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THE ROBESONIAN

Serving Robeson County Since 1870

Wednesday, March 25, 2026 • Issue 24, Volume 157

robsonian.com

A Fresh Perspective

Local NEWS

\$1.50

Maxton man arrested, charged in triple homicide

Staff report

RED SPRINGS — A Maxton man was arrested late Sunday evening in connection with a triple homicide which occurred near Prospect early Sunday morning.

On Sunday, at approximately 10:30 p.m., Ethan Lee Spaulding, 27, of Maxton was arrested by Robeson County Sheriff's Office investigators after a short standoff in the Robinwood Apartments in Red Springs. After a standoff with Robeson County Sheriff's Office Negotiations Team, Spaulding exited the apartment and surrendered.

Spaulding is charged with

three counts of first-degree murder, robbery with a dangerous weapon, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and discharging a weapon within an enclosure to incite fear. Spaulding is being held in the custody of the Robeson County Detention Center without bond.

On Sunday, at approximately 6:39 a.m., Robeson County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to 1141 Melinda Road, just north of Prospect, in reference to two deceased individuals found inside a camper. Upon arrival, deputies discovered a third individual deceased within the camper.

The victims have been identi-



RCSO

Spaulding

fied as:

- Triston Goins, 28, of Maxton
- Howard Dean Jones, 51, of Lumberton
- Ashley N. Jacobs, 35, of Pembroke

"This arrest marks a significant step toward justice in what is a truly senseless and tragic triple homicide in the

Prospect community outside of Pembroke," Robeson County Sheriff Burnis Wilkins said. "I commend our investigators for their tireless work, and unwavering commitment to bringing this suspect into custody, and also thank the community for their patience and cooperation.

"Unfortunately, this case is yet another example of a pattern we continue to see; drugs playing a major role in violent crime within our county. The destruction caused by illegal narcotics continues to impact families and communities across Robeson County, and we will not let up in our efforts to combat it.

"We remain committed to

holding those responsible accountable and to doing everything within our power to protect the citizens of this county. No community deserves to live in fear. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the families and loved ones affected by this devastating loss."

Spaulding has numerous previous charges which are currently pending in the court system, including larceny, breaking and entering a motor vehicle, felony conspiracy and resisting arrest. He also was convicted of a 2015 armed robbery, for which he served nearly four years in prison.

See MAXTON | 8A



The Robesonian file photo

Keaton Lowery holding the prize check for his first-place performance of "Alabaster Box" by CeCe Winans at the 2025 "My Time to Shine" talent competition at the Carolina Civic Center.

'My Time to Shine' set for April 11

Carolina Civic Center hosting annual talent show

Staff report

LUMBERTON — The Carolina Civic Center Historic Theater will host its annual My Time to Shine Talent Competition on April 11.

The very popular and competitive competition will feature 19 contestants competing in all categories of talent, from singing and dancing to instrumental and more. Auditions were held in February to determine which contestants would be showcased on the theater's

See SHINE | 8A

Keeping Robeson clean & green



Photo courtesy of RCSO

Numerous individuals around Robeson County participated in Operation Spring Cleaning on Saturday as part of the Robeson County Clean & Green initiative. Participants included volunteers as well community groups, civic organizations, volunteer fire departments, law enforcement agencies, county inmates and more. The Robeson County Sheriff's Office had 72 deputies, detention officers and civilian staff who participated, it said. Overall, more than 700 bags of trash were collected, in addition to several dozen tires and many furniture items and toilets. Pictured, Sergeant Brandon Patterson from the RCSO works painstakingly to retrieve trash from a stream.

RCCF accepting nonprofit grant applications



Contributed photo | RCCF

The Robeson County Community Foundation's Board of Advisors. Pictured, in the front row, from left, are Suzanne Abbott, Blake Tyner, Linda Metzger, Sandra Oliver and Viv Wayne. In the back row, from left, are Dennis Hempstead, Josh Jackson and Tim Little.

Staff report

ROBESON COUNTY — The Board of Advisors of the Robeson County Community Foundation is accepting grant applications from nonprofits serving needs in the local community until noon on April 14.

Applications received after this deadline will not be accepted, including late submissions due to technology issues.

Funds are available for nonprofit organizations serving Robeson County and will be awarded from

the following:

— Robeson County Unrestricted Endowment, which supports broad charitable purposes.

— Frank M. & Betty Fukuda Memorial Fund, which supports Native American causes with a priority on education.

Grants typically range from \$1,000 to \$2,500. In 2025, RCCF awarded \$17,420 in grants through this competitive process. Visit nccommunityfoundation.org for information about applying.

See GRANTS | 8A

TODAY'S FORECAST
Partly sunny and pleasant, High 70, Low 46

A NEWS
Obituaries: 2
Editorial: 4
Comics: 5
Classifieds: 6-7

B SPORTS

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DEATH NOTICES

Earline Hall

Ms. Earline Hall, 75, of Fairmont, transitioned from time to eternal peace on March 21, 2026, at UNC Health Southeastern of Lumberton. Services will be Thursday at 1 p.m. at Worley Mortuary & Cremation Service of Fairmont. Burial will follow at Fairmont Memorial Park. Visitation is from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday at the mortuary prior to the service.

Border Belt schools see drops in reported crime rates

Ben Rappaport
Border Belt Independent

School districts in the Border Belt saw drops in reported crimes last school year, according to a new report from the N.C. Department of Public Instruction.

The report, released in February, tracks 16 reportable acts, including assault with a weapon, possession of illegal substances, robbery, and sexual assault.

Statewide, schools reported an average of 7.4 crimes and violent acts per 1,000 students. Four local districts fell below that rate — Bladen County Schools, Columbus County Schools, Scotland County Schools and Whiteville City Schools.

Public Schools of Robeson County remained slightly above the statewide average with an incident rate of 7.8 per 1,000 students. The district reported 160 crimes last school year, including 93 incidents of possession of controlled substances, 30 incidents of possession of a weapon, and 20 incidents of assault on school personnel.

Possession of controlled substances, including marijuana, was the most commonly reported offense statewide, accounting for 62% of all incidents last school year.

“While every incident matters, the data show that severe violence is rare, and the most common challenges schools are managing are behavioral and substance related, not widespread physical harm,” Michael Maher, chief accountability officer for the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, said during a meeting last month.

The report also tracks school suspensions and expulsions, alternative learning, and dropout rates.

Robeson County schools had a suspension rate of 526.25 per 1,000 students, the fifth-highest rate in the state and a slight increase from the previous school year. Male students in the district accounted for two-thirds of the suspensions. Black and Native American males were most likely to be suspended, with each group responsible for about a quarter of the total suspensions in the district. The same was true the previous school year, BBI previously reported.

Whiteville City Schools increased its suspension rate by nearly 99 suspensions per 1,000 students.

Scotland County Schools saw the largest year-over-year decrease in the Border Belt, with 400 fewer students suspended last school year.

Dropout rates largely declined across the Border Belt and in some cases outpaced the statewide decline. Robeson County schools, which had the region's highest dropout rate five years ago, recorded no dropouts last school year. Bladen and Columbus County districts also fell below the North Carolina average of 1.21 per 1,000 students.

Scotland County Schools and Whiteville City Schools both had zero dropouts in 2023-2024 but saw rates above the state average last school year.

Maher said the report points to both progress and unfinished work.

“This year's report provides evidence of continued improvements in school safety across North Carolina's public schools and points to areas for further study to strengthen our understanding of student support across the academic continuum,” he said.

The Columbus County Community Foundation awarded the Border Belt Independent a \$5,000 grant to fund Data Point, a concise feature that focuses on numbers and statistics highlighting an issue or trend in the Border Belt. The Columbus County Community Foundation is a nonprofit that connects people with causes and organizations they care about. It is part of the North Carolina Community Foundation network.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Send your Community Calendar items to Editor Chris Stiles at cstiles@robsonian.com.

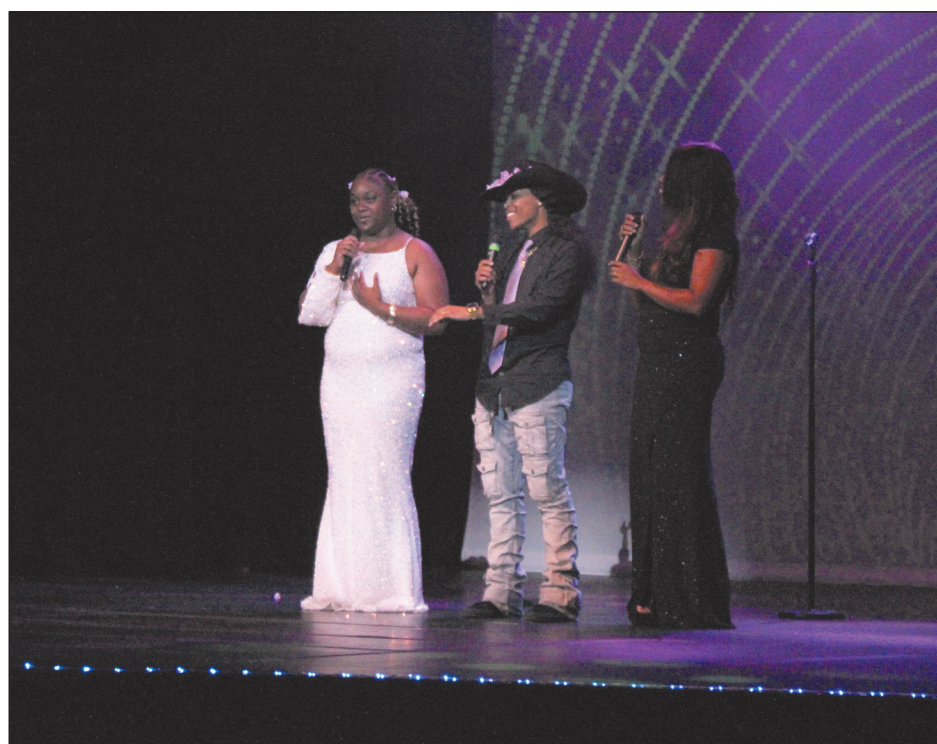
Ryley Floyd, 7:30 p.m., March 26: It's entertainment night at the Speakeasy 219 Elm. Open Mike Night until 7:30 pm before Ryley Floyd performs live music for the remainder of the evening. Shop the shops at 219 Elm, purchase a beverage and snack from Legal Grounds Coffee Shop and enjoy the evening. Ryley Floyd is a twenty-four-year-old born and raised in Lumberton, NC. She is currently working towards her MBA at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke while serving as a temporary full-time Biology teacher. She has been singing and performing in the theater since she was 8 years old. If she could choose anywhere to be in the world, at any time, it would be on the stage.

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!

Women's Empowerment Summit, 8 a.m., March 27: Save the date! Women's Empowerment Summit, Leading With Legacy and Vision, will be held at UNCP.

Border Belt Horseman Association Event, 9 a.m., March 28: The Southeastern NC Agricultural Event Center is hosting the Border Belt Horseman Association Show. Our mission is to bring riders of all ages, skill levels, and disciplines together to develop their skill sets and love



The Robesonian file photo
Leedenas Cotten, Danyelle Cotten and Jamihya Thomas of Infinite Harmony during their performance at the My Time To Shine Talent Show. The competition returns to the Carolina Civic Center on April 11.

for these animals. We instill a culture of positive reinforcement and the desire to help each and every rider. Negative Cognition is required.

