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THE ROBESONIAN

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Wednesday, March 18, 2026 • Issue 22, Volume 157

robsonian.com

A Fresh Perspective

Local
NEWS

\$1.50



Photo courtesy of UNC Health Southeastern Foundation
UNC Health Southeastern and UNC Health Southeastern Foundation administrators join gala chairs during The Med Gala: The Art of Health, a record-breaking evening benefiting Women's Health Services.

The Med Gala raises record for UNCHSE Foundation

More than \$237K raised to support women's health

Heather Walters
 For The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — Nearly 600 sponsors, donors, physicians and community leaders gathered for the 33rd annual The Med Gala: The Art of Health, presented by Smith's Refrigeration, LLC. The evening raised over \$237,000 to support women's health services at UNC Health Southeastern, making it the most successful Gala in the event's 33-year history.

Blending art, fashion, and philanthropy, the Med Gala celebrated the creativity, strength and compassion at the heart of care across UNC Health Southeastern. Guests enjoyed

a night that reflected the partnerships and shared commitment that support healthcare for families throughout our region.

Proceeds from The Med Gala help strengthen women's health services for mothers, babies and families across southeastern North Carolina through Delivering for Women, the UNC Health Southeastern Foundation initiative focused on expanding care for women and families in our region. Generous support from our community has already helped establish the new Women's Health Services floor, featuring

See GALA | 9A



Photo courtesy of Lumbee Tribe
Head dancers Ryan Dial and Raven Dial-Stanley lead Lumbee Tribal Chairman Lowery, the Lumbee Tribal Council and hundreds of dancers into the arena during Grand Entry at the Lumbee Tribe's Dance of the Harvest Moon Powwow which was hosted at UNC Pembroke in Sept. 2025.

Lumbee Tribe announces details for upcoming recognition celebrations

Staff report

PEMBROKE — A year of celebration for the Lumbee Tribe following its full federal recognition in December will continue with a pair of

big events in the coming weeks.

The Tribe will hold its grand celebration on Saturday, May 16 at UNC Pembroke. It will also host a Wild Game Festival on Saturday, March

28 at the Lumbee Tribe Cultural Center.

Details regarding each of these events have been recently released.

For the celebration on May 16, the Tribe will welcome Lumbee

citizens, the community, neighbors and supporters, it says.

"It will be a momentous day to join us in celebration of this historic and

See LUMBEE | 9A

County approves bid for Health Department building



Chris Stiles | The Robesonian
The Robeson County Board of Commissioners says the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of Monday's meeting in Lumberton.

Chris Stiles
 The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — The Robeson County Board of Commissioners approved a guaranteed maximum price (GMP) proposal for the new Robeson County Health Department, which will soon be constructed, during Monday's monthly meeting at the County Administration Building in downtown Lumberton.

The GMP, an agreement with Metcon, is part of a \$45 million overall project. The GMP proposal will next be sent to the Local Government Commission (LGC) for approval.

See COUNTY | 9A

Man arrested after shooting at Cookout

Staff report

LUMBERTON — A Lumberton man is in custody after a woman was shot at the Cookout drive-thru restaurant in Lumberton.

Monday, at approximately 5:23 p.m., officers with the Lumberton Police Department responded to Cookout, located



Thompson

at 2712 Roberts Avenue, in reference to a reported shooting.

Upon arrival, officers located Raeshia McKellar, 31, of St. Pauls, inside a vehicle in the adjacent parking lot of the Royal Farms gas station suffering from a single gunshot wound. McKellar was transported to an undisclosed

medical facility with serious injuries.

Tyreik Thompson, 21, of Lumberton, was arrested and charged with attempted first-degree murder and discharging a weapon into occupied property in connection with this incident.

Thompson is currently being held in the Robeson County Detention Center under no bond.

TODAY'S FORECAST

High 52, Low 32 – Mostly cloudy and cool



A NEWS

Obituaries: 2
 Editorial: 4
 Comics: 5
 Classifieds: 6-8

B SPORTS

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

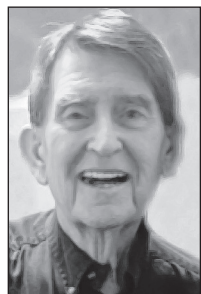
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OBITUARIES

SAMUEL HARRIS MCGIRT



Samuel Harris McGirt, 81, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026, with family present. He passed suddenly due to cardiorespiratory arrest, but he continued to entertain and make people around him laugh whenever he was able.

Sam, as he was usually known, was born in Dillon, S.C., to Murphy Frank McGirt, Sr. and Sarah Blackwell McGirt. He regularly said that he was the first in his family to be born in a hospital instead of "on the kitchen table" because his father bargained with the hospital to trade contracting work for a hospital birth. Despite being a precocious child, he was able to graduate the Maxton school system with his eyebrows intact. He married his high school sweetheart before he graduated from Presbyterian College, with whom he had his two children, Sue McGirt (now deceased) and Ben (Mindy) McGirt. Sam was also a proud grandfather to Ian and Isaac. However, many would say his favorite child was his American Eskimo dog, Casper, his faithful companion of many years.

He worked early for his father's plumbing and heating contracting business, McGirt's Plumbing and Electric, in order to support his family. Sam frequently recounted multiple stories of his enjoyment and experiences working with many of the staff at McGirt's Plumbing and many became friends of Sam's outside of work. He took over the management of McGirt's Plumbing when his father, Murphy, Sr., was diagnosed with late-stage colon cancer. Despite not having been taught or groomed for managing the company, he dedicated a tremendous amount of time and effort to learn and modernize McGirt's Plumbing to run as successfully as possible. He was one of the earlier adopters of

personal computers in the 1980's to help calculate the estimates for his contracting proposals. Sam later sold McGirt's Plumbing and Electric to Smith's Refrigeration, located in Lumberton.

Outside of work, Sam primarily enjoyed fishing and writing as his pastimes. He would wake up at 3 a.m. and travel all over the state to spend the day on the lake in his boat. He also worked to help build a local bass fishing groups so that they could eventually participate in some pro-am tournaments. He never won any tournaments, but he thoroughly enjoyed participating and talking with the bass pro anglers he was paired with. He even made friends with Ken Cook, 1991 Bassmaster Classic champion and stayed close friends with Ken and his family until Ken's passing in 2016.

Inspired by humorists like Lewis Grizzard, author of books like "My Daddy Was a Pistol and I'm a Son of a Gun", Sam started writing funny and touching stories about his life and experiences. These writings eventually led to a weekly column in the Fayetteville Observer and a regular appearance on local radio station, WKML.

Sam would regularly say, "God put me on this world to make them laugh." He always had a joke or story ready to entertain and lighten the mood. He would also regularly bring people gifts like pound cakes or other treats to help brighten their day when he could.

In addition to his son, Ben, daughter-in-law, Mindy, and cherished grandsons, Ian and Isaac, Sam is survived by his brothers, Murphy McGirt, Jr. (Anita), Hal McGirt (Alice) and many beloved nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews.

A celebration of Sam's life will be held at Richard Boles Funeral Service in Laurinburg on March 21, 2026. Visitation will start at 12:30 p.m. with a service starting at 2:00pm. An interment service at Centre Presbyterian Church will occur after the service.

CARLENE ESTER STEAD



Mrs. Carlene Ester Stead, 101, passed away peacefully, on Sunday, March 15, 2026. Carlene was born in Robeson County to the late William Montgomery Britt and Laura Sasser on Feb. 18, 1925.

Along with her parents, Carlene was preceded in death by her husbands, Felton Johnson and Vernon Stead; three sons, Gerald Johnson, Steve Stead and Pete Stead; a daughter, Cathy Adams; four brothers, Robert Britt, Harvey Britt, Junior Britt and James Britt; three sisters, Thelma Britt, Francis Britt Elizabeth Britt.

Carlene will be remembered as someone who always worked, since she was 13-year-old, sometimes two or three jobs at a time. She loved to sew and knit. She made many homemade quilts that she gave away as Christmas gifts. She was a lifelong member of the East Lumberton Church of God.

She is survived by her daughters, Patricia Rice (Tim) of Lumberton, Deborah Andrews (Thomas) of Lumberton, Judy Adams of Lumberton, and Shan Musselwhite of Lumberton; 17 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren, and six great-great grandchildren.

The family would like to thank Glenflora for the care and comfort she received during her time. They would especially like to thank Pam, Bonnie and Cathy for their tender love and care.

A time of visitation will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., one hour prior to the service, at East Lumberton Church of God in Lumberton. Burial will follow the service at Meadowbrook Cemetery in Lumberton.

A funeral service will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 2 p.m. at East Lumberton Church of God in Lumberton with Pastor Tim Lewis officiating.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EDITOR'S NOTE: Send your Community Calendar items to Editor Chris Stiles at cstiles@robsonian.com.

The Peking Acrobats, 7:30 p.m., March 19: The Peking Acrobats presents a dynamic, high-energy performance that showcase the best of Chinese acrobats, combining ancient tradition with modern technology. The show features a variety of acrobatic feats, including contortion, tumbling, juggling, trick cycling, and gymnastics, all accompanied by live traditional Chinese music.

Diamond Eagles Baseball, 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., March 21: The Diamond Eagles are hosting Pitt Community College for a baseball doubleheader. The first game is at 1:00 p.m., and the second is at 4:00 p.m. Come out and support the Diamond Eagles and enjoy the action.

Easter Bunny Photos, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., March 22: The Easter Bunny is visiting Biggs Park Mall! Stop by for a photo and complete a special spring outfit while shopping in the mall. Happy Easter!

Friends of Main Street Presents Itai White, 3 p.m., March 22: Friends of Main Street Lumberton will host Itai White, local musician, at Happenings on Elm, 605 North Elm Street, Lumberton. This is an event of Stories and Sounds Downtown, funded through the NC Arts Council Grassroots funds coming to the Robeson County Arts Council.

Give My Regards to Broadway, 5:30 p.m., March 26: The Robeson County Arts Council and the Carolina Civic Center are excitedly teaming up to present "Give My Regards to Broadway!" Enjoy an

evening of Broadway favorites on the theater's Mighty Morton organ, performed by master of the keys Mark Andersen. In support of the Arts in Robeson County, join us for an enchanting evening featuring organ music, exquisite cuisine, a thoughtfully curated silent auction, and a lively theater singalong. Come sing with us, and you get to be the star! Reserved tables for 8 guests are available for purchase. Tickets can be purchased by calling the box office at 910-738-4339, calling Joy at 910-736-4686, or online

Adult Color & Coffee, March 27, 10 a.m. to noon: The Robeson County Public Library extends a welcome to adults to join an Adult Color and Coffee session at the Lumberton Branch. Just chill, drink coffee and color! Enjoy!

In Ya Faith Ministries Easter Egg Hunt, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., April 4: The In Ya Faith Ministries nonprofit is hosting an easter egg hunt for the children of Robeson County at Cukaberry Farms in Fairmont. Alongside the egg hunt, the event will have live entertainment, food trucks and various local vendors.

Friends of Main Street Presents Tonya Holy Elk, 3 p.m., May 3: Tonya Holy Elk and her son, Lakoda John will share poetry and music on Sunday, May 3, at 3 p.m. at The Kinship NC, 304 North Elm Street, Lumberton. This is an event of Stories and Sounds Downtown, funded through the NC Arts Council Grassroots funds coming to the Robeson County Arts Council.

ONGOING Children's Storytime — Lumberton, 10:30-11:00 a.m. on Tuesdays

and Fridays, Robeson County Public Library, 101 N. Chestnut St., Lumberton.

Children's Storytime — Pembroke, 10:30-11:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of the month at the Pembroke Library, 413 Blaine St, Pembroke.

Music, Rhymes, and Storytime, 10:30-11:30 a.m. on the third Thursday of each month, Robeson County Public Library, 101 N. Chestnut St., Lumberton.

Children's Storytime — Red Springs, 10:30-11:30 a.m. on the third Friday of each month at McMillan Memorial Library, Red Springs.

Children's Storytime — Fairmont, 4:30-5:30 p.m., on the fourth Tuesday of each month, at the Hector MacLean Library, 106 S. Main St., Fairmont.

Children's Storytime — St. Pauls, 10:30-11:30 a.m., on the fourth Wednesday at the Annie H McEachern Library, 223 W. Broad St, St Pauls.

Farmers Market: Wednesdays, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.: On Wednesdays, the Robeson County Farmers Market features vegetables grown in Robeson County and neighboring counties. Local craft vendors are welcome additions to the market, and we encourage you to take the time to get to know them. The market is open every Wednesday from 7 a.m. to noon and on Saturdays through November, or until vendors sell out.

Music Jam Session: Bring instruments and songs to The Barn at Risen Farms from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on the first Friday of each month

to jam the night away. There might be a dance or two.

Music, Rhymes and Storytime: 10:30-11:30 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the Robeson County Public Library, 101 N. Chestnut St., Lumberton.

Thursday Music Night at Your Pie: Your Pie Pizza hosts live music every Thursday night.

Flock Swap — Robeson Co. Farmers Market: The Farmers Market will host a Flock Swap from a.m. to 5 p.m. every third Saturday of the month. The Swap will be held in the adjacent lot, next to Market Street and Water Street. For more information, don't hesitate to contact Marie at robesoncofarmersmkt@gmail.com.

Lumberton Horse and Tack Auction: The Horse and Tack Auction is held on the first Monday night of each month. Mark your calendars for this recurring event. All events are held at the Southeastern NC Agricultural Events Center in Robeson County.

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Chris Stiles | The Robesonian file photo
Musician Itai White plays during the Main Street Art Stroll on Oct. 9, 2025 in downtown Lumberton.

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CONTACT US

REGIONAL PUBLISHER: Denise Ward 910-416-5867 dward@robsonian.com	EDITOR: Chris Stiles 910-416-5847 cstiles@robsonian.com
ADVERTISING: Denise Ward dward@robsonian.com	CIRCULATION: Marty Deaver 910-416-5447 mdeaver@robsonian.com
Caroline Arrington carrington@robsonian.com	CLASSIFIEDS/LEGALS Linda Currie 910-739-4322 lcurrie@robsonian.com
Dee Dee Prevatte dprevatte@bladenjournal.com	OPERATIONS DIRECTOR: Mike Skipper

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NCDOT seeks public feedback on plans for 2nd St.

Public meeting to be held March 26

Staff report

LUMBERTON — The N.C. Department of Transportation invites the public to attend an open house next week to learn about proposed improvements for Second Street in Lumberton.

