

THE WHITE STREET JOURNAL



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WSJ30.com | 919-602-7974 **WAKE FOREST** editor@wsj30.com | ED 4 VOL 1



WSJOPINION

Columnist David Leone is having a hard time deciding should he cut his grass during the shelter in place order, or just let the weeds grow into something beautiful **Page 4**



WSJCOMMUNITY

Nate Sanders started taking pictures when he was old enough to hold a camera. Now he uses it to document the amazing places he has been. **Page 5**

CORONAVIRUS CASES AT A GLANCE

552 WAKE COUNTY CONFIRMED CASES	5,608 NORTH CAROLINA CONFIRMED CASES	148 NORTH CAROLINA DEATHS	678,144 UNITED STATES CONFIRMED CASES	34,641 UNITED STATES DEATHS	2.18 M WORLDWIDE CONFIRMED CASES	145,551 WORLDWIDE DEATHS
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Statistics as of 04/15/20

SBI investigates fatal fire as arson

By **KATHY HARRELSON**
For the WSJ

The SBI is investigating a double-death house fire as arson.

A State Bureau of Investigation spokesman confirmed Wednesday that it is assisting the Wake Forest Police Department in the investigation of the April 7, and subsequent reigniting on April 8, at 406 Walnut St.

Ella Virginia Smith, 85, along with her son, Lawrence Williams, 69, died from injuries in the early morning fire, despite reported gallant efforts by the Wake Forest Fire Department.

The fire reignited nearly 24 hours later, around 3:30 a.m., destroying what was left of the home.

The losses crushed the hearts of hundreds of friends and family who had been raised there or considered it their home away from home for nearly 60 years.

The funeral services for Smith and Williams, who had recently moved in with Smith to care for her, was scheduled for Thursday, April 16.

Smith's grandson, Albert Rumsey, said the idea of someone intentionally setting the fire has unnerved the family.

"At the moment," he said Wednesday, "we are trying not to think about that too much. We are focused on giving them a good sendoff in going Home."

The possibility of arson, he said, haunts him and family members. Rumsey had tried to save Smith and his uncle by busting out a back window with a chair and yelling out to them, but he was overcome by smoke and heat.

"It is a horrible thought (arson). I hope that is not the case ... but with the fire starting back the next night at the very same time ... there is a lot going on that we



A memorial of candles and Easter lilies block the driveway at 406 Walnut Ave. where Ella Smith and Lawrence Williams died in a house fire. The SBI is investigating the fire as arson. WSJ PHOTO | JAY LAMM

ARSON | CONT'D ON PAGE 7

Wake Forest operations update: COVID-19

FROM WSJ STAFF REPORTS

The Town of Wake Forest remains under a state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and has announced updates on services and events, including suspension of yard waste collections.

A complete listing of town cancellations, postponements and closures is provided at www.wakeforestnc.gov/covid-19-coronavirus/alerts-closures.

Closings
The Wake Forest Town Hall, 301 S. Brooks St., and all other staffed facilities, including Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources-maintained facilities, remain closed to the public until further notice. Although Wake Forest's facilities are closed, the work of the town continues uninterrupted through the COVID-19 response.

Wake Forest residents can access the town's full array of online resources through the Customer Service Central portal at www.wakeforestnc.gov/customer-service-central. Residents may drop off utility bill payments, rental deposits and paperwork (leases, letters of credit, copies of photo IDs, etc.) in the drive-up drop box located in Town Hall's Brooks Street parking lot. While Town Hall is closed, town staff will check the drop box twice daily. The town will mail acknowledgements and receipts upon request.

Anyone with questions or concerns is encouraged to call (919) 435-9400 or complete the online Contact Us form at <http://bit.ly/TOWFContactUs>, and staff will reply promptly during normal business hours.

Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners' meeting on Tuesday, April 21, at 7 p.m. will be conducted virtually and not open to on-site visitors. The virtual meeting will allow the board to conduct the important business of government, while protecting the health and safety of the commissioners, the public and town staff.

UPDATE | CONT'D ON PAGE 7



EASTER RUN DAY

Tina Dina (bunny suit) and Stephanie Hodgkins jog down South Main Street Easter morning. Dina's holiday attire was getting honks and waves from passing traffic. Dina said with everyone facing challenges these days, she wanted to bring egg-citement to Easter.

WSJ PHOTO | JAY LAMM

First Wake Co. Death: COVID-19

FROM WSJ STAFF REPORTS

As Wake County reported its first Coronavirus death, Gov. Roy Cooper gave a glimpse of what it will take to get North Carolina back to pre-virus activities.

As of April 15, the state has more than 5,200 positive coronavirus tests. The state's first coronavirus case was diagnosed in Wake County on March 2. At least 537 people have tested positive for coronavirus in Wake County.

During a press conference Wednesday, April 15, Cooper said stay-at-home orders and other restrictions are successfully hindering the virus, but they are not sustainable. He said restrictions will be eased gradually.

"We want to get back to work while at the same time preventing a spike that will overwhelm our hospitals with COVID-19 cases," he said.

He said hospitals have not been overwhelmed at this point and there is capacity for patients now. He said with restrictions, lives have been saved.