FIRST Robotics, 10 a.m., March 28: FIRST Robotics has scheduled the exciting competitions again on UNCP's campus!

Lumbee Wild Game Festival, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., March 28: Mark your calendar for the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina's Wild Game Festival coming up on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at the Lumbee Tribe Cultural Center. The day will kick off at 11:00 am with a Wild Game Dinner featuring many of your Lumbee favorites, including quail, deer, duck, fish, rabbit, turkey, bison and much more. From 1 pm to 5 pm, there will be a Community Powwow. Then, in the evening, sit back and relax from 6 pm to 9 pm with a Bonfire and Traditional Social Dancing.

Mardi Gras at the Museum, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., March 28: Join the fun at Exploration Station for Exhibit play, crafts and a special parade. Member fee is \$7.00, and non-member fee is \$10.00. Children under 12 months are admitted free of charge.

Spring Market Market, 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., March 31: The Spring Market at Campbelton Grove is an exciting place to meet vendors and select those special gifts and items to update your home for the Spring and Summer Seasons. Shop from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. You are also invited to enjoy an outdoor painting experience. Paint water lilies by the water! Fresh air, fresh pain, fresh idea, yielding a fresh painting! The class is scheduled from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. 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.

My Time to Shine, 7 p.m., April 11: The very popular and competitive competition, held at the Carolina Civic Center in downtown Lumberton, will feature approximately 20 contestants competing in all categories of talent, from singing and dancing to instrumental and more. The winner of this year's competition will receive a \$1,000 cash prize, with second place receiving \$500 and third place \$250. Additionally, a People's Choice Award will be chosen based on ticket sales for each contestant and donations made during purchase checkout.

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.

THE ROBESONIAN

Champion Media
(USPS 467-40)

910-739-4322

Publishes every Wednesday and Saturday
eEdition and in print.

**If you have a newspaper delivery concern
please call weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.**
Prices are subject to change at any time.

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2175 N Roberts Ave., Lumberton, NC 28358
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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
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FEDERAL RECOGNITION UPDATE

Tribe holds consultations with numerous government departments

Staff report

PEMBROKE — Lumbee Tribal Chairman John Lowery shared the following on Friday in a video update on the Tribe's federal recognition transition:

"On March 18, we proudly marked three months since achieving full federal recognition, a truly historic milestone for the Lumbee people. "Since that remarkable day, our team has

been working diligently to engage with federal agencies across the government to better understand the programs, resources and opportunities now available to our Tribal Nation. Since the beginning of the year, we have held productive meetings with:

- The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- The Indian Health Service within the Department of Health

- and Human Services
- The Department of Transportation
- The Department of Justice
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture, including Rural Development, the Farm Service Agency, and the Forest Service
- The Department of Energy
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)



Lowery

- The U.S. Department of Commerce, including the Census Bureau and Economic Development Administration
 - The Department of the Treasury
 - The Department of Education
 - The Department of Labor
- "These are doors that have finally been opened through the passage of

the Lumbee Fairness Act. Over the next three to six months, we look forward to continued engagement as we work to expand services and bring new opportunities to our tribal members.

"I want to personally thank our staff for stepping up and taking on additional responsibilities to ensure we are maximizing every opportunity and building a strong foundation for the future. "As a reminder, on

March 28, we will host a wild game feast, a community powwow, and conclude the evening with a bonfire and traditional dances. I appreciate the tribal employees who are working hard to bring this celebration together as part of our ongoing year of recognition.

"Additionally, please mark your calendars for our major celebration on May 16 at UNC Pembroke. I look forward to seeing you all there."

FROM THE LEGISLATURE

Budd helps introduce bipartisan legislation modernizing outdated 911 technology

WASHINGTON — U.S. Sens. Ted Budd (R-N.C.) and Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), co-chairs of the Senate Next Generation 9-1-1 Caucus and members of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, were joined by Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) in introducing the bipartisan Next Generation 9-1-1 Act to accelerate federal efforts to modernize our nation's outdated 9-1-1 systems. This bill provides funding to state and local governments to deploy modern technology upgrades at 9-1-1 call centers to enable operators to utilize text messages, pictures, videos, and other information sent by smartphones, tablets, and other devices during an emergency.

"Our nation's 9-1-1 call centers are on the front lines of emergency response, but outdated technologies have limited the ability of operators to best assist callers in crisis and support first responders in the field," Budd said. "It's time to bring 9-1-1 systems into the digital age so emergency personnel can respond faster and more effectively to medical emergencies, crimes, and natural disasters in our communities. I am proud to join Sens. Klobuchar and Cortez Masto in introducing practical legislation to modernize our 9-1-1 systems to meet the demands of the 21st Century and help save lives."

A version of the bill in

the U.S. House is led by Representatives Richard Hudson (R-NC9) and Troy Carter (D-LA2) in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"Infrastructure is more than just roads and bridges — it also includes critical technologies," Klobuchar said. "We must bring our 9-1-1 systems into the 21st century by providing state and local governments with the resources they need to update our emergency response networks and keep our communities safe. In a crisis, no one should be put in danger because of outdated 9-1-1 systems, and first responders, public safety officials, and law enforcement must be able to communicate seamlessly. This legislation will enable them to do just that."

Budd, Kim introduce bipartisan bill opening government data sets to better train American AI models

U.S. Sens. Budd and Andy Kim (D-NJ), members of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, recently introduced the Artificial Intelligence Ready Data Act, which would create a modern federal approach to opening government data assets to train and develop stronger American artificial intelligence (AI) models. The U.S. federal government maintains the world's largest and most sophisticated data assets

generated through taxpayer dollars, and this legislation aims to leverage the potential of that federal data to maintain American leadership in AI development.

"The success of American AI models to help grow our economy and create new jobs depends on access to high-quality data," Budd said. "The federal government maintains the world's largest collection of publicly available data across every discipline, but we must do more to make government data assets more accessible and digestible. By unlocking these resources, developers of all sizes and interests can deploy smarter solutions that will benefit everything from advanced manufacturing to healthcare research to weather modeling. I am proud to work with Sen. Kim to help maintain America's competitive edge and global leadership in AI innovation."

Earlier this month, Budd chaired a hearing for the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee on Science, Manufacturing and Competitiveness, in which he asked witnesses across the healthcare, manufacturing, and robotics industries whether enhanced access to high-quality government data assets would help them deploy AI solutions.



Budd

Fairmont to host job fair

Victoria Sanderson
The Robesonian

FAIRMONT — The town of Fairmont is hosting its second job fair of the year on April 15.

The job fair is open to any residents of Fairmont and the wider Robeson County area who are in need of employment, according to Mayor Charles Kemp. Senior students from Fairmont High School will also have the opportunity to take a bus to the fair, giving them a chance to make connections or secure a position after graduation.

The Hunt's Food Truck and the Blood Connection Van for donations will also be on site for job fair attendees. The fair will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Fairmont Heritage Center.

Contact Victoria Sanderson at Vsanderson@robesonian.com.

Ministers for Justice to hold prayer vigil at courthouse

Staff report

LUMBERTON — Ministers for Justice will hold a prayer event on Wednesday morning at the Robeson County Courthouse.

The event, called Hope for Healing & Reconciliation, will be at 10 a.m. The courthouse is located at 500 North Elm Street in downtown Lumberton.

Join the event in peaceful prayer for justice, organizers said.

RING UP PROFITS WITH THE CLASSIFIEDS

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

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Easter Bunny Photos 2026
March and April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
22 1 pm to 5 pm	23	24	25	26	27 5:30 to 8:30	28 11 am to 8:30 pm
29 1 pm to 5 pm	30	31	1 5:30 to 8:30	2 5:30 to 8:30	3 5:30 to 8:30	4 11 am to 8:30 pm
5 Easter						

Editorial

4A Wednesday, March 25, 2026

The Robesonian

OPINION SHAPER

Iran is challenging a bedrock of American geopolitical power

The reason why we have the Fifth Fleet, one of the most awesome naval forces ever assembled in the history of mankind, is to protect the sea lanes in the Middle East.

That the Strait of Hormuz is now effectively closed is not just a blow to the global economy and a key point of leverage for the Iranian regime, it is an assault against one of the foundations of American power.



Rich Lowry
Contributing Columnist

Guarding the safe passage of commerce has been a core Anglo-American commitment for a couple of centuries, with the baton of naval leadership passing from the British to the United States around the time of World War II. British naval preeminence in the 19th century contributed to the creation of the modern world by enabling relatively safe and inexpensive global commerce. We have done the same in the post-World

War II era.

This has never been an entirely altruistic endeavor, since — as two commercially oriented nations heavily involved in international trade — the U.K. and the U.S. benefited mightily from the arrangements guaranteed by their warships. But so did everyone else.

Just consider the global pain from the current effective closure of the strait, which is being felt at the pump in the U.S. and threatens to hammer Europe and countries throughout Asia. Not just oil, but aluminum, fertilizer and any number of other products are being affected. If shipping in the strait remains as constrained as it is now for months rather than weeks, the economic damage could become intolerable.

Iran is the equivalent of a piratical Barbary state that is managing to undermine a defining element of American geopolitical strategy, despite the beating that it is taking otherwise. We have two carrier strike groups in the region, representing alone more firepower than many nations can muster, and the Iranians have some missiles, drones and mines — and yet, they've effectively closed the strait and we, for now, can't reopen it.

This is a stark demonstration of asymmetrical power, and the longer it goes on, the more it will look like a national humiliation. There's no one who is going to bail us out because we have a world-class navy, whereas our allies don't — even if they wanted to help.

Trump would like to muster an international force to reopen the strait, but Germany has rebuffed him, and the Japanese and Australians aren't interested. France is putting together a force — to deploy after the end of hostilities.

Imagine if that had been our attitude about the Battle of Belleau Wood. The fact of the matter, though, is that allied countries aren't going to think it's possible to reopen the strait if we haven't managed to do it on our own.

Trump's two basic options are to seek some unsatisfactory accommodation with the Iranians that ends in a ceasefire — with the Iranians having demonstrated their de facto control of one of the most consequential waterways in the world — or to break their grip on the strait by force of arms, perhaps up to and including the deployment of ground forces to secure the shores of the strait.

Trump seems inclined to bludgeon the strait free of Iranian control. U.S. officials say we could begin naval escorts in a matter of weeks, and they worked during the Tanker War between Iran and Iraq in the 1980s.

