

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	ALMANAC
					Yesterday's High 65 Yesterday's Low 46 Record High 90 in 1985 Record Low 25 in 1966
Sunny	Scattered T-storms	Showers Likely	Sunny	Sunny	SUN & MOON
Precip Chance: 5%	Precip Chance: 70%	Precip Chance: 80%	Precip Chance: 0%	Precip Chance: 0%	Sunrise 7:05 a.m. Sunset 7:36 p.m.
73° 56°	75° 43°	54° 29°	51° 30°	62° 39°	Last New First Full
					4/4 4/11 4/20 4/26

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

The Sanford Herald

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County reports 74th COVID-19 death

BY NANCY MCCLEARY
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After more than a month without any COVID-19 related deaths, the county's 74th was reported Monday, according to the Lee County Health Department.

The unidentified person died

at Central Carolina Hospital, a news release said.

No deaths have been reported since Feb. 26 when six people died from the virus, according to Jamie Brown, county spokeswoman.

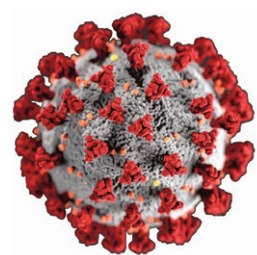
"Today's announcement is a reminder that while we are

making great strides in the fight against COVID-19, this remains a serious illness that threatens public health and safety," Heath Cain, Health Department director, said in the news release issued Monday.

Five patients remain in the hospital and are being treated

for the coronavirus, according to Anna Manning, hospital spokeswoman.

The number of new cases nearly doubled in the past week, going from 46 to 72, the release said. That brings the



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Wicker honored by NC Chamber

BY MARK ROGERS
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Dennis Wicker was recently honored as a recipient of the NC Chamber's Distinguished Service Award.

The former lieutenant governor and Sanford resident was recognized in a virtual ceremony on March 18. The Distinguished Service Award and the Distinguished Citizen Award "celebrate notable individuals who have fostered North Carolina's prosperity and promise," according to an NC Chamber news release.

"I was very overwhelmed, humbled and very honored to be included in a group of people that had been the recipients of this award before," he said Friday in an interview. "I just felt like I didn't belong in that group. Some of the previous recipients have been people like Billy Graham, Sen. Sam Ervin, Sen. Jesse Helms and people like that. These are people you grew up with, admired and had good feelings about. I am very deeply appreciative."

Wicker serves as the founder of the Lee County Education Foundation, which has granted more than \$750,000 to the Lee County Schools over the past 15 years. Wicker, who attended Lee County public schools, was the first state-wide-elected official to chair the State Board of Community Colleges.

Wicker said the honor isn't his alone.

"I give a lot of credit to my parents, who were very involved in public affairs and public service in North Carolina," Wicker said. "Also, my wife, who had to raise our three boys to help me through those times when I couldn't be at home. I've been very fortunate to have had the opportunities I've had in public service. Whatever success I've had in public affairs, I give a great deal of credit to my parents who taught us the ideal of public service and my wife, who stood by as



Mark Rogers | The Sanford Herald

Dennis Wicker was recently honored by the NC Chamber with its Distinguished Service Award.

my partner."

Wicker is an attorney in Raleigh and serves on numerous boards and foundations.

"I want to stay active and this award has just inspired me to do more," Wicker said. "I am staying active and I will stay active because I think all of us have an obligation to give something back. That

drives me. I am committed and dedicated to that cause."

Drs. Joe and Eunice Dudley, the Distinguished Citizenship Award winners, have funded more than 100 students' full tuition at N.C. A&T State University, opening doors for rising leaders to maximize their potential. They have launched high school programs to connect

Black-owned businesses and the school system.

The ceremony, presented by Food Lion, featured keynote speaker Andrew Busch. He was the first chief market intelligence officer for the U.S. government at the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and is an expert on the economic impacts of infectious diseases.

Human remains found in Moore County

BY THE SANFORD HERALD

The Moore County Sheriff's Office is awaiting the results of an autopsy to determine the identity of human remains found in a wooded area on Sunday.

A person riding a four-wheeler discovered the remains in an area along Murdockville Road between Carthage and West End, according to Chief Deputy Richard Maness.

The site is between N.C. 73 and Doubs Chapel Road.

The remains were taken to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Raleigh, Maness said.

Investigators hope the autopsy will determine the cause of death, according to Maness.

It was not known how long the remains had been at the location.

Nonprofit encouraging seniors to fill out FAFSA

BY JASMINE GALLUP
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A North Carolina nonprofit is trying to encourage high school seniors to apply for federal student aid by sponsoring a statewide competition.

The First in FAFSA Challenge pits Lee County and Southern Lee high schools against hundreds of others to increase completion rates of the FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The challenge is sponsored in part by

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OBITUARIES

SANFORD — Ray Perry Campbell, 56; Odessa Jeanette Gladden Cox, 88; Gloria Elizabeth Sanchez Deal, 57

ACWORTH, Ga. — Stephen Bernard Curry, 62

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