The highlights of the project include adding safer pedestrian access at several locations along two miles of this downtown street, which is also N.C. Highway 72. These accommodations would include more sidewalks, pedestrian signals, high-visibility crosswalks and mid-block refuge islands

in the median. The project spans between Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and North Roberts Avenue.

The department's engineers and planning consultants will have project maps and other information available during a public meeting on March 26. It will be from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at East Lumberton Baptist Church, located at 201 Old Whiteville Road.

People may drop in at any time, as there will be no formal presentation. The department has posted the same project



Photo courtesy of NCDOT

A portion of Second Street, including the downtown section shown here, would be improved for pedestrian access and safety under a project proposed by the N.C. Department of Transportation.

information on its public input site.

Alternatively, people may submit feedback or ask the design team questions by email:

2ndstreet-improvements-robeson@publicinput.com; or by phone: 984-205-6615 and enter project code 11303. Comments received

by April 10 will be considered toward the final design. The \$9.5 million project is scheduled to begin construction in the fall of 2027.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for those who wish to participate in this meeting. Anyone requiring special services should contact Tony Gallagher with NCDOT's Environmental Analysis Unit at 919-707-6069 or magallagher@ncdot.gov as early as possible so arrangements can be made.

Those who do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, may receive interpretive services upon request prior by calling 1-800-481-6494.

Myron Britt, convicted of killing wife, dies in prison

Staff report

NASH COUNTY — Myron Britt, a Lumberton native who was serving a life sentence after he was convicted

of murdering his wife Nancy Melton Britt, died in prison Saturday of an apparent suicide.

Britt, who was incarcerated at the Nash Correctional Institution, was reportedly found unresponsive in his cell at 4:25 a.m. Saturday. The 71-year-old was pronounced dead around 3 p.m.

Britt's death is under investigation, which is standard procedure for any inmate death.



Myron Britt

Myron Britt was convicted in 2009 for the murder of Nancy Britt, which occurred when he shot her at her sister's home on West 36th Street on Aug. 23, 2003. Prosecutors said during Myron Britt's trial that his motive was likely to collect insurance money for his wife's death to alleviate personal debts.

The couple lived in Cary at the time but were each raised in Lumberton; Myron Britt is said to have driven from their Cary home to the crime scene for the purpose of killing his wife. They were married for 27 years before the shooting. Nancy Britt

worked as a teacher in Raleigh. Authorities charged Myron Britt with the killing after finding that a bullet which was accidentally discharged from a family gun a couple of years earlier and had lodged at his parents home was fired from the same weapon that was used in Nancy Britt's murder, and the family gun was in Myron Britt's possession at the time of the murder, on loan from his brother. The gun was never found.

Myron Britt's first trial resulted in a hung jury, but a second jury convicted him of the murder, and a judge gave him a life sentence.

Suspect arrested in armed robbery

Staff report

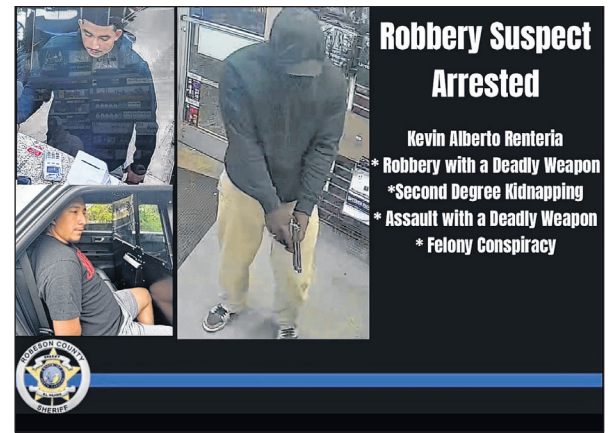
LUMBERTON — A suspect has been arrested in connection with an armed robbery that occurred Monday morning at a Saddletree grocery store.

On Monday, at approximately 6:53 a.m., Robeson County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to the Saddletree Grocery Store on Rennert Road in the Saddletree community, north of Lumberton, in reference to the armed robbery of a store employee. During the investigation, investigators with the Criminal Investigations Division identified a suspect and obtained felony warrants for his arrest.

Kevin Alberto Renteria, 19, of Marion, South Carolina, was arrested during a traffic stop by the Marion County (S.C.) Sheriff's Office as he was leaving his residence.

Renteria has been charged with robbery with a dangerous weapon, second-degree kidnapping, felony conspiracy, and assault with a deadly weapon.

The traffic stop also led to the seizure of a firearm and U.S. cur-



Robbery Suspect Arrested

- Kevin Alberto Renteria
- * Robbery with a Deadly Weapon
- * Second Degree Kidnapping
- * Assault with a Deadly Weapon
- * Felony Conspiracy

Image courtesy of RCSO

rency.

Investigators also executed a search warrant at the suspect's residence.

Renteria is currently being held at the Marion County Detention Center and will be transferred to Robeson County following the completion of the extradition process.

The investigation is being led by the Robeson County Sheriff's Office Crime Investigations Division with assistance from the Marion County Sheriff's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Anyone with information about the case or identity of a second suspect is asked to contact the Robeson County Sheriff's Office at 910-671-3100.

"Under our system of

justice, every person is presumed to be innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law," a social media post by RCSO stated. "The information contained in this post is not intended to be an expression of opinion regarding guilt. The views and opinions expressed by private citizens who may comment on this post are not adopted by and do not reflect the official policy or position of this law enforcement agency."

"The Sheriff's Office does not issue or determine bond amounts," the post also said. "This is done through a judicial official, such as a judge or magistrate, as per N.C. General Statute 15A-532. Many factors are considered when determining bond amounts."

'Booze It & Lose It' campaign runs through Saturday

Increased patrols in place to deter impaired driving

Staff report

RALEIGH — With the St. Patrick's Day holiday this week, law enforcement agencies and traffic safety professionals across the state are reminding drivers to celebrate responsibly.

From March 16-22, officers will increase patrols statewide as part of the "Booze It & Lose It" campaign aimed at preventing impaired driving and keeping roads safe. The N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program will be conducting additional public outreach via social media to reinforce these important safety messages.

With St. Patrick's Day celebrations often involving alcohol, officials are urging drivers to plan ahead and make safe, responsible choices before getting behind the wheel.

"This should be a time to safely celebrate with friends and family, but never at the cost of some-

one's life," said GHSP Director Mark Ezzell. "Our message is simple: if you plan to drink, then plan accordingly for a sober ride home. Otherwise, you could face serious consequences."

During the 2025 St. Patrick's Day alcohol enforcement campaign, law enforcement agencies across North Carolina issued 738 DWI citations. In 2025, there were 343 alcohol-related fatalities and 91 drug-related fatalities on North Carolina roads. Early data from

NCDOT indicates there have been 13 alcohol-involved crash fatalities statewide in 2026.

"These tragic deaths are 100% preventable when drivers make responsible choices," said Ezzell. "Taking a few minutes to plan for a sober ride home before consuming impairing substances can save the lives of many."

The "Booze It & Lose It" campaign is part of state's ongoing effort to reduce alcohol-related crashes and fatalities.

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Editorial

4A Wednesday, March 18, 2026

The Robesonian

GUEST EDITORIAL

Resolving the Robeson Co. Landfill and PFAS contamination issue

In 2023, our Robeson County officials were notified by the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) that toxic chemicals called PFAS were present in the groundwater near the Robeson County landfill in St. Pauls at levels that exceeded state groundwater standards. Also in 2023, Robeson County submitted county water sampling results from the county-owned, Rocco Water Treatment Plant in St. Pauls, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as required by law. These samples showed that Rocco, which is located less than half a mile from the landfill, was putting PFAS-contaminated water into the countywide water system.



Mac Legerton
Robeson Co. Cooperative for Sustainable Development

Robeson County officials did not share this information of significant contamination with the public. It wasn't until two years later that the public was informed of it. In March 2025, the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) requested information about the landfill pollution and any impact to drinking water. They received records showing that PFAS was present in the water that the Rocco treatment facility distributes into the county water system. Records on EPA's website also showed that the Rocco facility was contaminated with PFAS.

Since May 2025 community organizations and their counsel at the SELC have made four requests and invitations in writing to meet directly with members of the Board of Commissioners and county staff to discuss the landfill and PFAS contamination issues. These requests were made in public documents on May 16, Aug. 20, Aug. 29, and Jan. 14. After eight months of not receiving a response to these requests, the St. Pauls Community Association for Progress (CAP), Winyah River Alliance, sponsor of the Lumber River Keeper Program, and SELC, their legal counsel, filed a notice of intent to sue. Even then, CAP, Winyah and SELC stated that they are available to work collaboratively with the county commissioners to address remedies to the County's violations of federal environmental laws.

Ten months have now passed since this issue was first raised. Still, no commissioners have met with any of these groups in person. One meeting recently occurred between Robeson County Attorney Rob Davis and representatives from CAP, Winyah and SELC; no commissioners were present.

In 2024, a similar situation occurred in Sampson County regarding its landfill and PFAS contamination in nearby groundwater and surface water. Community efforts to address the issue with GFL, the private company that owns the landfill, were not successful until community members, the local Environmental Justice Community Action Network (EJCAN) and SELC filed a notice of intent to sue. Following reception of the letter, GFL officials met with EJCAN representatives and SELC, their legal counsel, on multiple occasions and reached agreements that address PFAS contamination in their community in a timely fashion.

Our county commissioners and county staff need to take a more active role in resolving many of the community concerns regarding the landfill and PFAS contamination by meeting directly with CAP, Winyah and SELC. With all parties involved in future meetings, with county commissioner leadership present, there is greater potential to move this issue forward toward resolution.

We know from our own experience in relationship as well as from the moral and spiritual teachings of our faith that the best way to address a problem, barrier or breach that stands between us is for all impacted parties to gather together, face to face, with an open heart and mind, to reach a level of understanding and agreement and to achieve a resolution that serves our common interests.

Robeson County commissioners need to use every avenue available to resolve these serious problems by working directly with county residents, their organizations and legal counsel. This is how resolution was reached in Sampson County.

SELC was founded in 1986 and is the largest environmental nonprofit organization in the Southeastern United States. SELC works primarily with community-based organizations, local, state and federal governments, and private corporations to work collaboratively to address major environmental threats and harm. They review and monitor state environmental policies and decisions, and educate local residents, civic organizations and elected officials and administrators regarding environmental concerns and issues that impact their communities, counties and states.

A lot of positive steps have already occurred. Community members have been told that the county landfill has stopped taking all waste from Fayetteville Works, a major PFAS manufacturer in Cumberland County. The county commissioners have agreed to table any expansion of the landfill until the PFAS issues are addressed. CAP, a grassroots community organization in St. Pauls has been revived and can become a strong, multiracial, community-development organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for all people in the St. Pauls community.

It behooves our Robeson County Board of Commissioners and staff to immediately set up meetings with CAP, Winyah and SELC, both to begin serious conversations on the steps that the county has already taken and is planning to take, and to reach agreements and timelines in how and when to resolve this critical situation.

Mac Legerton is co-director of the Robeson County Cooperative for Sustainable Development. He is an ordained minister in the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ and is a frequent writer on social and environmental concerns, faith and spiritual practice.



CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF ROBESON COUNTY

John Simmons, Dist. 1, john.simmons@robeson.k12.nc.us

Melissa Ocean, Vice Chairman, Dist. 2, melissa.ocean@robeson.k12.nc.us

Linda Emanuel, Dist. 3, linda.emmanuel@robeson.k12.nc.us

Terry Locklear, Dist. 4, terry.locklear2@robeson.k12.nc.us

Craig Lowry, Dist. 5, craig.lowry2@robeson.k12.nc.us

Crystal Weindel Monroe, Dist. 6, crystal.monroe@robeson.k12.nc.us

Bradley Phillips, Dist. 7, bradley.phillips@robeson.k12.nc.us

Tre' Britt, Chairman, Dist. 8, tre.britt@robeson.k12.nc.us

Kristy Fields, At-Large, kristy.fields@robeson.k12.nc.us

Vonta Leach, At-Large, vonta.leach@robeson.k12.nc.us

Henry Brewer, At-Large, henry.brewer@robeson.k12.nc.us

LUMBERTON CITY

COUNCIL, 910-272-1346

Bruce Davis, Mayor, 910-671-3806, bdavis@ci.lumberton.nc.us

Leroy Rising, Precinct 1, lrising@ci.lumberton.nc.us

Melissa Robinson, Precinct 2, mrobinson@ci.lumberton.nc.us

John Carroll, Mayor Pro Tem, Precinct 3, jcarroll@ci.lumberton.nc.us

Karen Higley, Precinct 4, khigley@ci.lumberton.nc.us

John Cantey Jr., Precinct 5, jcantey@ci.lumberton.nc.us

Alfred Douglas, Precinct 6, alfred.douglas@ci.lumberton.nc.us

Eric Chavis, Precinct 7, echavis@ci.lumberton.nc.us

Owen Thomas, Precinct 8, othomas@ci.lumberton.nc.us

Wixie Stephens, Dist. 1, 910-733-4770, district1@co.robeson.nc.us

Pauline Campbell, Dist. 2, 910-734-3024, pauline.campbell@co.robeson.nc.us

John Cummings, Dist. 3, 910-734-9604, district3@co.robeson.nc.us

Faline Locklear Dial, Vice Chairman, Dist. 4, 910-827-1005, falinedial907@gmail.com

Judy Sampson, Dist. 5, 910-374-8939, judy5rcc@gmail.com

David Edge, Chairman, Dist. 6, 910-258-1166, dedge53@yahoo.com

Tom Taylor, Dist. 7, 910-608-9167, district7@co.robeson.nc.us

Lance Herndon, Dist. 8, 910-733-5472

NORTH CAROLINA (State Offices)

Sen. Danny Earl Britt Jr., R-Dist. 24 (Hoke, Robeson, Scotland), 300 N. Salisbury St., Room 525, Raleigh, NC 27603, 919-733-5651.

Rep. John Lowery, R-Dist. 47 (Robeson), 300 N. Salisbury Street, 306B2, Raleigh, NC 27603-5925, 919-715-0875, John.Lowery@ncleg.gov

Rep. Brenden H. Jones, R-Dist. 46 (Robeson, Columbus), 16 W. Jones St., Room 1227, Raleigh, NC 27601-1096, 919-733-5821 or 919-733-5821.

Rep. John Lowery, R-Dist. 47 (Robeson), 300 N. Salisbury Street, 306B2, Raleigh, NC 27603-5925, 919-715-0875, John.Lowery@ncleg.gov

Rep. Brenden H. Jones, R-Dist. 46 (Robeson, Columbus), 16 W. Jones St., Room 1227, Raleigh, NC 27601-1096, 919-733-5821 or 919-733-5821.

