Chapel — Bailey

Mitchell Chapel Holiness Church will have Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. and will be celebrating black history at 11 a.m. Sunday. Intercessory prayer is at 6 p.m. on Tuesday followed by prayer and Bible study at 7 p.m.

Faith Temple

Faith Temple United Holiness Church will have Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. and morning worship at 11 with the Rev. Louis Eatmon as speaker and music by the male chorus. A black history program will be at 3 p.m. on Sunday with the Rev. Maurice Barnes of White Rock Presbyterian Church of Kinston as guest speaker. Mid-week Bible study is at 7 p.m. on Wednesday.

Piney Groves

Piney Groves Church will have Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. and morning worship at 11 with the Rev. Robert Smith as speaker and music by the combined choirs. A service to close out the anniversary of the Rev. Robert Smith will be at 4 p.m. Sunday with the Rev. Robert Gorham along with Wilson Chapel Free Will Baptist Church rendering the service. Mid-week Bible study is at 7 p.m. Wednesday, and prayer is at noon on Thursday.

True Holiness

True Holiness Holy Ghost Powerhouse Church will have missionary day at 3 p.m. on Sunday with Darlene Thomas as speaker.

Brown Chapel

Brown Chapel Free Will Baptist Church will have service at 11 a.m. Sunday with the Rev. Teresa Bullock as speaker. Mid-week prayer is noon on Wednesday.

First Missionary — Lucama

First Missionary Baptist Church will have Sunday school at 7:45 a.m. and morning worship at 8:45 with the Rev. Jeffery Simms as speaker and music by the youth choir.

St. Luke — Stantonsburg

St. Luke Free Will Baptist Church will have Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. and morning worship at 11 with the Rev. Willie Thomas as speaker. Mid-week Bible study is at noon on Tuesday.

St. James — Fremont

St. James Church of Christ will have Holy Communion at 5:30 p.m. Saturday. Sunday school is at 9:45 a.m. and morning worship is at 11 with the Rev. Tony Sutton as speaker and music by the senior choir. Mid-week Bible study is at 7 p.m. on Wednesday.

Total Impact

Total Impact Outreach Ministries will have service at 11 a.m. Sunday with the Rev. Terence Jenkins of Gospel Awakening as guest speaker. Mid-week Bible study is at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Genesis — Elm City

Genesis Church Ministries will have Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. and morning worship at 10:45 with Bryant McNeil as speaker. Mid-week Bible study is at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Barnes Chapel

Barnes Chapel Church will have Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. and morning worship at 10:45 with the Rev. Steven E. Kent as speaker and music by the praise team and Voices of Hope. An old-fashioned service and fellowship meal will follow the morning service. Mid-week devotion and Bible study will be at 6:45 p.m. Wednesday.

Repha

Repha Church of God will have Sunday school at 10 a.m. and morning worship at 11:15 with the Rev. Cassandra Darden as speaker. Mid-week prayer is at 6:30 p.m. and Bible study is at 7 p.m. on Thursday.

Salisbury

Salisbury AME Zion Church will have Sunday school at 10 a.m. and morning worship at 11.

Damascus Road

Damascus Road Church Ministries will have Sunday school at 9 a.m. and morning worship at 10 with the Rev. Cornelius Warren as speaker.

City of Refuge

The City of Refuge will have prayer at 9 a.m. Sunday, morning manna at 10 and morning worship at 11 with Ricky Locus as speaker.

Evening Light

Evening Light Holiness Church will have service at 11 a.m. Sunday with the Rev. Katie Farmer as speaker and music by the mass choir. A black history celebration will be at 3 p.m. A convocation revival will be 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday with the following speakers: Monday, the Rev. Gail Boykin of Trinity Deliverance Holy Church; Tuesday, the Rev. George Speight of Evening Light Mission; Wednesday, the Rev. Douglas Skinner; Thursday, the Rev. Lynn May; and Friday, the Rev. Judy Vaughn of Trinity Deliverance Holy Church.

Great Restoration

Great Restoration Church Ministries will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Rev. Herbert Joyner with a pre-pastor's anniversary service at 4 p.m. Sunday with the Rev. Herbert Rhodes and the Rev. Cynthia L. Powell as tag team speakers. Music will be provided by Patterson Chapel Male Choir and Beatrice Hopkins presiding.

St. Rose — Sims

St. Rose Holy Church will have Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. and morning worship at 11 with the Rev. Sheryl Morgan along with Momeyer Baptist Church rendering the service. Mid-week Bible study is at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Life in the Word

Life in the Word Ministry will have Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. and morning worship at 10:45 with the Rev. George Atkinson as speaker. Mid-week Bible study is at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Jackson Chapel

Jackson Chapel First Missionary Baptist Church will have Sunday school at 9 a.m. and morning worship at 10 with the Rev. E. Ray Bynum as speaker. Mid-week Bible study is at noon and 7 p.m. on Wednesday.

Feel Free

Feel Free Church Ministries will have Sunday school at 9 a.m. and morning worship at 10 with Anthony Cox as speaker. A shoe rally service will be at 3 p.m. Sunday with the Rev. Shirley A. Swain of Akron, Ohio, as guest speaker. Mid-week Bible study is at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

St. John — Black Creek

St. John Holiness Church will have mission day at 11 a.m. Sunday with Veronica Morgan as speaker and music by the senior choir.

Wilson Chapel

Wilson Chapel Free Will Baptist Church will have an early morning service at 7:45 Sunday; Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. and morning worship and Holy Communion at 10:45. Bible study is at noon on Monday. Mid-week prayer is at noon and Bible study is at 7 p.m. on Wednesday.

Trinity Deliverance

Trinity Deliverance Holy Church will have Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. and youth service at 11 a.m. Sunday with the Rev. Erma Zeigler as speaker.

Greater Zion —Stantonsburg

Greater Zion Original Free Will Baptist Church will have a mission service at 11 a.m. Sunday with George A. Ward as speaker.

IF YOU HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT *you would like to be included in Church News, you may submit it by email to churchnews@wilsontimes.com, fax to 252-243-7501 or mail to Church News, The Wilson Times, P.O. Box 2447, Wilson, NC 27894-2447. The deadline is noon Thursday prior to the event.*

Transitions of ministry: From bus driver to something else



ZACH HARRIS

I came to Wilson in 2015 to be the pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church. I had interviewed earlier in the year in response to the congregation's request for pastoral leadership in what many would recognize as the regular tasks of any minister.

There really isn't a detailed list. It's worded as leading in Word and Sacrament. And as we talked about it, the string of tasks took the familiar form as preaching, teaching, leading worship, visiting the sick, attending meetings, etc., etc., etc. You know, the kind of stuff that the caricature of a pastor on a TV show would be shown doing.

I used the image of driving the bus, like old Ralph Kramden in "The Honeymooners." You know, the bus already exists. The routes are already made up. And all that is needed is the driver to do what the previous driver had done before, and what the next driver will be expected to do the next time.

But even though that was the gist of the call, I let them know that I had done different stuff in other places, most recently starting one congregation from scratch and just after that, helping put together two congregations into one new one. It was kind of akin to the difference from just driving the bus to designing the bus itself. And if Ascension wanted to, maybe we could go off-script and do some other stuff.

Some folks thought that would be intriguing, exciting, even fun. But, I had to warn them: that would require some alterations. If we would have had some fictional inspirational prelude to some of what followed, it might have sounded something like the preamble to Season 4 of the now-concluded TV show "Arrow" (What, you thought we would get through this with no costumed hero?) "I returned home with only one goal: to save my city. But my old approach wasn't enough. I had to become someone else. I had to become something else. I had to become the Green Arrow."

Each season of "Arrow" has some variation on those lines at the beginning, because the progression of Oliver Queen's character hinges on him not only taking on a new identity as "someone" else, but taking on a new reality as "something" else.

And so, Ascension took up the challenge by trying on the wardrobe of some things that I had tried at other places I had served. We put in place a simpler, more user-friendly service with an easier-to-follow bulletin. We amped up the friendship factor by hosting an actual Friendship Sunday filled with invitations. And based on some comments by one of our leaders in a Mutual Ministry meeting in November of 2016, we pulled out of mothballs the idea of movie ministries that I had used in the past, which kind of seemed radical at the time as we stretched to something else beyond what the congregation had been before.

But those were things I was used to. Then ideas started to flow into uncharted waters. How about a Longest Night service at the winter solstice for those who are feeling as dark as the nights have become? And those movie events: couldn't they be used as vacation Bible school, confirmation and Sunday school multigenerational events? And that one movie "Coco" inspired us to ask: what if we used All Saints Sunday to celebrate Día de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead, in remembrance of the saints in our very own families?

But to do those things, the bus, the bus route and the bus driver couldn't stay the same. My old approach wasn't enough. I had to become someone else. I had to become something else.

And then this artist came into the picture, and the excitement from the movies inspired the idea to make a weekend event about the subjects of movies and comics and how they relate to the messages of the Gospel. And now the full-fledged process of gathering artists, writers and panelists to make the weekend work brought forth needs for a whole different set of skills. And then the idea of filling the front yard with colorful signs with messaging and pictures asked for yet something new.

And so many had to fall in line with my own sense of the moment: my old approach wasn't enough. I had to become someone else. I had to become something else.