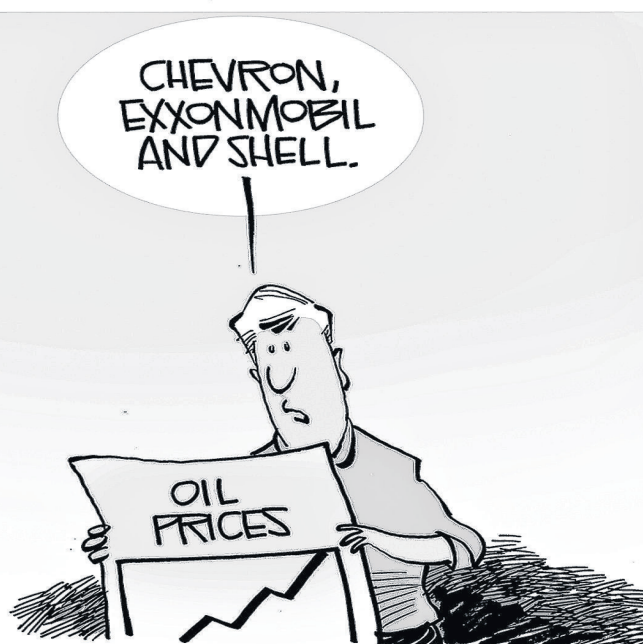
The great 19th-century naval strategist Alfred Thayer Mahan argued, "Control of the sea by maritime commerce and naval supremacy means predominant influence in the world." This was the experience of the British, and has been ours for a long time. "The necessity of a navy," Mahan also said, "springs from the existence of peaceful shipping and disappears with it."

In the Strait of Hormuz right now, peaceful shipping has largely disappeared, while we are deploying a mighty navy. If our forces can't restore free navigation, it will represent a significant failure of a traditional pillar of U.S. power.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



MIKE MILLER
ARTIST: MIKE MILLER
DATE: 4/25/2026
TITLE: WHO WILL WIN THIS WAR?...



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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

ROBESON COUNTY
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.

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

Welfare reforms create good problems

RALEIGH — When Congress passed its budget-reconciliation bill last summer, it created a bunch of problems for North Carolina policymakers — thank goodness!

No, really. Federal law now imposes work requirements on able-bodied adults enrolled in Medicaid and removes some exceptions to similar requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), once called food stamps. Federal law now also requires North Carolina and other states to shoulder more of SNAP's administrative costs.

Both reforms correct perverse incentives. When Congress appropriates the vast majority of funding for a program to be administered by states or localities, the latter have little fiscal motivation to resist program expansion or police fraud. And when any level of government offers public assistance to poor, non-disabled adults, it runs the risk of disincentivizing work, marriage, and other choices that promote human flourishing.

When the North Carolina General Assembly reconvenes next month for its 2026 session, one subject on the table will be how best to apportion an additional \$85 million in SNAP administrative costs

between the state and its counties. Under the current formula, the distribution would be \$16 million and \$69 million, respectively.

Recognizing the fiscal constraints on many counties, state lawmakers may well decide to slice that pie differently. What lawmakers neither wish nor possess the power to do, however, is to shirk this new responsibility. One outcome, I hope, will be broader reforms to streamline eligibility determination and case management for all public-assistance programs.

Similarly, while I believe most legislators welcome tougher work requirements, even those who feel differently about them should accept not only that the reconciliation bill is now the law of the land but also the fact that requiring work in exchange for welfare benefits is very popular. It has been for decades.

Indeed, I think Congress ought to expand the concept to encompass another welfare category: housing assistance. Whether beneficiaries reside in government-owned housing projects or receive vouchers to rent private units, those without severe disabilities or young children ought

to be required to work or perform community service as a condition for retaining their benefits.

North Carolina policymakers may soon be able to implement a version of this idea even without congressional action. Kevin

Corinth, deputy director of the Center on Opportunity and Social Mobility at the American Enterprise Institute, reports that a new rule proposed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development would allow local governments to impose time limits and work requirements on federal housing assistance.

Corinth argues that the two conditions would be mutually reinforcing. "While time limits mitigate work and marriage disincentives over the long run," he writes, "in the short run families would still face the prospect of losing a portion of their current housing subsidy by earning more money. Work requirements can mitigate this disincentive by requiring at least some base level of work to maintain full assistance.

In addition, encouraging sustained attachment to the labor market can help families transition to greater self-reliance when

their time-limited housing subsidy expires."

Offering workfare instead of welfare is a good example of the biblical adage that "there is nothing new under the sun." The English philosopher and statesman John Locke, namesake of the North Carolina think tank with which I am affiliated, spent the latter part of his public service as a commissioner on the Board of Trade in London. In 1697, he drafted reforms to combat both indigence and indolence.

Dividing the poor into three categories — those who "can do nothing at all towards their support," those who "cannot maintain themselves wholly" but are "able to do something towards it," and those able to "maintain themselves by their own labor" — he proposed unconditional aid for the first group, supplemental aid for the second, and employment only for the third.

The "true and proper relief of the poor," Locke wrote, "consists in finding work for them" so that the able-bodied "do not live like drones upon the labor of others." True then, true now.

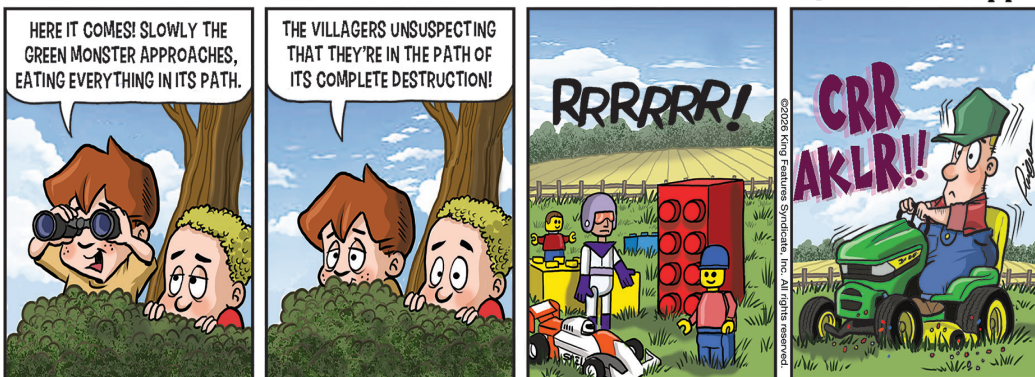
John Hood is a John Locke Foundation board member. His latest books, *Mountain Folk* and *Forest Folk*, combine epic fantasy with early American history (FolkloreCycle.com).



John Hood
Contributing Columnist

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



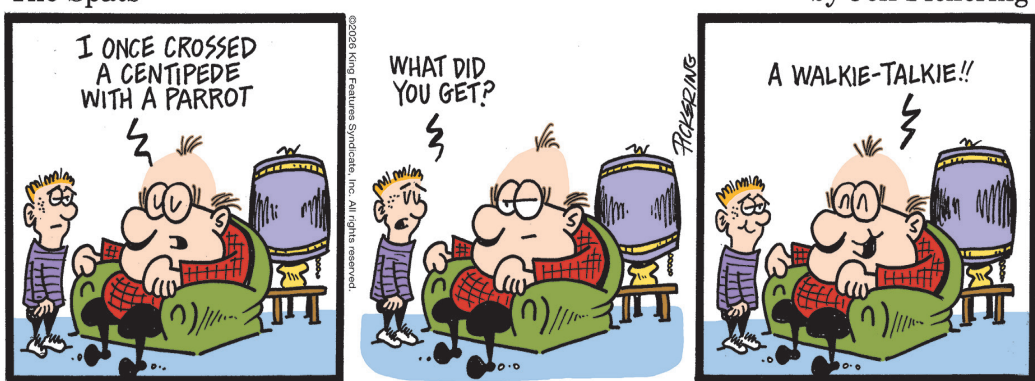
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



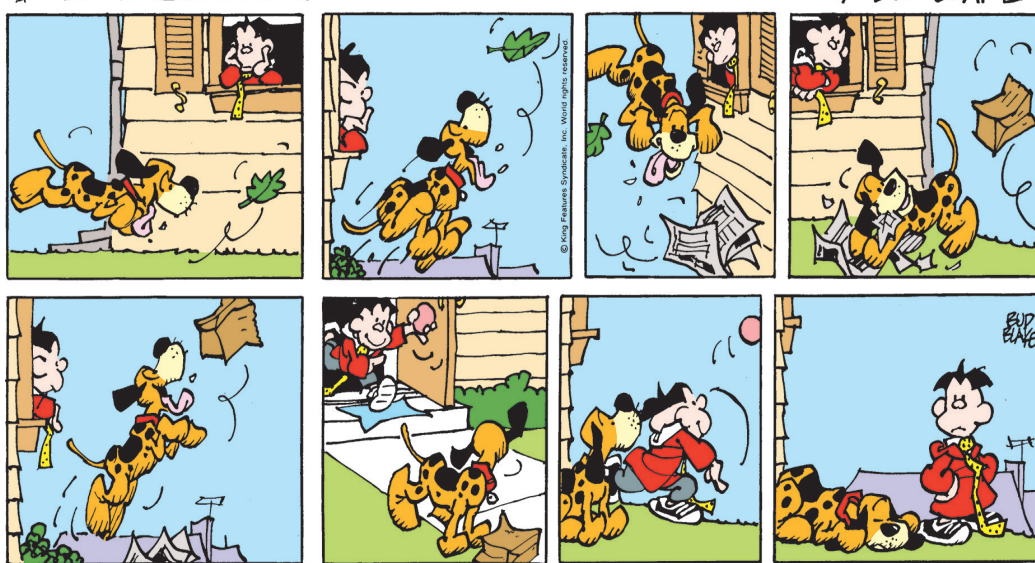
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



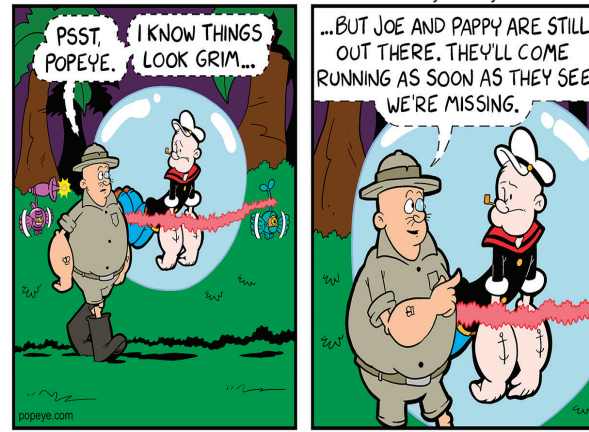
TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Milholland



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: R equals T

KR ROY GMHHTLXL' LKHMMC,
 MCY MD ROY GMLR FMFTHKE
 BMBXRKNHL ROYU MDDYE NL
 K ETLRU LCKNH.

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SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Display **EARPAD**

Process **RAMENN**

Crazy **LAMENT**

Divine **SCARED**

First of all, we want _____ bills...