UNITED STATES (Federal Offices)

U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., 310 New Bern Ave. Suite 122, Raleigh, NC 27601, 919-856-4630, or 113 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, 202-224-6342

U.S. Sen. Ted Budd, R-N.C., B85 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3154.

U.S. Rep. Mark Harris, R-N.C., 8th Dist., 126 Cannon House Office Building, 202-225-1976

U.S. Rep. David Rouzer, R-N.C., 7th Dist., 2333 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, 202-225-2731.

U.S. Pres. Donald Trump, Comments: 202-456-1111, Switchboard: 202-456-1414; Leave a written message: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>. Mailing address: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20500.

U.S. Capitol Switchboard, 202-224-3121.

White House Switchboard, 202-456-1414.

HIS VIEW

When war first came to Fayetteville

RALEIGH — A couple of weeks ago, I was privileged to speak at a ceremony honoring those who fought at the first major southern engagement in the American War of Independence. Our commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge on Feb. 27 was part of a broader First in Freedom Festival, which I'm pleased to report attracted thousands of people to tours, presentations, reenactments and other events throughout the greater Wilmington area.

"The first great British strategy to win the war, hatched in late 1775, was to invade and conquer North Carolina, severing the valuable southern colonies from the rest of the emerging nation," I told the audience assembled at the Moores Creek National Battlefield in Pender County.

"Among other elements, the British strategy required the Patriots of North Carolina to be distracted, to quake with fear, to falter, to stay home. That is not what happened. The Patriot militia mustered. Their leaders kept a level head, out-organized and outmaneuvered their adversaries, and emerged victorious at Moores Creek.

"The war would go on. American Patriots would go on — to victory."

Who were the Patriots' adversaries at Moores Creek? They weren't British redcoats. Other than a few regular officers, the Loyalists vanquished at the battle consisted largely of Scottish Highlanders who'd pledged their loyalty to King George, along with a few former Regulator rebels from the Carolina backcountry who detested the colonial elites from coastal towns such as Wilmington and New Bern who were now leading the Patriot cause in the province.

Hoping to meet up with a British invasion fleet, the Highlanders and Regulators met defeat instead. But not all the Loyalists had joined the doomed march southeast from their gathering place at Cross Creek (modern-day Fayetteville). A few stayed behind. Others had not yet reached Cross Creek when the main force departed for the coast.

Among the latter was Thomas Reid. A militia captain, he assembled a hundred men and led them to the Loyalist camp. They found not only that the Highlanders and Regula-

tors were gone but that they'd already been decisively defeated at Moore's Creek Bridge. They also discovered that one of the victorious Patriot commanders, Colonel William Graham, had arrived in

Cross Creek to hunt for Loyalists.

Graham and his Patriots were from the far-western county of Tryon, which sprawled across what are now all or part of Gaston, Cleveland, Lincoln, Rutherford, Burke and McDowell counties. Exhausted by their

long march up the Cape Fear River, but probably still exhilarated by their victory at Moore's Creek, the Tryon militiamen took up residence in a Cumberland County millhouse owned by a local man named Cochrane. Fatefully, they posted no sentries.

Captain Reid proved as audacious as Colonel Graham was complacent. Accompanied by only 15 Loyalist militiamen, Reid strode to the door of the millhouse and banged on it, leading the Patriots to believe the place was surrounded. He demanded their surrender. Graham complied. Within moments, I assume, he knew he'd been had.

For the Patriots, it was an embarrassing coda to what had been a symphony of military success. That's all it was, however. Reid and his Loyalists still intended to march to the coast to meet up with a British invasion force.

They were in no position to bring prisoners with them. So, they disarmed and then released William Graham and his men.

There will be no grand semiquincentennial commemoration of this "battle" of Cross Creek/Cochrane's Mill on March 20. No blood was shed. No strategic goals were achieved. But the episode illustrates a point often overlooked in traditional accounts of the Revolutionary War, which tend to focus on the maneuvers — and occasional clashes — between British armies and blue-coated Continentals. In the Carolinas, in particular, much of the war consisted of Patriots and Loyalists raiding, robbing, wounding, or killing each other in regular spasms of violence.

William Graham would himself fight several more times. More tales to come.

John Hood is a John Locke Foundation board member. His latest books, *Mountain Folk* and *Forest Folk*, combine epic fantasy with early American history (FolkloreCycle.com).

John Hood is a John Locke Foundation board member. His latest books, *Mountain Folk* and *Forest Folk*, combine epic fantasy with early American history (FolkloreCycle.com).

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LEGALS

LEGALS

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LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF ROBESON
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF
JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT
DIVISION

ESTATE FILE 26E000134-770
IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF TERRI LYNN
CARTER

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Terri Lynne Faircloth Carter, late of 6048 NC HWY 211 East, Lumberton, NC 28358, Robeson County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to present them to the undersigned at 506 Rowan Road, Lumberton, NC 28358, on or before the day of May 26, 2026, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make payment to the undersigned. This the 25th day of February, 2026.

Penny Britt, Executor of Estate of Terri Lynne Faircloth Carter
Steven C. Lawrence
109 Broadfoot Avenue
P.O. Box 53945
Fayetteville, NC 28305

2/25 3/4 3/11 3/18 2026

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF ROBESON
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF
JUSTICE - DISTRICT
COURT DIVISION.
NOTICE**

COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina; Plaintiff, VS. KENNETH R. BRITT, JAMES E. BRITT, DONALD T. BRITT AND SPOUSES, IF ANY, AND If they be deceased then their legal representatives, heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown, resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved corporations, who might have or claim any right or title to the property which is the subject of this action; Defendants.

Pursuant to the requirements of G.S. 105-375(c)(4)b, notice is hereby given to:

KENNETH R. BRITT, JAMES E. BRITT, DONALD T. BRITT AND SPOUSES, IF ANY AND

If they be deceased then their legal representatives, heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown, resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved corporations, who might have or claim any right or title to the property which is the subject of this action; that a judgment of foreclosure will be docketed against the property described below on or after April 9, 2026.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION Parcel #292401004, Wishart Twp., Southwest side of SR 2116 (Beulah Church Rd.), 4172 Beulah Church Road, Lumberton, North Carolina. 1971 Ranch listed on property in average condition. 1 +/- Acre.

Execution will be issued on the judgment, and the real property will be sold as provided by law. The tax lien, including interests and costs, may be paid before the judgment is docketed and at any time thereafter as allowed by law.

Robert Conner, Robeson County Tax Administrator

3/18 3/25 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
ROBESON COUNTY
Estate File No. 26E000043-770
NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS

OF
JEANETTE LOCKLEAR
The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of JEANETTE LOCKLEAR, Deceased, late of Robeson County, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of June 2026, or be barred from their recovery.

All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This the 4th day of March, 2026.
Paul Truett Canady, II, Administrator of Jeanette Locklear Estate, c/o Canady & Canady, Attys., P. O. Box 7, St. Pauls, NC, 28384-0007

***NOTE TO PUBLISHER OF The Robesonian
Please publish once a week for four consecutive weeks to include March 4, 11, 18, & 25

3/4 3/11 3/18 3/25 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF ROBESON
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
AND DEBTORS OF
SYBLE EDWARDS BUNNELL
DECEASED
File Number 26E000097-770

The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the estate of Syble Edwards Bunnell, deceased, late of Robeson County, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 21st day of June, 2026, or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 18th day of March, 2026.

Matthew Nathaniel Inman
23939 NC 71 Highway North
Parkton, NC 28371

Attorney
Thorp, Clarke & Regan, PA -
George D. Regan, Jr.
PO Box 478
St. Pauls, NC 28384
910-865-4059

3/18 3/25 4/1 4/8 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF ROBESON

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

OF Samuel Harris McGirt

DECEASED

Clerk's File 26E000162-770
The undersigned having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Samuel Harris McGirt, late of Robeson County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate to present them to the attorney listed below on or before May 28, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment to the Estate at the office of the attorney listed below.

February 25, 2026

Benjamin H. McGirt

Executor of the Estate of

Samuel Harris McGirt

ROBERT E. PRICE

ATTORNEY FOR THE ESTATE

P. O. BOX 630

LUMBERTON, NC 28359

910-739-8172

2/25 3/4 3/11 3/18 2026

THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION ROBESON COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA

IN RE: Cristian Jovan Lucas Jiguan, Minor,

25JT001269-770

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

TO: ERVIN BERNABE LUCAS HERNANDEZ

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action in Robeson County, Lumberton, North Carolina. The nature of relief being sought is as follows: Termination of Parental Rights
You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than the 20th day of April, 2026, said date being forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, or from the date Civil Summons is required to be filed, whichever is later; and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This 11th day of March, 2026.

Jessica B. Scott
Attorney for Petitioner
HUNT & BROOKS
PO Box 999
Pembroke, NC 28372
(910) 521-3143
(910) 521-1027 (FAX)

3/11 3/18 3/25 2026



NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION

IN RE: JACKSON BLACK, JUVENILE

TO: UNKNOWN FATHER

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Termination of your parental rights to the juvenile, Jackson Black. You are requested to make defense at a Court Hearing scheduled for April 20, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. or soon thereafter that the hearing can be heard. Robeson County Department of Social Services, Courtroom located at 120 Glen Cowan Road, Lumberton, NC 28358 and upon your failure to appear your parental rights to said child will be terminated.

You are hereby further advised that if you indigent, you are entitled to appointed counsel, and you may contact the Clerk immediately to request counsel. Please be advised that this is a new case and any attorney appointed previously will not represent you in this proceeding unless ordered by the Court. Notice of the date, time and place of the Termination of Parental Rights hearing will be mailed by the Clerk upon filing of any answer to this proceeding. The purpose of this Termination of Parental Rights hearing is to terminate your parental rights as to the minor juvenile, Jackson Black and you are encouraged to attend said hearing.

This the 6th day of March, 2026

Jose A. Coker
NC Bar No. 28478
The Charleston Group/
Attorney's for
Robeson County Department of Social Services
Fayetteville, NC 28302
910-485-2500

3/11 3/18 3/25 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF ROBESON
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF
JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT
DIVISION

BEFORE THE CLERK
26SP000054-770
JAMES H. WALTERS and
Spouse, VICKIE H. WALTERS,
Vs.
Petitioners,
DEBRA LEE PEEAL and any
unknown Spouse, BILLY JOE
HANEY and any Unknown
Spouse, JAMES STEPHEN
HANEY and any unknown
Spouse, and JAMES MONROE
HANEY and any Unknown
Spouse.

TO: Respondents.

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
DEBRA L. PEEAL, and any unknown spouse BILLY J. HANEY and any unknown spouse JAMES S. HANEY, and any unknown spouse JAMES M. HANEY, and any unknown spouse
TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action in Robeson County, Lumberton, North Carolina. The nature of relief being sought is as follows: PETITION FOR PARTITION.
You are required to make a defense to such pleading no later than April 28, 2026, said date being forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice; and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.
This the 18th day of March, 2026.
03/18, 03/25, 04/01 2026
GRAHAM LAW FIRM, PLLC
Crystal L. Graham
Attorney for the Petitioners PO
Box 965
Lumberton, NC 28359
910.735.2876 Telephone
910.735.2879 Fax

3/18 3/25 4/1 2026

Longleaf Apartments in Lumberton is accepting applications for 1BR & 2BR units. Section 8 welcomed. Accessible units designed for persons with disabilities subject to availability. Visit us at 412 Lindsey St. or call (910) 272-0860 (TTY 711) for more information. \$25 application fee, credit/criminal check required. Equal Housing Opportunity. Professionally managed by Partnership Property Management, an equal opportunity provider and employer.

3/18 3/25 4/1 2026

The Board of Commissioners for Robeson County received an offer in the amount of \$3,500.00, plus the cost of advertisement to purchase land described as being in Fairmont Township, Parcel No. 3008 04 05401, tax card and map available in the Robeson County Tax Office and more particularly described as follows:

In Fairmont Township, a certain lot situate on the northern side of Indian Street. Containing approximately 0.090 +/- acre, more or less.

The property hereinabove described was acquired by County by instrument recorded in Book 2532, Page 690. That within ten days from the date of this notice any person may raise the bid by no less than 10% of the first 1,000.00 and 5% of the remainder of the new bid in accordance with N.C.G.S 160-A -269. Bids can be made by depositing the same at the Robeson County Tax Department with Crystal Atkinson at 550 North Chestnut Street, Lumberton, NC. (910-671-3060 x7306) The Robeson County Board of Commissioners may at any time reject any and all offers, including the original offer.

3/18 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF ROBESON
COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina;
VS.

Plaintiff,
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION

) NOTICE

) HEIRS OF JOHN CARMICHAEL AND WIFE, GLADYS) CARMICHAEL (DECEASED: 09.17.20025), AND

) If they be deceased then their legal representatives,) heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in) esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown,) resident or non-resident, live corporations (or dissolved) corporations, who might have or claim any right or title) to the property which is the subject of this action;)

) Defendants.
Pursuant to the requirements of G.S. 105-375(c)(4)b, notice is hereby given to:

HEIRS OF JOHN CARMICHAEL AND WIFE, GLADYS CARMICHAEL (DECEASED: 09.17.20025), AND

If they be deceased then their legal representatives, heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown, resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved corporations, who might have or claim any right or title to the property which is the subject of this action;

that a judgment of foreclosure will be docketed against the property described below on or after April 18,
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION PARCEL #370603011
Town of Rowland, Lot 11, Block H-3, Plat of Rowland 404 Hickory Street, Rowland, NC
Traditional dwelling listed on property in poor condition
Execution will be issued on the judgment, and the real property will be sold as provided by law. The tax lien, including interests and costs, may be paid before the judgment is docketed and at any time thereafter as allowed by law.
Robert Conner, Robeson County Tax Administrator

3/11 3/18 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF KIMBERLEE ANN PERNO FILE NO. 26E000267-770

ALL PERSONS, firms, and corporations having claims against Kimberlee Ann Perno, deceased, of Robeson County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before June 18th, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 18th day of March, 2026. Katelynn Rose Perno, Administrator of the Estate of Kimberlee Ann Perno, c/o Jessica Mantekas, Attorney, 1255 Crescent Green, Suite 200, Cary, NC 27518.