But what chronologically predates much of this was really probably the largest leap beyond. It was a once-in-a-life-time chance presented by the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. I had never been at a congregation that hosted an Oktoberfest before, but we wanted to put on one like had never been done in Wilson before as a free gift to the community to show the unconditional free gift of God's grace. And that was in response to perhaps the most radical shift I had to make in my time in Wilson when one of my crazy members who got inspired by all of these things suggested that I start writing this very column for the paper.

This was perhaps the most personal of all these shifts because quite literally, my old approach wasn't enough. I had to become someone else. I had to become something else. No longer could I just rely on the spoken word, but now my thoughts would be codified in writing. And in many ways, this very column you read is what took my ministry here from simply driving the bus to, well — something else.

However, my time at Ascension is coming to a close on the last Sunday of this month, Feb. 23 at 11 a.m.

In some ways, it will be a sad goodbye to the many friends both in my congregation and in the community. And especially if you've been reading this little thought-provoking piece that I've been writing, you are invited to be there to worship and celebrate the time we've had together.

As for the time after that, I guess I could just go back to driving the bus somewhere. But my guess is that God isn't quite done with me yet.

I don't think God is done with Ascension Lutheran Church yet. And my suspicion is that God is not done with you either, dear reader. But my best guess is that my old approach won't be enough. I will have to add some new arrows to my quiver and become someone else. And yet again, God will call me to be something else!

Pastor Zach Harris *has been an ordained minister for 28 years and currently serves Ascension Lutheran Church in Wilson. His column, "Through a Lutheran Lens: A Pastor's Perspective," appears weekly in The Wilson Times. Previous columns are available at WilsonTimes.com.*



CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

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Two brothers inherited a fortune to be divided equally. One brother invested his half in a glamorous product, touted to become a huge success. The other trusted his wealth to a "tried and true" staple. The glamorous new product enjoyed magical success for a time, but eventually failed and the fortune was lost. The sales of the more practical and proven product continued on a steady scale and the fortune was doubled. There is no magic formula for success. Invest your faith in the "tried and true." God is "the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8) Attend His house and worship every week.

Daily Bible Reading

Deut. 5:1-22	Deut. 6:1-25	John 3:1-21	John 3:22-36	John 4:1-26	John 4:27-42	John 4:43-54

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society ✕ Daily Devotional at DailyBible.AmericanBible.org

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305 Lanes Street SE
Wilson, NC 27893
Sunday School
1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays
9:30 am
Sunday Morning Worship
1st, 3rd & 4th Sundays
11:00am
Pastor: Elder Tevin Boykin

Macedonia Church
7168 POWELL HOOKS RD.
LUCAMA
Assistant Pastor Eva Crawford
1st & 2nd Sunday
Sunday School 9:45 am
Worship 11:00 am
Thursday Bible Study 6:30 pm

Marsh Swamp Free Will Baptist Church
6664 Rock Ridge School Rd.. Sims
(252) 243-3063
Rev. Ray Wells
Sunday School 9:30 am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
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6:00 pm Wed.
10:30 am Sun. Worship service
is Live Streamed at:
marshswamp.org

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gracebaptistwilson.com
Rev. Steve Strickland
Sunday School 10:00 am
Worship 11:00 am
Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 pm

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Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Sunday Youth Service 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

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johnsonchapel.weebly.com
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Worship 11:00 am
5th Sunday Worship 8:00 am
Tuesday Bible Study
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highercallingnc.wikidot.com
Rev. Dr. John M.Wooten, Pastor
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Service 11:00 a.m.

Greater Love Church Ministries
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Elder Terry Joyner, Pastor
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1st, 2nd, & 4th Sunday, 11:00 am
• Evangelistic Service 3rd Sun., 4:00 pm
• Bible Study Tues. after 1st & 3rd Sun., 7:30 pm
~ John 15:13 ~



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2522929640
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Pastor: Woody Parrish

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Bible Study Wednesday- 10am

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425 Watery Branch Ch. Rd.
Stantonsburg
(919) 242-2257
Rev. Allen Stanley
Praise & Worship 9:30 am
Sunday School 10:00 am
Worship 11:00 am & 6:00 pm
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Prayer Service 7:00pm

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NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION WILSON, NORTH CAROLINA

A primary election will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 in WILSON COUNTY to vote in the following contests: US President, US Senate, US House of Representatives District 1, NC Governor, NC Lieutenant Governor, NC Attorney General, NC Auditor, NC Commissioner of Agriculture, NC Commissioner of Insurance, NC Commissioner of Labor, NC Secretary of State, NC Superintendent of Public Instruction, NC Treasurer, NC House of Representatives District 24,

Polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the day of the election, Tuesday, March 3, 2020. One-stop early voting will be held at the Wilson County Board of Elections office, 112 Douglas Street, E. **One-stop early voting will be open from Thursday, February 13, 2020 and will end Saturday, February 29, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. Early Voting hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m., Saturday, February 22nd 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Sunday, February 23rd from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, February 29, 2020 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** Early Voting schedule can be found on our website: found at www.wilson-co. Canvass will be held in the Wilson County Board of Elections office at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, March 13th.

Absentee voting by mail is available. Requests for an absentee ballot must be made on an absentee request form (available on the State Board of Elections website, at the county board of elections office and where one-stop early voting is offered), and must be received in the Wilson County Board of Elections office by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 25th. Absentee voting requires the voter to complete an application on the return envelope that must be witnessed by two qualified persons or a notary public. Completed absentee ballots must be returned to the Wilson County Board of Elections by 5:00 p.m. on Election Day (ballots received by mail after this time will be considered timely if they are received within three business days and postmarked on or before Election Day). Voters may receive assistance voting a mail-in absentee ballot from a qualified person of their choice. If the voter lives a facility such as a nursing home, and the voter's near relative or legal guardian is not available, the voter or the facility may arrange to have the county board of elections schedule a visit by a Multipartisan Assistance Team to provide assistance and serve as witnesses.

All persons who are registered to vote with the Wilson County Board of Elections may vote in this election. Persons who are not already registered to vote in the county must register by Friday, February 7th to be eligible to vote in this election. **Voters who are not registered in the county by that deadline** may register and vote during one stop early voting only, and will be required to provide documentation of their identity and residence. Voters who wish to change party affiliation or who have changed name or address must do so by the registration deadline. Voters who fail to timely make a change in name or address in the county must update the information when presenting to vote, and may be required to vote a provisional ballot.

Voters voting in person are entitled to assistance by an election official, or, if assistance is needed due to disability or illiteracy, by a qualified person of their choice. Voting sites are accessible to all voters. Curbside voting is available for voters who are not able to enter voting sites.

Persons with questions about registration, polling places, early voting, absentee ballots, a Multipartisan Assistance Team visit to a facility, or other election matters may call the Wilson County Board of Elections Office at 1-252-399-2836.

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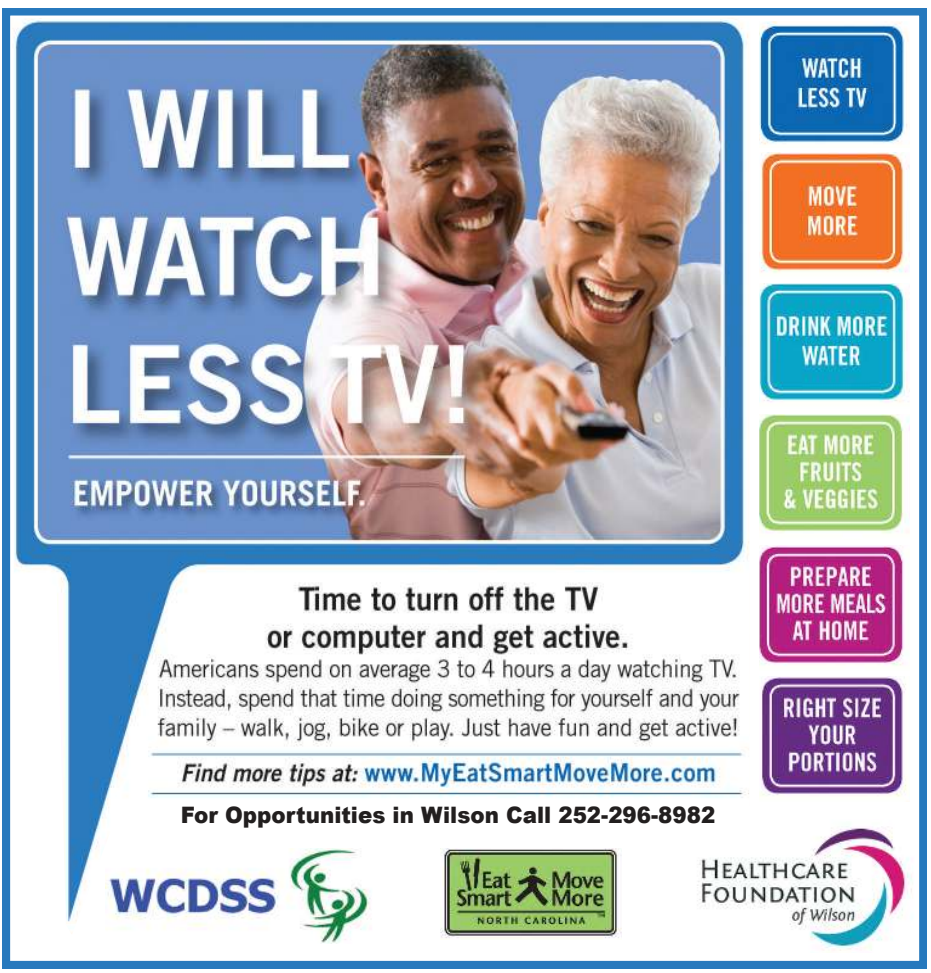
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Winfrey says King not doing well after social media backlash

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Oprah Winfrey says her friend Gayle King is facing death threats following a social media backlash caused by an interview with retired WNBA star Lisa Leslie that concerned the late Kobe Bryant.