Cooper outlined three areas in

REOPEN | CONT'D ON PAGE 7

Bullets fired at residence

By **JAY LAMM** | editor@wsj30.com

The Wake Forest Police Department is investigating a shooting into a residence along the 4500 block of Tarkiln Place in the Shearon Farms subdivision.

The shooting occurred just after 2 a.m. on Thursday, April 9. Although the house was occupied during the shooting, no one was injured.

The police would not identify the address of the house hit by the gunfire.



The Wake Forest Police are investigating a shooting in a residence on the 4500 block of Tarkiln Place. WSJ PHOTO | JAY LAMM



Change of shift

Lt. Justin Schwank of the Wake Forest Fire Department checks all the equipment on the fire engine before the 7 a.m. shift change. Each piece of equipment is tested to be in working order before the station is switched over to a new shift of firefighters. The equipment check is done before each shift change.

Schwank has worked with the WFFD for six years.

WSJ PHOTO | JAY LAMM



Connie Denton is back at work at Shorty's after heart surgery. WSJ PHOTO | JAY LAMM

Connie is back at Shorty's

By **JAY LAMM**
editor@wsj30.com

After six weeks recovering from a triple bypass surgery, Connie Denton is back at Shorty's Famous Hot Dogs.

Denton came back Tuesday to work after being cleared by her doctor.

"I am so glad to be out and around people. Staying home was getting boring," Denton said.

She is easing back into her daily routine and admits she has a long way to go.

"I have had to change my diet and quit smoking. I'm going through a complete lifestyle change," she said.

Her husband, Robert, has decided to stop smoking too.

"He hasn't completely stopped, but he doesn't smoke around me, which is a start," she said.

Denton said her family has been extremely supportive. Along with her husband, she has two sons — Kyle and Eric, daughter-in-laws Tori and Courtney, respectively, and two grandchildren, Rhonin and Riley.

"I am happy to be back at work. My co-workers and boss have been very

helpful to me throughout my recovery," she added.

Denton said she is trying to get back healthy for herself and her family, and she had planned to go on a cruise next month.

"When the doctor told me I had to have an operation, the first thing I asked was I had a cruise sched-

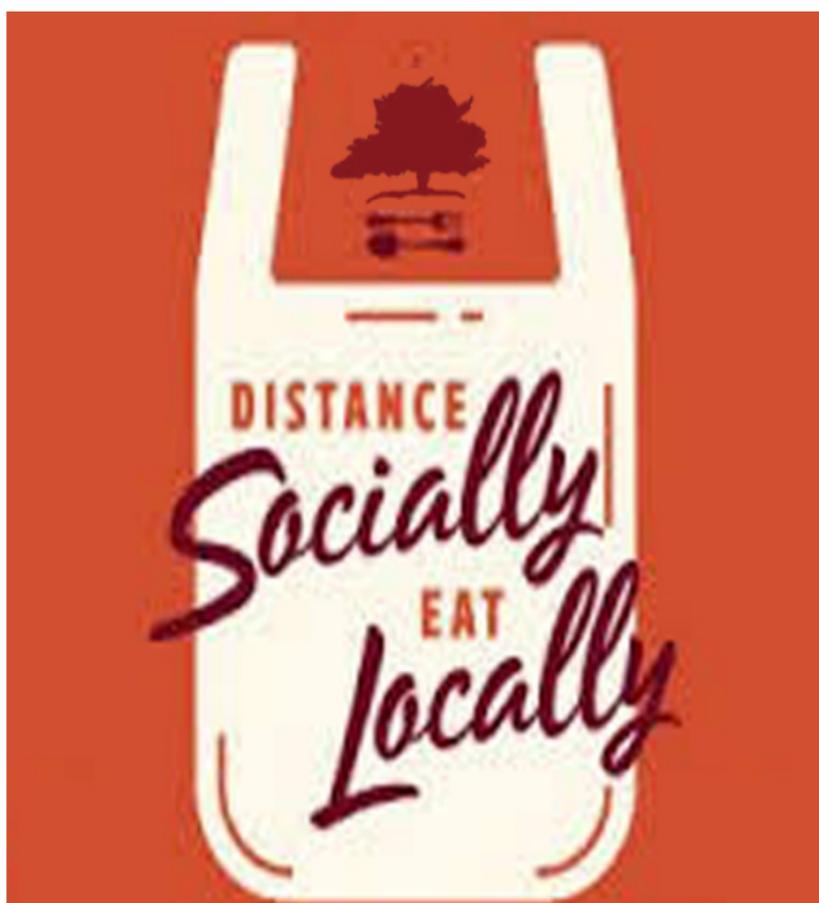
uled for May and would I be able to go!" she laughed.

Unfortunately, the May cruise has been cancelled because of the Coronavirus, but she sees that as a blessing.

She plans to be in top health and shape by late summer to enjoy a rescheduled cruise in the late sum-

mer. Other than sneaking a crunchy French fry every now and then, she is committed to getting her health back.

"It's nice being back at work and around friends. I've got a ways to go, but I'll get there," she said with a smile.



