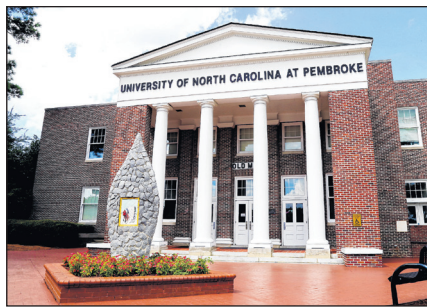


UNCP obtains more funding for facade restoration at iconic campus building. **News 3A**



AND...
Statewide
burn ban
in effect
News 8A

In today's paper
SPORTS:
Braves'
McCawley
no-hits Shorter
Page 1B



THE ROBESONIAN

Serving Robeson County Since 1870

Wednesday, April 1, 2026 • Issue 24, Volume 157

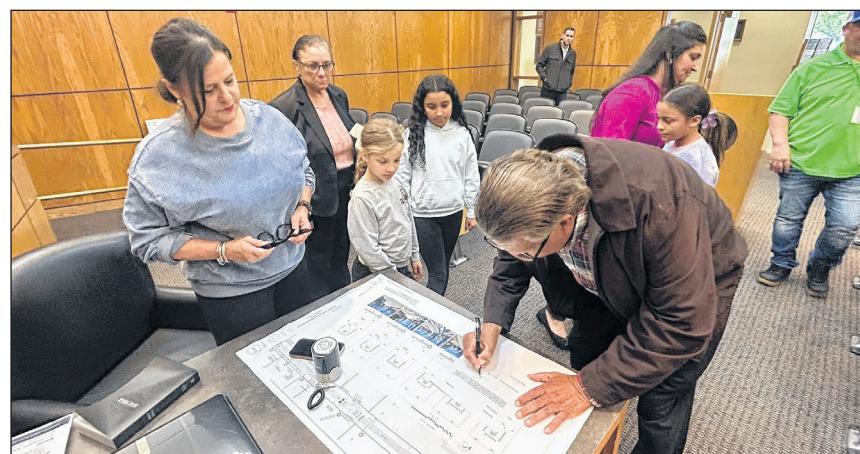
robsonian.com

A Fresh Perspective

Local
NEWS

\$1.50

Dial sworn in as Pembroke mayor



Contributed photo | Chad Herndon
Pembroke Mayor Allen Dial signs the swearing-in documents after taking the oath of office Monday in Pembroke.

Election board certifies contested '23 mayoral election after Cummings' request for stay denied

Staff report

PEMBROKE — Allen Dial was sworn in as Pembroke's mayor on Monday, just hours after the Robeson County Board of Elections certified his victory in the 2023 election for the office against Gregory Cummings. Some 874 days after Election Day, Dial's victory

was certified after the N.C. Supreme Court denied a stay requested by former mayor Gregory Cummings, who was the incumbent in the 2023 race and has held the seat since as the race was in limbo.

After numerous appeals by Cummings, Dial's 19-vote margin stands. The new mayor received 197 votes to

Cummings' 178, according to the official count from the N.C. State Board of Elections.

Robeson County Board of Elections Director Jessica Davis was advised on Monday morning by the state election board that she could issue the certificate of

See MAYOR | 8A

No homes damaged in St. Pauls wildfire

Staff report

ST. PAULS — No homes or structures were damaged or destroyed when a wildfire just west of St. Pauls spread to 184 acres on Saturday, the N.C. Forest Service said.

As of Monday evening, the fire was 100% contained.

The fire, known as the Blue Skies Fire, started Saturday afternoon. Four homes were under mandatory evacuations on Saturday evening, the N.C. Forest Service said, but those residents were allowed to return to their homes shortly thereafter on the same night as crews worked to extinguish the fire. The Robeson County Sheriff's Office implemented the evacuation.

The cause of the fire is undetermined and is under investigation as of Monday afternoon, the N.C. Forest Service said.