TODAY'S WORD

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Sticks (out)
- 5 Govt. loan agcy.
- 8 Answer an invite
- 12 Canyon comeback
- 13 Chest muscle
- 14 Andy's boy
- 15 Israeli airline
- 16 Dumpster explorer
- 17 Spoken
- 18 Costa Rica neighbor
- 20 "Good as new," for one
- 22 Crow's greeting
- 23 French diarist
- 24 Pedestal
- 27 Nevada gambling city
- 32 Recipe abbr.
- 33 "Sixth sense"
- 34 U.K. recording label
- 35 Document destroyer
- 38 Love god
- 39 Numerical prefix
- 40 Discoverer's call
- 42 Aid
- 45 More serene
- 49 La Scala melody

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18				19			20	21		
		22					23			
24	25	26		27	28	29			30	31
32				33				34		
35			36	37				38		
		39				40	41			
42	43			44	45		46	47	48	
49				50	51		52			
53				54			55			
56				57			58			

- 50 Genesis vessel
- 52 "Othello" villain
- 53 Taxpayer IDs
- 54 Fish eggs
- 55 Streetcar
- 56 Wise one
- 57 Summer hrs. in D.C.
- 58 Robust
- 5 Really spread out
- 6 Actress Arthur
- 7 Performs
- 8 Rent sharer
- 9 Spaniel type
- 10 Test tube
- 11 Soccer leg-end
- 19 Bell or Barker
- 21 Bill of sale (Abbr.)
- 24 "Dynamite" band
- 25 Blond shade
- 26 Tidying (up)
- 28 Enzyme suffix
- 29 Toothed wheel
- 30 "I love," to Ovid
- 31 Bro's sib
- 36 Sheathe
- 37 God, to Galileo
- 38 Crude stone artifact
- 41 "That's a laugh!"
- 42 Lip
- 43 — Major
- 44 Exceptional
- 46 Kate of "The Martian"
- 47 Alike (Fr.)
- 48 Apple variety
- 51 Scepter

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Weekly SUDOKU

4		9	6					8
3			4	8	6			1
		2		1	3	4		
9	8	4	5	2				6
					8			
	2	4	3				5	9
9		8	3	4	1			7
7	8		1					3
1	3			9	4			

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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FiveSpot™

S	H	A	R	P

Solve each row by replacing one letter from the answer above or below and scrambling to make a new word. When complete, the top and bottom words will have no letters in common.

FiveSpot is a trademark of Michael McLinden. See more at www.sproutsuzzle.com

02632

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY: Which Canadian province lies to the north of Washington state?
- MOVIES: In the "Star Wars" movies, which character wields a purple lightsaber?
- GAMES: In Monopoly, how much money do players get when they pass "Go"?
- FOOD & DRINK: Which fast-food chain's 1970s jingle began, "Hold the pickles, hold the lettuce, special orders don't upset us"?
- TELEVISION: What holiday did George's dad invent in the sitcom "Seinfeld"?
- ANATOMY: How many skin cells does the average human being shed in a minute?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: How many presidents have won the Nobel Peace Prize?
- ASTRONOMY: How many moons does Mars have?
- LITERATURE: What is the name of Harry Potter's pet owl in the novel series?
- SCIENCE: What is the boiling point of water in Celsius?

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SEPARATE

Today's Word
 3. Mental; 4. Sacred
 1. Parade; 2. Manner

SCRAMBLERS

E	F	N	K
R	I	N	E
S	E	R	F
R	A	F	S
A	R	S	P
R	P	S	H
P	A	R	P

Solution

6	1	3	7	2	9	4	8	5
7	4	8	6	1	5	9	2	3
2	9	5	8	3	4	1	6	7
1	2	4	3	8	6	7	5	9
5	3	6	1	9	7	8	4	2
6	8	7	4	5	2	3	1	6
8	6	9	2	7	1	5	3	4
3	7	2	5	4	8	6	9	1
4	5	1	9	6	3	2	7	8

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

At the mollusks' saloon, one of the most popular cocktails they offer is a rusty snail.

CryptoQuip

Answer

- British Columbia
- Mace Windu
- \$200
- Burger King
- Festus
- 30,000 to 40,000
- Four: Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Jimmy Carter and Barack Obama
- Two: Phobos and Deimos
- Hedwig
- 10, 100 degrees C

King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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 Merchandise for Sale - Special 3 lines or less - 7 days \$34.50
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 Saturday's paper @ 4pm Thursday
 *Holiday deadlines will vary.
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Linda Currie - Classified Service Rep | lcurrie@robsonian.com

SRVWTRD



LEGALS LEGALS LEGALS LEGALS LEGALS LEGALS LEGALS LEGALS LEGALS LEGALS

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 ventre 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 ventre 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 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 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

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.
 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

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

IN RE: JA'MERE THOMPSON, 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 sought is as follows:

For the Court to determine if the juvenile is a neglected as defined by N.C.G.S. 7B-101 (15).

You will further take notice that the undersigned will appear before the Juvenile Court of Robeson County forty (40) days or more after this first date to such pleadings by said time, upon your failure to do so, the undersigned will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

If you are indigent, you are entitled to court appoint counsel. You may contact the Robeson County Clerk of District Court, Juvenile Division and request counsel.

This the 17th day of March, 2026

Jose A. Coker
 N.C. Bar No. 28478
 The Charleston Group
 Attorneys for Robeson County
 Department of Social Services
 Post Office Box 1762
 Fayetteville, NC 28302-1762
 Telephone No.: (910) 485-2500
 Telecopier No.: (910) 485-2599

3/25 4/1 4/8 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

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 no 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

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

GARY ALLEN SCHWARZMAN II vs. WHITNEY NICOLE SCHWARZMAN

FILE NO. 26 CV 000256-770

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

TO: WHITNEY NICOLE SCHWARZMAN

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action in Lumberton, Robeson County, North Carolina. The nature of relief being sought is as follows: Complaint for Absolute Divorce.

You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than the 4th day of May, 2026, said date being forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, or from the date Complaint 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 25th day of March 2026.

KEOSHA C. HUNT
 Attorney for Plaintiff
THE LAW OFFICE OF KEOSHA HUNT, P.L.L.C.
 319 North Elm Street
 Lumberton, NC 28358
 (910) 225-5242 Telephone

3/25 4/1 4/8 2026

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 no 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

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

IN RE: PAISLEY BLANKS, JUVENILE

TRISTAN BLANKS, 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 sought is as follows:

For the Court to determine if the juveniles is neglected as defined by N.C.G.S. 7B-101 (15).

You will further take notice that the undersigned will appear before the Juvenile Court of Robeson County forty (40) days or more after this first date to such pleadings by said time, upon your failure to do so, the undersigned will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

If you are indigent, you are entitled to court appoint counsel. You may contact the Robeson County Clerk of District Court, Juvenile Division and request counsel.

This the 17th day of March, 2026

Jose A. Coker
 N.C. Bar No. 28478
 The Charleston Group
 Attorneys for Robeson County
 Department of Social Services
 Post Office Box 1762
 Fayetteville, NC 28302-1762
 Telephone No.: (910) 485-2500
 Telecopier No.: (910) 485-2599

3/25 4/1 4/8 2026

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

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

THE CLASSIFIEDS THAT CLICK

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

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

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. 23E0000656-770
 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

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF DOROTHY THOMPSON DECEASED
FILE NUMBER 25 E 001676-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of **DOROTHY THOMPSON**, 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 29th 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 25th day of MARCH 2026

GENE B THOMPSON
 4581 W MCDUFFIE
 CROSSING RD
 LUMBERTON NC 28360

3/25 4/1 4/8 4/15 2026

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina; VS. Plaintiff, EMMANUEL WESNER JEAN and wife, QUANISHA JEAN, Owners, TIME OUT COMMUNITIES, Lienholder, CITY OF LUMBERTON, a political subdivision of the STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, Lienholder and CRYSTAL GRAHAM, GUARDIAN AD LITEM OF EMMANUEL WESNER JEAN and wife, QUANISHA JEAN, OWNERS; Defendants, IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO.: 26CV000871-770 AMENDED NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION TO: EMMANUEL WESNER JEAN and wife, QUANISHA JEAN, Owners, TIME OUT COMMUNITIES, Lienholder, CITY OF LUMBERTON, NORTH CAROLINA, a political subdivision of the STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, Lienholder and CRYSTAL GRAHAM, GUARDIAN AD LITEM OF EMMANUEL WESNER JEAN and wife, QUANISHA JEAN, OWNERS;

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 11th 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: Owner(s) of Record: Title Reference: PIN No: Tax Account No: Property Location: DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY Emmanuel Wesner Jean and wife, Quanisha Deed Book 2126 Page 339 320802025 1192401

City of Lumberton, Lumberton Township, Lot at 26th and Riverwood Avenue, 704 W. 26th Street, Lumberton, NC Traditional Dwelling listed on property in good condition All that certain lot or parcel of land located in the City of Lumberton, Lumberton Township, Robeson County, North Carolina, on the North side of 26th Street, West of but not adjacent to Kenan Avenue, and more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING at an iron stake in the North line of 26th Street, said iron stake being North 85 degrees 45 minutes West 108 feet from a point where the North line of 26th Street intersects the West line of Kenan Avenue, said point of beginning being also the Southwest corner of Lot No. Seven (7) as shown and designated on a map entitled "Extension No. 2 of Subdivision NO. 1- Tanglewood", prepared by W. E. Stone, Jr., Surveyor, dated November 3rd, 1951, and duly recorded in Book of Official Maps No. 9, at page 30, Robeson County Registry, and runs thence with the North line of 26th Street, North 85 degrees 45

minutes West 108 feet to an iron stake in the North line of 26th Street; thence North 4 degrees 15 minutes East 108 feet to an iron stake; thence South 85 degrees 45 minutes East 108 feet to an iron stake, the Northwest corner of said Lot No. 7 referred to above; thence South 4 degrees 15 minutes West 108 feet to the beginning.

Being that same tract or parcel of land described in that Substitute Trust Deed from Albertelli Law Partners North Carolina, P.A., substitute trustee to Nationstar Mortgage, LLC d/b/a Champion Mortgage Company dated July 13, 2017, and recorded in the Robeson County Register of Deeds at Deed Book 2093, Page 516. The property hereinabove described was acquired by Grantor by instrument recorded in Book 2110, Page 225, ROBESON COUNTY REGISTRY. A map showing the above-described property is recorded in Map Book 9, Page 30. The above-described tract is subject to all right-of-ways, easements and out conveyances of record. Plaintiff seeks to 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 11, 2026, or by April 20, 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 26th 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 7306 Page-2 of 2 Emmanuel Wesner Jean et ux, Quanisha Jean

3/11 3/18 3/25 2026

LEGALS

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 DENISE MICHELLE BRITT ALLEN DECEASED FILE NUMBER 26 E 000304-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of DENISE MICHELLE BRITT 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 29th 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 25th day of MARCH 2026.

LESTER MITCHELL ALLEN 239 CEMETERY STREET PARKTON NC 28371

3/25 4/1 4/8 4/15 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

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF EVA GRAY IVEY PAGE DECEASED FILE NUMBER 25 E 001713-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of EVA GRAY IVEY PAGE, 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 29th 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 25th day of MARCH 2026.

DEVIN LEE ATKINSON 172 MISTLETOW DRIVE ORRUM NC 28369

3/25 4/1 4/8 4/15 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF JACQUELYN SIMMS THOMPSON DECEASED FILE NUMBER 26 E 000023-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of JACQUELYN SIMMS THOMPSON, 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 29th 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 25th day of MARCH 2026.

ANGUS BOAZ THOMPSON JR 2130 KENTUCKY CIR LUMBERTON NC 28358

3/25 4/1 4/8 4/15 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

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

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ROOMMATE WANTED! Call Chris at 910.738.4702

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

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ROOMMATE WANTED! Call Chris at 910.738.4702



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STATEWIDE ADS

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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!