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At a crossroads

Easter Sunday was enhanced by Wake Forest Baptist Church with an array of colorful spring flowers on a cross, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Although the restrictions for social distancing and gatherings are in place for the Coronavirus, families and friends worshiped through other ways, such as radio, Internet and personal prayer.
 WSJ PHOTO | KATHY HARRELSON



Masked Avengers

Wake Forest Police Department employees, from top, Stephanie Gibson and Jenine Wells are working hard making masks to help combat the current Coronavirus pandemic. Chief Jeff Leonard, is also taking part in this project.
 PHOTOS | WAKE FOREST POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE BLOTTER

WFPD arrests April 9-15

The Wake Forest Police Department made the following arrests from April 9 thru 15:

■ Dexter Tyrone Perry, 26, Deerchase Trail, Wake Forest: felony flee to elude arrest with a motor vehicle; \$3,000 secured bond.

■ Shymel Equan-Richard Braswell, 19, Leafcrest Court, Raleigh: two counts failure to appear; \$1,000 secured bond.

■ Kirby Lane Core, 27, Big Bend Court, Wake For-

est: driving while impaired; released without bond.

■ Shannon Trejuan Hargrove, 26, Will Jefferson Road, Henderson: possession with intent to sell or deliver marijuana, felony maintaining a vehicle or dwelling for a controlled substance and possession of marijuana paraphernalia; \$8,000 secured bond.

■ Emontea Ian Gaines-Bland, 27, of College View Avenue, Raleigh: failure to appear; \$1,500 secured bond..

■ Jalore Njie, 22, of Newton Road, Raleigh: felony possession of marijuana; \$10,000 secured bond.

■ Aaron Scott Dean, 27, of Nine Iron Way, Raleigh: possession of heroin and possession of drug paraphernalia; bond unavailable.

■ Samantha Jolyn Kelman, 27, of Goodrum Court, Raleigh: possession of heroin and possession of drug paraphernalia; \$10,000 secured bond.



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WSJ OPINION

EDITORIAL

Coronavirus restrictions: ticking time bombs

As people across America become more frustrated with their daily lives being disrupted by stay-at-home orders and the restrictions imposed related to Coronavirus, the disorganization of how the country as a whole is reacting and its lack of preparedness become more apparent.

Our minds swirl with changing information daily. Some statistical information on infections and deaths related to the virus are even being questioned. Keeping up with the virus truths has proven as complicated as the infection itself. The virus' destructive power is being unleashed far beyond a positive test result.

In Michigan on Wednesday, "Operation Gridlock" called on its state government to focus on the economic toll of the pandemic and those who are sick from it. Thousands protested a strict stay-at-home policy from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

In Raleigh on Tuesday, one person was arrested for violating the state stay-at-home order and gathering restrictions during a protest downtown. Raleigh police issued a statement that declared protesting is not listed in Gov. Roy Cooper's order as an essential function. We would argue that freedom of speech and the right to assemble and protest should be among the top — if not the primary — essential functions as a Constitutional right.

More of these protests are likely if some type of national cooperation is not created. Today, the "fight" against the virus varies from state to state. Individual states are joining to petition President Donald Trump, among them Cooper's signature on a request to open health care enrollments.

Trump has proclaimed his top authority, only to be dodged by various governors claiming to know best for their states. In the wake, local economies and the national economy teeter on collapse, with nearly 22 million people in the country out of work.

The American people are confused, and rightly so. We have been stripped of our freedom to move, with no true expectations that this will end any time soon.

In as much as regulations were imposed, we rightfully deserve to have a better implementation moving forward and a quick resolution to get back to business.

The fog is far from lifted, though. Americans have the right to protest and expect timetables for reopening businesses and schools and consistency in enforcements of restrictions, yet those making decisions on the state level and in Washington are doing what they do best — playing politics.

Cooper, on Wednesday, issued a plan of observations that are to occur before restrictions are lifted here. It gives little comfort for those impatient to be free from his stay-at-home order that has an end-of-month expiration. For those still trying to get an unemployment claim filed, for those running out of food and rent money, and for those who know their children are going without the educations they really need, time ticks very slowly, but the pressures build by the minute. The governor foreshadowed that we could be facing the tie-ups into June and beyond.

There are no fast words to ease this mess of compliance and noncompliance, individual state rules, a healthcare system that has massive cracks and a political system that doesn't hesitate to sacrifice anything to get to bigger political gain.

Today, Coronavirus makes us wait — just a little bit longer — in our festering lives, due to explode.

YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER BRINGS YOU HOME



THE BACK FORTY

Our yard in phlox

As a former photo-journalist, I was often busy on perfect spring or summer days. Events worth photographing were frequently to be had on Saturday and Sunday mornings, and my newspaper was known for the many pictures of people enjoying that weather. Because of the nature of news deadlines, I'd often leave any home improvement projects or chores to an off-day during the week, usually Thursday. But if it rained that day, or I had to work, those chores would get passed over for a week, or two. The evidence of such misattention was realized when my neighbor would amble on over to the house, catching me out front doing something or the other, and say, "David, that lawn of yours is looking like it needs a mow." (It did, severely.)