3/18 3/25 4/1 4/8 2026



NORTH CAROLINA

ROBESON COUNTY

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

BEFORE THE CLERK

FILE NO. 25SP001300-770

IN THE MATTER OF THE FORECLOSURE

OF THE DEED OF TRUST EXECUTED BY

SIMON PINEDA aka SIMON PINEDA DIAZ

and MARIA EUGENIA TEOYOTL

MARTINEZ, a married couple,

Recorded in Book 2367, Page 387,

Robeson County Registry

AMENDED NOTICE OF

FORECLOSURE SALE

DEED OF TRUST BEING FORECLOSED:

The Deed of Trust being foreclosed is that Deed of Trust executed by SIMON PINEDA aka SIMON PINEDA DIAZ and MARIA EUGENIA TEOYOTL MARTINEZ, a married couple, to Jay B. Green, Attorney at Law, PC, Trustee, dated September 14, 2022 and recorded in Book 2367, Page 387 in the Robeson County Registry of North Carolina.
RECORD OWNERS OF THE REAL PROPERTY:

The record owner(s) of the subject real property as reflected on the records of the Robeson County Register of Deeds not more than 10 days prior to the posting of this Notice is or are Simon Pineda.
DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF SALE:

The sale will be held on March 24, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the door of the Robeson County Courthouse, Lumberton, North Carolina.
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD:

The following real property to be sold "sight unseen" together with any improvements is located in Robeson County, North Carolina and is believed to have the address of 4339 Saddletree Rd, Lumberton, NC 28360 and is otherwise more particularly described as follows:

All that certain lot or parcel of land situated in Saddletree Township, Robeson County, North Carolina which is more particularly described as follows:

Being all of Lot 1, containing 0.58 acre, more or less, as shown on a map entitled "Survey Prepared for Ronald Hammonds", prepared by John D. Powers, Jr., P.L.S. dated March 25, 2022 and recorded in Map Book 58, at Page 98 in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Robeson County. Reference to said map is hereby made and incorporated herein for a more complete and accurate description of said lot.

Included is Included as part of the real property is a 2022 CMH Manufacturing Inc Clayton manufactured home bearing serial no. CWP050395TNAB as otherwise more particularly described in a Declaration recorded in Book 2371, Page 328, Robeson County Registry.

TERMS OF SALE:

Pursuant to the provisions of N.C.G.S. §45-21.10(b) and the terms of the Deed of Trust, any successful bidder may be required to deposit with the Trustee or Clerk of Superior Court immediately upon the conclusion of the sale a cash deposit to be determined by the greater of 5% of the bid or \$750.00. Unless the Substitute Trustee agrees otherwise, the successful bidder will be required to tender the "full purchase price" so bid in cash or certified check at the time the Trustee tenders to him a Deed to the property or attempts to tender such Deed, and should the successful bidder fail to pay the full amount, then the successful bidder shall remain liable as provided for in N.C.G.S. §45-21.30. A tender of Deed shall be defined as a letter from the Trustee to the successful bidder offering to record the Deed upon receipt of full purchase price as described herein and listed in said letter. **PAYMENT IN FULL SHALL BE DUE UPON CONFIRMATION OF THE SALE AND WITHIN 10 DAYS FOLLOWING THE TENDER OF DEED.** The Trustee receives the funds and records the foreclosure deed. If the trustee is unable to convey title to this property for any reason such as a bankruptcy filing, the sole remedy of the successful bidder is the return of the deposit. As to any manufactured home, the following shall apply: Any not considered real property is being foreclosed pursuant to N.C.G.S. §25-9-604, if necessary; there is no warranty that any is actually located on the subject tract; and there is no warranty given by the Substitute Trustee as to whether said home is real property or personal property. There is no warranty of title and the sale will be made subject to all prior liens, unpaid taxes, assessments, restrictions and easements of record, if any.
ADDITIONAL NOTICE:

Take notice that an order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Take further notice that any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving the notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but no more than 90 days, after the sale dates contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. This notice further states that upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination. This date being January 13, 2026

THE GREEN LAW FIRM, P.C.

By: S/ Jay B. Green

Jay B. Green, Attorney at Law

The Green Law Firm, P.C.

Attorney for Trustee

908 E. Edenton Street

Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

Telephone: 919-829-0797

3/11 3/18 2026



LEGALS

NORTH CAROLINA
 ROBESON COUNTY
 IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
 SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
 BEFORE THE CLERK
 FILE NO. 24 SP 164
 IN THE MATTER OF THE FORECLOSURE
 OF THE DEED OF TRUST EXECUTED BY
 MARISIA C. BROWN,
 Recorded in Book 2285, Page 493 and
 reaffirmed by recording in Book 2339, Page 468,
 Robeson County Registry
 NOTICE OF
 FORECLOSURE SALE
 DEED OF TRUST BEING FORECLOSED:

The Deed of Trust being foreclosed is that Deed of Trust executed by MARISIA C. BROWN to Jay B. Green, Attorney at Law, PC, Trustee, dated May 13, 2021 and recorded in Book 2285, Page 493 and reaffirmed by recording in Book 2339, Page 468 in the Robeson County Registry of North Carolina.
RECORD OWNERS OF THE REAL PROPERTY:

The record owner(s) of the subject real property as reflected on the records of the Robeson County Register of Deeds not more than 10 days prior to the posting of this Notice is or are Marisia Chablis Brown.
DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF SALE:

The sale will be held on March 19, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the door of the Robeson County Courthouse, Lumberton, North Carolina.
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD:

The following real property to be sold "sight unseen" together with any improvements is located in Robeson County, North Carolina and is believed to have the address of 156 Howell Rd, Saint Pauls, NC 28384 and is otherwise more particularly described as follows:

Being all of Lot Two (2) as shown on that certain survey entitled, "Howell Road Estates", prepared by Powers Surveying, dated March 16, 2021 and recorded in Map Book 56, Page 100, Robeson County Registry. Reference to said map is hereby made for a more accurate and particular description of said lot.

Included as part of the real property is a 2021 CMH Manufacturing Inc Clayton manufactured home bearing serial no. OHC030579NC as otherwise more particularly described in a Declaration recorded in Book 2286, Page 396, Robeson County Registry.
TERMS OF SALE:

Pursuant to the provisions of N.C.G.S. §45-21.10(b) and the terms of the Deed of Trust, any successful bidder may be required to deposit with the Trustee or Clerk of Superior Court immediately upon the conclusion of the sale a cash deposit to be determined by the greater of 5% of the bid or \$750.00. Unless the Substitute Trustee agrees otherwise, the successful bidder will be required to tender the "full purchase price" so bid in cash or certified check at the time the Trustee tenders to him a Deed to the property or attempts to tender such Deed, and should the successful bidder fail to pay the full amount, then the successful bidder shall remain liable as provided for in N.C.G.S. §45-21.30. A tender of Deed shall be defined as a letter from the Trustee to the successful bidder offering to record the Deed upon receipt of full purchase price as described herein and listed in said letter. **PAYMENT IN FULL SHALL BE DUE UPON CONFIRMATION OF THE SALE AND WITHIN 10 DAYS FOLLOWING THE TENDER OF DEED.** The Trustee receives the funds and records the foreclosure deed. If the trustee is unable to convey title to this property for any reason such as a bankruptcy filing, the sole remedy of the successful bidder is the return of the deposit. As to any manufactured home, the following shall apply: Any not considered real property is being foreclosed pursuant to N.C.G.S. §25-9-604, if necessary; there is no warranty that any is actually located on the subject tract; and there is no warranty given by the Substitute Trustee as to whether said home is real property or personal property. There is no warranty of title and the sale will be made subject to all prior liens, unpaid taxes, assessments, restrictions and easements of record, if any.
ADDITIONAL NOTICE:

Take notice that an order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Take further notice that any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving the notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but no more than 90 days, after the sale dates contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. This notice further states that upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.

This the 29th day of January, 2026.

THE GREEN LAW FIRM, P.C.

By: S/ Jay B. Green

Jay B. Green, Attorney at Law

The Green Law Firm, P.C.

Attorney for Trustee

908 E. Edenton Street

Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

Telephone: 919-829-0797

3/11 3/18 2026

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF KATHY DAVIS GRAHAM DECEASED FILE NUMBER 26 E 000034-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of KATHY DAVIS GRAHAM deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 31st day of MAY 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This is the 25th day of FEBRUARY 2026.

ANGELA HILL
 1106 HEIZER CREEK RD
 COCA WV 25159
 PO-ADMINISTRATOR

SHAWNA LANE
 320 CASDORPH LANE
 CHARLESTON WV 25312
 CO-ADMINISTRATOR

2/25 3/4 3/11 3/18 2026

LEGALS

In The General Court of Justice Superior Court Division Before the Clerk
 Estate File # 26E000233-770
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA ROBESON COUNTY

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE
 The undersigned having qualified as Executor of the Estate of LAWRENCE REECE BULLOCK, deceased, late of Robeson County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 18th day of June, 2026, (which date is three months after the day of the first publication of this notice) or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
 This the 18th day of March, 2026.

Roy Lee Bullock
 Executor of the Estate of Lawrence Reece Bullock
 c/o Sharon A. Keyes
 Attorney at Law
 2936 Breezewood Avenue,
 Suite 101
 Fayetteville, North Carolina
 28303

3/18 3/25 4/1 4/8 2026

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE , DISTRICT COURT DIVISION. FILE NO.:26CV000931-770. COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina; Plaintiff, VS. ANY AND ALL ASSIGNEES, HEIRS AT LAW AND DEVISEES OF QUESSIE MAE OXENDINE, OWNER, and CRYSTAL GRAHAM, GUARDIAN AD LITEM OF ANY AND ALL HEIRS AT LAW AND DEVISEES OF QUESSIE MAE OXENDINE; Defendants.

NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
 TO: ANY AND ALL ASSIGNEES, HEIRS AT LAW AND DEVISEES OF QUESSIE MAE OXENDINE, OWNER, and CRYSTAL GRAHAM, GUARDIAN AD LITEM OF ANY AND ALL HEIRS AT LAW AND DEVISEES OF QUESSIE MAE OXENDINE; Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action, and notice of service by Publication began the 4th day of March, 2026. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: foreclosure sale to satisfy unpaid property taxes on your interest in the property described as:

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY
Owner: Quessie Mae Oxendine; Title Reference: Deed Book 1682, Page 344; PIN No: 04030202003; Tax Account No: 1095143; Property Location: Burnt Swamp Township, Tract 17, Hannah O. Wood, et al., Map Book 44 at Page 85-86; 1.95 acres +/- with easement(s) for the purpose of ingress, egress and utilities; Vacant Land. TRACT 17 Burnt Swamp Township, Robeson County, North Carolina. All that certain tract or parcel of land lying about 3.2 miles east of the center of Pembroke, NC, about 1/2 mile northeast of NC Highway 72 West, about 0.35 mile northwest of SR 1516, Genes Road, adjacent to and on the southwest side of Jimmy's Farm Road (45 foot private easement), adjoining Audrey Oxendine (452/42) on the southwest and west, Tract 18 of this Division on the north, Tracts 20 and 21 on the east and Tract 16 on the south and being more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING at an iron rod set in a ditch, a corner of Tracts 16 and 17 of this Division and Audrey Oxendine (452/42), this iron rod being located North 34 degrees 40 minutes 42 seconds East 66.57 feet from an iron rod found at a bend of said ditch, a corner with Tract 16 and Audrey Oxendine and Addie R. Oxendine (471/168), this iron rod being located North 51 degrees 24 minutes 52 seconds West 583.70 feet from an iron rod found at a bend of said ditch, a corner with Tract 12 and Carolyn O. Carter (452/44) and runs thence from said beginning iron rod with a line of Audrey Oxendine North 53 degrees 58 minutes 57 seconds West 200.73 feet to an axle found, a corner of Tract 17 and Audrey Oxendine; thence continuing with Audrey Oxendine tract North 39 degrees 34 minutes 41 seconds East 262.87 feet to an iron pipe found, a corner of Audrey Oxendine and Tract 17 thence continuing with Audrey Oxendine's line North 32 degrees 30 minutes 32 seconds West 94.94 feet to an iron rod set, a corner of Tracts 17 and 18; thence with the line of Tracts 17 and 18, North 65 degrees 26 minutes 03 seconds East 198.20 feet to an iron rod set in the center of Jimmy's Farm Road (45 foot private easement), the corner of Tracts 17 and 18; thence with the center of said Jimmy's Farm Road (45 foot private easement) South 24 degrees 33 minutes 57 seconds East 166.70 feet to an iron rod set at a bend in said road the corner of Tracts 17, 20, and 21; thence continuing with the center of said Jimmy's Farm Road (45 foot private easement) South 34 degrees 52 minutes 53 seconds West 97.67 feet to an iron rod set at a bend in said road, the corner of Tracts 17 and 21; thence continuing with the center of said Jimmy's Far Road (45 foot private easement), South 40 degrees 09 minutes 45 seconds East 23.29 feet to an iron rod set in the center of said road, at its intersection with the center of a ditch, the corner of Tracts 16, 17, and 21; thence with said ditch and Tracts 16 and 17, South 34 degrees 52 minutes 53 seconds West 284.74 feet to the beginning containing 1.95 acres more or less. **Granted and Reserved, a 45 foot Private Easement for Jimmy's Farm Road:** BEGINNING at an iron rod found in the bend of a ditch, a corner of Tract 12 of this Division and Carolyn O. Carter (452/44), said iron rod being located South 83 degrees 26 minutes 39 seconds West 127.05 feet from an iron rod found at a bend in said ditch, this iron rod being located South 34 degrees 47 minutes 22 seconds West 128.33 feet from an axle found in said ditch, the northeast corner of Tracy Carter (1063/203) and runs thence from said beginning iron rod and runs with said ditch and the southwest line of Jimmy's Farm Road (45 ft. private road) North 51 degrees 24 minutes 52 seconds West 359.20 feet to an iron rod set in said ditch; thence with the center of Jimmy's Farm Road (45 ft. private easement) North 38 degrees 01 minutes 38 seconds East 301.93 feet to an iron rod set at a bend in said easement; thence with the center of said Jimmy's Farm Road (45 ft. private easement) North 40 degrees 09 minutes 45 seconds West 272.56 feet to an iron rod set at a bend in said easement; thence with the center of Jimmy's Farm Road, (45 foot private easement), North 34 degrees 52 minutes 53 seconds East 97.67 feet to an iron rod set at a bend in said easement; thence with the center of said 45 foot private easement for Jimmy's Farm Road North 24 degrees 33 minutes 57 seconds West 545.70 feet to an iron rod set in the center of said easement and the center of a cul-de-sac, having a radius of 50 feet, the easement granted and reserved herein is 45 feet at right angles to and northeast of the 1st line described above and 22.5 feet at right angles to and on both sides of the center of all other lines with a 50 foot radius at the end of the last call for the purpose of ingress, egress and utilities, also granted and reserved is any and all rights to Jimmy's Farm Road that leads from Genes Road, SR 1516, to the above tracts, also a 20 foot private road easement shown in Deed Book 1063, page 203. And being a part of those certain lands as shown in Special Proceedings File 06 SP 0471 in the office of the Clerk of Court of Robeson County, Bearings referenced to Deed Book 1063, page 203. Exempt from Robeson County Subdivision Ordinance under Article V, Section 501, Item f. The above-described tract is subject to all right-of-ways and easements of record.
 Plaintiff seeks to record, extinguish any and all claim or interest that you may have in the property.
 You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty days after the date of the first publication date, being forty days after March 4, 2026 or by April 13, 2026, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.
 This the 25th day of February, 2026. BY: Edward K. Brooks, Attorney for Plaintiff, State Bar No. 32602, 550 N. Chestnut Street, Lumberton, NC 28358, Tel: 910-671-3060 x 7353.