The N.C. Forest Service is working to "mop up any remaining hot spots while patrolling the fire area" as of Monday afternoon, a spokesman told The Robesonian. It was 90% contained as of Saturday evening.

The fire is located north of Veterans Road, west of St. Pauls.

See WILDFIRE | 8A

One Wild celebration



Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

Huge crowds came to the Lumbee Tribe Cultural Center on Saturday for the Tribe's Wild Game Festival. More than 700 people ate lunch, and hundreds more attended a community powwow held that afternoon. Pictured, the Little Lodge drum group performs during the powwow. For more photos from the Wild Game Festival, see page 9A.

ServiceMaster Restore
Service Master by ERS Inc.
Fire & Water Damage and Mold Restoration
910-7333808 • 1-833-761-2030
www.servicemasterrestore.com

TODAY'S FORECAST
Very warm with periods of clouds and sunshine. High 83, Low 58

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

B SPORTS

JOIN THE CONVERSATION
What's your take on today's news? Go to robsonian.com and visit us on facebook to share your thoughts.

1 83176 00025 5

[f](https://www.facebook.com/robsonian.com) [X](https://www.x.com/robsonian.com) [i](https://www.instagram.com/robsonian.com)

UNCP earns top national military-friendly rankings

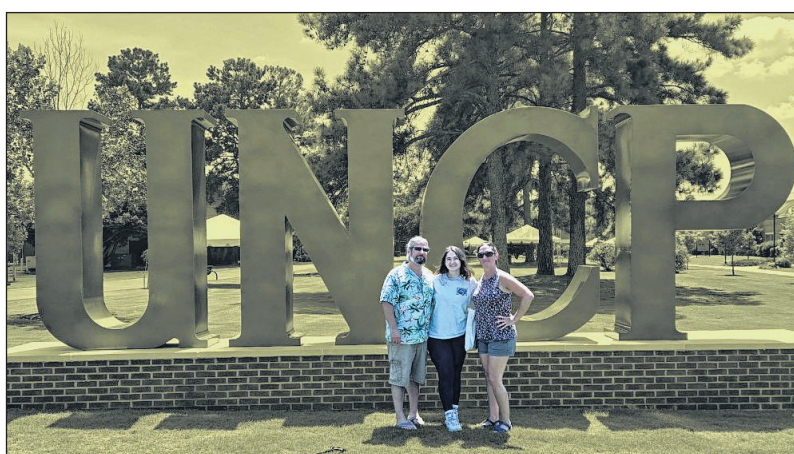


Photo courtesy of UNCP

Student veteran couple Corey and Rita Beal with their daughter, Cecilia, who is also a student at UNC Pembroke.

Mark Locklear
For The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — The University of North Carolina Pembroke has been named the No. 1 Military Friendly School among small public institutions for 2026-27, as well as the No. 2 Military Spouse Friendly School by militaryfriendly.com, reinforcing its national leadership in serving military-connected students.

"To be No. 1 and No. 2 is an honor and a responsibility," said Jasmine Coleman, UNCP's director of academic and military outreach. "It

See MILITARY | 10A

Your Future is looking bright!
Summer classes begin May 26th!
Register now! www.robeson.edu **ROBESON COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

EDITOR'S NOTE

No obituaries were received for this edition of The Robesonian. Find the latest obituaries as they are received at robesonian.com. Obituaries can be submitted to robobits@cmpapers.com.



Photo courtesy of NASA

The Artemis II mission is expected to orbit the moon, the first manned space mission to do so in more than 50 years.

NASA returns to the moon with Artemis II

Kenneth Brandt
For The Robesonian

The launch

If all goes well, the Artemis II mission will send humans back in orbit around the moon for the first time in over 50 years. The launch is scheduled for 6:52 p.m. from Cape Kennedy on Wednesday, April 1 (all kidding aside). The astronauts will launch on the most powerful rocket to carry humans into space, the Space Launch System, or SLS. SLS provides 8.8 million pounds of thrust. Compare that to the Apollo era's Saturn V, which had a thrust of 7.5 to 7.8 million pounds of thrust.