It was a cheeky (and nosy) comment, but for some reason I enjoyed the passive-aggressive exchange, maybe because it felt like something out of a book or movie, or maybe it was because it was so... southern. There was no accusation, no condemnation,

no yelling, no nastiness, just a hint of what he was really thinking. Joe was retired and on the town council, which I had to write about for the newspaper from time-to-time, one more reason not to get testy, I imagine. Though I usually fail at rejoinders, on the one occasion, without pause, I responded, "Joe, I've been working on the weekends, so you're welcome to come over here and cut it." That was in Louisburg, in a nice little neighborhood called Shady Acres, if you can believe it, which makes the whole place sound like it was primed for retirement.

I bring up this exchange for a reason, and that's because during the stay-at-home pandemic, there is no excuse for any of us now to let the lawn go too long without a mow, unless you're converting your yard to a natural habitat for grass snakes. As anyone who has lived in a neighborhood for any length of time can tell you, if the yard begins to look unkempt, those neighbors you may not have more than a word with all year will suddenly make themselves known. That said, the grass

in my yard now, or should I say the stalk-like things that mimic grass, are getting about calf-high, and rapidly working their way toward knee-level.

I've allowed this to happen for two reasons. One is, who will see it? Stay at home means just that, and we're not supposed to be encouraging visitors or deliverymen or whatnot, and face-to-face conversations with neighbors are frowned upon. The main reason is that my wife Beth wanted me to not cut it because of the wildflowers. Those stalk-like things were mostly perennial plants that bloom in the spring then go away till next year. According to Beth, they include wild violets, "that are just beautiful," as well as tallish but-tercup-like flowers, purple ajuga (bugleweed), small yellow flowers close to the ground, and bluish-purple flowers called phlox. She also showed me an obituary of a doctor in Durham whose "passion for animals and nature was so strong he refused to mow the lawn if wildflowers were present."

Normally I'd sympathize with her desire to let them



DAVID LEONE

sprout, but then mow them down before they grew too high. But in a time when we're trapped at home, wondering if the fate of the world is at risk, concerned for our jobs (I'm currently furloughed), and worried that both the national economy and all the local businesses run and staffed by folks we know and love could founder or fail, then why not get off the internet, and take the time to get out and smell the flowers?

Anyway, I can mow next week. I swear.

— David Leone is a writer, photographer and raconteur who has worked in Wake Forest since 2007 and lived there since 2012.

END OF STORY

I see nothing... I hear nothing... I know nothing...

Good morning. I have always done pretty much what I wanted or could afford to do. I've come and gone where I please and have never found much resistance other than from my wallet.

Last weekend I had some free time, so I went to my cabin in Hyde County. I haven't been there in a couple of months because of my schedule, and I needed to cut the grass.

About halfway there I was

told by my sister that Hyde County was on lockdown and they weren't letting any non-permanent residents come into the county. Even if you owned property, you had to be a full-time resident to get in the border.

I had gone too far to turn around. So, I continued. I went through Greenville, no problem. Went through Washington, no problem. Bath, the same. Then I got to Hyde County. I hadn't seen a law enforcement officer

since leaving Wake Forest three hours earlier. But as I approached the county line between my cabin and Belhaven, I started to worry. The county line was just after the bridge that crossed the Pungo River. I was about a mile from that bridge.

I thought what would happen if I get stopped at the barricade that the cashier at the Belhaven convenient store told me about — where sheriff deputies had the bridge blocked?

I knew my driver's license is up-to-date. The truck tags are current. No alcohol in the car. Don't know why I thought of that. I rarely drink and certainly not in the car.

As I approached the curve that blocks the sight of the bridge, I began to feel like I was crossing enemy lines. I was the French Resistance trying to sneak into Nazi occupied Paris during World War II. Virus or no virus, I wanted my country back. I wanted my freedom back.

I made the curve and saw the bridge. No deputies. No invasion of my rights. No battle to be fought there.

I drove the last few miles to my property, seeing no law, but signs that said: "NO VISITORS ALLOWED."

I and my bandana mask hurried to the cabin, poured a glass of lemonade, sheltered in place and watched "Hogan Heroes" on MeTV, where the enemy never wins.



JAY LAMM



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WSJ LETTER TO THE EDITOR GUIDELINES

Letters to the editor must be typed or in email form when submitted. Name, address and phone number must be included for verification. Letters must not exceed 250 words.



One of Nat Sander's older shots, but still one of his favorites. It is a picture of Yosemite National Park in California. Sanders said the park was one of the most beautiful places he had ever been. To the left is the cliff name El Capitan, and in the middle is Half Dome.

Young photographer documents the amazing places of his life

By JAY LAMM | editor@wsj30.com

Nate Sander started clicking when he was old enough to hold a camera.

With one show under his camera strap, the 20-something professional is a blossoming photographer, expressing himself through art and “documenting the amazing places I’ve been throughout my life,” he said.

His work was showcased recently at B&W Hardware on South White Street, where the collection brought in raised eyebrows, grand praises and sales.

