

## NCC bids farewell to graduates

Nash Community College has announced 688 students completed 900 degrees, diplomas and certificates in its Class of 2020.



KELLEY DEAL

In his letter to the graduating class, NCC President Dr. Lew Hunnicutt said, "Resilience is a trait that I always hope every Nash Community

College graduate possesses. Without hesitation, and with complete certainty, you have truly persevered with unrelenting resilience. You rose to the challenge and you prevailed. I stand in awe of each of you for your accomplishment."

"The word resilience," he continued, "is defined as an ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change. You have done this. You have worked hard, adapted to unanticipated changes pressed forward and you have met success as a result."

Due to the coronavirus and for the safety of the campus community, NCC began delivering 90 percent of coursework online in late March. The college has postponed its commencement exercises until later in the year.

"We are living in strange times," Hunnicutt said. "Coronavirus has changed everything we are accustomed to. Just weeks into the semester the difficult decision was made to suspend face-to-face instruction and create a new virtual college for you. I realize this is not what you signed up for. Additionally, many of you were impacted by job loss and other challenges resulting from the pandemic. I know this has not been easy. You each have a story and unique experience of your last semester at NCC. I hope you will build upon these experiences as you continue forward. Whether you choose to enter into a career, or transfer and continue your education, you have what it takes to keep going. Above all else, you have demonstrated that."

"The ceremonies have been postponed, however, we will hold ceremonies at a later date. Our students have much to celebrate and I look forward to sharing that time with them. I assign great importance to the phrase Nighthawks

Forward as it reminds me how incredible our students, Nash Nighthawks, continue to be. I applaud their efforts, accomplishments, and admirable ability to meet life head-on no matter what hand they were dealt," Hunnicutt said.

Student Government Association President Tiffany Boswell shared memories of her time at NCC. Boswell is among the Class of 2020's 47 associate degree nursing graduates.

"Nash Community College and the people here have become a huge part of my life and story," Boswell said. "I have found new strength and faith within myself I did not know was there. Due to our strength, bravery, courage, and the Blue Love culture at Nash Community College we are here proudly as college graduates. We persevered."

"You have helped me learn what kind of leader I am and how I can impact others around me," Boswell said. "I never in a million years would have thought I could do all that I have done here."

"Walking through the doors of the nursing hallway my first semester as a nursing student felt unreal. It felt like a dream come true," she said. "Never be afraid to take chances and try something new. A chapter is ending here but my story is nowhere near finished yet."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

N.C. Wesleyan College has continued to adjust its policies in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

## N.C. Wesleyan adjusts to pandemic

BY ASHLEE BRACKETT  
Special to the Telegram

N.C. Wesleyan College has continued to regulate its policies to fit the needs of its students, faculty and staff members.

At this time, no member from the college has contracted COVID-19, but the college is still following federal and state regulations to be safe.

On March 23, President Evan Duff alerted students that the college would not resume face-to-face instruction for the rest of the semester, switching to online classes.

Wesleyan sophomore Mary Catherine Davis said she has had difficult times adjusting to distance learning.

"Generally, I have a lot more written coursework and my workload hasn't been lessened at all," she said. "I would say the hardest part of the transition would be losing my routine. I have no sleep schedule, my assignment due dates were shifted, and I have assignments in

many different formats." Duff said the college has addressed the transition.

"We have provided tips and mental health advice for our faculty, staff and students to continue to help them cope with this new normal. If they need assistance with technology, remote instruction or mental well being, we are providing it to them," he said.

There are still just over 100 students who remain on campus that are both international and domestic. Some students weren't able to travel home, and some stayed on campus to take advantage of the resources the college is providing.

The college recommended that students who wouldn't have access to computers or the internet to stay on campus in order to complete classwork. N.C. Wesleyan has some 1,200 students in its traditional program on the Rocky Mount campus. Another 1,000 students are enrolled in adult degree programs at

sites around the state.

Duff shared the many policies they have put into place for the students still on campus.

"Our dining hall is still providing them with takeout meals, the community has provided them with hygiene products and other essential items for their residence halls, they can still gather in small groups of ten or less for outdoor activities and multiple 2-4 player games have been provided to them to keep them active between their study times," he said.

