

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	ALMANAC
					Yesterday's High 54 Yesterday's Low 50 Record High 87 in 1967 Record Low 18 in 1993
Rain Likely Precip Chance: 90%	Chance Showers Precip Chance: 30%	Showers Likely Precip Chance: 85%	Few Showers Precip Chance: 55%	Mostly Cloudy Precip Chance: 20%	SUN & MOON Sunrise 7:24 a.m. Sunset 7:24 p.m.
43° 33°	67° 53°	69° 51°	60° 37°	52° 35°	First Full Last New 3/21 3/28 4/4 4/11

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

The Sanford Herald

STAY INFORMED sanfordherald.com facebook.com/SanfordHerald @sanfordherald

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

sanfordherald.com • \$1

The car driven by Clifton Donyell McIver Jr. smolders while firefighters from the Tramway Rural Fire Department and Lee County Sheriff's Office deputies work to free a woman in another vehicle who was injured in the crash.



Mark Rogers | The Sanford Herald

Driver charged after chase, crash

Suspect hits two cars

BY NANCY MCCLEARY
NMCCLEARY@SANFORDHERALD.COM

A Sanford driver trying to avoid being pulled over Monday by a Lee County deputy on Tramway Road crashed at the Center Church Road intersection, hitting two vehicles, seriously injuring another

driver, authorities said. Clifton Donyell McIver Jr., 19, of 3131 Carbonton Road, is charged with felony speeding to elude arrest, possessing a stolen firearm and numerous traffic violations, according to Capt. Brian Estes of the Lee County Sheriff's Office.



Clifton Donyell McIver Jr.

The unidentified deputy was traveling on Tram-

way Road about 12:30 p.m. when an oncoming car, driven by McIver, passed by at a high rate of speed, Estes said.

The deputy turned around, intending to stop McIver, but he (McIver) accelerated and sped away, Estes said.

As McIver's car crossed U.S. 1 onto Center Church Road, he lost

control, crossed the center line and struck two vehicles traveling in the opposite direction, according to First Sgt. Chris Knox of the N.C. Highway Patrol, which is investigating the wreck.

McIver's car then caught fire, but he and an unidentified passenger were able to get out of the vehicle safely, Knox said.

Tramway Rural Fire

SEE DRIVER/PAGE A4

Rotary clubs donate to fire department

BY JASMINE GALLUP
JGALLUP@SANFORDHERALD.COM

The Sanford and Jonesboro rotary clubs, along with Rotary District 7690, recently donated \$1,000 to the Sanford Fire Department for new equipment.

With the money, the department purchased a portable charger that reconditions radio batteries to extend their life and monitors the charge of each battery. The equipment allows firefighters to replace

radio batteries before a problem arises, according to a city news release.

The donation was made by the Rotary Clubs' Honoring Emergency/First Responders Opportunity Project, which "seeks to acknowledge and understand the importance in recognizing those men and women who work and volunteer around the clock to ensure public safety where we live," the release stated.

A check was presented last month to Sanford Fire Chief Wayne Barber and Deputy Chief Ken Cotten.

Michele Bullard, chair of the Jonesboro Rotary Club Project, recalled working with local firefighters as a member of the Lee County Red Cross.

"I arrived to help a family shortly after a house fire had been extinguished. One of the firefighters showed me where his helmet and

SEE CLUBS/PAGE A4

12-year-old in need of kidney transplant

BY NANCY MCCLEARY
NMCCLEARY@SANFORDHERALD.COM

At age 12, Bryson Oest is in the fight of his life.

Bryson was diagnosed at age 5 with disease that causes scarring in his kidneys, keeping them from functioning properly.

In fact, on Feb. 9, Bryson had both kidneys removed in surgery at

UNC Hospitals. His doctors determined they were doing more harm than good, according to Casey Oest, Bryson's mother.

"They told his kidneys were failing and in his condition, that the best option was to remove both of them," she said.

Now, Bryson undergoes

SEE KIDNEY/PAGE A4



Nancy McCleary | The Sanford Herald

Bryson Oest and his dog, Bo, enjoy a moment outside at the family's home. Bryson's kidneys have been removed and he is in need of a transplant.

Virus cases declining

COVID-19 vaccine registration reopens

BY JASMINE GALLUP
JGALLUP@SANFORDHERALD.COM

The number of COVID-19 cases in Lee County leveled off Monday with 44 new cases reported since last week, according to the Lee County Health Department.

The weekly increase was on par with the 40 cases reported in the first week of March. That week represented the first since December that the number of new cases was less than 100, perhaps marking a turning point in the pandemic.

This week's additional cases brings the total to 5,549 Lee County residents who have tested positive for COVID-19 since the pandemic began. The county's rate of positive tests has dropped to 3.4% from 6.9% last week, after hovering around 10-12% in January. As the number of new cases slows, no new deaths have been reported. The total remains 73, with the last deaths reported Feb. 26.

The Lee County Health Department also reopened vaccine

SEE COVID-19/PAGE A4

Pfizer moves forward with gene therapy facility

BY JASMINE GALLUP
JGALLUP@SANFORDHERALD.COM

Biopharmaceutical company Pfizer is on track to begin manufacturing new gene therapies at its Sanford facility this year as work continues on its expansion, according to company spokesman Eamonn Nolan.

The first part of the state-of-the-art facility was completed in early 2019, with production of gene therapies beginning later that year. Since then, Pfizer has been manufacturing clinical supplies for gene therapies to treat hemophilia A, hemophilia B, and Duchenne muscular dystrophy, Nolan said.

The company is now preparing to produce other products at a clinical scale with the facility's existing equipment and staff, Nolan said.

In the meantime, builders are hard at work expanding the facility from 25,000 to 125,000 square feet, a \$500 million project expected to be complete by the end of 2022.

By the end of this year, the expanded facility should be partially online with staff producing gene therapies for Duchenne muscular dystrophy on a commercial scale, Nolan said.

So far, Pfizer has hired about 190 people for commercial production, and plans to hire up to 300 more once the expanded facility is complete, Nolan said.



OBITUARIES

SANFORD — Irene Segura-Garcia, 80; Grace Cox McNeill, 73; Miriam Spivey Blakley, 82; William Gaston

Stutts, 86
DENTON — Robert Lee Thomerson Jr., 64
CARTHAGE — Virginia Warner Phillips, 89

PINEHURST — Jay E. Levy, 76
GOLDSTON — William White Beavers Sr., 94

PAGES A2-3

WHAT'S INSIDE

Dear AbbyA6
ClassifiedsA8
ComicsA7
CrosswordA6

HoroscopeA6
SportsA5
StocksA3