“I have always been a very creative kid, I loved drawing and painting, and took a lot of art classes. Whenever there was a picture to be taken, I always wanted to be the one to take it,” he said.

Whether the artistic outlet turns into full-time work or continues to be a side job, Sander said he will be content. “I will probably always like to take pictures,” the Wake Forest resident said.

The colors and light in his landscapes, particularly, are

inspiration to many, and his own inspiration comes from selected people — his father and mother topping the list.

“My Dad, David Sander, taught me the basics of photography, and (his) love of traveling has helped get me to a lot of the places (where) I’ve taken pictures,” he said.

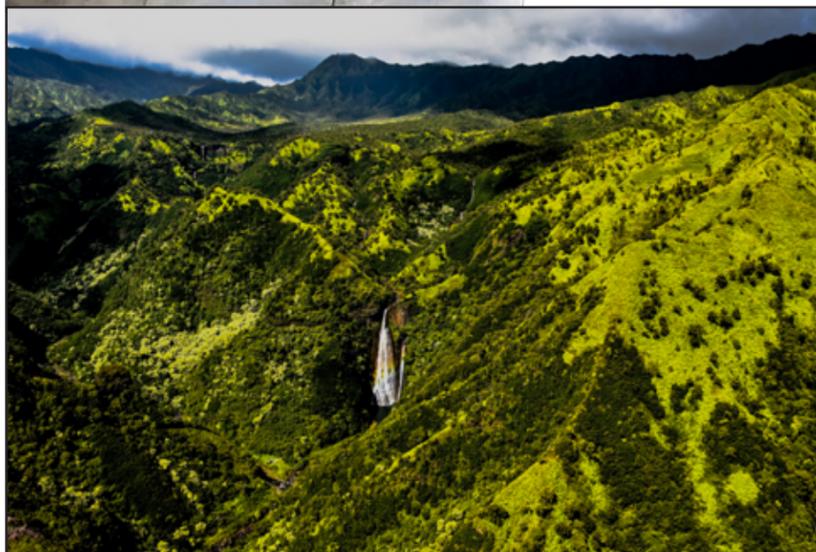
Sanders’ Mom, Kirke Hooper has not been as much as hands-on teaching about photography as she has been about teaching him about business and marketing, which has helped him in promoting his images as well as himself as a shutterbug.

“A few people I look up to in terms of artwork are Peter McKinnon for his style of photography. He shoots in a very moody style that has grown on me a lot in the past few years,” Sander said.

Another source of inspiration is Tyler Thonus.

“He is local car photographer who also takes very moody and aesthetic photos. His attitude in public in not very business friendly but he has a unique style of shooting that I think is very attractive,” Sander added.

To see Sander’s work, check out Southern Suds in downtown Wake Forest, and stay alert for some more local shows.



■ Above, clockwise, a shot of Manawaiopuna falls on the island of Kauai, Hawaii. It is more recognizable as the waterfall in the first Jurassic Park movie. This shot was easily the most fun to take, said Sander, who was leaning out of the side of a helicopter.

■ A shot of the iconic lone tree at Pebble Beach. One of Sander’s favorite shots because of the angle he took it’s very unique. He had to stand on top of a fence to raise himself over some trees.

■ Sander’s favorite aesthetic photo. It was taken in Islamorada in the Florida keys. Took on a whim trying to capture the sunset, then decided to get the seagull, as well as, the palm trees.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY NATE SANDERS

Obituaries

Tributes for April 7-15, 2020

Ella V. Smith, 85

April 7, 1934 ~ April 7, 2020

Ella Virginia Smith, 85, of 406 E. Walnut Ave. died on April 7, 2020 at Wake Medical Center in Raleigh. She was born on April 7, 1934 to the late Junious Williams and Peggy Ann Forte. Public veiwig will be on Wednesday, April 14, from 12 p.m. to 5 at Feegins & Feegins Funeral arrangements are private. Burial will be in the Wake Forest Cemetery in Wake Forest.



ELLA V. SMITH

Lawrence M. Williams, 68

September 19, 1951 ~ April 7, 2020

Lawrence M. Williams, 68, of 1509 Eva Mae Drive died on April 7, 2020 at Wake Medical Center in Raleigh. He was born on Sept. 19, 1951 to the late James and Ella Smith of Wake County. Public veiwig will be on Wednesday, April 14, from 12 p.m. to 5 at Feegins & Feegins Funeral arrangements are private. Burial will be in the Wake Forest Cemetery in Wake Forest.



LAWRENCE . WILLIAMS

Yvonne Joyner Hicks, 87

June 29, 1932 ~ April 13, 2020

Yvonne Joyner (Nana) Hicks, age 87, of Raleigh died Monday, April 13, 2020. Mrs. Hicks was born in Wake County, the daughter of the late James and Lillian (Powell) Joyner of Franklin County.