The college has also provided work study for students who have remained on campus, so they have the opportunity of earning money.

The college announced on April 6 that it would be going on lockdown beginning April 9, meaning traffic in and out of the main campus will be closed except for essential employees.

Essential employees include workers from maintenance, house-keeping, dining services,

business office, financial aid, registrar, admissions, and administration, Duff said. "While on campus, they must continue to follow all federal, state and local mandates regarding social distancing and hand washing protocols."

Duff said the college has three main goals as of now to keep everyone safe. First, the college is keeping the residential students who are still on campus secure. Second, faculty and staff are being provided with the necessary resources available to serve students as the semester ends. Lastly, the administration wants to ensure everyone is communicating effectively with all of the college's constituents.

Duff said he wants to make everyone involved "aware of every action we are taking during this time," in order to run effectively. The college has implemented multiple policies and procedures to protect students, faculty, and staff from the spread of COVID-19.

On April 23, Gov. Roy

Cooper extended the stay at home order through May 8 and released a three-phase process of lifting the restrictions based on the coronavirus. The college updated this information based on current recommendations and shared how the three-phase process would work for the students, faculty and staff in the upcoming weeks.

"As a small private school, the college has had to make strategic and mitigating decisions to create sustainability," Duff said.

The college isn't sure to what degree COVID-19 will affect fall enrollment, but administrators are monitoring the situation daily.

Vice President of Administration Suzanne Brackett said the college is keeping a close eye on all federal funding opportunities to help their students through this difficult time.

"The college will be adjusting students' room

See WESLEYAN, C2

## RMA names Weaver scholarship recipient

From Contributed Reports

Rachael Anne Godwin, daughter of Robert and Anne Godwin, has been awarded this year's Ann Weaver Memorial Scholarship at Rocky Mount Academy.

A ninth-grader being homeschooled, Godwin will attend RMA in the fall on a full-tuition scholarship, valued at nearly \$40,000 for three years.

The Weaver Scholarship was established at Rocky Mount Academy in 1986 in memory of a 1984 RMA graduate who had succumbed to cancer earlier that year.

The scholarship is awarded to a deserving student who has never attended RMA and who best represents the attributes that Ann Weaver embodied.

"Once again, we had a wonder-



GODWIN

ful and accomplished group of candidates nominated for the Ann Weaver scholarship," said Janie Mac Pittman, a member of the Ann Weaver committee stated, "And once again, choosing this year's Ann Weaver scholar was very difficult. Rachael's impressive academic and extracurricular resume along with her caring personality make her an ideal Weaver scholar. We are excited for Rachael to join the RMA family in the fall."

Godwin is a straight-A student. Her talents stretch from the soccer field to volunteering. She is a very driven and self-motivated athlete. She plays on an elite soccer

club based in Raleigh, which plays all over the country. Her interest in animals encouraged her to incubate and hatch poultry and volunteer with animals for her church's live nativity.

Her passion to help others has taken her to Boone as a volunteer counselor and also in the streets of Rocky Mount, where she has organized essential supplies for the homeless community. Rachael sees a need and helps create a solution.

Rocky Mount Academy is eager and excited for her to bring her passion and drive to their campus.

"Each year in March, the Ann Weaver Scholarship application process brings us the opportunity to meet and get to know some of the most talented high school students in the area," RMA Head of School Beth Covolo said. "This year was no exception. Rachael

has been chosen as this year's recipient because she is an outstanding young lady. Her commitment to academic excellence and dedication to volunteering, athletics and community are a perfect match for our mission to prepare students for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities they will encounter in life and college.

"We are thrilled to welcome her, and we look forward to her continued success as part of the RMA community."

Founded in 1968, Rocky Mount Academy is the largest non-sectarian independent school in the Nash, Edgecombe and Wilson counties area and serves pre-K to 12th-grade students. The mission of RMA is to prepare its students for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities to be encountered in life and college.