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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 [Steppacher Law Offices LLC Principal Office: 224 Adams Ave Scranton PA 18503]

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Notices

Proposals for the provision of Region N Nutrition Services (Congregate and Home Delivered meals) for older adults in Bladen, Hoke, Richmond, Robeson and Scotland counties for Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028) are being solicited by the Lumber River Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging. These services are funded through the Home and Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults. The packet may be accessed via www.lumberrivercog.org. Questions should be directed to Twilla Allen (910) 775-9781 or tca@lrcog.org. Proposal submission deadline will be Monday, April 6, 2026, at 2:00 pm. Final approval decisions will be made by the Lumber River Council of Governments Board of Directors, which reserves the right to consider the most advantageous offers and reject any and all offers. Written notification of qualification selection will be provided to each entity submitting an IFB.

Notices

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE ROBESON COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW

Pursuant to N.C.G. S. 105-322 The Robeson County Board of Equalization and Review will meet as required by law.

PURPOSE OF MEETINGS

To hear upon request, any and all citizens who own or control property assessed in Robeson County, with respect to the valuation of such property, or the property of others and to fulfill other duties and responsibilities required by law.

TIME OF MEETINGS

Tuesday April 14th at 9:00 a.m. and Tuesday June 16th at 9:00 a.m. for the purpose of accepting application for appeals. If you wish to appeal your value you will have to contact Tax Administration and file an appeal by June 16th at 9:00 a.m.

PLACE OF MEETINGS

Meetings will be in the Training/Meeting Room 2nd Floor located at the Administration Building, 550 N. Chestnut Street, Lumberton.

In the event it is decided that the Board will adjourn earlier or later than June 16, 2026, notice to that effect will be published.

The schedule for hearing appeals will be posted at the Office of the Tax Administrator and will also be provided to individuals and organizations that have requested notice pursuant to G.S. 143-318.2.

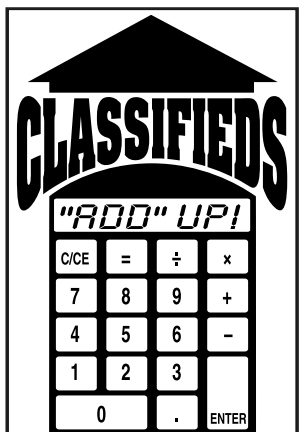
All requests for hearings shall be made in writing to the Board of Equalization and Review or by personal appearance before the Board. Mail written request for hearing to:

Robeson County Tax Administrator's Office
550 N Chestnut Street
Lumberton, North Carolina 28358
(910) 671-3060

Preprinted appeal forms are available in the Tax Administrator's Office

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUR CLASSIFIEDS?

Get the required dose of information you need to keep you informed by reading our newspaper weekly.



Maxton

From page 1A

The investigation is ongoing. The Bureau of and the Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) is assisting with the investigation.

Anyone with information about the case is asked to contact the Robeson County Sheriff's Office at 910-671-3100 or email sheriff.wilkins@robesoncountysync.gov.

"Under our system of justice, every person is presumed to be innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law," RCSO

said in a social media post. "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 stated. "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."

Grants

From page 1A

Grants are not available for regranteeing, capital campaigns, capital improvements, out-of-state travel or individuals. The board of advisors of the Robeson County Community Foundation, an affiliate of the North Carolina Community Foundation, awards funds.

"These grants provide an opportunity for our nonprofits to grow their impact in our community," said Tim Little, board president. "Their work makes Robeson County stronger and we're honored to help support them."

For further information, contact Abbey Lauten, NCCF program officer, at alauten@ncccommunityfoundation.org or 910-202-6727.

The Robeson County Community Foundation

(RCCF) is a growing family of philanthropic funds, a source of grants for local causes, and a partner for donors. The RCCF was founded in 2005 and is led by a local volunteer advisory board that helps build community assets by creating permanent endowments, making grants, and leveraging leadership — all for the benefit of Robeson County.

The RCCF board members live and work in Robeson County, positioning them to leverage resources strategically, meet local needs, and access opportunities. In addition to Little, board members include Dennis Hempstead (president), Blake Tyner (vice president), Suzanne Abbott, Cherry Beasley, Kenny Biggs, John Carter, Cathy Jackson, Josh Jackson, Linda Metzger, Margarete Morley, Sandra Oliver, Mat Patterson, Caroline Sumpter, Allison Harrington Walters and Viv Wayne.

Shine

From page 1A

stage.

The winner of this year's competition will receive a \$2,000 cash prize, with second place receiving \$500 and third place receiving \$250. Additionally, a People's Choice Award will be awarded based on ticket sales and donations made at checkout.

Sponsors for this year's edition of the talent competition are Tom Taylor/County Commissioner, Dr. Dalton P. Brooks and Robeson Pediatrics.

This year's host will be Rebekah Revels Lowry, and this year's contestants are from Fairmont, Lumberton, Maxton, Bladenboro, Aberdeen, Loris, Chadbourn, Pembroke, Clarkton, Red Springs, Rowland & Charlotte. They include: — Savannah Turner — Marissa Green

— Sarah Sanderson — Nora Chadwick — Cortez Forbes — JaLisa Grate — Kaitlin Oxendine — Haley Lewter — Ryley Floyd — Landynn Kennedy — Dayne Clothier — Maya Shird — Kamryn Drayton — Alaira Jacobs — Infinite Harmony — Stevie Williams — Calista Deal — Andrea Locklear — Anya Gupta Tickets for the competi-

tion are \$20 for general seating and can be purchased online at www.carolinaciviccenter.com at any time. Tickets can also be purchased in person with a credit card or cash, from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, at the theater's administrative offices, or by calling 910-738-4339. When available, tickets can also be purchased at the door. Theater lobby box office opens for ticket sales one hour prior to the performance.

Scotland County improves vaccination rates against measles

Morgan Casey
Border Belt Independent

LAURINBURG — Scotland County had a measles scare in January.

A patient at a local urgent care had symptoms that are common with the infectious disease, which can include a high fever, red eyes, and a rash. Medical providers then contacted Amanda Holland, director of the Scotland County Department of Health and Human Services.

The patient ultimately didn't have measles. But health officials had reason to be worried: North Carolina has seen 24 measles cases since the start of December, according to the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services.

Most of the cases have been in Buncombe and Polk counties in western North Carolina. But Scotland County borders South Carolina, which is experiencing the largest measles outbreak in the United States. The state had 997 cases as of March 17, mostly in Spartanburg County in the northwestern corner of the state, according to the South Carolina Department of Public Health.

"We were concerned," Holland told the county health and human services department's advisory board members on March 19. "We're kind of situated between that."

Holland and her team decided to focus on increasing measles vaccination rates among Scotland County children. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says the two-dose measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine is the best way to protect against the highly contagious disease, which is caused by a virus and infects a person's respiratory tract.

When the Border



Vecteezy

Belt Independent asked the Scotland County Health and Human Services Department about measles vaccination rates in schools in January, officials identified two schools that fell below the 95% vaccination threshold the CDC says is necessary to protect against a measles outbreak. In the 2024-2025 school year, Sycamore Lane Primary School had a vaccination rate of 87.5%, and Wagram Elementary School had a 92.7% rate.

Health officials reached out to Nicole Monroe, a school nurse supervisor, to get more of the schools' students vaccinated. Thanks to Monroe's efforts, Sycamore Lane now has a vaccination rate "well above" the 95% threshold, said Clerissa Butler, lead immunization, communicable disease, and tuberculosis nurse at the county health department.

"I'm hoping the same for Wagram," said Butler, adding that the health department is waiting for parents' approval to vaccinate students there.

County health officials plan to encourage families

to vaccinate their children against measles during back-to-school efforts this summer, Butler told the advisory board. North Carolina requires all public school students to have both doses of the MMR vaccine by kindergarten.

The state offers medical and religious exemptions. Non-medical exemptions are on the rise; the percentage of students with a non-medical exemption for one or more vaccines more than doubled between the 2020-2021 and the 2024-2025 school years, according to the CDC. Butler reported that one student at Sycamore Lane Primary School had a religious exemption to the MMR vaccine.

North Carolina has not seen any new cases of measles since the end of February. But one of the most recent exposure notices came from nearby Cumberland County on March 19. Officials there told residents that an individual who tested positive for measles visited a country club in Fayetteville on March 13.

The Scotland County

Health and Human Services Department now screens residents for measles symptoms at its registration desks. Butler said any patient who has measles will receive the MMR vaccine, which is the CDC's recommended treatment. If a measles patient is pregnant or the MMR vaccine poses risks to their health, they will be given immunoglobulin, which is made from donated human blood plasma that contains antibodies to help fight the disease.

Measles was first considered eliminated in the United States in 2000, but it is at risk of losing that status if cases continue to rise. Last year, the country saw its highest number of measles cases since 1991, according to the CDC, and there have been 14 new outbreaks in 2026.

Morgan Casey covers health care in southeastern North Carolina for The Assembly Network. She is a Report for America corps member and holds a master's degree in investigative journalism from Arizona State University.

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Photo courtesy of PSRC

During the March 10 PSRC Board of Education meeting, PSRC proudly recognized Mary Watson, a third-grade teacher at Rowland-Norment Elementary School, as the March Certified Impact Award recipient. Watson, holding the plaque, is pictured with RNES Principal Joanna Cole and PSRC Board members and leadership.



During the March 10 PSRC Board of Education meeting, PSRC proudly recognized school nurse Marilyn Sanderson, who serves Rowland-Norment Elementary and Littlefield Middle schools, as the March Classified Award recipient. Sanderson, holding the plaque, is pictured with RNES Principal Joanna Cole and PSRC Board members and leadership.

PSRC recognizes March Impact Award recipients

Jessica Sealey
For The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — The Public Schools of Robeson County honored its March Impact Award winners during the March 10 PSRC Board of Education meeting.

“These individuals work collaboratively to cultivate a supportive and thriving school environment,” said Jamal Campbell, PSRC assistant superintendent of human resources.

The district extends gratitude to Austin Jacobs

and Chick-fil-A for sponsoring this month’s gift cards and to Brandon Ventura and Sign City for sponsoring plaques.

Certified Employee: Mary Watson

The district proudly recognized Mary Watson, a third-grade teacher at Rowland-Norment Elementary School, as the March Certified Impact Award recipient.

“Ms. Watson demonstrates exceptional leadership, professionalism and commitment to student

success,” said RNES Principal Joanna Cole. “Beyond her excellence in the classroom, she serves as grade-level chair, School Improvement Team representative, and digital teaching and learning coach. In all roles, she fosters collaboration, data-driven instruction and schoolwide improvement.”

“Ms. Watson strengthens team morale, promotes innovation through effective technology integration, and models integrity, enthusiasm and

high expectations that positively influence both student outcomes and staff performance,” she added.

PSRC celebrates Watson for her commitment to student success and the powerful difference she makes each day in the lives of her students, colleagues and school community.

Classified Employee: Marilyn Sanderson

The district proudly recognized school nurse Marilyn Sanderson, who

serves Rowland-Norment Elementary and Littlefield Middle schools, as the March Classified Award recipient.

Cole praised Sanderson for her “outstanding service, mentorship and compassionate care across multiple schools in the PSRC district.”