The flight

Artemis begins as all lunar human missions have begun-by orbiting the Earth. Then comes TLI: the trans-lunar injection, where the rockets are fired, and the spacecraft makes its way beyond the moon. The four astronauts will spend 10 days flying around the moon while going farther than any humans have been from Earth, and coming home on a free return trajectory that makes use of the moon and earth's gravity.

The crew

The four crew members of Artemis II include Commander Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and Jeremy Hansen. These crew members will be the first humans to go beyond low earth orbit since Apollo XVII in late 1972. Jeremy Hansen is a

Canadian Space Agency astronaut-the first astronaut not from the U.S. to be launched toward the moon. Victor Glover is the first African-American to make this lunar journey. Christina Koch will be the first woman to go beyond the moon. She is a native North Carolinian, graduating from Pender County High School. All of her collegiate degrees-including her doctorate, are from N.C. State.

The objectives

If this mission is a success, the following objectives will be met.
 — Demonstrate the performance of the SLS rocket during the first crewed launch.
 — Perform a 10-day mission flying around the far side of the Moon, roughly 4,600 miles beyond it, and return to Earth.
 — Conduct radiation studies and test hardware to measure the crew's physiological responses to deep space.
 — Demonstrate safe reentry and splashdown procedures in the Pacific Ocean.
 — Deploy five CubeSats from international partners to conduct science and technology research.
 — Set the stage for future missions to the moon and Mars.

If you're not travelling to the launch, you can catch the live broadcast of this historic event by going here: www.nasa.gov/live/ and NASA's YouTube channel.

Kenneth Brandt is the director of the Robeson County Planetarium. Contact him by email at kenneth.brandt@robeson.k12.nc.us.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Easter Bunny Photos, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., April 1: The Easter Bunny is visiting Biggs Park Mall! Stop by for a photo and complete a special spring outfit while shopping in the mall. Happy Easter!

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.

Southern Touch Craft Show, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., April 11: Southeastern NC Agricultural Events Center is hosting a Southern Touch Craft Show. Join all and shop from all the handcrafted artisans. Tickets in advance are \$5, and kids under 12 are admitted free.

Spring Fling, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., April 11: It's Spring at His & Hers Greenhouse! Shop with vendors, ride the Barrel Train, win a prize and buy plants and garden supplies for the new growing season. The festival is an annual event, so enjoy a day outside with family and friends.

Bunco Bash, 6 p.m., April 17: The Lumberton Woman's Club is sponsoring a Bunco Bash, a fundraiser for the Rape Crisis Center of Robeson County. Purchase advance tickets only by emailing your request to LumbertonWC@gmail.com. No experience needed to play, as instructions will be provided. Fantastic prizes provided for the winners! Drinks & Snacks are available for purchase. Tickets are \$10

each. The event is in the church's fellowship hall.

Glow Run, 7 p.m., April 17: The Robeson Road Runners invite you to a free event. The Glow Run is a 5K and a 1-mile fun run. Assemble at the pavilion by the Silo at Raymond B. Pennington Park @ 7:00 p.m. Enjoy!

Cowboy Mounted Shooting, 9 a.m., April 17: Details to be announced! The Cowboys and Cowgirls are competing at the Southeastern NC Agricultural Events Center.

Cruise In, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., April 18: Jack Pait Strawberry Farm is hosting its First Annual Cruise In. Antique cars, maybe a tractor or two and free food. Check out this inaugural event. Enjoy the friendly and welcoming atmosphere at the farm.

Rob Cole - Carter's Restaurant, 7 p.m., April 18: Enjoy an evening of live music with Rob Cole. Munch some delicious food, relax and enjoy the evening. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the concert starts at 8:15 p.m. Carter's Restaurant is located at Pinecrest Country Club.

Soul Serenade, 7 p.m., April 18: Take a choral journey through the 70's and 80's with Damion Murrill & Friends. Wear your best 70's and 80's outfit to the event. Space is limited, and pre-sale tickets are required as tickets will not be available at the door. For more information, call 910-317-0372. Tickets are \$30 each.