On an appearance on "Hoda & Jenna & Friends" on Friday, Winfrey said King "is not doing well" and has to travel with security because of threats. "She feels very much attacked."

CBS released an excerpt to promote King's interview with Leslie. The clip, distributed online and on CBS News' social media accounts, focused on a portion of the interview where Leslie addressed a Colorado sexual assault case that had been brought against Bryant and dismissed. In the clip, King asks Leslie whether the 2003 case made Bryant's legacy complicated for her. Leslie said that it did not.

Critics lashed out at King on social media for bringing up the old allegations. Actor, rap artist and television executive 50 Cent told The Associated Press he thought it was unfair because Bryant wasn't around to defend himself. Snoop Dogg posted a profane Twitter video that concluded with him urging King to back off "before we come get you." The Twitter account belonging to imprisoned comedian Bill Cosby also was critical.

King said in a video response via Twitter on Thursday that the clip was shared out of context and expressed anger at her network. "I am mortified, I am embarrassed and I'm very angry," King said. CBS later released a statement saying the clip "did not reflect the nature and tone" of the complete interview.

Winfrey criticized what she called "misogynist vitriol" against King.

"I can see how people would obviously be very upset if you thought that Gayle was just trying to press to get an answer from Lisa Leslie," Winfrey continued. "Obviously all things pass, she will be OK, but she hasn't slept in two days."

After the alleged victim decided not to pursue the case, she and Bryant reached a settlement in 2005. Bryant, who was 24 at the time of the Colorado incident, said he had not committed sexual assault.

Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter Gianna, and seven other people were killed in a January helicopter crash in Southern California. A memorial will be held at the Staples Center in Los Angeles later this month.

Heavy rain, floods lash eastern Australia, help with fires

The Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia — Heavy rains lashed parts of the wildfire and drought-stricken Australian east coast on Friday, bringing some flooding in Sydney and relief to firefighters still dealing with dozens of blazes in New South Wales.

New South Wales is the state hardest hit by wildfires that have killed at least 33 and destroyed more than 3,000 homes in an unprecedented fire season that began late in a record-dry 2019.

New South Wales Rural Fire Service Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said he was optimistic the rain will help extinguish some blazes over the coming days. He said there were still 42 fires burning in the state, with 17 of those not contained.

"The rain is good for business and farms as well as being really good for quenching some of these fires we've been dealing with for many, many months," he said.

"We don't want to see lots of widespread damage and disruption from flooding, but it is certainly a welcome change to the relentless campaign of hot, dry weather," he added.

Firefighters can't contain major blazes across the southeast without heavy rain. The rain forecast to move southwest from the northeastern coast over the next week would be the first substantial soakings to reach dozens of fires that have spread for weeks.

Heavy rain and flash-flooding warnings extend across most of the New South Wales coast. Authorities say they rescued six people stranded from flood water in New South Wales since Wednesday.

Shrinking country: Serbia struggles with population decline

By Jovana Gec
The Associated Press

BLAGOJEV KAMEN, Serbia — Uros Trainovic remembers when his small mining village in eastern Serbia was a vibrant home to 200 families, had a school of its own, a doctor and a shop.

How times have changed. Now, 60-odd years later, it's a ghost village with just eight residents.

The transformation of Blagojev Kamen is not unique in a country that experienced years of war and sanctions in the 1990s following the break-up of Yugoslavia. In a twist of historical irony, one of the causes behind those years of war was the idea of creating a Greater Serbia out of the ashes of the former Yugoslavia.

Near-empty villages with abandoned, crumbling houses can be seen all over Serbia — a clear symptom of a shrinking population that is raising acute questions over the economic well-being of the country. The decline is happening so fast it's considered a national emergency and the United Nations has stepped in to help.

"This village used to be full of people, I used to go to school here," the 71-year-old Trainovic recalls.

"It is such a pity and so sad that everybody left ... now there are only few of us and there are no young people any more."

However it's measured, the numbers look stark. According to the World Bank, Serbia's population of just below 7 million is projected to fall to 5.8 million by 2050. That would represent a 25% fall since 1990.

The Serbian government says the Balkan country is effectively losing a town each year, and that as many as 18 municipalities have fewer than 10,000 people: "We are 103 people less each day."

Population changes are a fact of life across Europe, but the problem is acutely different in Central and Eastern Europe where the low fertility rates that are commonplace in developed countries combine with high migration rates and low immigration more akin to developing nations.

The economic knock-on effects on a country striving to join the European Union are evident and amount to billions of dollars in the short term. In the longer run, there are also costs related to the fact that a smaller population of working age will have to contribute more to support the ranks of those of pensionable age.

The U.N. Development Program and the U.N. Population Fund have assembled a group of seven international experts of different backgrounds and specialities to help out. The members visited Serbia last month for a fact-finding mission.

Wolfgang Lutz, an Austrian expert in demographics at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, or IIASA, said the main problem is related to the make-up of those leaving Serbia rather than the overall population decline.

"We see that it tends to be the better-educated, the more highly skilled, the more highly motivated mobile people who are leaving and that is certainly a drain of the human capital," he told The Associated Press in an interview.

Reflecting the decades of crisis are villages like Blagojev Kamen. It had flourished when a nearby gold mine kept the area alive before and after World War II, but its fortunes have sunk as the mine closed down in the mid-1990s.

Trainovic said there are still gold and other minerals in the mine but that it needs investment and hard work.

"One of my sons is in Germany and the other one is in Austria," he said. "They visit often but they have nothing to return to."

Serbia's government has tried to buck the trend, offering financial benefits for couples with multiple children, state-backed IVF, the renovation of schools and day care centers, aid to families in rural areas or backing for businesses in villages.

Ruth Finkelstein, an assistant professor from Columbia University who is an expert on aging and its social implications, said Serbia should also strive to find a role for its growing elderly population.

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http://davisheating.rheemdealer.net
NC License 14708H3
Doug Davis Ricky Tedder

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We Pay Top Dollar!
For Junk Cars & Trucks
Scrap Metal & Appliances
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252-977-0005

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$150 & Up CASH
Also Big Trucks, Tractors Heavy Equipment, Campers, Appliances, Lawn Mowers, Motorcycles, Scrap, Etc.
Pick-up, Towing & Wrecker Service
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BAILEY'S Roofing & HOME REPAIR
DECKS, SIDING, FENCES, ROOFING, PAINTING, REPLACEMENT WINDOWS & DOORS, GUTTERS, PRESSURE WASHING and ODD JOBS
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SENIOR DISCOUNT
Call Kent at
252-245-1464

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Bathroom/Kitchen
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All Roofing - Seamless Gutters
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blairmaintenance.com

NOTICES

Cemetery Lots For Sale

EVERGREEN MEMORIAL GARDENS,
2 Plots in the Exclusive Garden of Faith Section.
Call (434)420-1989

Cemetery Lots For Sale

EVERGREEN: Discounted prime roadside spaces in Chimes Tower C section. Includes vaults and memorials at **HALF PRICE.** 828-406-2200

The Wilson Times



4 DIY-FRIENDLY PROJECTS TO GET YOUR HOUSE READY FOR WINTER

(BPT) - The leaves have changed, temperatures are dropping and pumpkin spice treats abound, which means winter is coming. Now is the time to winterize your home, which can mean up to a 10% savings on your energy bills, according to Energy Star.

"Winter brings unpredictable weather and dropping temperatures, which can test the limits of your home and reveal weaknesses - like drafts - you didn't realize were there," said Cathy McHugh, director brand management at DAP. "Taking a few simple steps now to repair, prepare and protect your home through the harsh winter weather will help save on time, energy bills and costly repairs come spring."

Help your home fight the cold, without breaking the bank, by tackling these four DIY-friendly preventative projects.

Seal windows and doors. Check for small cracks and gaps between window frames and doors. These are the spots that allow water, insects and cold air to creep inside. Do this yourself by holding a lit candle or incense stick near the potential leak; if the flame or smoke dances around then you know you have a leak. Protect your home and keep it warm by replacing worn exterior caulk with an exterior grade sealant, like DAP Dynaflex Ultra Advanced Exterior Sealant. Backed by a lifetime mold-, mildew- and algae-resistance guarantee, this sealant uses exclusive WeatherMax Technology for all-weather protection that provides a strong, weatherproof and crack-proof seal to keep out wind, snow, rain and cold air.

Check your furnace filter. Did you know the dirtier your furnace filters are, the harder your furnace has to work? In most homes, filters should be changed monthly throughout the heating season. You should also have your furnace serviced periodically to make sure it is working properly. Not only will regularly changing the filters in your central air and heating system give your wallet a break, but it can also significantly improve your furnace's efficiency and longevity.

Defend against pests. Avoid issues with mice and other pests trying to stay warm this season by sealing up gaps and cracks inside your garage, attic, basement and under sinks or around pipe and electrical cutouts using Mouse Shield. Specially treated to block mice, birds, bats and tree squirrels, as well as ants, roaches, spiders and bees, the foam also works to seal and insulate to help save on energy costs.