“Beyond her clinical duties, she has trained and guided other nurses, modeled professionalism and ethical practice, and consistently upheld high standards,” Cole added. “Known for her calm,

dependable presence and dedication — even beyond work hours — Nurse Sanderson is celebrated for her lasting impact on students, staff and the broader school community.”

The district celebrates and honors Sanderson for her compassion, servant leadership and her commitment to student health, which helps drive success in the classroom.

Jessica Sealey is the PSRC chief communications officer. Reach her by email at jessica.sealey@robeson.k12.nc.us.

Purnell Swett students earn top awards at JNCG competition

Jessica Sealey
For The Robesonian

THOMASVILLE — Purnell Swett High School students brought home top awards from the Jobs for North Carolina’s Graduates (JNCG) Career Development Competition held recently at Davidson-Davie Community College.

The PSHS team took second place in the Business Plan Category (Wicca Tubalado and Miranda Olivar) and third place in the Financial Literacy Category (Khimora McDougald).

Kendall Morrison, Jobs for North Carolina Graduates college and career specialist at Purnell Swett, expressed excitement about students’ achievements.

“The students worked

extremely hard preparing for these events, and it was great to see their efforts recognized at the competition,” he said.

The competition provided students with an opportunity to showcase the skills and competencies they have developed throughout the school year. The event included presentations, demonstrations of career readiness skills and applied learning experiences aligned with workforce and postsecondary expectations.

“This achievement reflects their dedication, teamwork, and the strong support system we have here at Purnell Swett. We are very proud of how well they represented our school,” Morrison added.

PSRC Superintendent Freddie Williamson also

shared congratulatory remarks.

“On behalf of the Public Schools of Robeson County, I would like to congratulate these outstanding students for their excellence and commitment to display at the competition,” Williamson said.

“Events like the Jobs for North Carolina Graduates Career Development Competition provide a platform for students to showcase their skills, represent their school and district with pride, and reflect the impact of the dedicated teachers who prepare them to be Robeson Future Ready,” Williamson added.

Jessica Sealey is the PSRC chief communications officer. Reach her by email at jessica.sealey@robeson.k12.nc.us.



Photo courtesy of PSRC

The Purnell Swett team from the Jobs for North Carolina’s Graduates (JNCG) Career Development Competition held recently at Davidson-Davie Community College in Thomasville.

UNCP students donate musical rug to local teacher



Contributed photo | Jose Rivera

UNC Pembroke’s Student Chapter of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) on Friday donated a classroom rug to Janet Meier, music teacher at Long Branch Elementary School in Robeson County. UNCP music education students fundraised for two years and were able to donate an instructional rug for Meier’s students. This partnership is part of the chapter’s celebration of Music in our Schools month. Pictured, from left, are UNCP music education faculty Jose Rivera, Santiago Ruiz, Ayden Bailey, Meier, UNCP NAfME Student Chapter President Mariah Smith and music education faculty Michael Tignor.



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As demand for GLP-1 pills and shots surges, healthy habits are still key

Jonel Aleccia
AP Health Writer

Whether they're using weekly shots or daily pills, more Americans than ever are turning to anti-obesity drugs to lose weight and boost health.

About 1 in 8 U.S. adults say they are taking a GLP-1 drug, according to a recent survey by the health research group KFF.

Just since January, more than 600,000 prescriptions have been written for Novo Nordisk's new Wegovy pill, the company said. Early analysis suggests that more than a third of users are new to the drugs, according to Truvena, a health care data company.

But medication alone isn't the answer, experts caution. It also takes lifestyle changes — healthy diet, exercise, adequate sleep and stress management — to reap the biggest benefits from the drugs known as GLP-1s.

"The biggest mistake people make with GLP-1 medications is thinking the prescription is the treatment," said Dr. Katherine Saunders, an obesity medicine expert at Weill Cornell Medicine and co-founder of FlyteHealth, a weight-loss treatment company.

GLP-1s can spur weight loss and health benefits on their own, but the effects are larger and last longer when the drugs are combined with lifestyle changes, a recent review of nearly three dozen studies found.

Here's what experts say you should know about GLP-1 drugs and healthy habits:

It's not all about weight. Obesity is a big driver of chronic disease, including conditions such as heart disease and diabetes. But the focus should be overall health and not just the numbers on a scale, said Dr. Jody Dushay, an endocrinologist and obesity expert at Harvard Medical School.



Pedestrians take in the warmer than normal temperatures near the North Avenue Beach Pier along Lake Michigan on Feb. 26, 2024 in Chicago. Charles Rex Arbogast | AP File Photo

"Health is what you eat, how much you move your body, what is your blood sugar, what is your cholesterol," she said. "All of those things are really important."

The GLP-1 drugs work by targeting hormones in the gut and brain that slow digestion and target appetite and feelings of fullness. That effect "levels the playing field," said Saunders, making it easier to adopt healthy habits like eating less and moving more.

"Social media and advertising sometimes create the impression that these medications are a quick fix, but obesity is a complex, chronic, progressive disease" that requires ongoing medical management, she added.

What does research show about GLP-1s and lifestyle changes?

The clinical trials of anti-obesity medications like Wegovy and Zepbound included structured lifestyle programs along with the medication, which are advised along with every new prescription.

That results not only in significant weight loss, but improved health markers.

A February study of more than 98,000 U.S. military veterans found that those who used a GLP-1 and adhered to six to eight healthy habits had a 43% lower risk of serious cardiovascular events such as stroke and heart attack than those who didn't use the drugs and followed three or fewer such habits.

Lifestyle habits "can substantially amplify the benefits of modern medications" noted Dr. Frank Hu, a lead author and chair of the nutrition department at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Which changes are most important?

To maximize the benefits of GLP-1s and reduce potential side effects like nausea, vomiting, constipation and muscle loss, Dushay and other experts offer specific advice.

Maintain muscle by eating 20 grams to 30 grams of protein per meal, which could include fish, poultry, yogurt and beans. Eat more fiber and drink more water — as much as 8 to 12 cups a day. If heartburn or nausea is a problem, avoid fried foods and spicy foods, and

don't lie down after meals.

Aim for 150 minutes of aerobic exercise a week, or, ideally, about an hour a day. Add in 30 minutes of strength training two or three times a week, such as lifting weights or using resistance bands.

Get enough sleep — seven to nine hours a day for a healthy adult. Take steps to reduce mental and emotional stress.

Finally, check in with a health care provider about your progress. The GLP-1 drugs can have rare but serious side effects, the experts noted.

"Someone really does need to keep track of: What is the pace of your weight loss? What are your side effects? And not just mailing you a prescription every month," Dushay said.

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Sports

The Robesonian

Wednesday, March 25, 2026 • Section B



Contributed photos | Katrina Wilkins McKinnon
David Shaw takes a photo with family and friends in front of signage commemorating the David Shaw Track Complex during Saturday's dedication ceremony at St. Pauls High School.

'David Shaw is St. Pauls track'

Bulldogs' track complex dedicated for longtime coach

Chris Stiles
The Robesonian

ST. PAULS — The naming of the track complex at St. Pauls for David Shaw is appropriate, Principal Jason Suggs said, because Shaw's name and the Bulldogs track program are already so synonymous.

"David Shaw is St. Pauls track," Suggs said. "He was the first track coach, he was coach for 38 years, had 19 individual state champions. But that only tells part of the story with him. Not only was he a state-championship builder, he was a person builder. He's everything you'd want in a coach. Integrity. He built young men and women."

The David Shaw Track Complex was dedicated on Saturday, recognizing Shaw's decades of service leading the track program at the school.

"It was meaningful," Shaw said. "It lets you know that what you've done stood out, and more than just the athletes. It stood out in the work that you did, stood out in the community, and actually all over the state — I've received calls from coaches I haven't heard anything from in 20, 25 years. It's a great honor."

The ceremony included remarks from several speakers and the unveiling of a sign that reads "David Shaw Track Com-

plex" on the scoreboard beyond the south end of the track.

"My favorite part of it was just, thank the Lord, being able to see my name up on the sign," Shaw said. "A lot of people don't get to see it, things like that to happen; I'm fortunate enough and blessed enough to see it, to see it go up and be up."

A symbolic ribbon cutting was then held on the track's finish line before Shaw led attendees in a "victory lap" around the track.

"When he cut the ribbon and everybody took a lap around the track with him, like a victory lap, that was kind of the moment," said St. Pauls track coach Charles Johnson, who coached many years alongside Shaw. "And then just to hear his words of why he did what he did what he, why he continues to do what he does, they just touched hearts."

Shaw competed in track and field collegiately at St. Augustine's, where he was part of a successful program. That then led to a coaching career.

"That sort of led me back to where I wanted to be, and I got the opportunity to be a track coach, so I took what I learned and gained from being around success on the collegiate level and just brought it to the high-school level," Shaw said.



David Shaw cuts the ribbon during Saturday's ceremony dedicating the David Shaw Track Complex at St. Pauls High School.

Shaw coached 19 individual state champions, 60 conference champions and won 72 Coach of the Year awards across his career between track and cross country, boys and girls.

Among the many noteworthy athletes that he coached was Lee Vernon McNeill, who went on from St. Pauls to become a record-setting track athlete at East Carolina, then to the U.S. Olympic team at the 1988 games in Seoul, South Korea.

"I tried to put in my athletes, there's a difference between a winner and a champion," Shaw said. "A winner is someone that wins now and then, but a champion is someone who's going to fight to the very end to defend his title. Once the athletes started seeing

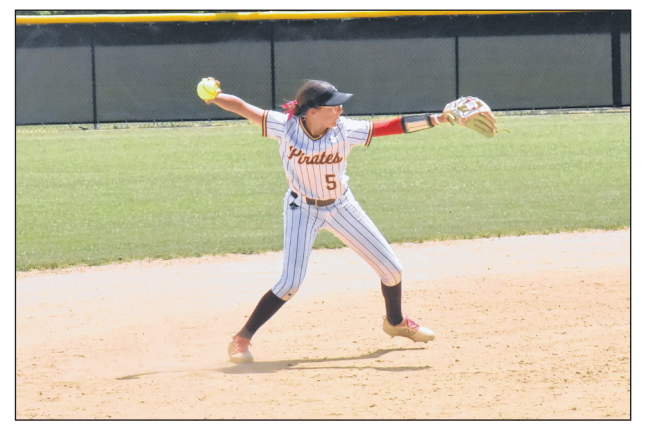
'hey, we've got something special going on here,' it became a model, because nobody wanted to be the first team to lose, and everyone fought for that."

Shaw said his goal was not only for his athletes to have success on the track, but to provide them off-track support and to give them someone to talk to if needed.

"That's where a lot of my success came from is just making my athletes feel comfortable and knowing that they've got somebody that'll fight for them," Shaw said.

"I love him like he's my dad — that's the way he treated me, and still does," Johnson said. "For a long time he set a high standard, not just about

See SHAW | 2B



Zack Ciboth | Special to The Robesonian
Lumberton's Jaelyn Hammond throws the ball to first base during an 2024 Robeson County Slugfest game against St. Pauls in Fairmont.