## Wesleyan nursing program receives accreditation

From Contributed Reports

N.C. Wesleyan College's new RN to BSN program has received accreditation approval from its regional accreditor, the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

"These are exciting times at North Carolina Wesleyan College with the introduction of nursing to our Adult & Professional Studies programs. It's never been a better time to advance in the field of nursing and work towards transforming

health care for the betterment of those receiving our services," said Brittany Bass, director of the RN to BSN program. "The faculty and staff stand ready to help prospective students succeed and cheer you on throughout the RN to BSN journey here at NCWC."

The college has begun accepting applications for the program this spring, with classes set to begin in the fall.

The 100 percent online RN to BSN program is designed to help registered nurses achieve the education

necessary to broaden their skill set and advance their careers in nursing.

The curriculum integrates new, innovative knowledge into daily nursing practices and includes 34 credit hours. In the program, professional baccalaureate nursing practice will focus on population health, nursing leadership and management, informatics, health care policy and evidence-based research opportunities that will facilitate professional growth.

RN to BSN students will be required to complete clinical prac-

tice experiences that will allow them to implement new knowledge into their nursing practice. The program features multiple start dates so students can begin when they are ready and finish in as little as 12 months.

N.C. Wesleyan has also received a \$15,000 gift from two married alumni to cover the costs of textbooks for the first 20 students accepted into the program.

For more information about the program and to apply, visit [ncwc.edu/rn-to-bsn](http://ncwc.edu/rn-to-bsn).

# Local author releases new book

From Contributed Reports

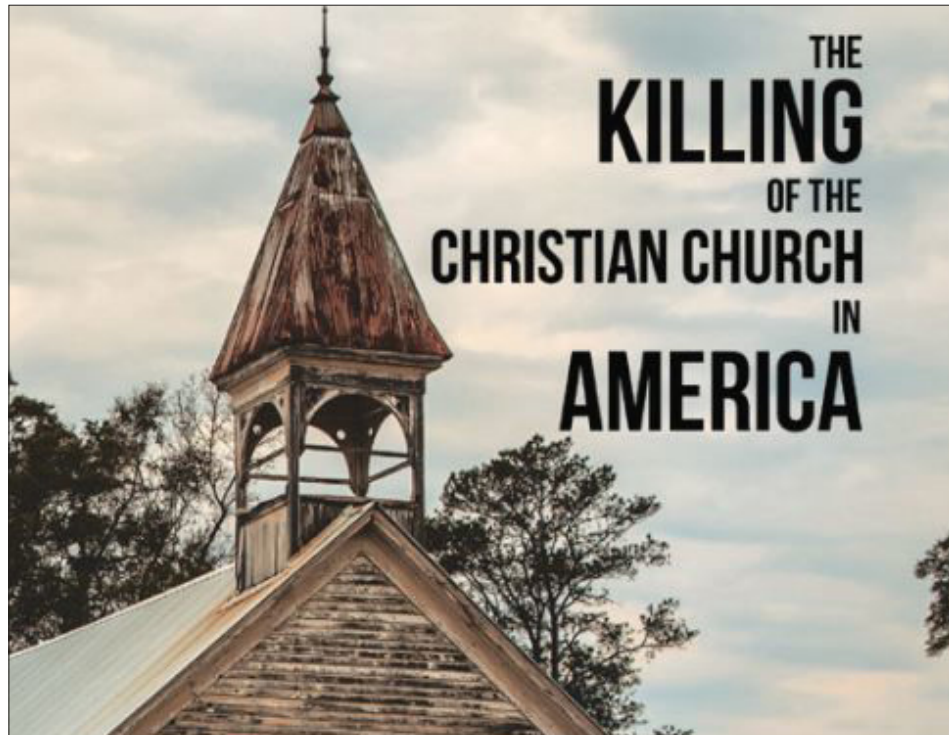
A local author recently completed his book, "The Killing of the Christian Church in America," which is now available on Amazon and other retail outlets.

Gene Jackson, a 32-year resident of Rocky Mount, said he considers his book to be informative, factual and prophetic.

According to the author, there is no comparison or similarity in what is being preached from today's pulpits to that which was preached in the 1st Century. Christianity in the 1st Century was like flying on a Boeing 737, but is now being proclaimed from a Piper Cub.