Protect your pipes. Pipes can burst and cost a fortune to replace. Locate pipes in the home that pass through unheated areas, like crawlspaces or basements, and insulate them with foam rubber sleeves. Just cut the sleeve to fit the length of the pipe, wrap it around and secure with duct tape. In extreme cases, put heating tape on first to ensure that the pipe does not freeze. Also, be sure to locate your home's water shut-off valve just in case a pipe does burst. Better safe than sorry.

For more ideas for your next project, check out DAP's DIY videos on YouTube.

JOBS

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ROOFING EAST COAST CONSTRUCTION

Free Estimates!
Carpentry Available!
Lowest Prices in Town!
Licensed & Insured!
Call (252)813-2099

RENTALS

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Forest Hills Manor
Applications being taken for 1, 2, and 3 bedroom apartments in Wilson. Affordable Section 8 community with rent based on income. Professional staff, 24 hr. on call maintenance.
EHO

House For Rent

3BD, 2BA House on Lincoln St, Wilson, $400 dep. + $400 mo. No appl., base board heat. Call 252-230-2171 from 2pm-7pm

Davis Rentals
2 & 3 Bedroom Units and Houses
4710 West Nash St.
252-291-1656

Rooms For Rent

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REAL ESTATE

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Looking to sell (2) one acre lots on Evansdale Rd. Lot #'s are 4741 and 4745. Water/ septic tank/ electricity already in place. call/text 252 363-1673 for more info/pricing.

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Affordable, 2 bdrm, 1bath, $385 w/ criminal background check and deposit, central heat, stove, fridge, washer, dryer, no dogs, easy access to I95 exit 106-Kenly. (919)915-0192 or (919)437-3444

PETS

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Pomapoo, Dorkie, Boston Terrier & Siberian Husky, for Sale Call Brenda at: (919)-965-4779

Found Lost Pets

FOUND FEMALE MASTIFF
ON RADFORD RD
IN LUCAMA. 80 LBS.
CONTACT 252-236-1334.

IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE FATHER; GOD, THE SON; AND GOD, THE HOLY GHOST: I COMMAND, I DEMAND THAT HERSHEE BE RETURNED TO ME TODAY - ALIVE AND WELL, SAFE AND SOUND, AND HEALED! I BIND ON EARTH EVERY NEGATIVE FORCE/FORM AGAINST - AND LOOSE ON EARTH EVERY POSITIVE FORCE/FORM - FOR HERSHEE'S SAFE RETURN (THEY HAVE BEEN BOUND AND LOOSED IN HEAVEN)! MATTHEW 16:19, MATTHEW 21:22, MARK 11:23-24 LUKE 11:9, JOHN 14:13-14, JAMES 5:16, PSALM 150:6 PROVERBS 12:10, DANIEL 3:17-18,

Found Lost Pets

YOUR PRAYERS AND CALLS ARE APPRECIATED!
MISSING 02-28-13. Pit/Hound or Pit/Shepherd Mix. 50 Lbs. Female. Name: HerShee. 13 Years old. Brindle color (the colors of dark, milk & white chocolate, caramel & black). Bolted from owner in fear of medical treatment at For The Love Of Dogs, Quaker Road, Wilson, NC Needs medical care;

The Wilson Times

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GET STARTED TODAY!

SERVICES

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Jesus Loves You

Auctions

TOBACCO EQUIPMENT AUCTION
Saturday, February 15, 2020–10:00AM
1062 Sandy Foundation Rd., Deep Run, NC - Lenoir County
(13) Taylor All Metal 10 Box Tobacco Barns, Transplant System 35 ft. x 200 ft. Greenhouse, Tobacco Seeding table with Berry Seeder, Powell 2 row Automatic Tobacco Primer, (2) Johnnie Sheppard Tobacco Balers, Lannen Plantek 4 row Tobacco Setter, JD 6000 Hi Cycle Sprayer, 1986 Ford F 600 2 ton Truck, dump, Other Tobacco Equipment
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NCAL #883

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Saturday 9:00-1:00

OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 2-4

REDUCED



1306 LAKESIDE DRIVE
4/2.5, 2456 SF
Raleigh Rd. to left on Lakeside. House is on the left.
SELBY BREWER
315-5265
$271,900 • I00200063

UNDER CONTRACT



5116 BREWER CT
3/2, 1910 SF
Nash St. West to left on Brewer Ct.
HARRY GAUSS
903-9900
$235,000 • 100188238



5118 BREWER CT
3/2, 1813 SF
Nash St. West to left on Brewer Ct.
HARRY GAUSS
903-9900
$219,900 • 100188239

FEATURED LISTING



3402 BELLE MEADE DR
4/4FB/2HB, 6776 SF
JOHNSON BISSETTE
245-0905
$975,000 • 100178783

Weekend Assistance



REBECCA TEW
BROKER/REALTOR
363-4095



DAWN HALL
BROKER
903-7313



3605 ARROWWOOD DR
4/3, 3055 SF
HARRY GAUSS
903-9900
$399,900 • 100181388



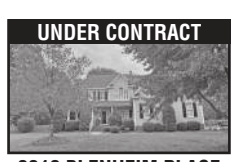
5100 ARTIS RD LUCAMA
3/1, 1014 SF
JOHNSON BISSETTE
245-0905
$63,900 • MLS 100188963

UNDER CONTRACT

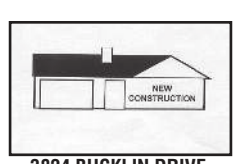


4328 BLAZING STAR LN
3/2, 1471 SF
RUTHE FARMER
290-1498
$164,900 • I00199466

UNDER CONTRACT



3310 BLENHEIM PLACE
4/3.5, 2777 SF
HARRY GAUSS
903-9900
$269,900 • 100187990



3824 BUCKLIN DRIVE
3/2, 1602 SF
HARRY GAUSS
903-9900
$188,900 • 100194762



3826 BUCKLIN DRIVE
3/2, 1550 SF
HARRY GAUSS
903-9900
$185,000 • 100194765



902 CARDINAL DR
4/3, 2450 SF
RICHARD SMITH
236-2731
$210,000 • 100193914



3314 JENNINGS FARM DR
4/3FB/2HB, 4978 SF
HARRY GAUSS
903-9900
$595,000 • 100168020



500 MT VERNON DR
3/2, 1754 SF
JOHNSON BISSETTE
245-0905
$159,900 • 100176611



1109 ROBIN HILL ROAD
3/2.5, 2278 SF
JOHNSON BISSETTE
245-0905
$169,900 • I00183020

UNDER CONTRACT



2400 RUNNYMEADE RD
4/3.5, 2572 SF
BILL ADAMS
289-6900
$237,500 • 100192657



1122 WOODLAND DR
4/4FB/2HB, 5467 SF
HARRY GAUSS
903-9900
$550,000 • 100170625

UNDER CONTRACT



4522 YANK ROAD
2/1, 689 SF
GENE BASS
292-0459
$25,000 • 100199461

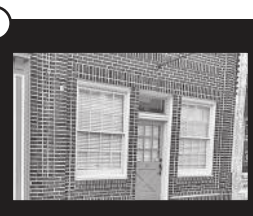
COMMERCIAL LISTINGS



2605 FOREST HILL RD
MEDICAL OFFICE
3100 SF
STEVE IRVIN
399-3710
$425,000 • 100045602



LIPSCOMB ROAD
COMMERCIAL LOT
53.76 ACRES
TERRI STUTTS
290-0750
$195,000 • 100189921



110 E. MAIN ST. FREMONT
COMMERCIAL BLDG
952 SF
JOHNSON BISSETTE
245-0905
$22,000 • 100191825



2425 W. NASH ST
CHURCH
140 SEAT SANCTUARY
6368 SF
JANE EVANS
236-2757
$540,000 • 100100582



ROSEBUD CHURCH RD.
ELM CITY
177 ACRE FARM
STEVE IRVIN
399-3710
$425,000 •100082792



2917 WARD BLVD.
COMMERCIAL LOT
.45 ACRES
JOHNSON BISSETTE
245-0905
$100,000 • 60046258



HARRY GAUSS
BROKER, GRI
903-9900 (M)



JOHNSON BISSETTE
BROKER
245-0905 (M)



SELBY BREWER
BROKER
315-5265



SANDRA SPEZIALE
BROKER
230-5710



ROBERT BROADWAY
BROKER
230-7017



BILL ADAMS
BROKER, CRB, CRS, GRI
289-6900



RHONDA LUTHER
BROKER
245-4240



MARY BUNTING
BROKER
292-2333



TERRI STUTTS
BROKER
290-0750



RALPH DAIL
BROKER
268-0855 (M)



RICHARD SMITH
BROKER
237-6740 (H)
236-2731 (M)



HOLLY GREEN
BROKER
243-7199 (H)
230-0856 (M)



STEVE IRVIN
BROKER, GRI
291-6579 (H)
399-3710 (M)



ANN BRICE
BROKER, GRI
373-0326 (M)



SCOTT WINDHAM
BROKER
230-7727

LINDA GODWIN
BROKER
230-8684

TYLER WORRELL
REALTOR/BROKER
373-0743

RUTHIE FARMER
BROKER
290-1498

JANE EVANS
BROKER
236-2757

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2 bath, central heat/air
Ceiling fans
Stove/refrigerator/microwave
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Have Fun & Be Creative

Reusing your newspaper to make artistic projects can be exciting.
The Wilson Times

Found Lost Pets

and, by now, she is hungry, cold, hot, wet, and still scared. Had a silver chain collar with I.D. Tag, and a purple leash. $100 REWARD. 252-399-9717 (English) (Do not have voicemail) 252-315-9204 (Spanish or English) Has Voicemail.
LAMENTATIONS 5:15

STUFF

Quick Sellers

Black & Aluminum Low Profile Tool box for Mid Size Pick-up Truck, never been used, Org. Price $450, Asking $225. Call (252)904-4776

Generator on Wheels
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Full bed truckload - split oak, delivered. $150. Get it today! (252) 260-0082.