Mrs. Hicks was preceded in death by her husband, William Elbert Hicks; sons Terry Lee Hicks, William Douglas (Doug) Hicks, James (Jimmy) Edward Hicks and daughter Gina Marie Hicks. Mrs. Hicks is survived by daughter Mary Hicks Hiemenz of Clayton, nine grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Hicks was a 34 year employee of the City of Raleigh, retiring from the Accounting Department in June of 1994. Nana, as she was known to everyone who loved her, was passionate about her work, family and friends. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. In addition to spending time with family and friends, Yvonne enjoyed dancing, picnics in the park, her favorite soap operas, reading the N & O everyday with a hot cup of coffee, crossword puzzles and talking to friends, whether in person or on the phone. Yvonne always had an ear to listen and words of wisdom. Yvonne was such a positive, compassionate individual who never knew a stranger. Nana's grandchildren and great-grandchildren were her pride and joy, with all of their many accomplishments and given love. Yvonne's family prays that God will fill her with joy and peace!

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, a private memorial service will be held for the family.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be sent to The O'Berry Neuro-Medical Center, 400 Old Smithfield Road, Goldsboro, NC 27530 with tribute to Yvonne Joyner Hicks & Gina Marie Hicks of Raleigh, NC or the local American Diabetes Association, 2418 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, NC 27601 or online at diabetes.org.

Judith Ann Jackson, 75

August 14, 1944 ~ April 14, 2020

Judith Ann Jackson, 75, of Wake Forest passed away on Tuesday morning April 14, 2020 at her residence. She was born in Durham County the daughter of the late Sadie Millard Watkins and Wesley Watkins.

A private graveside funeral service will be held in the Falls Community Cemetery.

Judith is survived by her husband; Darwin Jackson, 2 children and a step-child and several grandchildren.

A service of Bright Funeral Home & Cremation Service, 405 S. Main St., Wake Forest. (919) 556-5811

Ward James Dunham Jr.

August 5, 1929 ~ April 7, 2020 (age 90)

Ward James Dunham, Jr., 90, of Raleigh, passed away on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 in Raleigh. He was born August 5, 1929 in Kingston, New York, a son of the late Ward James Dunham, Sr. and Florence Mary (Pelham) Dunham. Ward was predeceased by his two daughters, Caroline Dunham and Susie Dunham Richards.

Ward served in the US Army, and retired after



WARD J. DUNHAM, JR

Kevin James Curzon, 55, of Wake Forest, passed away at his residence on Wednesday, April 8, 2020. He was born July 9, 1964 in Washington, Pennsylvania son of Cyril and Gertrude (Wilcock) Curzon.

Kevin courageously battled Multiple System Atrophy for eight years and died peacefully in his sleep. He was a devout Christian who spent his life serving others.

Kevin served in the U.S. Navy followed by a career in power generation working for Caterpillar and PowerSecure. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and any outdoor activity.

Kevin is survived by his mother, Trudie Curzon of PA, his wife Stephanie Long of Wake Forest, his children Emma and Brooks Long of Wilmington, and his sister Christina Tirpak of PA.



KEVIN J. CURZON

Rebeka Kay Clifton, 49

July 17, 1970 ~ April 7, 2020

A funeral service and burial will be held privately for the family.



REBEKA KAY CLIFTON

Susie Merle Wesson

April 28, 1919 ~ April 13, 2020 (age 100)

Cecil R Murphy, 96

November 3, 1923 ~ April 13, 2020

Betsy H Critcher, 84

April 10, 1936 ~ April 13, 2020

Kimberly Tad Heath

December 23, 1959 ~ April 14, 2020



Send us your church news

Having a guest speaker? Homecoming? Or having a fundraiser to help out a building fund?

Wake Forest is brimming with churches and religious activities, and we will publish your news, complimentary. Photos of programs and other activities are welcomed. Please include names of those in the photos and limit your information to about 250 words. Above is Glen Royal Baptist Church with a message that is very important today. WSJ PHOTO | KATHY HARRELSON

Wake extends stay at home order until 4/30

Contributed To WSJ
From The Town of Wake Forest

Wake County has extended its stay-at-home order through April 30, with some updates intended to help the local economy.

The Wake County Board of Commissioners approved a proclamation Thursday for the extension.

"While we're making good progress to flatten the COVID-19 curve in our community, we haven't hit our peak caseload yet, so it's too early to lift our stay-at-home restrictions," Chairman Greg Ford said. "However, we understand how challenging this is – particularly for businesses – which is why this extension includes provisions to help the local economy while enabling us to save lives."

Under the updated order, all retail businesses in the county, its 12 municipalities (Apex, Cary, Fuquay-Varina, Garner, Holly Springs, Knightdale, Morrisville, Raleigh, Rolesville, Wake Forest, Wendell, and Zebulon) and portions of Angier, Clayton and Durham located within Wake County, are allowed to operate if they provide delivery or curbside pickup options for customers.

It also requires businesses designated as "essential" to comply with North Carolina Executive Order 131. The state order, which was signed on April 9, sets requirements for maximum occupancy, social distancing measures and cleaning protocols for retailers.

The proclamation also reiterates the need for employers to conduct basic health screenings – including temperature checks, documenting changes in coughs or sore throats, and asking about shortness of breath – and sending workers home if they are ill.

The proclamation enables faith organizations to hold drive-in services.

"We know that in challenging times, religious and spiritual support is one way that people find strength and comfort," said Ford. "While these services are accessible online, we have extended the ability to allow drive-in services if churches and places of worship are able to follow certain social-distancing parameters."