The author, a retired minister who has pastored churches in several states, along with many theologians, believes that unbelievers outnumber believers in the majority of denominational churches throughout America.

He explores many of the inroads being made in Christian denominations by vocationally called ministers who are not preaching the gospel;



'The Killing of the Christian Church in America' is now available on Amazon and other retail outlets.

the lifestyles of believers; LGBTQ members being ordained to the clergy; and a lack of religious interest by Millennials.

"When Jesus said, 'I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it,' he

was not speaking of the building of church buildings," Jackson said. "Yearly, thousands of denominational churches are closing their doors. The book addresses the causes, reasons and trends which are attributable for

these closures and offer ways for churches and its members to evaluate their church to see if it will soon be on the threshold of closure."

Amazon offers a free on-line reading of the first six chapters.

## BRIDGE

BY PHILLIP ALDER  
United Feature Syndicate

This week, let's look at instructive deals sent to me by Steve Conrad of Manhasset, Long Island. Since he retired, he has been teaching bridge on cruise ships — but not at the moment, of course.

This deal occurred in a matchpointed pairs event. How should South play in four spades after West leads the club queen?

Three diamonds was New Minor Forcing: North showed three-card spade support, and South raised to game.

When the dummy came down, South saw that three no-trump was easy, but that would have been worth only 400 points. If he could make four spades, that would be 420 points and outscore everyone in three no-trump. But from where could declarer generate a 10th trick?

There were actually three sensible choices. We'll look at them over the next couple of days.

Let's initially consider diamonds. At first glance, getting an extra trick required finding an unlikely 3-3 split. But that wasn't necessarily true, because without a trump lead, it was possible

North				05-25-20			
♠	K 8 7						
♥	A 9						
♦	A 7 4						
♣	A K 6 5 2						
West		East					
♠	5 2	♥	6 4 3				
♥	8 7 5 4 2	♦	K Q J 10				
♦	K 3	♣	Q J 10 9				
♣	Q J 10 9	♠	8 7				
South		North					
♠	A Q J 10 9	♥	6 3				
♥	6 3	♦	8 6 5 2				
♦	8 6 5 2	♣	4 3				
♣	4 3	Dealer: West					
South		West		North		East	
1♠	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass	1♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening lead: ♣ Q							

to ruff declarer's fourth diamond on the board.

Win with dummy's club king, cash the diamond ace and play another diamond.

Suppose West shifts belatedly to a trump. Win in hand and lead another diamond. East may play a second spade, but take that in hand and ruff the last diamond with the spade king to generate a sixth trump trick.

Yes, that line of play would not have worked if West had led a trump at trick one, which he might well have done. Tomorrow, we will look at what happens after a spade lead.

# UN agency: Pandemic could kill 1 in 8 museums

BY RAF CASERT

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Museums are starting to reopen in some countries as governments ease coronavirus restrictions, but experts warn one in eight worldwide could face permanent closure due to the pandemic.

Studies by UNESCO and the International Council of Museums show 90% of the planet's museums, some 85,000 institutions, have had to shut at least temporarily.

"It is alarming data that we are giving," Ernesto Ottone, Assistant Director General for Culture at UNESCO said in an interview with the Associated Press Tuesday.

He said the problem cuts across the board, affecting museums big and small, new and established, featuring art or science.

Museums that indicated they might well not reopen, he said, "have been closed for months and they have no revenues. And they don't know how they're going to get their revenues."

And once they do reopen, Ottone said, "they (won't) have the capacity to update their infrastructure" to conform with social distancing and other pandemic precautions.

Some costly blockbuster shows have suffered heavy damage this spring. A once-in-a-lifetime exhibit bringing together fragile paintings by Flemish master Jan van Eyck had barely opened in Ghent, Belgium, when it was abruptly canceled. It won't be resumed, as many of the works were on loan and had to be returned.

In Rome, a similar super-show on Renaissance artist Raphael had to close after just three days, but was able to hold on to all 120 works and will now reopen June 2 through Aug. 30.

Overall, the picture is dark, more Munch than Monet.