3/4 3/11 3/18 2026

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF PEGGY LOUISE MCCULLOCH ALLEN DECEASED FILE NUMBER 26E000219-770

The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the estate of Peggy Louise McCulloch Allen, deceased, late of Robeson County, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of June, 2026, or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
 This the 4th day of March, 2026.

Cathy Allen Gunter
 300 Orchard Park Drive
 Cary, NC 27513

Executor
 Cathy Allen Gunter
 300 Orchard Park Drive
 Cary, NC 27513

3/4 3/11 3/18 3/25 2026

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF NANCY CARROLL LANCASTER DECEASED FILE NUMBER 25 E 001776-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of NANCY CARROLL LANCASTER AKA NANCY C LANCASTER, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 15th day of JUNE 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
 This is the 11th day of MARCH 2026.

ANGELA L TAYLOR
 502 E 18TH STREET
 LUMBERTON NC 28358

3/11 3/18 3/25 4/1 2026

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LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina; Plaintiff, VS. IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION)

NOTICE HEIRS OF JESSIE BELL MCCALLUM (DECEASED: 10.30.2002) AND CITY OF LUMBERTON,) NORTH CAROLINA, Lienholder, AND)
 If they be deceased then their legal representatives,) heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested) persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in) esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown,) resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved) corporations, who might have or claim any right or title) to the property which is the subject of this action;
 Defendants.)

Pursuant to the requirements of G.S. 105-375(c)(4)b, notice is hereby given to:
 HEIRS OF JESSIE BELL MCCALLUM (DECEASED: 10.30.2002) and CITY OF LUMBERTON, NORTH CAROLINA, Lienholder, AND
 If they be deceased then their legal representatives, heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown, resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved corporations, who might have or claim any right or title to the property which is the subject of this action;
 2026.
 that a judgment of foreclosure will be docketed against the property described below on or after April 18,
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION
 PARCEL #324301030
 CITY OF LUMBERTON, LOTS 176-181 A. F. WARD SUBDIVISION
 208 KINLAW STREET, LUMBERTON, NC
 0.260 +/-
VACANT LAND
 Execution will be issued on the judgment, and the real property will be sold as provided by law. The tax lien, including interests and costs, may be paid before the judgment is docketed and at any time thereafter as allowed by law.
 Robert Conner, Robeson County Tax Administrator

3/11 3/18 2026

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina; Plaintiff, VS. IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION)

NOTICE HEIRS OF BILLIE JO SCOTT SANDERSON (DECEASED: 04.14.2023), AND)
 If they be deceased then their legal representatives,) heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested) persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in) esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown,) resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved) corporations, who might have or claim any right or title) to the property which is the subject of this action;
 Defendants.)
 Pursuant to the requirements of G.S. 105-375(c)(4)b, notice is hereby given to:
 HEIRS OF BILLIE JO SCOTT SANDERSON (DECEASED: 04.14.2023), AND
 If they be deceased then their legal representatives, heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown, resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved corporations, who might have or claim any right or title to the property which is the subject of this action;
 2026.
 that a judgment of foreclosure will be docketed against the property described below on or after April 18,
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION
 PARCEL #101501007
 Lumberton Township, Lots 31, 32 and 18 ft. of Lot 30, Parker Locklear Subdivision
 Map Book 7 @ Page 119
 2011 Kenric Road, Lumberton, North Carolina
 Auto Service Garage listed on property in below average condition
 0.58 +/- acres
 Execution will be issued on the judgment, and the real property will be sold as provided by law. The tax lien, including interests and costs, may be paid before the judgment is docketed and at any time thereafter as allowed by law.
 Robert Conner, Robeson County Tax Administrator

3/11 3/18 2026

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina; Plaintiff, VS. IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION)

NOTICE HEIRS OF BILLIE JO SCOTT SANDERSON (DECEASED: 04.14.2023), AND)
 If they be deceased then their legal representatives,) heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested) persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in) esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown,) resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved) corporations, who might have or claim any right or title) to the property which is the subject of this action;
 Defendants.)
 Pursuant to the requirements of G.S. 105-375(c)(4)b, notice is hereby given to:
 HEIRS OF BILLIE JO SCOTT SANDERSON (DECEASED: 04.14.2023), AND
 If they be deceased then their legal representatives, heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown, resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved corporations, who might have or claim any right or title to the property which is the subject of this action;
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 Robert Conner, Robeson County Tax Administrator

3/11 3/18 2026

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LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina; Plaintiff, VS. IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION)

NOTICE HEIRS OF JESSIE BELL MCCALLUM (DECEASED: 10.30.2002) AND CITY OF LUMBERTON,) NORTH CAROLINA, Lienholder, AND)
 If they be deceased then their legal representatives,) heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested) persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in) esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown,) resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved) corporations, who might have or claim any right or title) to the property which is the subject of this action;
 Defendants.)

Pursuant to the requirements of G.S. 105-375(c)(4)b, notice is hereby given to:
 HEIRS OF JESSIE BELL MCCALLUM (DECEASED: 10.30.2002) and CITY OF LUMBERTON, NORTH CAROLINA, Lienholder, AND
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 2026.
 that a judgment of foreclosure will be docketed against the property described below on or after April 18,
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION
 PARCEL #324301030
 CITY OF LUMBERTON, LOTS 176-181 A. F. WARD SUBDIVISION
 208 KINLAW STREET, LUMBERTON, NC
 0.260 +/-
VACANT LAND
 Execution will be issued on the judgment, and the real property will be sold as provided by law. The tax lien, including interests and costs, may be paid before the judgment is docketed and at any time thereafter as allowed by law.
 Robert Conner, Robeson County Tax Administrator

3/11 3/18 2026

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina; Plaintiff, VS. IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION)

NOTICE HEIRS OF BILLIE JO SCOTT SANDERSON (DECEASED: 04.14.2023), AND)
 If they be deceased then their legal representatives,) heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested) persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in) esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown,) resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved) corporations, who might have or claim any right or title) to the property which is the subject of this action;
 Defendants.)
 Pursuant to the requirements of G.S. 105-375(c)(4)b, notice is hereby given to:
 HEIRS OF BILLIE JO SCOTT SANDERSON (DECEASED: 04.14.2023), AND
 If they be deceased then their legal representatives, heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown, resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved corporations, who might have or claim any right or title to the property which is the subject of this action;
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PROPERTY DESCRIPTION
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 Map Book 7 @ Page 119
 2011 Kenric Road, Lumberton, North Carolina
 Auto Service Garage listed on property in below average condition
 0.58 +/- acres
 Execution will be issued on the judgment, and the real property will be sold as provided by law. The tax lien, including interests and costs, may be paid before the judgment is docketed and at any time thereafter as allowed by law.
 Robert Conner, Robeson County Tax Administrator

3/11 3/18 2026

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina; Plaintiff, VS. IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION)

NOTICE HEIRS OF BILLIE JO SCOTT SANDERSON (DECEASED: 04.14.2023), AND)
 If they be deceased then their legal representatives,) heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested) persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in) esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown,) resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved) corporations, who might have or claim any right or title) to the property which is the subject of this action;
 Defendants.)
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 Robert Conner, Robeson County Tax Administrator

3/11 3/18 2026

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LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina; Plaintiff, VS. IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION)

NOTICE HEIRS OF JESSIE BELL MCCALLUM (DECEASED: 10.30.2002) AND CITY OF LUMBERTON,) NORTH CAROLINA, Lienholder, AND)
 If they be deceased then their legal representatives,) heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested) persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in) esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown,) resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved) corporations, who might have or claim any right or title) to the property which is the subject of this action;
 Defendants.)

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 0.260 +/-
VACANT LAND
 Execution will be issued on the judgment, and the real property will be sold as provided by law. The tax lien, including interests and costs, may be paid before the judgment is docketed and at any time thereafter as allowed by law.
 Robert Conner, Robeson County Tax Administrator

3/11 3/18 2026

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina; Plaintiff, VS. IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION)

NOTICE HEIRS OF BILLIE JO SCOTT SANDERSON (DECEASED: 04.14.2023), AND)
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 Defendants.)
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 Robert Conner, Robeson County Tax Administrator

3/11 3/18 2026

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina; Plaintiff, VS. IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION)

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PROPERTY DESCRIPTION
 PARCEL #101501007
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Image courtesy of RSCO

RCSO's Bunny Brothers to make visits across county

Staff report

ROBESON COUNTY — The Robeson County Sheriff's Office has announced that the Bunny Brothers will once again be making their annual Easter visits to elementary schools across Robeson County.

This year, RSCO is also proud to offer "Special Needs Easter" visits, similar to its annual Special Needs Halloween visits, so everyone has the opportunity to enjoy the Easter season. Due to other commit-

ments, the Bunny Brothers will only be available on Wednesday, April 1 and Thursday, April 2.

If you would like to have one of the Bunny Brothers stop by your school, organization or location, please contact Major Tammy Deese at tammy.deese@robesoncountysonc.gov, or call 910-671-3109.

RSCO will do its best to accommodate as many locations as possible, and looks forward to spreading some Easter cheer across Robeson County.

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina; VS. Plaintiff, IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION)

NOTICE HEIRS OF BILLIE JO SCOTT SANDERSON (DECEASED: 04.14.2023), AND

If they be deceased then their legal representatives,) heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in) esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown,) resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved corporations, who might have or claim any right or title) to the property which is the subject of this action;

Defendants. Pursuant to the requirements of G.S. 105-375(c)(4)b, notice is hereby given to: HEIRS OF BILLIE JO SCOTT SANDERSON (DECEASED: 04.14.2023), AND

If they be deceased then their legal representatives, heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown, resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved corporations, who might have or claim any right or title to the property which is the subject of this action; 2026.

that a judgment of foreclosure will be docketed against the property described below on or after April 18, PROPERTY DESCRIPTION PARCEL #101501003 Lumberton Township, Tracts 3-5 and 60 feet of Tract 2 - Map Book 7 @ Page 120 1953 Kenric Road, Lumberton, North Carolina 11.90 +/- acres Vacant Land - Traditional dwelling listed on property in below average condition Execution will be issued on the judgment, and the real property will be sold as provided by law. The tax lien, including interests and costs, may be paid before the judgment is docketed and at any time thereafter as allowed by law. Robert Conner, Robeson County Tax Administrator

3/11 3/18 2026

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION ROBESON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA BEFORE THE CLERK NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF VICKY LYNN EVANS FILE NO. 26E000107-770 --The undersigned having qualified as the Administrator of the Estate of Vicky Lynn Evans, Deceased, late of Robeson County, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of June, 2026, or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 4th day of March, 2026. Leslie Gold Carter Administrator, Estate of Vicky Lynn Evans C/O Crystal L. Graham Attorney At Law Graham Law Firm, PLLC PO Box 965 Lumberton, NC 28359 3/4 3/11 3/18 3/25 2026

3/4 3/11 3/18 3/25 2026

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina; VS. Plaintiff, IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION)

NOTICE HEIRS OF BILLIE JO SCOTT SANDERSON (DECEASED: 04.14.2023), AND

If they be deceased then their legal representatives,) heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in) esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown,) resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved corporations, who might have or claim any right or title) to the property which is the subject of this action;

Defendants. Pursuant to the requirements of G.S. 105-375(c)(4)b, notice is hereby given to: HEIRS OF BILLIE JO SCOTT SANDERSON (DECEASED: 04.14.2023), AND

If they be deceased then their legal representatives, heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown, resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved corporations, who might have or claim any right or title to the property which is the subject of this action; 2026.

that a judgment of foreclosure will be docketed against the property described below on or after April 18, PROPERTY DESCRIPTION PARCEL #101501006 Lumberton Township, Lots 25-28 - Map Book 7 @ Page 119 1975 Kenric Road, Lumberton, North Carolina 0.370 +/- acres Vacant Land (foundation of home with memorial located on property) Execution will be issued on the judgment, and the real property will be sold as provided by law. The tax lien, including interests and costs, may be paid before the judgment is docketed and at any time thereafter as allowed by law. Robert Conner, Robeson County Tax Administrator

3/11 3/18 2026

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION ROBESON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA BEFORE THE CLERK NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF WYNN DION LOCKLEAR FILE NO. 23E000656-770 The undersigned having qualified as the Administrator of the Estate of Wynn Dion Locklear, Deceased, late of Robeson County, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of June, 2026, or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 4th day of March, 2026. Lucinda Locklear Administrator, Estate of Wynn Dion Locklear C/O Crystal L. Graham Attorney At Law Graham Law Firm, PLLC PO Box 965 Lumberton, NC 28359 3/04 3/11 3/18 3/25 2026

3/4 3/11 3/18 3/25 2026

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF ALMA FAYE CLARK DECEASED FILE NUMBER 25 E 001674-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of ALMA FAYE CLARK, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 31st day of MAY 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This is the 25th day of FEBRUARY 2026.

PEGGY JONES 585 HEZEKIAH RD PEMBROKE NC 28372

2/25 3/4 3/11 3/18 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF BARBARA TOWNSEND SMALL DECEASED FILE NUMBER 26 E 000227-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the BARBARA TOWNSEND SMALL deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 8th day of JUNE 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This is the 4th day of MARCH 2026.