Seeing Results

Data show that social distancing and other mitigation efforts under the county's March 26 stay-at-home order are helping to slow the spread of the virus. Between March 17 and April 8, the doubling rate of COVID-19 cases has gone from about 3.5 days to about 8 days.

While this is encouraging, projections show that residents must continue practicing stay-at-home measures to further flatten the COVID-19 curve and avoid overwhelming the local healthcare system, commissioners said.

Wake County leadership monitors and reassesses the situation daily to ensure the health and safety of communities, while also considering the long-term impacts of extended stay-at-home orders. The county is paying close attention to projections and lessons learned from other communities, nationally and globally, to make informed decisions on when and how restrictions may be lifted without compromising the health of our community.

Staying Updated

For COVID-19 updates on Town of Wake Forest operations, programs and services, along with links to official health resources, visit www.wakeforestnc.gov/covid-19-coronavirus.

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EVERY 4th SATURDAY | SPRING ST. CHRISTIAN CHURCH
320 E. SPRING ST., WAKE FOREST

10:30A - 12:30P

If you are homebound, lack transportation, are feeling unwell, or have no way to get to the pantry, you may designate someone else to pick up for you with signed permission. You may pick up food 1 time per calendar month. Unable to get to Spring St. Church? Contact Tea Caudle (919-271-1275) so that you can be registered in advance.

Obituary submissions

Once we have lived a full life, comfort is needed to those left behind after death. The WSJ respects this. Local people should be remembered in a record for generations to come. The WSJ accepts obituaries, at no cost, that describe who your beloved really was. Did he have a best friend to mention? A faithful pet? Did she have the best apple pie ever? In the

notice, be free to tell his/her story like is should be. Keep the length to about 750 words. Photos of the deceased with family are welcomed. We will accept one portrait photo and one photo of your choice. Please identify those in the photos as best as possible.

Send obituary submissions to editor@wsj30.com.

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The Town of Wake Forest broadcasts Board of Commissioners meetings on Spectrum Channel 10 (WFTV10), which is provided online in real time at bit.ly/WFTV10. The town also records, live-streams and broadcasts these meetings at <https://bit.ly/TOWFPublicMeetingPortal>. The public is encouraged to participate in the April 21 meeting during public comment sections via telephone and by submitting comments in advance via online comment form. Instructions for participating in these meetings is available at <https://bit.ly/TOWFPublicMeetingPortal>.

Cancellations

All Town of Wake Forest-sponsored events and activities have been canceled or postponed at least through Sunday, May 31. These events include (but are not limited to) Six Sundays in Spring (April 26-May 31), the Memorial Flag-Raising Ceremony (May 4), Friday Night on White (May 8), Cemetery Walking Tour (May 9), Music at Midday (May 14 and 21), Family Movie Night at Joyner Park (May 23) and Multicultural Day (May 30).

All Wake Forest Renaissance Centre-hosted events, activities and rentals are also canceled through May 31, including (but not limited to) First Friday Flix (May 1), flix4kidz and Free at 3 (May 11) and VIBEZ by SOLE DEFINED (May 15).

Sanitation

In response to the March 25 closing of the Raleigh Yard Waste Center, which is Wake Forest's yard waste disposal site, yard waste collection has been suspended until further notice. Wake Forest residents are urged not to leave yard waste behind the curb until the suspension is lifted. Town officials are exploring other options for yard waste disposal. In the meantime, residents are encouraged to consider composting. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/WFComposting>.

To limit possible exposure to COVID-19, Public Works has also suspended bulk waste collection until further notice. Wake Forest residents are urged not to place any bulk waste behind the curb until the suspension is lifted.

Trash and recycling collection will continue as scheduled.

Bus Service

Wake Forest Loop B and the Wake Forest-Raleigh Express have been suspended until further notice. Loop A continues to operate as scheduled. Please note: Since only the Loop A bus is running, service time has increased from 30 minutes to one-hour. Riders should utilize the A bus stops, which may be on the opposite side of the street.

Riders are asked to board GoRaleigh buses using the rear doors for greater social distancing. Front door access will be available for persons with disabilities. Per CDC guidelines, if you are sick, please stay at home and only travel if it is absolutely necessary. Please cover your mouth and nose when you cough and sneeze, wash your hands frequently with soap and water, avoid touching your face, and keep distance between yourself and others. These practices can help limit the impact of COVID-19 on our community. For more information, call 919-485-RIDE (7433).

Wake Forest Power

On March 16, Wake Forest Power suspended all disconnects for nonpayment, including prepaid accounts, along with



The town of Wake Forest will keep the Flaherty Dog Park open during their efforts to stop the spread of the Coronavirus. WSJ PHOTO | JAY LAMM

assessments of late fees and penalties. Consistent with Executive Order 124 issued by Gov. Roy Cooper on March 31, WFP will extend these suspensions at least through May 31.