Spring Fling, 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., April 18: Spring is here at the Oasis, a Spring Fling event with vendors, food and lots of fun. Entry is \$10. The petting zoo is available during the Spring Fling, so book it in advance.

DIY & Unwind, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., April 22: The Robeson County Public Library is hosting an adult crafting event. Be creative and make a stamped tea towel. All supplies are provided; just show up and enjoy making the project. Call 910-738-4859 for more details.

Always A Bridesmaid, 7 p.m., April 24: SAVE THE DATES! April 24, 25, 26 and May 1, 2 and 3. Times of performances to be released soon! Purple Door Productions is presenting this hilarious comedic romp, in which four friends have sworn to keep the promise they made on the night of their Senior Prom: to be

in each other's weddings ... no matter what. More than thirty years later, these Southern friends-for-life are still making "the long walk" for each other, determined to honor that vow. This is a laugh-out-loud comedy that will definitely entertain.

Forever Motown, 7:30 p.m., April 24: Forever Motown is a celebration of Motown's influence and impact on popular music, with a focus on the beloved songs and performances of artists like The Four Tops, The Temptations, The Supremes, Smokey Robinson, Marvin Gaye, and more.

Fall Family Fun Fly-in, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., April 25: Remote control airplane hobbyists are invited to the Mt. Elim Remote Control Airplane and Boat Club, located at 13799 N.C. Hwy. 72 East in Lumberton, for their semi-annual Fall Family Fun Fly-in fundraiser. The event will feature local area pilots showcasing their flying skills, food and a raffle. For more information, contact Don Valentine at 910-887-5056 or donpaul.val@gmail.com.

16th Annual Shortest Parade, 10 a.m., April 25: Welcome once again to the shortest parade! We will have our traditional, always exciting parade, unexpected surprises, BBQ plate fundraiser for the Patrick Pait Memorial Scholarship, local vendors, and farm animals to pet. Bring your family, bring your friends, and come out for a great way to make a memory! It's a unique and fun experience!

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.

Get Noticed.

Advertise with us today!

Jesus Loves You

Enchanted Florist & Gifts

611 Union Chapel Rd
Pembroke

Owner: In-House Designer
Canadee Marie Yanick

910-521-0907
910-316-0851

Open Monday-Sunday
Flowers For All Occasions

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.

CONTACT US

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

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR:
Mike Skipper

2175 N Roberts Ave., Lumberton, NC 28358
Periodical postage paid at Lumberton, NC

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
The Robesonian, 2175 N. Roberts Ave., Lumberton, NC 28358-1028

Easter Bunny Photos

2026

March and April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
22						
1 pm to 5 pm					5:30 to 8:30	11 am to 8:30 pm
29			1	2	3	4
1 pm to 5 pm			5:30 to 8:30	5:30 to 8:30	5:30 to 8:30	11 am to 8:30 pm
5						

UNCP secures additional \$1M in federal funding for Old Main restoration

Mark Locklear
For The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — The restoration of Old Main at UNC Pembroke continues to gain momentum with an additional \$1 million in federal funding secured through the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2026.

Championed by U.S. Rep. David Rouzer, the funding builds on earlier investments to preserve the building's historic facade and marks a significant step forward in restoring one of UNCP's most iconic landmarks. The earmark was included in the federal spending package supporting transportation, housing and community development priorities.

"I am proud to support the restoration and preservation of Old Main," Rouzer said. "This historic building stands as a true testament to the resilience and enduring spirit of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina."

Originally completed in 1923 as the first brick building on campus, Old Main has long stood at the center of UNCP, both physically and symbolically, representing education, resilience and self-determination. Its history reflects that legacy: saved from demolition by community advocacy in 1972, devastated by a fire the following year and ultimately, with the assistance of then-Governor James Holshouser and the North Carolina legislature, restored and reopened in 1979.