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Wilson, NC 27896
(252) 234-7653
www.thewhitfieldagency.net
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Penny Whitfield
Broker/REALTOR
252-315-9318

Land/Lot

Rosebud Church Rd - 1.24 acre..... **$19,000**

1604 Singletary Street - .24 acre..... **$8,000**

1616 Queen Street - .24 acre **$6,000**



1318 Atlantic Street E
3BR, 2BA, 1070SF
$83,900



804 Broad Street
4BR, 2BA, 2361SF
$136,900



895 Blades Road • (Craven County)
3BR, 2.5BA, 1944 SF
$234,900



1702 Bynwood Circle SE
3BR, 2BA, 1633SF
$87,400



107 Moyton Ave • (Stantonsburg)
3BR, 1.5BA, 1334SF
$90,000



605 Powell Drive • (Nash County)
3BR, 2BA, 1500SF
$126,900

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2700 Nash Street North, Suite B

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3402 BELLE MEADE DR
4/4FB/2HB, 6776 SF
JOHNSON BISSETTE
245-0905
$975,000 • 100178783

Weekend Assistance

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OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 2-4

REDUCED
1306 LAKESIDE DRIVE
4/2.5, 2456 SF
Raleigh Rd. to left on Lakeside. House is on the left.
SELBY BREWER
315-5265
$271,900 • 100200063

UNDER CONTRACT
5116 BREWER CT
3/2, 1910 SF
Nash St. West to left on Brewer Ct.
HARRY GAUSS
903-9900
$235,000 • 100188238

5118 BREWER CT
3/2, 1813 SF
Nash St. West to left on Brewer Ct.
HARRY GAUSS
903-9900
$219,900 • 100188239

UNDER CONTRACT

UNDER CONTRACT

UNDER CONTRACT

UNDER CONTRACT

UNDER CONTRACT

COMMERCIAL LISTINGS

260s FOREST HILL RD
MEDICAL OFFICE
3100 SF
STEVE IRVIN
399-3710
$425,000 • 100045602

LIPSCOMB ROAD
COMMERCIAL LOT
83.75 ACRES
TERRI STUTTS
290-0760
$195,000 • 100189921

110 E. MAIN ST.
FREMONT
COMMERCIAL BLDG
962 SF
JOHNSON BISSETTE
245-0905
$22,000 • 100191925

2425 W. NASH ST
CHURCH
140 SEAT SANCTUARY
6368 SF
JANE EVANS
236-2757
$540,000 • 100100682

ROSEBUD CHURCH RD.
ELM CITY
177 ACRE FARM
STEVE IRVIN
399-3710
$425,000 • 100082792

2917 WARD BLVD.
COMMERCIAL LOT
45 ACRES
JOHNSON BISSETTE
245-0905
$100,000 • 60046258

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VISIT: CHESSONAGENCY.COM

WEEKEND ASSISTANCE



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7 PROPERTIES

NEW THIS WEEK
9 PROPERTIES

SOLD THIS WEEK
14 PROPERTIES

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Garage/Yard Sale

Huge Garage Sale
3511 Shadow Ridge Rd, Fri, 2/7 & Sat, 2/8, 8am-Until. Quality Items from our Vacation Home. No Big Furn, Kitchen, Bathroom Decor & Office. Too numerous to list!!! Feel free to Call or Text 252-373-4999

Estate/Yard Sale
1101 Branch St(Corner Lot/Around Back of House). Fri,2/7,1pm-Until, Sat, 2/8, 7am-Until & Sun,, 2/9, 1pm-Until. Misc Household, Yard, Furn, Small Appliances & Lots of Stuff.

MORNING INDOOR YARD SALE
3311 Boyette Dr. Apt#1A (Morgans Ridge Apts) Fri, 2/7 & Sat, 2/8, 8am-12pm(both days). Furn, Washer & Dryer, Microwave, Pictures, Clothes & Many Household Items.

JUST PURCHASED!
LOCAL ANTIQUE & GIFT SHOP WILSON-ROCKY MOUNT FLEA MARKET & BARGAIN CENTER.
Open Mon,Tues,Thurs & Fri. 9:30am-5pm &
Sat 8:30am-5:00pm.
4700 Hwy 301 N. Elm City
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Winter Yard Sale
Bundle Up!!
4432 Saddle Run Road
(7am-11am)
Hubby says it ALL must GO!!!
Furniture, stools, jewelry, collectables, florals, vases, books, frames, baskets, tools, home dcor, kitchen stuff, crutches, adult potty, coats, craft stuff, yoga stuff.

Merchandise For Sale

50's era old timey, Vintage Farmall Super A Tractor 4000 FIRM. 1986 or '87 50HP Outboard motor with controls (without tilt and trim), Medium shank. Compression is good, and hasn't been ran that much. Ran good before storing it upright (but has been stored a right good while (now)). 900, as is.
Call, leave a voicemail, or text 252-296-6913.
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For Sale
Bush Hogging
Call (252)291-1933

Leather Couch and loveseat, coffee table, two end tables. $400. Call (910) 987-9713

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Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILSON

WHEREAS, the Local Development Act of 1925 authorizes cities and counties to make appropriations and expenditures and to acquire and convey interests in real property for the purposes of aiding and encouraging the location of manufacturing enterprises, and locating industrial and commercial plants in the county which will, in the discretion of the governing body of the city or county, increase the population, taxable property, agricultural industries, employment, industrial output, or business prospects of the city or county; and

WHEREAS, these expenditures may be funded by the levy of property taxes and by the allocation of other revenues whose use is not otherwise restricted by law; and

WHEREAS, **Barnes Metal-crafters Inc.** has requested an economic development incentive from the City and County of Wilson for the purpose of expanding its metal fabrication facility located within the City and County of Wilson, resulting in additional monetary investment and the creation of new jobs; and

WHEREAS, the Company will, at its sole cost and expense, invest approximately $2,560,100.00 in its fabrication facility and will employ 7 additional full-time employees to be paid an average annual wage of $42,000 including benefits; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of said fabrication facility will increase the taxable property and business prospects of the City and County; and

WHEREAS, the public benefit from the aforesaid improvements will include, inter alia, additional ad valorem tax revenues for the City and County of Wilson and additional employment opportunities for the citizens of the City and County of Wilson; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the terms of N.C.G.S. 158-7.1, and subject to receipt by the City of sufficient ad valorem tax revenues attributable to the investment by the Company as described herein, and further subject to the other terms and conditions hereinafter set forth, and such additional terms as the City Council may impose following a public hearing, the City desires to make the appropriations and expenditures and to authorize payment of the economic development incentives described herein.

THEREFORE, NOTICE is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Wilson will hold a public hearing to consider the following economic development incentives:

1. A monetary incentive to be paid to the Company in the amount of $8,750 per year—with the County providing a matching monetary incentive—for a period of four (4) years, provided that the annual incentive paid by the City and County shall not exceed the total ad valorem taxes paid by the Company to the City and County each year.

2. The funds to be appropriated and expended herein as economic development incentives shall be appropriated from the economic development line item of the City budget for the applicable fiscal years.

NOTICE is further given that the City Council intends to approve the foregoing economic development incentives following the public hearing.

NOTICE is further given that the City Council reserves the right to impose such additional or different covenants, conditions and restrictions as it deems appropriate in its discretion.

NOTICE is further given that the City Council of the City of Wilson will hold the public hearing on the making of said appropriations and expenditures at its regular meeting on **February 20, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.** in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, **112 North Goldsboro Street, Wilson, North Carolina.**

All interested citizens are invited to appear and be heard.