SHERRY SHANELL TOWNSEND 510 LITTLE LEAGUE RD FAIRMONT NC 28340

3/4 3/11 3/18 3/25 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF BETTY ARNETTE TART DECEASED FILE NUMBER 26 E 000270-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of BETTY ARNETTE TART, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 22nd day of JUNE 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This is the 18th day of MARCH 2026.

BETTY CAROLYN TART 776 E ARMFIELD ST P.O. BOX 775 SAINT PAULS NC 28384

3/18 3/25 4/1 4/8 2026

LEGALS

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

ROBESON COUNTY

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

DISTRICT COURT DIVISION

FILE NO. 25CV006457-770

VANDERBILT

MORTGAGE AND FINANCE, INC., Plaintiff vs.

VINCENT MAURICE MCEACHERN and CHAUNTIA SHONICE EDWARDS, Defendants TO: Vincent Maurice McEachern and Chauntia Shonice Edwards

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: possession of a 2019 CLAY manufactured home bearing serial no. OHC028619NC.

You are required to make a defense to such pleading not later than 40 days after the first date of the publication of this notice yielding a deadline of April 27, 2026 and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought. Dated: March 10, 2026

THE GREEN LAW FIRM, P.C. S/ Jay B. Green

Jay B. Green Attorney for Plaintiff

908 E. Edenton Street Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

Telephone: 919-829-0797

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT.

ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

3/18 3/25 4/1 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF MARY STEPHENS MCKINNON DECEASED FILE NUMBER 26 E 000212-770

The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the Estate of MARY STEPHENS MCKINNON, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 22nd day of JUNE 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This is the 18th day of MARCH 2026.

DELANOR DELANE MCKINNON 4106 SUNSET RIDGE DRIVE ROCK HILL SC 29732

3/18 3/25 4/1 4/8 2026

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF TONA CHAVIS BLANKS A.K.A TONIE BLANKS DECEASED FILE NUMBER 26 E 000165-770

The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the Estate of TONA CHAVIS BLANKS, A.K.A TONIE BLANKS deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 8th day of JUNE 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This is the 4th day of MARCH 2026.

DAWN M LOCKLEAR 442 WAGON WHEEL RD SHANNON NC 28386

3/4 3/11 3/18 3/25 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF DERRICK SHAW LOCKLEAR DECEASED FILE NUMBER 25 E 001968-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of DERRICK SHAW LOCKLEAR deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 8th day of JUNE 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This is the 4th day of MARCH 2026.

TABITHA LOCKLEAR 26 PERCY ROAD MAXTON NC 28364

3/4 3/11 3/18 3/25 2026

Help Wanted General

Robeson Community College Purchasing Specialist

Minimum Qualifications:

An Associate Degree in a relevant discipline from an accredited institution with a minimum of two years' work experience in purchasing/business-related field or five years' work experience in purchasing/business-related field with progressively responsible professional experience.

For a list of duties and to apply, visit www.robeson.edu/hr or contact Human Resources at hr@robeson.edu.

Deadline for applications: March 24, 2026

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Miscellaneous Donate your car today, running or not. Support Patriotic Hearts for our Veterans and their Families! Free fast pickup. May be tax deductible. Se habla Español. Call now: 877-317-3360

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Miscellaneous Get a High Quality, Modern Design bath or shower transformation in as little as One Day. \$0 Down, \$0 Installation, \$0 Payments for 12 months! Call: 1-877-243-7050.

Miscellaneous Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-855-869-7055 today!

Miscellaneous Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material - steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-855-585-1815

Miscellaneous Denied Social Security Disability? Appeal! If you're 50+, filed SSD and denied, our attorneys can help! Win or Pay Nothing! Strong, recent work history needed. 877-553-0252 [Stappacher Law Offices LLC Principal Office: 224 Adams Ave Scranton PA 18503]

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Lumbee

From page 1A

joyous achievement,” the Tribe’s announcement said.

The event will run from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. in UNCP’s Quad area, between Old Main and the Mary Livermore Library.

“This all-day event will include dignitaries, friends from across the nation, vendors, food, entertainment, culture presentations and much more, and will conclude with a fireworks show that night,” Lumbee Tribal

Chairman John Lowery said.

The event is in partnership with UNC Pembroke and Chancellor Robin Cummings, the Tribe said.

Vendors are invited to participate in this event, and can apply at <https://shorturl.at/J8Zsz>.

The Wild Game Festival on March 28 will run from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. at the Lumbee Tribe Cultral Center, located on Terry Sanford Drive just outside of Maxton.

The event will begin at 11 a.m. with a wild game dinner, featuring many “Lumbee favorites” including quail, deer, duck, fish,

rabbit, racoon, turkey, bison and more. A community powwow will be held from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m., before a bonfire and traditional social dancing from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

These events are part of the Tribe’s year-long celebration of gaining full federal recognition when the Lumbee Fairness Act was signed into law on Dec. 18, 2025.

“We are looking forward to a year-long celebration, and we want to make sure everyone has an opportunity to engage and enjoy these different events,” Lowery said. “So, if you can’t make one event,

there will be another one coming around soon enough. I look forward to seeing you all this year and celebrating our full federal recognition. Thank you to all of our partners and friends who are working to make this year, one of celebration and joy.”

Events later in 2026 will also include the fourth annual Lumbee Gala, with a date still to be finalized, as well as the Dance of the Harvest Moon Powwow on Sept. 25-27 and the Lumbee Fall Festival, Fish Fry and 5K on Oct. 3. The Tribe will then conclude 2026 with a celebration of the one-year anniversary

of federal recognition on Dec. 18.

The 57th annual Lumbee Homecoming, which is organized by the Lumbee Regional Development Association (LRDA), will be held from Friday, June 26 to Saturday, July 4.

Numerous celebrations have already taken place throughout the first three months of 2026 as well. This includes a reception at the Governor’s Mansion on Feb. 24 hosted by Gov. Josh Stein.

LRDA also held a celebration at its People’s Table event on Feb. 12.

The Lumbee Tribe

became the 575th American Indian tribe to be fully recognized by the federal government. The Tribe is currently working through a recognition transition, with Lowery providing weekly video updates on its progress, as it becomes eligible for numerous services and benefits from the federal government which apply to fully federally recognized tribes.

The Lumbee Tribe has been state recognized since 1885 and first sought full federal recognition in 1888, with the bill’s passage in 2025 culminating a 137-year quest for recognition.

County

From page 1A

The county publicly advertised bids for all sections of the Health Department project, and each subsection or job goes through a request for proposal (RFP) bid process, County Manager Kellie Blue said.

“Tonight is approval of that, and the next thing is when we take it to LGC for their approval,” Blue said. “This will be another approval in a series of approvals.”

The Robeson County Health Department, founded in 1912, is the oldest rural health department in the country, and has been in its current home at 460 Country Club Drive in Lumberton for several decades. The board approved a financ-

ing plan for the project last October.

Board approves update to RCHA procurement plan

Commissioners approved an amended procurement policy for the Robeson County Housing Authority which will allow RCHA to remain consistent with federal guidelines after the federal government made some policy changes last fall.

The micro-purchase threshold will increase from \$10,000 to \$15,000. Small purchase thresholds, also called informal procurement, will increase from \$50,000 to \$90,000; those purchases will continue to require three quotes.

The government also increased the simplified acquisition threshold, but RCHA will keep its number at \$250,000.

“These updates allow the authority to operate



Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

Mac Legerton speaks during the public comment period in Monday’s meeting regarding the PFAS contamination in the area surrounding the Robeson County Landfill.

more efficiently while maintaining required procurement oversight and compliance,” said Niakeya Jones Cooper, executive director of RCHA.

The board also approved the authority’s Annual Plan, its Moving to Work Plan and its Capital Funds Plan for the 2026-27 fiscal year; these are approved each year,

and there were no new additions from the previous year.

Public comment on PFAS contamination

The recurring topic of PFAS contamination in the area surrounding the Robeson County Landfill near St. Pauls was once again raised during the public comment period of

Monday’s meeting.

Mac Legerton, co-director of the Robeson County Cooperative for Sustainable Development, said that community organizations and attorneys from the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) have made four different requests to meet with county staff and commissioners to discuss the issue. A notice of intent to sue was also filed in January.

Legerton compared the situation to one in Sampson County in 2024, when representatives of all parties met and reached an agreement that addressed the contamination in that community.

“It behooves our Robeson County Board of Commissioners and staff to immediately set up meetings with (St. Pauls Community Association for Progress), Winyah (River Alliance), and

SELC to, No. 1, begin serious conversations on the steps that the county has already taken and is planning to take; and, No. 2, to reach agreements and timelines in how and when to resolve this critical situation,” Legerton said.

Robeson County Attorney Robert Davis clarified to The Robesonian after the meeting that he has, on behalf of the county, met with SELC attorneys, including as recently as two weeks ago. Legerton told The Robesonian he was encouraging the commissioners, specifically, to meet with SELC and the involved community organizations to work towards a solution.

The board’s next meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on April 20.

Editor Chris Stiles can be reached at 910-416-5847 or by email at cstiles@robsonian.com.

Gala

From page 1A

modern birthing suites designed to enhance comfort and family centered care, along with AngelEye cameras in the Special Care Nursery that allow parents and loved ones to check in on their newborns from anywhere. For families serving in the military, returning to work or unable to be at the bedside every moment, these cameras provide reassurance and connection. With Foundation support, the Women’s Health Services floor is also the first at UNC Health Southeastern to feature MEDISIGN digital communication boards, replacing traditional dry erase boards and strengthening communication between patients, families and care teams. Continued donor support through The Med Gala will help expand spaces dedicated to Women’s Health Services and ensure more families across our region can receive exceptional care close to home.

“Our committee worked hard to create a night that celebrated both artistic expression and compassionate care, but what

truly made the evening special were the people who came together to support women’s health in our community,” said Gala Co-Chair Amy Campbell. “We are grateful to every sponsor, donor, volunteer and guest who helped make this event so special.”

“We are so grateful for the generosity of this community and for the many supporters who make this work possible,” said UNC Health Southeastern Foundation Executive Director Sissy Grantham. “The Med Gala reflects what can happen when people come together with a shared commitment to care for one another. We are especially thankful for our Gala Co-Chairs, Christy and Jason Bryant and Amy and Allan Campbell, whose leadership helped make this year’s event so meaningful, along with the incredible efforts of our Gala committee and volunteers.”

“It was an incredible night for our Foundation and for women’s health,” said UNC Health Southeastern Foundation Board Chairman Joe Williams, Pharm.D. “I was honored to welcome our guests and lead the Heads or Tails raffle. Thank you to everyone who attended,

supported the event, and participated in the fun. Your support helps advance care for women and families across our region.”

A highlight of the evening was the art auction, featuring beautiful works generously created and shared by local artists. The collection showcased the talent found throughout our community and created a meaningful connection between the evening’s theme of art and the compassion that defines healthcare.

The Foundation extends special appreciation to Smith’s Refrigeration, LLC for their leadership support as presenting sponsor of The Med Gala and for their year-long commitment as the Foundation’s signature events sponsor for both The Med Gala and Boots & BBQ.

Additional major sponsors included the Robeson County Board of Commissioners, Band and Lounge Tent Sponsor; Contempora Fabrics, The Giving Moment Sponsor; and Allen Orthopedics and Robins & Morton, Main Bar Sponsors.

The evening was made possible through the dedication of many partners and volunteers. The Foundation extends sin-

cere thanks to The Secret Garden for the evening’s floral design, Two Brothers Catering for dinner, and Healy Wholesale and Coca-Cola for providing beverages.

Vintage Soul Photography and Matt McGraw Photography captured images of a night filled with celebration, generos-


ity and community pride.

The Foundation also recognizes the many UNC Health Southeastern volunteers and teammates who worked behind the scenes to bring the evening to life.

For more than three decades, The Med Gala has brought the community together in support of

healthcare at UNC Health Southeastern, demonstrating the power of philanthropy to advance care for patients and families across our region.

Heather Walters is the manager of donor experience & engagement for the UNC Health Southeastern Foundation.



**NCDOT HOSTING A PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE
A PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE SAFETY ALONG
SECOND STREET FROM MARTIN LUTHER KING
JR. DRIVE TO ROBERTS AVENUE IN LUMBERTON**

STIP PROJECT NO. HO-0014

LUMBERTON - The N.C. Department of Transportation is hosting a public meeting to discuss the proposal to make pedestrian and safety improvements along N.C. 72 (Second Street) from N.C. 41 (Martin Luther King Jr. Drive) to N.C. 211 (Roberts Avenue). The purpose of this meeting is to provide interested citizens with information on the project and gather public input on the proposed design.

Project details and maps can be found on NCDOT’s project input website at publicinput.com/2ndstreet-improvements-robeson. The information will be available at the meeting allowing for one-on-one discussions with NCDOT staff, but there will be no formal presentation.

The meeting will be held from **5 to 7 p.m. on March 26 at East Lumberton Baptist Church, 210 Old Whiteville Road, in Lumberton.**

People may also submit comments by phone at **984-205-6615** project code **11303**, email 2ndstreet-improvements-robeson@publicinput.com, or mail at the address shown below by **April 10, 2026**.

By Mail: Sean Matuszewski, PE
NCDOT Highway Division 6 – Project Engineer
558 Gillespie Street
Fayetteville, NC 28301

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled people who wish to participate in this meeting. Anyone requiring special services should contact Tony Gallagher, Environmental Analysis Unit, at 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1598, 919-707-6069 or magallagher@ncdot.gov as early as possible so arrangements can be made.

Those who do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, may receive interpretive services upon request prior to the meeting by calling 1-800-481-6494.

Aquellas personas no hablan inglés, o tienen limitaciones para leer, hablar o entender inglés, podrían recibir servicios de interpretación si los solicitan antes de la reunión llamando al 1-800-481-6494.

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FROM THE LEGISLATURE

Rouzer introduces Dalilah's Law to strengthen road safety

WASHINGTON — Monday, U.S. House Highways and Transit Subcommittee Chairman David Rouzer (R-NC7) released updated legislative text of Dalilah's Law, a measure to strengthen Commercial Driver's License (CDL) requirements in the United States, ensure commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers are properly trained and meet safety standards, require CMV drivers to be able to read and understand the English language, and prevent unqualified and illegal immigrants that could pose a significant safety hazard from obtaining a CDL through lax licensing enforcement by states.