But Old Main is not just a symbol of the past — it remains one of the university's most active and impactful academic spaces today.

Today, the building serves as a dynamic academic hub where teaching,

learning and student experience come together. It houses the Mass Communication department, where students gain hands-on experience in industry-standard media spaces, including WNCN-TV — a fully equipped television station — as well as a professional-grade studio, control room, podcast studio, editing suites and newsroom. The second floor features smart classrooms, faculty offices and collaborative spaces supporting student-led media organizations such as The Pine Needle newspaper, Indian-head Yearbook and the Mass Communication Student Club.

The building also serves as a central location for the university's Teaching and Learning Center, which supports faculty through professional development, instructional innovation and student success initiatives. Through faculty-led workshops, coaching and interdisciplinary collaboration, the center strengthens pedagogy, promotes teaching as a scholarly practice and advances strategies that enhance retention and learning outcomes across campus.

And Old Main's impact extends beyond the classroom, connecting academic experience with the cultural heritage that defines UNC Pembroke. The building is home to the Curt and Catherine Locklear American Indian Heritage Center and the Museum of the Southeast American Indian, serving as a vibrant hub for heritage, education and cultural awareness for tribes and communities across the Southeast.

"Old Main is more than a building; it is a symbol of UNC Pembroke and the foundation of who we are," said Chancellor Robin Gary Cummings. "This federal investment honors that legacy and ensures future generations of Braves will continue to learn, gather and be inspired in a space that reflects



Photo courtesy of UNCP

An additional \$1 million in federal funding has been secured as part of the restoration of Old Main at UNC Pembroke.

the promise and potential of education to change lives."

Previous funding for the project includes a \$750,000 History of Equal Rights grant from the Historic Preservation Fund, administered by the National Park Service, along with \$550,000 in university funds. Together, those investments support a \$1.3 million façade restoration project — the first major renovation planned for Old Main since its restoration more than four decades ago.

The project will include repairs to the building's pediment, mortar replacement and environmental protections designed to preserve its distinctive front. The work will be led by Jenkins Peer Architects and Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates.

The newly secured federal funding will help advance the exterior restora-

tion. The university continues to pursue additional support for remaining needs, including roof replacement, brickwork repair, climate control upgrades, window restoration and improvements that enhance accessibility and safety.

Cummings said the federal investment reflects growing recognition of Old Main's cultural, historical and regional significance and underscores the importance of preserving spaces that reflect an institution's legacy.

"The restoration of Old Main will ensure this treasured landmark continues to serve our students and community for generations to come," he said. "We are grateful for the continued federal support that helps us preserve and protect it."

Mark Locklear is a public communications specialist with UNC Pembroke communications & marketing. Reach him by email at mark.locklear@uncp.edu.

FROM THE LEGISLATURE

Budd, Tillis lead FARM Stability Act to stabilize agricultural labor costs

WASHINGTON — U.S. Sens. Ted Budd (R-N.C.) and Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) led several of their Senate colleagues in introducing the Farmworker Access and Retention Modernization (FARM) Stability Act today, which would codify the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) initiative to stabilize agricultural labor costs. This legislation aims to provide farmers with greater certainty and clarity when forecasting labor costs as they plan for future growing seasons.

"As labor costs continue to climb, our nation's farmers and ranchers deserve to know the price tag associated with keeping their operations going," Budd said. "Agriculture is North Carolina's leading industry and a cornerstone of our economy, but without a stable, reliable workforce, our producers cannot plan, threatening both their livelihoods and our nation's food supply. The DOL has helped provide farmers with the transparency they deserve, but now we must ensure agricultural labor costs remain affordable by passing the FARM Stability Act."

"The FARM Stability Act delivers the certainty our farmers need by



Budd



Tillis

bringing clarity and predictability to the H-2A wage process. By codifying the Department of Labor's approach, this commonsense legislation helps stabilize labor costs, strengthen our agricultural workforce, and ensure North Carolina's farmers can continue to feed and fuel our nation," said Tillis.