This the 8th day of February, 2020.
Tonya A. West
City Clerk
City of Wilson

Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILSON FOR CONVEYANCE OF REAL PROPERTIES FOR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, NCGS 160A-458.3 authorizes cities to enter into contracts with private developers for the purposes of revitalization of the central business district of the city through a downtown development project; and

WHEREAS, Cities may acquire, construct, own, operate and convey interests in real property for the purpose of a downtown development project as authorized by N.C.G.S. 160A-458.3 and 160A-457(4); and

WHEREAS, the City of Wilson (the "City") owns the real property identified as PIN 3722-20-4984 ("Tract One"); and

WHEREAS, the City has entered into a Purchase and Sale Agreement to acquire the real property identified as PIN 3722-21-6341and a portion of the real property identified as PIN 3722-21-4145 ("Tract Two"); and

WHEREAS, the City intends to acquire the remainder of the real property identified as NC PIN 3722-21-4145 (the "Tract Three"), a portion of the real property identified as PIN 3722-20-2839 ("Tract Four"), and a portion of the real property identified as PIN 3722-10-4646 ("Tract Five"), (collectively, Tract One, Tract Two, Tract Three, Tract Four and Tract Five are hereinafter referred to as the "Property"); and

WHEREAS, the City proposes to enter into a Master Development Agreement with NSV Wilson, LLC ("Developer"); and

WHEREAS, Developer desires to purchase and develop a portion of the Property for the downtown development project in accordance with the terms of a Master Development Agreement, and to provide development services to include management, design and construction of public infrastructure improvements to serve the development area together with a public parking facility on a portion of the Property and construction of a mixed use building with retail and multi-family components on a portion of the Property;

WHEREAS, in accordance with the terms of N.C.G.S. 160A-457 and 160A-458.3, and subject to the terms of the Master Development Agreement and further subject to the other terms and conditions hereinafter set forth, and such additional terms as the City Council may impose following a public hearing, the City desires to authorize the conveyance of certain portions of the Property described as follows: approximately a 2.33 acres parcel which is a portion of Tracts One, Two and Three for the purchase price of $148,740 per acre; approximately a 1.7 acre parcel which is a portion of Tract Four for the purchase price of $108,215 per acre; and a portion of Tract Five for the purchase price $650,000 plus 3% per year of City ownership plus demolition costs incurred; and

THEREFORE, NOTICE is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Wilson will hold a public hearing to consider the transactions referred to herein, the more specific terms and conditions of which will be included in the Master Development Agreement to be entered on or before the conveyance of the Property.

NOTICE is further given that the City Council reserves the right to impose such additional or different covenants, conditions and restrictions as it deems appropriate in its discretion.

NOTICE is further given that the City Council of the City of Wilson will hold a public hearing on the conveyance of the Property at its regular meeting on **February 20, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 112 North Goldsboro Street, Wilson, North Carolina.**

NOTICE is further given the City Council of the City of Wilson intends to approve the conveyance of the property following the Public Hearing.

All interested citizens are invited to appear and be heard.

This the 8th day of February, 2020.
Tonya A. West
City Clerk
City of Wilson

93%
The number of advertisers that were pleased with the response to their classified ad in
The Wilson Times
Pulse Research, November 2013

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People wearing masks walk in a subway station in Hong Kong on Friday. Hong Kong on Friday confirmed 25 cases of a new virus that originated in the Chinese province of Hubei. According to the latest figures, 233 new cases of the novel coronavirus have been confirmed globally, Hong Kong's Chief Secretary for Admissions told a news conference. AP

China's Communist Party faces recriminations over virus

By Ken Moritsugu and Mari Yamaguchi
The Associated Press



People wearing masks attend a vigil for Chinese doctor Li Wenliang in Hong Kong on Friday. The death of a young doctor who was reprimanded for warning about China's new virus triggered an outpouring Friday of praise for him and fury that communist authorities put politics above public safety. AP

BEIJING — China's ruling Communist Party faced public anger and recrimination Friday over the death of a doctor who was threatened by the authorities after trying to sound the alarm about the new coronavirus back in December. The death toll, meanwhile, rose to nearly 640, and the number of people infected worldwide climbed past 31,400.

Cruise ship passengers faced more woe as Japan reported 41 new cases on one quarantined vessel and turned away another. President Xi Jinping spoke with President Donald Trump and urged the U.S. to "respond reasonably" to the outbreak, echoing complaints that some countries are overreacting by restricting Chinese travelers.

A look at the latest developments:

TREATMENT OF WHISTLEBLOWER DOCTOR INVESTIGATED

Following an online uproar over the government's treatment of Dr. Li Wenliang, the Communist Party struck a conciliatory note, saying it is sending a team to "fully investigate relevant issues raised by the public."

Li, a 34-year-old ophthalmologist, contracted the virus while treating patients, and his death was confirmed early Friday. Li, one of eight medical professionals in Wuhan who tried to warn colleagues and others when the government did not, had said that police forced him to sign a statement admitting he spread falsehoods.

Even the staunchly pro-government Global Times newspaper said the whistleblowers' treatment was "evidence of local authorities' incompetence to tackle a contagious and deadly virus."

The episode has raised longstanding complaints that party officials lie about or cover up disease outbreaks, chemical spills, dangerous consumer products or financial frauds. Chinese citizens can be jailed on charges of rumor-mongering or making trouble.

Most of the deaths from the virus have been of older people with existing health problems, but disease specialists said Li's work — eye doctors sit very close to their patients during examinations — may have subjected him to an extra large dose of the virus that made his illness more severe.

CRUISE SHIP WOES

Japan confirmed 41 new cases of the virus on the quarantined Diamond Princess, adding to 20 escorted off the ship earlier. The nearly 3,700 passengers and crew still on board remain under 14-day quarantine.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said foreign passengers on another ship, Holland America's Westerdam, won't be allowed into Japan. He said suspected virus patients were on board. The ship, with more than 2,000 people, was near Okinawa and was seeking another port, said Overseas Travel Agency official Mie Matsubara.

"We are getting desperate," she said. "We hope we can go somewhere so that passengers can land."

XI, TRUMP TALK VIRUS RESPONSE, TRADE

China's state media quoted Xi as saying China has launched "a people's war against the virus."

"We hope the U.S. side can assess the epidemic in a calm manner and adopt and adjust its response measures in a reasonable way," he added.

Beijing has complained that the U.S. is flying its citizens out of Wuhan but not providing any assistance to China.

The U.S. announced later Friday that it is prepared to spend up to $100 million to help China and other countries fight the outbreak. The government also said it helped with the effort to deliver nearly 18 tons of medical supplies donated to the Chinese by the American people, including masks, gowns, gauze and respirators.

All but one the deaths in the outbreak have been in China. China's National Health Commission said about 4,800 of those being treated, or nearly 17 percent, are in serious condition. The vast majority of the infected are in China; roughly 290 others are in about two dozen other countries, including Japan, Thailand, Singapore and South Korea.

The U.S. has reported 12 cases.

Hundreds more Americans evacuated from the stricken zone in China began arriving Friday in the U.S., where they will be quarantined on military bases for two weeks.

WUHAN RESIDENTS SAY GETTING HELP NOT EASY

Wuhan, the epicenter of the outbreak, has added thousands of beds by building two new hospitals and converting gyms and other spaces into places where patients can be held in isolation. Thousands of military and civilian medical workers have been sent in.

Still, those inside the quarantine zone of some 50 million residents speak of a medical system completely overwhelmed.

Chen Jiaxin, 22, said by telephone from Wuhan that his father fell ill on Jan. 28 but had to return home because no hospital would accept him. When he called for an ambulance after his father's fever spiked on Thursday, Chen said, he was told 400 people were ahead of him and "we were just told to wait and wait."

Mother-of-two Rong Qin, 32, said that her 67-year-old father is feeling sick and is awaiting test results, but that she was told by local officials that even those with a positive diagnosis have to wait for beds.

"What I am hoping now is to put my father in a public quarantine facility so that he doesn't pass the infection on to other family members," she said.

Doctor's death highlights dangers on front lines of outbreak

By Maria Cheng
The Associated Press

LONDON — The death of a doctor who issued an early warning about the new virus in China represents a grim reminder that the first health care workers to recognize new outbreaks are sometimes among their earliest victims.

Dr. Li Wenliang's death underlined the dangers health workers have faced in similar epidemics, including SARS and Ebola.

On Dec. 3, Li wrote on his social media account that he saw a test sample suggesting the presence of a coronavirus similar to SARS. In early January, the 34-year-old eye doctor was visited by police who forced him to sign a statement admitting to having spread falsehoods.

Within days, he developed a cough and fever, began having trouble breathing and was hospitalized. His death was confirmed Friday, prompting a deluge of messages of mourning and outrage at how he was treated.

The death was an all-too-familiar occurrence, said Dr. Michael Ryan, head of the World Health Organization's health emergencies program.

"We're very sorry to hear the loss of any health care worker that's attempted to care for patients," Ryan said Friday. "We have suffered similar losses like the death of Carlo Urbani during SARS."

In 2003, Urbani was an Italian doctor at the U.N. health agency's Hanoi office and investigated the unusual case of a patient suffering respiratory symptoms in a private hospital. Urbani treated patients, took samples and worked to improve infection control policies in Hanoi.

Weeks later, he died of the same disease — severe acute respiratory syndrome — in a Bangkok hospital.

Doctors working at the early stages of any new outbreak are particularly vulnerable, said Dr. Bharat Pankhania, a University of Exeter infectious disease expert.

"At the beginning, doctors are just not aware of what kind of behaviors may be dangerous," he said. When Li was exposed to the new virus, "he didn't know an outbreak was already underway and what precautions he should take," Pankhania said.

Doctors and nurses also were infected in the early stages of multiple Ebola outbreaks, before the lethal disease was recognized and proper infection control policies were implemented.

"It's just bad timing," Pankhania said. "Doctors get infected because they are in the wrong place at the wrong time."

"We're very sorry to hear the loss of any health care worker that's attempted to care for patients. We have suffered similar losses like the death of Carlo Urbani during SARS"

DR. MICHAEL RYAN, head of the World Health Organization's health emergencies program

Among people infected in the current outbreak, 82% have suffered only mild disease, WHO estimated. Fatal cases have been most common in people aged over 60 and those with other health problems, like diabetes or high blood pressure. Fewer than 2% have died, according to the latest figures.