While the Wake Forest Town Hall is closed, WFP customers are urged to call, email or go online to pay or ask questions about their electric bill. WFP offers an array of convenient payment options, including Wake Forest Pre-Pay Power, Online Bill Pay, Automatic Bank Draft and Equal Payment Plan. For complete information, visit <http://bit.ly/WFUtilityBill-PaymentOptions> or call (919) 435-9478.

WFP customers who are unable to pay their bills or can pay with cash only are urged to call (919) 435-9478 to set up a payment arrangement. Your bill/debt will not be forgiven or erased, but WFP will allow you to make payments to the best of your ability to prevent the accumulation of a larger balance.

Parks & Rec

All PRCR Department-sponsored classes, events, camps and rentals have been suspended through May. All youth and adult athletics programs have also been canceled through May, including spring baseball, softball and T-ball leagues.

The PRCR Department will continue offering a liberal refund policy for programs and rentals. Full refunds will be issued for any registered athletics and cultural programs, camps, classes and facility reservations canceled due to COVID-19, while pro-rated refunds will be issued for suspended programs that resume. For more information, call (919) 435-9560.

All greenways and parks, including Flaherty Dog Park, remain open to the public, yet all water fountains are turned off and bathrooms, playgrounds and picnic shelters are closed.

The PRCR Department has released guidelines advising how to use town parks and trails in a manner that will reduce the transmission of COVID-19. These guidelines are based on direction from the CDC and the National Recreation & Parks Association:

- Refrain from using parks or trails if you are exhibiting symptoms.
- Follow CDC's guidance on personal hygiene prior to, during, and after use of parks or trails.
- Be prepared for no access to public restrooms, potable water, or protection from the elements.
- Observe CDC's minimum separation of 6 feet from other individuals at all times.
- While on trails, warn other users of your presence and step aside to let others pass.
- Follow CDC guidance on the maximum advisable size of social gatherings.
- Reduce crowding and travel by sticking to close-to-home parks and trails.
- Select alternatives to crowded parks and trails.
- Minimize use of high-touch park amenities such as benches, picnic tables, trash cans, and railings.
- Obey all closures of community centers, playgrounds, and restrooms.

Again, Wake Forest residents are encouraged to visit www.wakeforestnc.gov/covid-19-coronavirus/alerts-closures for a complete listing of Town cancellations, postponements and closures.

Community health and safety is the top priority for the Town of Wake Forest, officials said.

The situation surrounding the Coronavirus is ever-changing, so town officials are closely monitoring daily updates and following guidelines from the Wake County Health Department, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control.

These guidelines have been implemented in protocols established by the town to address potential exposure to the

REOPEN | CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

which monitoring will occur to gauge when restrictions may be lifted —testing, tracing, and trends.

■ **Testing:** Cooper said the new normal relies on an increase in testing capabilities to isolate and track the virus. That means having supplies and lab capacity to do more testing and antibody testing to know who has had the virus.

■ **Tracing:** He said the public health workforce has to be boosted to trace and track new cases. Contact tracing can be effective in containing new outbreaks but requires a lot of people and legwork. One goal, he said, is to enter partnerships with hospitals and universities to increase public health work force.

■ **Trends:** Cooper said the virus trends need to be heading in the right direction, specifically the number of new cases, number of people in the hospital and number of deaths.

Cooper likened any lifting of restrictions to that of a dimmer switch

■ "As we slowly bring the lights back up we have to monitor for troubling signs of a spike in cases that could overwhelm our hospitals and risk lives," Cooper said, "So, getting this right, testing, tracing, and trends is the most important step. It will lead to getting our states economic recovery right too."

Cooper said the current situation is not sustainable. "We can't stay home forever," he said. "We want to get back to work."

Cooper's stay-at-home order expires at the end of April. As of today, schools in Wake County are closed at least through May 15.

ARSON

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can't pinpoint. Something is just not right," he said.

There are speculations, he added. He has his own, but the SBI has given no indication to the family on what it has uncovered, if anything, thus far.

Initially local police thought the first fire was started by a faulty outlet on the front porch.

"It is really hard to think that someone did that intentionally," Rumsey said.

He said neither one of the victims had any enemies.

"There was no one who wanted to hurt either one of them," he said. "I don't know who would do something like this. I don't know why somebody would do it."

Article 15 of North Carolina statutes states a person commits arson in the first-degree if the dwelling that is burned is occupied at the



The Wake Forest Fire Department responded to the fire at 406 Walnut Ave. on April 7 at 3:20 a.m. They returned the following night when the house caught fire again at approximately the same time. PHOTO | Wake Forest Fire Department

time of the burning. Arson in the first degree is a Class D felony, which is punishable by anywhere from 28 to 160 months in prison.

An arson offense can be charged as a first-degree felony if someone dies or suffers a bodily injury as a result of the act.

First-degree felony charges for arson include penalties of five to 99 years in prison and fines up to \$10,000.

COVID-19 UPDATE | **WE ARE OPEN & OPERATING DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS FOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION, VOLUNTEERS AND FOOD DISTRIBUTION.**

TRI-AREA MINISTRY: 149 E. HOLDING AVE. WAKE FOREST • 919-556-7144

We're open for food pickup on Mondays and Wednesdays and the third Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m | **YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL AT THIS TIME!**