Rouzer

son: to ensure that only those qualified to drive a truck are allowed to do so. Dalilah's story is the heartbreaking consequence of what happens when those standards are both insufficient and breached," said Rouzer, the lead sponsor of the legislation, whose district includes eastern and northern areas of Robeson County. "Unqualified, illegal foreign drivers behind the wheel of an 80-ton rig put the public in danger. President Trump called on Congress to end this systematic abuse, and Dalilah's Law answers the call. I look forward to working with Secretary Duffy and Chairman Graves to get this bill to the President's desk to prevent tragedies like Dalilah's from happening again."

The updated bill text of H.R. 5688, now known as Dalilah's Law:

- Ensures all CDL holders understand English, road signs, and law enforcement officers
- Place drivers who fail to meet the law's requirements and safety standards out-of-service
- Requires states to verify that they are not issuing CDLs to illegal immigrants
- Significantly increases penalties for states failing to comply with the law, through withholding of federal funds
- Bans shady foreign dispatch services and brokers, who have fueled a surge in

freight fraud and cargo theft

— Cracks down on "CDL mills" to ensure drivers entering the industry are receiving adequate training

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will mark up Dalilah's Law at 10 a.m. ET on Wednesday.

H.R. 5688 was first introduced by Rouzer on Oct. 3, 2025, as the Non-Domiciled CDL Integrity Act, to end the issuance of CDLs to illegal immigrants who lack the English proficiency, road-rule knowledge, and safety skills needed to safely operate CMVs.

Budd secures provisions in Weather Act to improve hurricane forecasting, update radar technology

U.S. Sen. Ted Budd (R-N.C.), a member of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, secured two of his bills as provisions in the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Reauthorization Act of 2026, which was unanimously passed out of committee last week. The two Budd-led provisions include the Hurricane Forecast Improvement Program and the Radar Next Program.

"For well over a year, I have worked with local, state and federal officials to coordinate recovery efforts for Western North Carolina following Hur-



Budd

ricane Helene," Budd said. "Through my efforts, I have identified significant gaps in our weather system that must be addressed to ensure future storms are tracked as effectively and efficiently as possible, preventing loss of life and property. Following storms of mass destruction, we can only learn to be better prepared. I am proud that two of my bills have been included as provisions to this year's Weather Act to enhance the accuracy of hurricane forecasts, predictions, and warnings, and modernize our radar technology to increase warning lead times. We cannot afford to be unprepared when the next great storm strikes."

The Weather Act updates the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) research and forecasting programs to ensure the agency remains focused on public safety by modernizing weather systems and upgrading critical safety systems.

Hurricane Forecast Improvement Program Enhancement Act would enhance the Hurricane Forecast Improvement Program at NOAA by developing and extending accurate hurricane forecasts, predictions, and warnings to reduce loss of life, injury, and damage to the economy. This legislative provision would:

- Improve the prediction of rapid intensification and the track of hurricanes
- Improve the forecast and communication of storm surges from hurricanes
- Incorporate risk communication research to create more effective watch and warning products
- Evaluate and incorporate innovative observations, including acoustic or infrasonic measurements
- The Radar Next Program Act would:
 - Establish at NOAA the Radar Next Program, which will carry out the planning and deployment of the next generation weather radar system in the United States
 - Direct NOAA to develop a plan to replace the aging Doppler radar network and implement the replacement plan by the end of fiscal year 2040.
 - Require the development of a phased array radar test, which can scan the atmosphere in under a minute, six times faster than current Doppler radars, detecting rapid changes in storms that allow for increased warning lead times and fewer false alarms.
 - Give NOAA the authority to contract with third parties to fill data gaps in weather radar coverage by acquiring data, services and technologies.

Items for the "From The Legislature" column come from press material submitted by local, state and federal elected officials.

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Sports

The Robesonian

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 • Section B

ROBESON CUP



The Purnell Swett girls soccer team celebrates after winning its fifth straight Robeson Cup championship Friday in St. Pauls. Zack Ciboth | Special to The Robesonian

High 5: Rams' reign continues

Zack Ciboth
Special to The Robesonian

ST. PAULS — A dynasty born within a yearly tournament — that is the case for the Purnell Swett Rams girls soccer team as it faced off with the Lumberton Pirates in the fifth annual Robeson Cup held at St. Pauls High School Friday night.

“I thought we came out strong and we were very good in the first half. But I thought (Lumberton) was the more aggressive team in the second half because they wanted to take this away from us,” Purnell Swett head coach Alaric Strickland said.

The Rams struck early and finished off things late to come away with a 2-0 win over the Pirates, as Purnell Swett secured its fifth straight Robeson Cup title.

“We’re trying to build something here,” Strickland said. “A standard and the girls are meeting

up to the standard and we weren’t sure what was going to happen this year but luckily everyone stepped up and made it happen.”

A goal just two minutes into the match was all the Rams (5-0-1) needed, finding the back of the net off the foot of Kiley Locklear to quickly make it 1-0. Then things started to slow down as both defenses started to step up.

Late in the first half, the Rams were kept off the scoreboard on a penalty kick when Sarah Hunt’s attempt was blocked by Pirates keeper Maggie Brixey to keep the Rams’ lead at 1-0. Purnell Swett took that lead into the half.

The second half was very similar, with not a lot of offense and strong defensive performances. A few corner kicks from both squads provided the only scoring opportunities, but both defenses



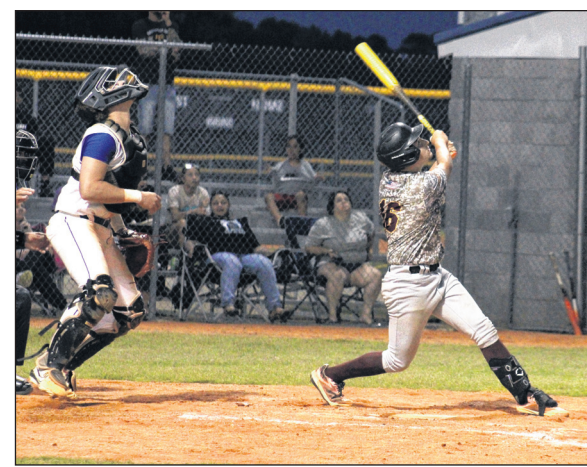
The Purnell Swett girls soccer team celebrates after winning its fifth straight Robeson Cup championship Friday in St. Pauls. Zack Ciboth | Special to The Robesonian

prevailed to keep the Rams’ lead over the Pirates (3-2) at 1-0.

With just under three minutes left in the match the Rams sealed things with a goal from Kiley Locklear as she pushed passed defenders and knocked it into the right corner of the net to make it 2-0. The Pirates made one last attempt to get on the board but were held by the Rams defense as Purnell Swett secured the

win. “Our girls put up a hell of a fight,” Lumberton coach Ethan Freeman said. “They did really well in the second half. I think we were on their end more than they were on our end and we had some chances. We gave them a scare and right now they’re undefeated and I think we pushed them to their limit.”

See RAMS | 2B



Lumberton's Brody Stueck puts the ball in play during a 2025 game in Lumberton. Jacob Husson | The Robesonian

Let's play ball: High school baseball season underway in Robeson

Jacob Husson
The Robesonian

ROBESON COUNTY — Nothing goes better on a spring afternoon than the crack of a bat and the smell of hot dogs at a ballpark.

Three weeks into the season, here is a brief glance at each Robeson County team’s progress so far and their outlook for the rest of the season. The teams are ordered alphabetically.

Fairmont Golden Tornadoes

The Fairmont Golden Tornadoes won both games of a double-header against Dillon Christian on Saturday

to snap a five-game losing streak to begin the season. The Golden Tornadoes (2-5) are allowing about five runs per game, while only scoring four runs per game.

Tanner Hunt leads the team with a .357 batting average, while nobody else is hitting over .200. Parker Chavis has also been a standout player, leading the team with a .375 on-base percentage, while also leading the team on the mound with a 1.75 ERA. Jayden Hunt has stood out on the bases with four stolen bases. He also leads the

See BASEBALL | 3B

UNCP ROUNDUP

Braves baseball dominant in sweep of Chowan

Staff report

PEMBROKE — The No. 23 UNC Pembroke baseball got another quality start from Kasen McCawley in game two of the series, and then used an offensive onslaught to take game three and sweep the three-game series against Chowan in Conference Carolinas action Saturday afternoon at Sammy Cox Field.

McCawley moved to 7-0 on the year after going six shutout innings with a career-high 12 punchouts in the 16-0 win, while the Braves scored a season high in runs to take a 26-6 win in the finale. The Braves also won 14-6 in the series opener on Friday.

Every offensive starter had at least one hit and one run scored in the nightcap, while 11 total Braves delivered at least one RBI.

The Braves (19-5, 12-3 CC) improved to 38-4 all-time against the Hawks (3-16, 3-12 CC).

In the opening game of Saturday’s twin bill, the Braves got on the board first with a Hayden Davis solo blast in the bottom of the first. Ashton Donathan was hit by a pitch in the second inning and came around to score on a Daniel Stephens RBI hit by pitch, while Davis added a two-run single. Davis came home on a wild pitch, before Mason Mozeley added a two-run blast to stretch the lead to 7-0.

The Braves put the game away in the third as Boone Herman provided an RBI hit by pitch, before Stephens added a sacrifice fly. The inning was capped off by a Landon Lucas grand slam to make it 13-0.

Davis, Mozeley and Lucas each had two hits, with Davis and Lucas each driving in four runs and Mozeley having three RBIs. All three hit homers, with Mozeley and Davis recording two extra-base hits each.

In the series finale, the Braves struck first as Stephens singled, Davis walked and both eventually came home on Peyton Young’s two-run single to stake the Braves to a quick 2-0 lead.

After Chowan tied the score at 2-2 in the top

See BRAVES | 2B

Bankston 6th at wrestling nationals



UNC Pembroke wrestler James Bankston competes in a match earlier this season in Pembroke. Bankston finished sixth in the 285-pound division at the NCAA Division II Championships Saturday in Sioux Falls, S.D. UNCP Athletics

Staff report

SIoux FALLS, S.D. — UNC Pembroke’s James Bankston won his first match of the day on Saturday, before dropping his final two bouts to bring home a sixth-place finish at the NCAA Championships.

The sixth-place finish earned Bankston status as an All-American, the 69th wrestler in UNCP history to earn the recognition.



Robinson



Davis

Bankston, competing in the 285-pound division, won via medical forfeit over No. 6 seed Isaiah Vance of Pitt-Johnstown, before dropping a 2-1 decision to No. 4 seed Carter Blough of Grand Valley State.

Bankston then fell to No. 5 seed Freddie Retter of Kutztown in the fifth-place match.

In Friday’s action, Bankston fell to No. 1 seed

See WRESTLING | 2B

Pepe Pugliese 14th at swimming nationals, named All-American

Staff report

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — UNC Pembroke swimmers Sofia Pereira and Benedetta Pepe Pugliese put a bow on the 2026 NCAA



Pepe Pugliese

Championships on Saturday inside the Deaconess Aquatic Center. Pepe Pugliese picked up second-team All-American honors finishing 14th in the 200-yard

breaststroke with a time of 2:17.15.

It is the second All-American honor for Pepe Pugliese, but the first in the 200-yard breaststroke. The junior earned the distinguished



Pereira

honor during the 2023-24 championship in the 400-yard individual medley.

Pereria finished 25th in the 1650-yard freestyle touching the wall in a time of 17:24.92.

RCC baseball swept by Lenoir

Staff report

KINSTON — The Robeson Community College Diamond Eagles baseball team struggled to an 0-4 week, falling 15-9 in a midweek home matchup against Wake Tech before a three-game weekend sweep at the hands of Lenoir Community College.

RCC lost 12-2 and 8-3 in Saturday's doubleheader before an 8-4 loss on Sunday.

The Eagles showed

strong offense but fell to Wake Tech after jumping out to an early 8-4 lead. Ayden Wall homered in the first inning and finished with two hits and two RBIs, while Jorge Torres also collected two hits. Messiah Miller added two RBIs and Nemo Chavis swiped four bases as the Eagles totaled five stolen bases and 11 walks.

Robeson battled at the plate in the first game of Saturday's doubleheader against Lenoir. Miller went

2-for-2 from the leadoff spot and Torres drove in two runs for the Eagles.

The Eagles continued to compete in the second game, with Ty Lee, Torres, Noah Hince, Nemo Chavis, Jack Carela and McCoy James each recording a hit. Carela and James each drove in a run and Robeson turned two double plays defensively.

Robeson wrapped up the weekend with another solid effort at the plate on Sunday. Owen Noonan

led the offense with three hits, while Nemo Chavis and Garrett Secrist each recorded an RBI. The Eagles played clean defense with no errors and turned two double plays.

RCC plays a midweek game Wednesday at Florence-Darlington Tech, with first pitch set for 3 p.m., before hosting Pitt Community College for a three-game weekend set, with a doubleheader on Saturday and a single game Sunday each beginning at 1 p.m.

Braves

From page 1B

half of the second inning, UNCP used five RBI singles, and RBI walk, an RBI groundout and a balk to score eight runs in the bottom half and take a 10-2 lead.

With the Braves holding a 14-6 lead going into the bottom half of the sixth, Branton Jernigan tacked on a couple more with a two-run blast to make it 16-6.

Jernigan doubled in the eighth and come home on Frank Himmelreich's first collegiate RBI to make it 20-6, while Logan Blight, Morgan Padgett and Jernigan added RBI hits.

Jernigan had three hits, with a double, a triple and a home run, two walks and four RBIs. Lucas and Stephens each had three hits and three RBIs, while Young had two hits and two RBIs. Ryan Wells (2-0) earned the win with one scoreless inning and three strikeouts.

Josh Tripp and Ahmaad Goldson each had two hits, with Tripp driving in two runs and Goldson one, for the Hawks.

The Black & Gold will be back in action Tuesday, March 17 as they head to Salisbury to take on No. 5 Catawba for a non-conference match-up. First pitch is set for 3 p.m. at Newman Park.

Braves softball rights ship, takes two from Barton

The UNC Pembroke softball team recorded 23 hits across two games to fuel a Conference Carolinas sweep over Barton on Saturday afternoon at Jeffries Field.

Barton held a 4-3 lead heading into the top of the seventh inning of the doubleheader opener, but a two-run blast from Chloe Locklear proved to be the difference to give the Braves a 5-4 victory to start the day. A seven-run fourth inning and limiting Barton to just three hits completed the sweep with a 12-2 Braves victory in five innings.

UNCP's Alex Serbio got the first game started with a leadoff single followed by a single from Emma Wrenn. Both runners stole on the next pitch, and

Serbio scored on a sacrifice fly from Kaitlynn Hunt. Maddie Gerovac knocked a double to left field to score Wrenn and give the Braves (20-9, 7-1 CC) a 2-0 lead.