Li, however, may have been at risk for a more serious illness because he was treating patients before he knew to take any precautions, doctors said. He also may have been exposed to an especially large dose, given that eye doctors tend to work close to patients' faces.

A study published Friday in the Journal of the American Medical Association underscored the dangers faced by health care workers.

The report detailed illnesses in 138 people treated at Zhongnan Hospital in Wuhan, including 40 hospital workers believed to have become infected on the job. More than 10 of them were presumed to have been infected by a single patient who was admitted to the surgical ward with abdominal symptoms.

Patients also apparently infected other patients, the researchers said. The patients were all adults, adding to evidence that suggests cases in children are rare.

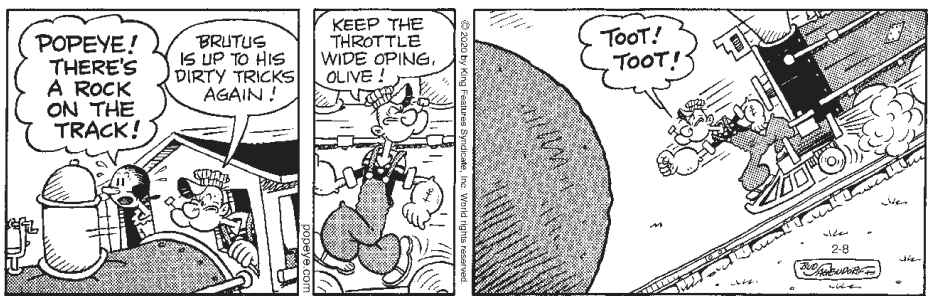
On Friday, WHO warned that increased demand for masks and other protective equipment might further jeopardize health workers responding to the outbreak.

WHO's director-general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, noted that prices have skyrocketed and that there were insufficient quantities of masks and respirators to meet the demands of WHO and its partners.

The problem has been exacerbated by inappropriate use of equipment such as masks, gloves and gowns, he said.

"We need to make sure we get it to the people who need it the most," he said. "Our first priority is health workers."

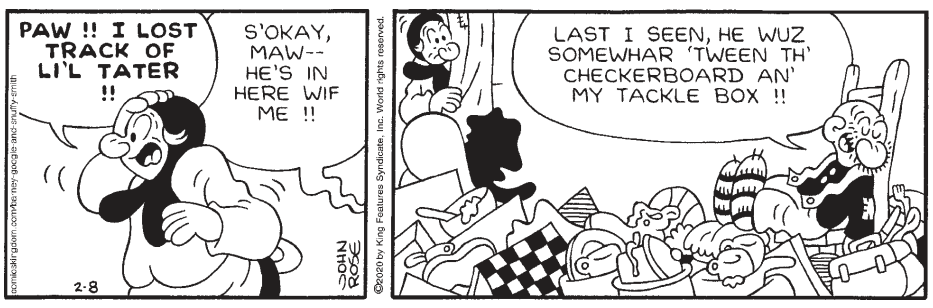
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PEANUTS



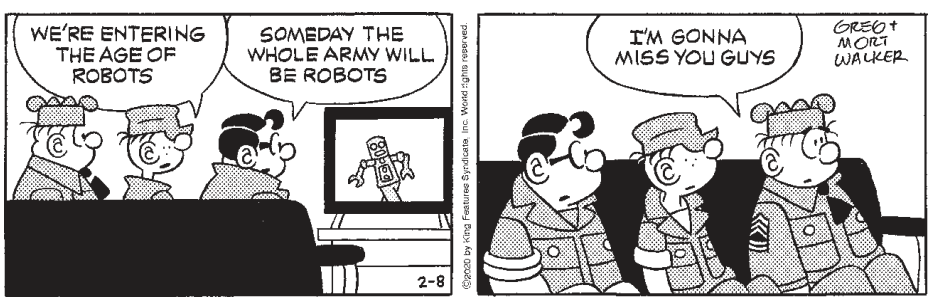
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THE BORN LOSER



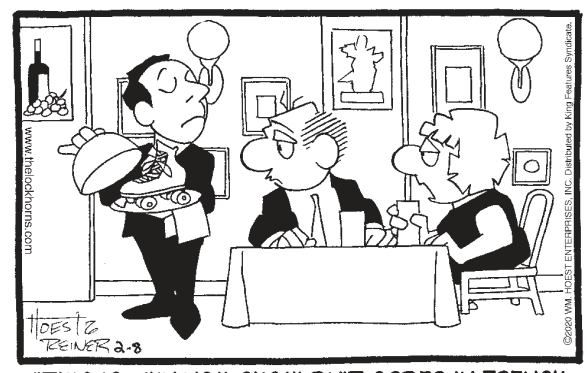
BEETLE BAILEY



DENNIS THE MENACE



THE LOCKHORNS



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CHAMT

PLUTI

MUHSUM

CLISEK



Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: " ○○○○ - ○○○○○ "

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CHALK PRONG LAZIER MOSTLY
Answer: The architect who designed the Pentagon was excited to see the structure — TAKING SHAPE

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STEVE BECKER

CONTRACT BRIDGE

A touch-and-go proposition

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K 10 6 5
♥ K 9 2
♦ A 6 3
♣ K 4 3

WEST
♠ 7 2
♥ Q 10 8 5 4
♦ Q J 10
♣ J 8 5

EAST
♠ J 9 8 4
♥ J 6
♦ K 7 2
♣ Q 10 7 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q 3
♥ A 7 3
♦ 9 8 5 4
♣ A 9 6

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT			

Opening lead — five of hearts.

The most interesting deals are those where the outcome is in doubt and both sides play to their maximum potential. Eventually, one side must win out, but if the loser has put forth a maximum effort, he has nothing to be ashamed of.

Take this case where South is in three notrump and West leads a heart. Declarer can count eight top tricks, with the ten of spades the most likely candidate for a ninth.

Since the spades can be tested at any time, it is best to keep that suit in reserve while exploring the only other possibility – that the opposing diamonds are divided 3-3.

Accordingly, after taking East's jack of hearts with the ace, South leads a diamond and allows West's ten to hold the trick. West returns the queen of hearts, ducked by South, and another heart drives out the king as East discards a club.

With the 5-2 heart division disclosed, declarer cannot afford to concede a second diamond, since West may gain the lead and cash his hearts to set the contract. South therefore plays the A-Q and another spade, hoping the jack will fall, but when West discards a club on the third round, that hope goes aglimmering.

So, after taking the third spade with the king, declarer turns his attention to diamonds once again, cashing the ace and continuing with another diamond. With ordinary defense, this plan works, as East wins the king of diamonds on the third round and cannot reach West's hearts. After cashing the jack of spades, he must return a club, and South winds up with nine tricks.

But if East allows this to transpire, he has not played to his best potential. Instead, foreseeing what will happen if he has to win the third diamond, he should drop his king when South cashes the ace! No matter how declarer proceeds from this point on, he cannot succeed, and the defense prevails on a well-played hand.

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CROSSWORD

ACROSS

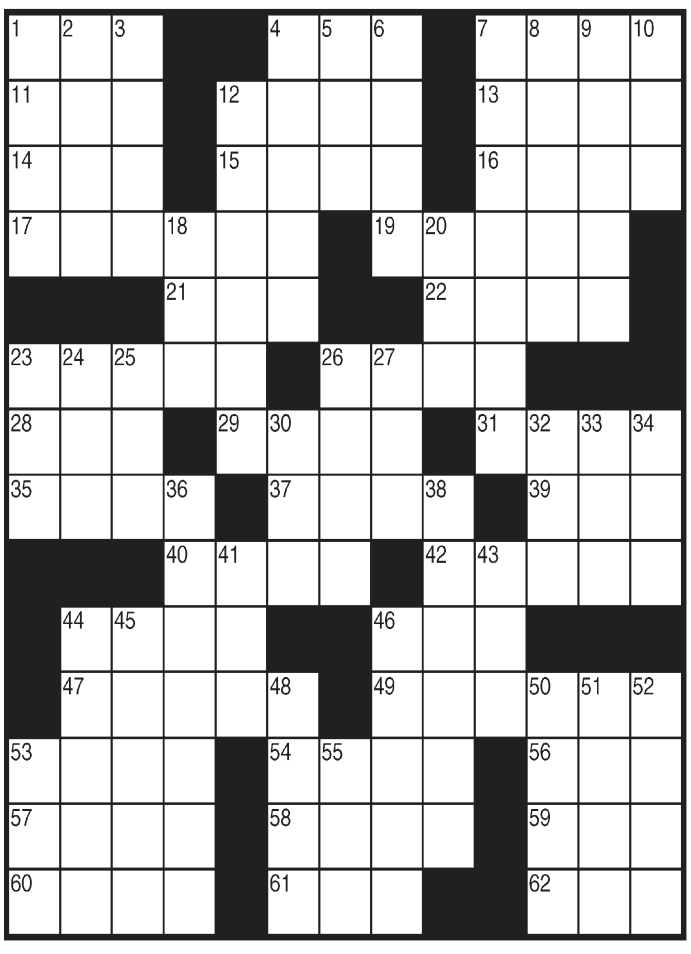
1 Straight line
4 Absent-minded murmur
7 Just around the corner
11 Eden exile
12 Vehicle
13 Wheel support
14 Gentle bear
15 Scurry sideways
16 Ran
17 Camelot royal
19 Gene Autry movie
21 "Little Women" name
22 Pinball no-no
23 Pigeonhole
26 Pan's opposite
28 Lemon drink
29 "Da" opposite
31 Rani's husband
35 Brit's poky
37 Sts.
39 "Watch it!"
40 Fumbler's word
42 Piece of china
44 Power unit
46 Theater sign
47 Watchdog breed
49 Said "yeth"
53 Pita treat
54 Naval jail
56 Caustic solution
57 Soon, to a poet
58 Tampa Bay NFLers
59 Large vase
60 Telescope part
61 Historical period
62 Earn