Robeson softball teams up and down through first month

Jacob Husson
The Robesonian

ROBESON COUNTY — Roughly a month has passed since the start of softball season in Robeson County and like every year, some teams are hot while some are not. Each team has certain things working for and against them. It's time to visit some of those factors for each team, listed in alphabetical order.

Fairmont

The Fairmont Golden Tornadoes have dropped their last two games after winning three of their first four. The first four games had an offensive storm on their side, as they scored seven or more runs in each game, en route to a 3-1 start.

However, in the last two games, they've scored two runs total, as the offense has been a main reason for consecutive losses. Now, Fairmont (3-3 entering play Tuesday) is looking for answers to get back in the win column.

Kimberleigh Stevens leads Fairmont in multiple categories with a .522 batting average and a .577 on-base percentage. Cecilia Chavis and Addison Ivey are both also hitting .400 or better this season, while also having an on-base percentage over .500.

Layla Hunt and Chavis lead the Golden Tornadoes in stolen bases with four each, while Hunt's nine runs scored also leads the team. Ivey and

See SOFTBALL | 2B



Jacob Husson | The Robesonian
Lumberton's Carliyah Mathis (24) and Cape Fear's Sophia Hudson (18) battle for possession during Monday's game in Lumberton.

Pirates' win streak ends in loss to Cape Fear

Jacob Husson
The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — The Lumberton Pirates ran into a brick wall on Monday, losing to the Cape Fear Colts, 5-1. This ended a solid three-game winning streak for Lumberton as the Pirates played their Tri-County Conference opener.

"For the first 15-20 minutes, we played great, we got the initial goal and we were on our A-game," Lumberton coach Ethan Freeman said. "As the first half continued, the game went back and forth just like how soccer can go. I think in the second half, the wind picked up and I think that was the major factor. Cape Fear did great. They outthusted us in the second half."

Lumberton (6-3, 0-1 TCC) got the initial goal with 33:34 left in the first half, thanks to Sophia Benitez. Cape Fear (3-5-1, 1-0 TCC) tied the game up with 24:28 remaining, before taking a 2-1 lead with 5:43 left in the half. The Colts took this 2-1 lead into half-time.

Unfortunately for the Pirates, the floodgates opened in the second half. After allowing goals with 36:05 and 24:25 to go, they gave up one more with 10:34 left.

Lumberton plays Gray's Creek at home on Wednesday, then will be off until Monday when the Pirates host Terry Sanford.

UNCP baseball swept by Young Harris

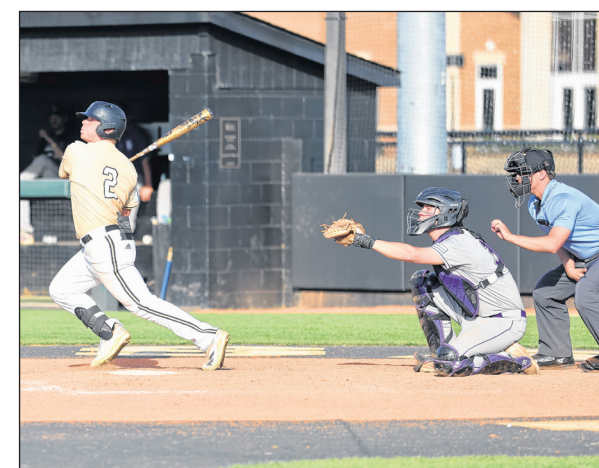
Jacob Husson
The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — The bats were dormant for the UNC Pembroke baseball team in its Saturday doubleheader against Young Harris on Saturday, losing 4-2 and 15-2, as the No. 15 Mountain Lions completed the three-game series sweep over the No. 23 Braves. This series extended the Braves' losing streak to four after an impressive 19-5 start to the season.

"The biggest thing that went wrong (in the finale) was the first inning," UNCP head coach Paul O'Neil said. "We hit four batters in the first and we gave up four runs in the first and it just took all the wind out of our sails and we obviously weren't able to come back from it."

Game one

UNCP (19-8, 12-5 Conference Carolinas) kicked



UNCP Athletics
UNC Pembroke's Jacob Smith puts the ball in play during Saturday's game against Young Harris in Pembroke.

See BASEBALL | 2B

Softball

From page 1B

Peyton Bullock each have six runs scored to tie for second on the team.

Stevens leads the team with nine runs batted in, while Chavis has six and Mary Cummings has four. Efforts to reach coach Carley Williams for this story were unsuccessful.

Lumberton

After winning three of their first four games this season, the Lumberton Pirates have dropped three of their last four. One of the biggest problems for the Pirates (5-5, 1-3 Tri-County Conference entering play Tuesday) lately has been offense. A group that scored 44 runs in their first four games has only scored two in their last two contests. When at its best, the pitching staff has dominated with three shutouts so far this season.

“(The pitchers) have stuck to our gameplan, especially attacking the

strike zone and keeping batters off balance,” Lumberton coach Will Britt said.

Offensively, the Pirates will need to get back on track if they want a successful season. The lack of production has led to back-to-back losses.

“At the beginning of the season, we were very aggressive and we just need to get back to a simpler gameplan of attacking the pitches,” Britt said.

Charleigh Talton leads Lumberton with a .548 batting average and a .583 OBP. She also leads the team with three home runs.

Jaelyn Hammond, the 2025 Robeson County Player of the Year, has been a speedy baserunner with a team-high 14 stolen bases.

Finally, Ava Hanna leads Lumberton with a 1.00 ERA, while tag-teaming the pitching duties with 2025 Robeson County Pitcher of the Year Norah Johnson.

Lumberton played Purnell Swett at 7 p.m. Tuesday night. Results were not yet available at

the time of publication.

Purnell Swett

The Purnell Swett Rams are off to a hot start this season, which includes winning four of their last five games. The Rams (6-2, 3-1 TCC entering play Tuesday) have been successful, largely because of offense, as they’ve scored 94 runs in eight games this season, included a 26-run explosion when they visited Terry Sanford. Plus, they’ve been solid on the other side, only allowing 42 runs to their opponents.

“The girls are pulling together and being good teammates,” Purnell Swett coach Amy Lancaster said.

Braci Woods has been the standout pitcher for the Rams so far, currently holding a 1.74 ERA, while Zaylee Hunt has impressed offensively, currently maintaining a .750 on-base percentage.

Purnell Swett’s two losses are by a combined three runs, while their six wins are by a combined 55 runs.

“We’ve just been prac-

ting and staying on our game,” Lancaster said.

Kamryn Locklear, the 2025 Robeson County Underclassman of the Year, leads the Rams with a .600 batting average, while Chloe Chavis leads the team with eight stolen bases.

The Rams face the Terry Sanford Bulldogs on Friday at 6 at home.

Red Springs

As softball season has gotten underway, the Red Springs Red Devils (5-2 entering play Tuesday) have been elite offensively. In their five wins, the Red Devils have scored 93 runs, more than 18 per game. Also in those games, they’ve allowed only 21 runs, roughly four per game. What they need to avoid is a repeat of their games against Hoke County. They’ve been outscored 23-1 in two games against the Bucks this season.

“Early on, we were hitting aggressively and running the bases well,” Red Springs coach Donnie Carter said.

Red Springs is averaging over 10 hits per game

when they win, so they’ll want to stay hot at the plate to continue their success.

“It takes pressure off the pitchers when the hitters are doing well,” Carter said.

The Red Devils team has five seniors, including Telinda Pate, Cabanna Wilkins, Joslyn Jacobs, Emily Brooks and Gabriella Locklear. Junior Ava Goins should also be a key player for Red Springs.

The Red Devils played the South Brunswick Cougars Tuesday and will play them again on Friday. Results were not yet available for Tuesday’s game. These contests against the Cougars (7-3) are critical as they begin conference play and show how they stack up against other good teams in the region.

St. Pauls

The St. Pauls Bulldogs (1-7 entering play Tuesday) are currently looking for answers, as they’ve lost by 10 or more runs five times already this season and are currently on a three-game losing

streak.

“Our pitching needs to be more consistent,” St. Pauls coach Phillip Tyler said.

Tyler gave an explanation of why he thinks the pitchers have struggled.

“We’ve had some injuries,” he said. “Everybody needs to continue to step up so we can continue getting better.”

Offensively, the Bulldogs started out slow too, scoring a combined five runs in their first four games. However, while they continue to lose because of pitching, the offense has found its stride with 49 runs in the last four games.

Angel Purcell leads the Bulldogs with a .652 batting average and a .704 on-base percentage. She also has a team-high three home runs and five stolen bases.

As the season progresses, the Bulldogs need to find more pitching consistency if they want to have more success.

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



Contributed photo | Katrina Wilkins McKinnon
David Shaw, right, shakes hands with St. Pauls Principal Jason Suggs, left, during Saturday’s ceremony dedicating the David Shaw Track Complex at St. Pauls High School.

Shaw

From page 1B

who he was but making sure the kids were taken care of. It was always about the kids, making sure the kids could have the best, do the best. And whenever the kids didn’t have the things to make it a top-notch program, you would never know it because of all the work he put in.”

Many of those athletes came back on Saturday to show their appreciation; Suggs said that 140 people were in attendance when the school stopped counting, a group including St. Pauls coaches, administrators, community members, church members and, of course, former athletes.

“There was a lot of people there to pay homage to a great man who deserves his flowers while he’s still walking,” Suggs said.

Baseball

From page 1B

off the scoring in the first inning with a two-run home run off the bat of Mason Mozeley that scored Daniel Stephens. Young Harris (22-6, 15-2 CC) scored in the third inning off a single from Drew Bray that scored Sydney Ward.

In the fourth inning, the Mountain Lions scored two more runs, as a Ward double brought Jonny Smith and Jack Enrico home, giving YHC a 3-2 lead. Their final run came in after an errant throw on a Carlos Martans single allowed Ward to score.

Sydney Ward had two

hits, two RBI’s and two runs scored in game one for Young Harris. Carlos Martans went 2-for-3 with an RBI for the Mountain Lions.

Young Harris’ Barrett Eldridge won the first game, allowing two runs over five innings and striking out five batters. Trey Harris got the save, pitching the last two innings, allowing no runs and only one hit, while striking out two.

UNCP’s Mason Mozeley went 1-for-2 with two RBI’s and a run, while Daniel Stephens went 1-for-3 with a run scored in the loss.

Braves starter Kasen McCawley (7-1) allowed four runs over six innings, striking out six in the loss, his first of

the season. Ryan Wells allowed two hits but no runs in one inning of relief.

Game two

The Mountain Lions wasted no time starting to hit in the series finale, as they scored four in the first inning. They added another run in the second, before scoring four in the fourth to lead 10-0. Young Harris scored another five runs in the fifth and sixth innings and led 15-0 at that point.

The Braves scored two runs in the bottom of the ninth on a Jackson Crute two-RBI double, but it was too little, too late.

Young Harris’ Austin Ritchie (2-0) got the win, only allowing two hits over five innings

without giving up a run. He struck out five batters. Tommy Dowd came in to pitch in relief, allowing no runs over two innings. Drew Sofield and Brock Parker pitched the last two innings, as Parker allowed UNCP’s two runs.

UNCP’s pitching staff struggled throughout the game, as four pitchers allowed two or more runs. Cam Revels (1-1) took the loss.