"Nearly 13% of museums around the world may never reopen," UNESCO and ICOM said in a joint statement, saying those in poorer countries faced a greater



Belgium's King Philippe, second left, and Belgium's Queen Mathilde, center, wear face masks to prevent the spread of coronavirus as they visit the Royal Museum of Fine Arts in Brussels on Tuesday.

risk.

Things are pretty bleak in wealthy countries too.

The Network of European Museum Organizations said large institutions in tourist hotspots like Paris, Amsterdam or Vienna have suffered income losses of up to 80 percent, that can reach hundreds of thousands of dollars a week.

Places like the Stedelijk and Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, or the Kunsthistorisches in Vienna, could lose up to \$2.75 million a month.

Ottone said matters were particularly tough in Latin America, "where 99.4% of all museums are closed right now."

"So you have a continent that doesn't have anything open," Ottone said. "It's the first time in our history and it will be very difficult to come out from this crisis for those institutions."

It is little wonder that royalty and prime ministers are now lining up to boost their cultural institutions.

"We have to show our support at the maximum level to this sector by coming here, to show that they are open again and that people can come back here in complete safety, but also by taking measures and decisions ... to support them," Belgian Prime Minister Sophie Wilmes said Tuesday, touring the re-opened

Bozar Center for Fine Arts in Brussels.

King Philippe of Belgium and Queen Mathilde visited the nearby Royal Museums of Fine Arts, wearing protective masks.

Across Europe, such reopenings provide some hope.

In Berlin, four museums and one special exhibit that reopened had 10,000 visitors over the past week — about 43% of last year's level for the same week. Visitors need to buy tickets for a particular time slot, which limits the number of visitors.

In Italy, one-time epicenter of the pandemic in Europe, the Villa Borghese and the Capitoline museums, both home to Caravaggio paintings and Bernini sculptures, reopened on Tuesday.

There's still no reopening date set for Italy's biggest cultural draws, including the Uffizi in Florence and the Vatican Museums or the Colosseum in Rome.

The same goes for France. Big hitters, such as the Louvre — the world's most visited museum — and the Pompidou Center remain shuttered after an easing of restrictions May 11.

Greece reopened its ancient sites — including the Acropolis — Monday, and set a June 15 date for muse-

ums.

Overall, the situation remains dire amid uncertainty over when tourism, a lifeline for most museums, will resume.

"It's (going to) be a very, very difficult year," said Pierre Coulon, Operation Director for Public Affairs of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences Museum. "And we don't know exactly how long it will last and when we will recuperate a normal income."

## gardnerfoods.com

**NEW**  
**All Day EVERY DAY**  
**Specials**  
**\$5.99**  
(Includes Tea)

**Catering & Deliveries Available. Call 252-446-2983 or 252-442-9688**

- 2PC DARK OR BREAST**  
Choice of side
- 2 CHILI CHEESE HOT DOGS**  
Fries
- 3 VEGGIE PLATE**  
1/2 Dozen Hush Puppies
- 1 PORK CHOP**  
Choice of side
- 50Z BBQ W/SLAW**  
3 Hush Puppies

## Gardner's BARBECUE

EAT IN • TAKE OUT • ORDER ONLINE • DRIVE THRU

**3 Locations in Rocky Mount to Better Serve You!**

**Hwy. 301 Bypass • 446-2983**  
**Westridge Shopping Center • 443-3996**  
**835 Fairview Rd. • 442-5522**

**A REPUTATION YOU CAN TASTE SINCE 1972!**

## WESLEYAN

Continued from C1

and board charges with support of the CARES Act which will help offset any losses recognized by the college," she said.

The college is currently working through the calculation process for getting the support to students.

There is still not much known about next year's school year for many colleges nationwide, but NCWC will continue to

monitor COVID-19 and respond accordingly.

Duff said N.C. Wesleyan "will take this one day at a time, evolve with the changes we can't control and continue to provide the best education that we can to the students we serve."

**envolve Optical**

**Visit us at 1118 Falls Road**  
Conveniently located at the Rocky Mount Mills

• Designer eyewear at great prices • A selection of more than 1,200 frames  
• A range of precision lens options

**Call 252-544-9296 or visit EnvolveOptical.com**

follow us on Facebook @EnvolveOptical