DOWN

1 Singer — McEntire
2 Not sunnyside up
3 Traveled
4 Make haste
5 Ms. Hagen
6 Vagrant
7 Worse, as the weather
8 Oust
9 Caution
10 Ruby
12 Savvy
18 Nasty laugh
20 Off-road vehicle
23 Scold
24 NW state
25 Company VIP
26 Races the engine
27 Had a meal
30 Sharp bark
32 Detective's cry
33 Nozzle
34 Vote in favor
36 Cosmetic buys
38 Bits of holly
41 One-time Giant Mel —
43 — Alamos
44 "The Duke" of Hollywood
45 Ohio city
46 Pie serving
48 "Waterloo" group
50 Ad
51 Bronte governess
52 Ding
53 Liquid meas.
55 Toupee, slangily

Answer to Previous Puzzle

U	R	S	A	■	M	A	D	■	W	A	N	T
G	U	A	M	■	O	U	I	■	A	M	I	E
H	E	L	P	■	I	F	S	■	R	O	B	E
■	D	E	E	M	S	■	D	E	S	K	S	■
■	■	■	R	O	T	■	A	G	A	■	■	■
E	M	B	E	D	■	B	I	G	W	I	G	■
M	E	A	■	■	■	O	N	S	■	R	O	I
U	R	L	■	V	E	G	■	■	■	O	R	D
■	V	I	C	A	R	S	■	B	A	N	E	S
■	■	■	H	I	E	■	G	A	B	■	■	■
■	B	L	A	N	C	■	R	A	R	E	R	■
P	O	O	F	■	T	A	U	■	A	G	O	G
S	L	O	E	■	E	I	N	■	D	A	L	I
I	L	K	S	■	D	D	T	■	E	D	E	N



HOROSCOPE EUGENIA LAST

ARIES *(March 21-April 19)*: You are in a good position. Make the move that will take you to your destination of choice. You are competitive and can make the most of whatever situation you face. Trust and believe in yourself, and turn a negative into a positive. ★★★★★

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20)*: Stick to what you know and do best. If you take a chance, it will backfire. Choose your words wisely to avoid offending someone. Take care of unfinished business, and avoid criticism. Socialize with people who put a smile on your face. ★★

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20)*: Honesty will spare you a lot of trouble. When in doubt, ask direct questions. Conversations should reflect what you want. If you aren't upfront, you can expect to be disappointed. Take charge of a situation that involves someone you love. ★★★★

CANCER *(June 21-July 22)*: Avoid lending or borrowing. Spend what you can afford. Money matters will put a strain on a relationship. Refuse to let something from your past hold you back. Look for an outlet or hobby that will ease stress. ★★★

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22)*: Your carefree attitude will attract attention. Romance should be a priority. spending time with someone you love will bring your relationship to a higher level. Put personal plans in motion, and positive changes will take place. ★★★

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*: Consider making a change if it will help you avoid exhaustion or taking on more than you can handle mentally, emotionally or financially. Slow down and live in the moment. Guard against ill-health, injury and arguments. ★★★

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)*: Check out all possibilities. Consider joining forces with people who share your concerns or aspirations. New friendships will be reliable and lasting. Love is on the rise, and personal plans will improve your day. A romantic gesture is encouraged. ★★★★

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*: Keep your personal information a secret. Bide your time, work on projects you enjoy and ignore anyone who is demanding or asks for too much. Rest and relaxation should be parts of your game plan. ★★

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)*: The power is in your enthusiasm and ability to fire up and persuade even the most uninterested person you encounter. Put your talents to good use by doing something that will improve your community. Adventure and travel will hold your interest. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*: Be prepared for the unexpected. Take control to ensure matters unfold on time and to your liking. Your ability to handle pressing issues will bring about what's best for everyone. Keep your emotions hidden. ★★★

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)*: Share your plans with someone you love. A romantic adventure will bring you closer to the one you love and encourage a positive lifestyle change. An adjustment to your living quarters will make your place more comfortable and convenient. ★★★

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20)*: Look at your options before making a decision. Helping others is generous, but put your priorities in order first. Take care of matters at home or that affect your relationship with someone you love before you extend a helping hand to an outsider. ★★★

ZIGGY



SUDOKU TIME!

(suh-Doe-koo) is a Japanese puzzle based on logic, reasoning, and patience. To solve Sudoku, just fill in each 3x3 subgrid with a digit 1-9; some digits are already given. Every column, row and subgrid must contain the digits 1-9 only once. Now get your pencils ready and give it a try! You'll see why it's so addicting!

		5		6				7
	3				5	8		
	2			1				3
								8
							7	4
		4			7	3	9	2
3		9		2				
1				8				
2	7		6					

Level: Advanced

5	3	4	1	9	6	8	7	2
9	2	7	3	8	5	6	4	1
1	8	6	4	2	7	9	5	3
2	9	3	7	5	1	4	6	8
4	7	1	6	3	8	2	9	5
6	5	9	8	4	2	3	1	7
3	4	8	9	1	4	7	2	6
7	1	2	5	7	3	8	4	6
8	6	5	2	6	9	1	3	4

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Investigators: No sign of engine failure for Bryant copter

By Stefanie Dazio
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Wreckage from the helicopter that crashed and killed Kobe Bryant, his daughter and seven others did not show any sign of engine failure, the National Transportation Safety Board said Friday.

A witness told the NTSB the hillside where the crash occurred was shrouded in mist when he heard the helicopter approaching. It sounded normal and he then saw the blue-and-white aircraft emerge from the fog moving forward and down. Within 2 seconds it slammed into the hillside just below him.

The Jan. 26 crash in Calabasas, just outside Los Angeles, occurred as the group was flying to a girls basketball tournament at Bryant's Mamba Sports Academy. He coached his 13-year-old daughter Gianna's team, which was scheduled to play. She and two teammates were among the nine people killed.

The deaths shook Los Angeles and the sporting world. A public memorial for Bryant and the other victims is scheduled for Feb. 24 at the Staples Center. The arena is where Bryant starred for the Los Angeles Lakers for most of his two-decade career and the date ⅔₄ corresponds with the No. 24 jersey he wore and the No. 2 worn by Gianna.

The NTSB issued an investigative update that included factual details. Findings about a cause for the crash isn't expected for a year or more.

Investigators said the twin-engine Sikorsky S-76B was traveling at more than 180 mph (290 kph) and 4,000 feet (1,219 meters) per minute when it crashed. The helicopter's instrument panel was destroyed and most of the devices were displaced. The flight controls were broken and suffered fire damage.

Investigators believe that since a tree branch at the crash site was cut, the engines were working and rotors turning at the time of impact. All four of the helicopter's blades had similar damage, the report stated.

John Cox, an aviation-safety consultant, said the NTSB's report was further indication that the pilot likely became disoriented in the thick fog and clouds. The pilot had told air-traffic controllers he was climbing to 4,000 feet (1,219 meters) — presumably to get above the cloud layer. The helicopter began turning left, then descended rapidly.

Cox called the aircraft's path "classic symptoms" of a disoriented pilot.

Ara Zobayan was a regular pilot for Bryant and the chief pilot for Island Express Helicopters. He had more than 8,200 hours of flight time. He was additionally certified to fly solely using instruments — a more difficult rating to attain that allows pilots to fly at night and through clouds when the ground isn't visible — and was a pilot to other celebrities including Kawhi Leonard and Kylie Jenner.

The 50-year-old Zobayan's most recent flight review included training on inadvertently flying into bad weather conditions. It covered how to recover if the aircraft's nose is pointed too far up or down, and what to do if the helicopter banks severely to one side. He earned satisfactory grades in the review, which took place in May 2019.

Bryant's helicopter did not have a device called the Terrain Awareness and Warning System that signals when an aircraft is in danger of hitting ground. The NTSB has recommended the system be mandatory for helicopters but the Federal Aviation Administration only requires it for air ambulances. U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein and U.S. Rep. Brad Sherman, both California Democrats, have called for the FAA to mandate the devices in the wake of the tragedy.

It's not clear if the warning system would have averted the crash. The helicopter was also not required to have a black box.

A public memorial for Orange Coast College baseball coach John Altobelli, his wife, Keri, and daughter Alyssa will be held Feb. 10 at Angel Stadium of Anaheim. Also killed in the crash were Bryant's friend and assistant coach, Christina Mauser, and Sarah Chester and her daughter Payton, 14.



Fans gather at a memorial for the late Kobe Bryant in front of the Staples Center, prior to an NBA game between the Los Angeles Lakers and the Portland Trail Blazers, Jan. 31 in Los Angeles. Bryant, the 18-time NBA All-Star who won five championships and became one of the greatest basketball players of his generation during a 20-year career with the Lakers, died in a helicopter crash. AP







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