UNCP hosts No. 16 Wingate for a nonconference matchup at 3 p.m. Tuesday before hosting Shorter for a three-game series beginning on Friday.

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

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ROBESON COUNTY ATHLETIC SPOTLIGHT

RED SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL

JACOBY LOWERY
Basketball

Jacoby Lowery is hitting .565 through the first eight games with 11 RBIs and seven runs scored, helping the Red Springs baseball team to a 6-2 start. He also contributed on the mound in a pair of wins last week against Douglas Byrd and Seventy-First, combining for six innings with three runs on five hits and nine strikeouts in the two outings.

LUMBERTON HIGH SCHOOL

AVA HANNA
Softball / Volleyball

Lumberton senior Ava Hanna is hitting .472 with 10 RBIs, eight doubles and 15 runs so far this season, while also allowing just three earned runs in 21 innings pitched, a 1.00 ERA, with 18 strikeouts. She has been part of two no-hitters, one combined with Norah Johnson and the other in a solo outing in a three-inning win over Terry Sanford last week.



Chris Stiles | The Robesonian
NCHSAA Commissioner Que Tucker, left, presents Fairmont girls basketball coach Marcus Thompson with a basketball denoting the team's state runner-up finish following the 4A state championship game March 13 in Winston-Salem. Tucker on Monday announced her retirement, effective Oct. 1.

Tucker to retire as NCHSAA commissioner

Staff report

CHAPEL HILL — After more than three decades of service to education-based athletics in North Carolina, Que Tucker has announced she will retire as Commissioner of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, effective Oct. 1.

A native of Reidsville, Tucker has dedicated her career to supporting student-athletes and strengthening high school athletics across the state. She joined the NCHSAA staff in 1991 after serving for two years as an assistant women's basketball coach at North Carolina State University under legendary head coach Kay Yow.

In Dec. 2015, Tucker was officially named Commissioner of the Association, becoming

the first woman and first African American to hold the position in NCHSAA history.

During her tenure, Tucker helped lead the organization through significant growth and change. Under her leadership, the Association saw increased participation opportunities for female athletes and expanded recognition for female and minority coaches and administrators. Her career has consistently focused on using athletics as a platform for education, leadership and personal development.

"Since I joined the NCHSAA in 1991, it has been the privilege of a lifetime to work for and help guide an organization rooted in education, sportsmanship, and opportunity," Tucker said. "Together, we have navigated moments of

growth, challenge, and change — always with a shared commitment to doing what is right and what is best for students across our state."

Tucker attended Mars Hill University, where she led the Mountain Lions in scoring for two seasons and later became a charter member of the school's Athletic Hall of Fame. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in physical education in 1974 and later earned a master's degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 1977. Her career journey began in 1975 as a public-school teacher and coach at West McDowell Junior High School for two years and continued at Reidsville High School for 12 years.

During her time as assistant executive director at the NCHSAA,

Tucker developed the Association's student services program, focusing on substance abuse education, leadership development, academic accountability and citizenship. Tucker later assumed the deputy director position, overseeing the entire sports program.

Tucker was inducted into the NCHSAA Hall of Fame in 2012 and the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame in 2024.

Her leadership as Commissioner has helped guide the NCHSAA through a period of modernization and expanded opportunities while maintaining a commitment to the values of education-based athletics.

Additional information about the search for the Association's next commissioner will be announced later.

LATE FRIDAY



Jacob Husson | The Robesonian
Fairmont's Cecilia Chavis (2) throws a pitch during Friday's game against Lake View in Fairmont.

Fairmont's losing streak reaches 3 in scoreless effort

Jacob Husson
The Robesonian

FAIRMONT — The Fairmont Golden Tornadoes' bats were silenced Friday night, as they lost 2-0 in their softball matchup against visiting Lake View. This extended the Golden Tornadoes' losing streak to three games.

"Yeah, it was a tough loss, but I think we still played good ball," Fairmont head coach Carley Williams said. "Our bats just didn't come around like they should have. We hit the ball. We just hit it right to people."

Fairmont (3-4) was held scoreless as Lake View's (1-3) pitchers had their way throughout the contest. After scoring 51 runs in their first four games, they've only scored two in the last three games. On the other side, after only allowing 16 runs in the first four games, they've allowed 17 during this three-game losing streak.

"We've been in a bit of a hitting slump in the last couple games," Williams said. "In this game, we started hitting again, so it's really just hammering down on it and getting in the cage a little bit more."

Fairmont will host Green Sea Floyds on Monday in an effort to end this losing streak. That will be the first of a three-game week that includes the Golden Tornadoes' first two Southeastern Athletic Conference contests, Tuesday and Friday against South Columbus.

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RCC drops 2 out of 3 to Pitt CC

Staff report

LUMBERTON — The Robeson Community College baseball team took one win in a three-game series at home against Pitt Community College over the weekend.

The Eagles dropped the opener 18-2 on Saturday despite solid efforts at the plate. Ty Lee led the way with two hits in two at-bats, while Ayden Wall and McCoy James each drove in a run.

The Eagles battled back late in game two to secure a 7-6 win over Pitt. Trailing 6-2 in the

sixth, Robeson erupted for five runs, with Noah Hince delivering the clutch two-RBI single to give the Eagles the lead.

Hince finished a perfect 3-for-3 at the plate, while Ayden Wall added a home run early to set the tone. The Eagles' late push and timely hitting sealed the comeback victory.

Lezlie Jackson put on a show in Sunday's game with two home runs and five RBIs, but the Eagles came up short, 12-9. The offense tallied 11 hits, with Hince adding two more. The team showed

patience at the plate with eight walks and stayed aggressive on the bases with four steals.

Earlier in the week, Robeson played at Florence-Darlington Tech and took a 17-9 loss. Jorge Torres, Owen Noonan and Hince helped build an early lead, while a five-run fifth — highlighted by Jackson's three-RBI double — kept things

close. Ayden Wall added a solo home run. Jackson led the way with two hits, three RBIs and two stolen bases.

Robeson hosts Fayetteville Tech at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday before a three-game weekend set at Brunswick Community College, with Saturday's doubleheader beginning at 12 p.m. before a single game at 1 p.m. Sunday.

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UNCP ROUNDUP

Braves set 3 school records at Alan Connie Shamrock Invitational

Staff report

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — UNC Pembroke's Sofia Skidmore and Malea Bennewitz each brought home new school records on the final day of action at the Alan Connie Shamrock Invitational on Saturday.

Skidmore crossed in 5:08.28 to establish a new school record and take seventh in the women's one-mile run, while Bennewitz ran a 10:30.07 and finished fifth to set the new school record in the women's 3000-meters.

The 4x100 meter relay team of Ta'Niyah Glaspie, Geri Herrera, Arianah Davis and Janaya Davis-Gainer finished fourth with a time of 47.20 to round out the top-five finishers on the women's side.

On the men's side, the 4x100 meter relay team of Calen McKinney, Jacobe Jones, Mekhi Hayes and Shamar Fields took first with a time of 40.74, while the 4x400 meter relay team of McKinney, Hayes, John Davis and Jones finished third at 3:18.42. Kelvin

Kibet crossed in 8:56.11 to take fourth in the 3000-meters to round out the top-five finishers.

The men's squad finished with 69 points to take fourth place at the event, while the women's team tallied 20 points to finish 13th.

The two squads combined to establish 18 new personal bests and three school records at the event.

On Friday, the women's 4x200 meter relay team broke a 25-year old school record to highlight the day's action.

The 4x200 meter relay team of Glaspie, Davis-Gainer, Davis and Herrera crossed in a time of 1:39.49 to break the school record set in 2001 and finish second in the event. Bennewitz ran a personal-best 5:18.68 to take third in the open division one-mile run to round out the top five finishers on the women's side.

On the men's side, Conrad Robertson ran a personal-best 4:26.66 to win the open division one-mile run,

while Payden Lewis established a new personal best by over 40 seconds to win the 5000-meters with a time of 15:11.46. Adam Rogers took second in the open division pole vault with a personal-best mark of 4.11m. Antony Kigen was third in the one-mile run at 4:32.45, while Kelvin Kibet also brought home a third-place finish with a time of 15:17.09 in the 5000-meters to round out the men's top-three finishers.

Both squads will be back in action Thursday, March 26 as they head to the Raleigh Relays hosted at N.C. State. The two-day event will take place at Paul Derr Track.

Braves golf 8th at Patsy Rendleman Invitational

Catherine DeSiena carded a 16-over-par score through the first two rounds of action at the Patsy Rendleman Invitational to position the UNC Pembroke golf team in eighth place on Monday at the Country Club of Salisbury.

DeSiena (16 over par)

is in sole possession of 16th place and sits 12 strokes behind Mary-Paige King of Catawba, who leads the individual tournament with a two-round total of 146. Marta Ortega (17 over) is in a three-way tie for 17th place, while Ella Woo (24 over) is among a four-way tie for 33rd place. Maya Fitzgerald (28 over) is in a four-way tie for 41st place after two rounds, while Melissa Guerra Landa (32 over) rounded out the scoring for the Black & Gold in a tie for 48th place.

Taylor Black (19 over) who is playing as an individual, is in a three-way tie for 22nd place after two rounds.

The Braves played the final round of the Catawba-hosted Patsy Rendleman Invitational on Tuesday at the Country Club of Salisbury; the result was unavailable at press time.

Braves softball takes series at Emmanuel

The UNC Pembroke softball team recorded 17 hits and used dominating

performances in the circle from Summer Bullard and Rachel Mori to sweep Emmanuel on Saturday afternoon.

The Braves got a quick start to the day scoring three runs in the first inning to set the tone early and defeat the Lions 4-2. UNCP did not log a strikeout in game two and used a second inning three-run homer from Alona Hanna to complete the sweep with a score of 5-0.

In the first inning of game one, Alex Serbio got the game started for UNCP (24-10, 11-3 Conference Carolinas) with a double and scored on a double from Emma Wrenn. Alona Hanna drew a walk, then both runners advanced on a wild pitch. Chloe Locklear knocked a single through the infield to score both runners and give the Braves an early 3-0 lead.

Emmanuel (4-26, 4-12 CC) loaded the bases in the third after Shelby Rinefield reached via an error, Grace Ausborn drew a walk and Arlie Gooden reached on an

error. Ciara Passmore's single to the outfield scored a pair of runners to cut the score to 3-2.


Bullard (13-5) struck out six in seven innings of work, earning the win for the Braves. Autumn Matherly (2-12) took the loss for the Lions.

In the nightcap, Megan Ellis singled in the second inning for the Braves and moved to second on a sacrifice bunt from Kaitlyn King. Alex Serbio scored Ellis with a double, followed by a single from Emma Wrenn to put runners on the corners, before Alona Hanna sent one out of the park for a three-run blast to give UNCP a 4-0 lead.

Wrenn led the Braves with a 4-for-4 day at the plate. Mori (3-2) struck out five in a complete-game shutout.

Carson Stowe had two hits for Emmanuel. Reagan Beagle (2-9) was the losing pitcher.

The Braves were set to return to action at home on Tuesday, hosting Francis Marion. The result was unavailable at press time.



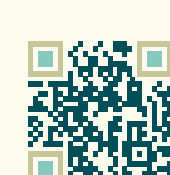
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