Barton (12-14, 3-5 CC) loaded the bases in the fourth with a pair of singles and a fielding error by UNC Pembroke. Makenzie Cyzick knocked a single to right field to score on run, followed by a sacrifice fly from Madison Mercer to knot the score at 2-2.

In the seventh, Kaitlynn Hunt doubled to the outfield grass before Chloe Locklear lit up the scoreboard with a homer down the left field line to put UNCP ahead 5-4.

Locklear had three hits and Gerovac had two hits, with each driving in two runs, for the Braves. Hunt had a double and N RBI. Summer Bullard (11-4) earned the win.

Mercer had two RBIs and Makenzie Burroughs and Keira Farmer each had two hits for Barton. Haley Inman (5-6) was the losing pitcher.

In the nightcap, the Braves put runners on the corners in the fourth when Kaitlyn King and Maggie Cunningham both singled.

Alex Serbio's fielder's choice allowed King to score, followed by an RBI single to center field from Emma Wrenn. Chloe Locklear drove in two runs with a double to left field, followed by a fielding error from Barton to allow another run to score. Kaitlyn King drove in a run with a single, and a throwing error would allow the seventh run of the inning to cross the plate and put UNCP ahead 11-0.

Locklear had a double and three RBIs. Wrenn had three hits and two RBIs and Hunt had a double and two RBIs for UNCP. Halona Sampson (7-3) was the winning pitcher.

Ronnetta Gurley had a home run and two RBIs for Barton. Emily Bobo (6-7) took the loss.

The Braves will open up a road trip on Tuesday when they travel to Virginia to battle with Ferrum. First pitch is slated for 2 p.m. at the Vickie Van Kleeck Softball Complex.

Wrestling

From page 1B

Dorian Crosby of Gannon, but picked up a 5-2 overtime win over No. 8 seed Torin Forsyth of Central Missouri and a 2-1 decision win over No. 7 seed Luke Tweeton of UMary to stay alive in the

tournament.

Logan Robinson, the Braves' 133-pounder, went 2-2 on the day, picking up a 12-1 major decision over Pitt-Johnstown's Brady Baker and a 6-5 decision win over Minnesota State's Chase Beckett, before being eliminated by McKendree's Thaddeus Long.

Cooper Davis went 1-2 in the 125-pound bracket, earning a 19-2 technical fall over Newberry's Ricky Springs, before being eliminated by No. 8 seed Logan Sallot of Gannon.

The Braves finished with 13.5 team points and tied for 21st out of 49 teams at the event.

UNCP has now logged team points at 23 straight NCAA Championships events dating back to the 2002-03 campaign. This weekend's marked the 44th year that UNCP has been represented at nationals, and the 10th straight year the Braves have qualified multiple wrestlers for the event.

Rams

From page 1B

Kiley Locklear led the way for the Rams with two goals in the win, earning All-Tournament honors. Hunt was named the tournament's MVP, after two goals and one assist in Wednesday's semifinal win and one assist in the championship match.

"I think we went out there and we played hard, our connections on and off the field really helped us win and our passes and just trusting each other," Hunt said. "I think it takes hard work and I'm really glad that we get to continue the tradition, and I'm really happy and proud of me and my teammates."

Joining Kiley Lock-



Zack Ciboth | Special to The Robesonian

The Robeson Cup All-Tournament team takes a group picture following Friday's championship match in St. Pauls. Pictured, from left, are Red Springs' Ariday Velazquez Sanchez and Celine Sanchez, Lumberton's Linsi Campos Padilla, Sydnea Jones and MacKenzie Register and Purnell Swett's Gracie Wilkerson, Ava Locklear, Kiley Locklear, Rylee Chavis and Sarah Hunt, the tournament MVP. Not pictured is St. Pauls' Ashley Garcia.

lear and Hunt on the All-Tournament team from Purnell Swett were Gracie Wilkerson, Ava Locklear and Rylee Chavis. Lumberton's selections included Linsi Campos Padilla, Sydnea Jones and MacKenzie Register.

Purnell Swett returns to action on Monday when they host Hoke

County at 7 p.m. Lumberton will host Douglas Byrd at home on Monday at 7 p.m.

In the third-place match, Red Springs and St. Pauls went to penalty kicks tied at 4-4 before the Red Devils won the shootout 4-1. Red Springs' Celine

Sanchez and Ariday Velazquez Sanchez earned All-Tournament honors, along with St. Pauls' Ashley Garcia.

Red Springs (3-3) hosts Hoke County on Wednesday at 7 p.m., while St. Pauls (0-3) hosts Triton at 6 p.m. on Thursday.

2026 GIRLS ROBESON CUP ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sarah Hunt, Purnell Swett (MVP) | Linsi Campos Padilla, Lumberton |
| Kiley Locklear, Purnell Swett | Sydnea Jones, Lumberton |
| Gracie Wilkerson, Purnell Swett | MacKenzie Register, Lumberton |
| Ava Locklear, Purnell Swett | Celine Sanchez, Red Springs |
| Rylee Chavis, Purnell Swett | Ariday Velazquez Sanchez, Red Springs |
| | Ashley Garcia, St. Pauls |

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ST. PAULS HIGH SCHOOL



MALIKAH LOCKLEAR
Football, Basketball, Baseball

St. Pauls multi-sport star Malikah Locklear had a timely go-ahead RBI triple to plate two runs in the seventh inning of the Bulldogs' 4-3 win over Fairmont last week. Locklear also caught 26 passes for 472 yards and nine touchdowns, and had 48 tackles, six tackles for loss and three interceptions, as part of the Bulldogs' 10-2 football team last fall.

PURNELL SWETT HIGH SCHOOL



SARAH HUNT
Soccer, Basketball

Purnell Swett junior midfielder Sarah Hunt earned Robeson Cup MVP honors after scoring two goals in the Rams' semifinal win over Red Springs and adding two assists in the two-game tournament, culminating with the Rams' 2-0 title-game win over Lumberton. Hunt has three goals and four assists this season for the 5-0-1 Lady Rams.

Duke's Boozer unanimous first-team All-American

UNC's Wilson earns second-team recognition

Dave Skretta
AP Basketball Writer

DURHAM — Duke forward Cameron Boozer, BYU star AJ Dybantsa and Darius Acuff Jr. of Arkansas arrived this season as part of what could go down as one of the most heralded freshman classes in college basketball history.

They lived up to their billing, too, and were announced Tuesday as first-team AP All-Americans.

Boozer was a unanimous choice among the 61 voters that select the weekly Top 25 for The Associated Press, following in the footsteps of Cooper Flagg, who also was a unanimous choice as a freshman for the Blue Devils last season. Dybantsa was a first-team pick on all but four ballots, while Acuff was a first-team selection on 47 of the ballots.



Neil Redmond | AP Photo

Duke forward Cameron Boozer, right, looks to drive against Virginia guard Malik Thomas (1) during Saturday's ACC Tournament championship game in Charlotte.

Yaxel Lendeborg of Michigan and JT Toppin of Texas Tech rounded out the five-member first team.

"He's all about his teammates," Duke coach Jon Scheyer said of Boozer, who was the AP's national player of the week twice during the season. "He's not about numbers. He's about win-

ning. And I think when your best player's that way, it becomes contagious, and it has a big effect on the rest of the group."

Such a team-first attitude was on display by all the first-team picks; each helped their team to the NCAA Tournament.

Boozer took the Blue Devils to ACC regular-season and tourna-

ment titles and helped them earn the top overall seed. Lendeborg also helped the Wolverines earn a No. 1 seed. Arkansas is seeded fourth, Texas Tech seeded fifth and BYU seeded sixth.

Second team

Braden Smith of Purdue, who needs two assists to break Bobby Hurley's career Division I record, earned 12 first-team votes and was chosen a second-team All-American. Smith was a first-team pick last season and honorable mention for the 2023-24 season.

The senior from Westfield, Indiana, was joined on the second team by Big Ten rivals Jeremy Fears of Michigan State and Keaton Wagler of Illinois. Joshua Jefferson of Iowa State and North Carolina freshman Caleb Wilson rounded out the team.

Third team

Gonzaga senior Graham Ike, an honorable mention pick two years ago, earned third-team

honors this season. He was joined on the team by Houston freshman Kingston Flemings, sophomores Christian Anderson of Texas Tech and Labaron Philon Jr. of Alabama, and junior forward Thomas Haugh of Florida.

Honorable mention

Jaden Bradley and Brayden Burries gave Arizona two honorable mention All-Americans this season, and Bennett Stirtz of Iowa earned the honor for the second consecutive year after making it onto the team with Drake last season.

Kansas freshman Darryn Peterson, who missed time with injuries this season, also was honorable mention, which is given to the next 10 players and ties after the first three All-American teams. So were Zuby Ejirofer of St. John's, Rueben Chinyelu of Florida, Ohio State's Bruce Thornton, Michael Ajayi of Butler, Kansas State's PJ Haggerty, Ebuka Okorie of Stanford and Tyler Tanner of Vanderbilt.

Baseball

From page 1B

team with a .357 slugging percentage.

In the next week, the Golden Tornadoes host nonconference foes Lake View, on Friday, Green Sea Floyds, next Monday, and South Columbus, next Tuesday. The three teams have a combined record of 7-9 so far this season.

Efforts to reach interim head coach A.J. Brooks for this story were unsuccessful.

Lumberton Pirates

The Lumberton Pirates have either been elite or silent at the plate so far this season. With two shutout wins by more than 10 runs and two losses by more than 10, the Pirates (3-3, 0-2 Tri-County Conference, entering play Tuesday), it's either been feast or famine for the Pirates.

"We just need to be confident and get on the mound and get the job done," Lumberton coach Jonathan Benson said. Manny Alba, Ethan Gray and Brody Stueck are all hitting over .400 so far this season. They've been critical to the Pirates' offensive success in their three wins.

"Brody and Manny are veterans leading the way," Benson said.

With Stueck, the 2025 Robeson County Player of the Year, being a senior and Alba being a junior, they are players who help lead the Lumberton clubhouse. Gray is also a junior, so he provides

another veteran presence for the roster.

Bryson Hester has been the standout pitcher for the Pirates so far. With a 2.62 ERA so far, he has been the standout pitcher on the pitching staff so far.

"(Hester) has done a good job keeping hitters off balance," Benson said.

With Lumberton off to an up-and-down start so far this season, they need to find a way to score runs more consistently. Manny Alba, Ethan Gray and Brody Stueck should be important pieces of the solution.

The Pirates hosted Gray's Creek on Tuesday; the result was unavailable at press time. They'll host South View on Wednesday before facing Gray's Creek again Friday in Hope Mills.

Purnell Swett Rams

The Purnell Swett Rams have stumbled out of the gate to a 2-5 start. After dropping their first three games, they earned back-to-back wins before dropping consecutive games against Terry Sanford. The story is their inconsistency on offense with nine runs in five losses, but 39 runs in two wins.

"The biggest key is getting our bats going," Purnell Swett coach Edmund Locklear said.

Wyatt McMillan leads the Rams with a .435 on-base percentage. Locklear discussed the key to continuing that success.

"He just needs to keep getting on base," Locklear said. "He leads the team in walks."

The pitching staff is

also doing well, with a 4.46 team ERA, compared to the national average of 5.91, according to MaxPreps.

"The pitchers are throwing the ball well and pitching to contact," Locklear said.

Offensive consistency will be critical to stringing wins together for the Rams, as their .228 team batting average trails the national average of .276.

Purnell Swett hosted Cape Fear on Tuesday night after press time. The Rams travel to Pinecrest on Wednesday and Cape Fear on Friday.

Red Springs Red Devils

The Red Springs Red Devils have dropped their opponents into an inferno this season, thanks to a prolific offense that has scored over 10 runs twice and over five runs four times in the early games. With that said, the Red Devils (4-1) are coming off a 6-2 loss to Forest Hills that ended their early winning streak.

"We got off to a good start mainly because of offense," Red Springs head coach Matt Strickland said. Red Springs entered

play Tuesday hitting .398 as a team with 47 runs scored and 36 runs batted in.

The Red Devils have really excelled so far running the bases. With 39 stolen bases so far, the team's speed on the base paths has been critical to their early success. This amounts to roughly eight steals per game, putting significant stress on opposing pitchers and defenses.

"It's definitely a great thing to be able to steal bases," Strickland said.

Senior T.J. Ellerbe leads the Red Devils with a .500 batting average, while Xzavier Sinclair leads the team with a .667 on-base percentage. Sinclair and Malaki Clark also lead the team with seven stolen bases.

The Red Devils boast a .971 fielding percentage so far, as that has been another factor in their early success. They've only made three errors so far, while the national average is 16, according to MaxPreps.

"Defensively, we've played okay," Strickland said. "We may struggle on the mound at times." While they may

struggle in the future, Red Springs currently has a team ERA of 3.54. Sinclair has struck out 27 men in 14 innings pitched.

Red Springs hosted Douglas Byrd on Tuesday; the Red Devils will travel to Hoke County Thursday and will host Seventy-First on Friday before beginning conference play next week.

St. Pauls Bulldogs

The St. Pauls Bulldogs have lost three of their first five contests this season, allowing 14 runs in each of their first two games. The highlight of their season so far was a 17-7 win over Village Christian Academy.

"Pitchers are doing well and defense is doing well," St. Pauls head coach Timothy Carter said. "We just need to hit the fastball better."

St. Pauls (2-3) are led offensively by Zayin Hunt, who has a .357 batting average so far, as well as four runs scored and three runs batted in. "Zayin's bought into

staying comfortable at the plate," Carter said. "He's bought into throwing his hands at the baseball and is seeing the ball well."

Despite Hunt's success, the Bulldogs have struggled to find consistent success so far. They have a combined four runs in their three losses so far this season and have allowed a combined 35 runs in those games.

The lack of run support has a lot to do with the lack of solid contact at the plate. St. Pauls is currently hitting .193 this season.

"We need to keep it simple and not think about who we're playing," Carter said.

St. Pauls will need to have more consistent at-bats if they want to win with regularity.

The Bulldogs hosted West Bladen on Tuesday night; they'll travel to Village Christian for a rematch on Wednesday and play Friday at Freedom Christian.

Jacob Husson can be reached at 910-816-1977 or by email at jhusson@robsonian.com.

POLARIS THE 2026 LINEUP HAS ARRIVED

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PERSONAL INJURY

411 N Elm Street Lumberton, NC 28358 910-720-5028 attorneyjaclay@gmail.com

