

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	ALMANAC
					Yesterday's High ..... 83 Yesterday's Low ..... 50 Record High ..... 86 in 2002 Record Low ..... 25 in 1950
Few Showers	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	SUN & MOON
Precip Chance: 45%	Precip Chance: 10%	Precip Chance: 15%	Precip Chance: 20%	Precip Chance: 15%	Sunrise ..... 6:43 a.m. Sunset ..... 7:48 p.m.
72° 44°	69° 46°	68° 48°	71° 49°	72° 50°	First ..... 4/20 Full ..... 4/26 Last ..... 5/3 New ..... 5/11

**GOOD MORNING** The Sanford Herald appreciates all of its readers. Today, we'd like to thank Robert Thomas of Sanford for subscribing.

# The Sanford Herald

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## School board decides on new attorney

**BY JASMINE GALLUP**  
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Education lawyer Stephen Rawson of Tharrington Smith will be the Lee County Board of Education's new attorney, members decided Tuesday.

The board interviewed two candidates last week in

preparation for the retirement of current board attorney Jimmy Love, who has represented the board for more than 40 years. Love said he plans to retire from Lee County Schools on June 30, although he will continue his work as attorney for Central

Carolina Community College. On Tuesday, the school board selected the Tharrington Smith law firm in a 5-2 vote, with members Sherry Womack and Pam Sutton voting against. The other candidate was longtime lawyer S. Ellis

Hankins of The Brough Law Firm. Board members agreed he and his firm were qualified, but ultimately decided on Tharrington Smith. In addition to having significant experience in education law, more than half of the associates at Tharrington

Smith "start out as teachers first and then went back to law school," said board member Patrick Kelly. "That speaks a lot to me, that they were in the classroom before they chose law, and it gives

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Mark Rogers | The Sanford Herald

Lee County School Board Chairwoman Sandra Bowen, at right, asked for a cessation of hostilities while discussing letters sent to the board, city and county officials and The Sanford Herald. Vice Chair Christine Hilliard, left, also condemned the political rhetoric. Both are pictured during a meeting held earlier this year.

## As controversy continues, BOE asks for peace

**BY JASMINE GALLUP**  
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Members of the Lee County Board of Education implored the public to stop engaging in a political back-and-forth Tuesday after a letter-writing campaign reignited protest over the behavior of two members.

In the past four months, Republican Sherry Womack and Democrat

Patrick Kelly have each been investigated in an effort to discover whether their private conduct violates school board policy, particularly the ethics clause. Womack came under fire after attending a pro-Trump rally in Washington, D.C. that preceded an insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. Despite not being involved in the attack,

Womack was harshly criticized and said at one meeting that she and members of her family had even been personally threatened. The official investigation revealed no wrongdoing. Following the incident, Womack's husband Jim Womack publicly alleged

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## Employment opportunities available through hiring events

**BY NANCY MCCLEARY**  
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Two hiring events are planned in Sanford, according to a release from the NCWorks Lee County Career Center. Defender Services, a staffing company, will be recruiting Friday for Parkdale Mills in Sanford, the release said.

The event, scheduled from 1-3:30 p.m., will be in the parking lot of the Spring Lane Cinemas, 1351 Plaza Blvd., the release said.

Parkdale Mills, a yarn manufacturer, is looking for full-time workers for the 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift, according to the posting on the ncworks.gov.

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## Former Gov. McCrory enters U.S. Senate race

**BY GARY D. ROBERTSON**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH — Former Republican Gov. Pat McCrory on Wednesday announced he'll run for the U.S. Senate in North Carolina, shaking up the calculus in the expanding field to succeed retiring Sen. Richard Burr with the entrance of a veteran of statewide politics.

McCrory, who served as governor for four years through 2016, revealed his plans on his morning WBT radio show in Charlotte, where he also served a record 14 years as mayor. McCrory had said in late 2019 that he would strongly consider a Senate bid in 2022. He has quietly built a team of experienced political staff, led by the

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## Biden to pull U.S. troops from Afghanistan

**BY AAMER MADHANI AND MATTHEW LEE**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden said Wednesday he will withdraw remaining U.S. troops from the "forever war" in Afghanistan, declaring that the Sept. 11 terror attacks of 20 years ago cannot justify American forces still dying in the nation's longest war.

His plan is to pull out all American forces — numbering 2,500 now — by this Sept. 11, the anniversary of the attacks, which were coordinated from Afghani-

stan. Soon after Biden made his announcement, NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg in Brussels said the alliance had agreed to withdraw its roughly 7,000 forces from Afghanistan, matching Biden's decision to begin a final pullout by May 1.

The U.S. cannot continue to pour resources into an intractable war and expect different results, Biden said.

The drawdown would begin rather than con-

clude by May 1, which has been the deadline for full withdrawal under a peace agreement reached with the Taliban last year. "It is time to end America's longest war," Biden said, but he added that the U.S. will "not conduct a hasty rush to the exit."

"We cannot continue the cycle of extending or expanding our military presence in Afghanistan hoping to create the ideal

conditions for our withdrawal, expecting a different result," said Biden, who delivered his address from the White House Treaty Room, the same location where President George W. Bush announced the start of the war. "I am now the fourth United States president to preside over an American troop presence in Afghanistan. Two Republicans. Two Democrats. I will not pass this responsibility to a fifth."

Biden's announcement,

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Joe Biden  
president



**OBITUARIES**

**SANFORD** — W.A. Barbour Jr., 88; Ana Abigail Portillo Orellana, 68; Mary Elizabeth Edwards Williams, 90; Gregory Davis Bethea, 54; James Anthony Blackburn, 62; Louis Lee Davis, 71

**LILLINGTON** — Timothy Mark Stephens, 77

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