U.S. Sens. Tim Scott (R-S.C.), Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.), John Boozman (R-Ark.), Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), Pete Ricketts (R-Neb.), Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.), and Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) joined in introducing the legislation.

Farmers have been grappling with rapidly rising labor costs, driven in large part by the mismanagement of calculating

the Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR) used in the H-2A Temporary Agricultural Worker program, a press release stated. Last October, DOL sought to address this concern by issuing an Interim Final Rule (IFR). This rule established an annual adjustment to the hourly AEWR and created separate wage scales for entry-level and experienced H-2A workers, providing much-needed clarity for the agricultural industry.

To ensure the future stabilization of agricultural labor costs, the FARM Stability Act would:

- Codify DOL's Compensation Adjustment Factor for the AEWR.
- Ensure that housing provided by farm operators is adequately considered when determining the AEWR.
- Codify the Two-Tiered Wage Scale.
- Ensure that both entry-level and experienced agricultural workers are fairly compensated for their labor.

School board holds special meeting

Victoria Sanderson
The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — The Public Schools of Robeson County held a special-called board meeting on Monday.

The board heard a complaint shared with Assistant Superintendent Windy Dorsey Carr and Director of Curriculum and Instruction Debra Dowless regarding flex grouping during class time.

Flex Grouping is a practice in which students are periodically grouped with others during class group work, intended to ensure that

they are consistently surrounded by the best group possible for their task. The complaint alleged the groupings were unfairly favoring "gifted children," though no specific instances were mentioned.

Additionally, the board received an update on a complaint that was brought to them during the last closed session meeting. The complaint indicated that employees were receiving school-based salaries while performing central office duties.

Chief Financial Officer Erica Setzer told the board that, while the

complaint was correct, the board had approved a 2021 payment plan under which the central office would compare the salaries of school employees and central office employees, and whichever was higher would be the pay for a central office position.

"They have not received any bonuses, that I know of, that have been earmarked for school-based personnel," Setzer said.

The board's next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21.

Contact Victoria Sanderson at vsanderson@robesonian.com.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING RELATIVE TO APPLICATION BY CITY OF LUMBERTON FOR FUNDING UNDER THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1974, AS AMENDED

Notice is hereby given that the Lumberton City Council will conduct a public hearing on April 13, 2026 at 11:00 AM, or as soon thereafter as the agenda will allow, at the Lumberton City Hall relative to the intention of the City to apply for FY2025 CDBG funding under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act.

Lumberton intends to submit an application for a grant of approximately \$3,000,000 in CDBG Infrastructure funds to rehabilitate (by remove and replace or lining in place) approximately 7,330 LF of 8-15" gravity sewer piping, 28 manholes, 72 service laterals and associated appurtenances. All work will be like for like replacement with no increase in capacity. The proposed project will be in the areas of Steele St, Marion Rd, MLK Jr Dr, Chambers St, Crandlemire Rd, Caple St, McCollum St, Walker St, and along an outfall between Chambers St, Walker St, and Caple St.

The following is a tentative list of proposed activities and an estimated budget. The final application will be reviewed at the public hearing.

Infrastructure Improvements and	\$2,700,000
Grant Administration Estimated Budget	\$ 300,000

The proposed project will provide benefits to greater than 51% low and moderate income citizens based on surveys performed by the City. No individuals will be displaced nor will any require temporary relocation assistance as a result of the proposed project.

Citizens will be given the opportunity to provide oral and written comment on the City's past and proposed use of CDBG funds at the public hearing. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

If additional information is needed, please contact Stephanie Canady at 910-671-3844. Formal written complaints or comments concerning the application process that are submitted to the City prior to or following the public hearing will be responded to within fifteen (15) working days by the Mayor. A copy of the completed project application will be available for public review after April 30, 2026, at the Lumberton City Hall.

Persons with disabilities or who otherwise need assistance should contact Laney Mitchell-McIntosh at 910-671-3807 or lmittchell-mcintosh@ci.lumberton.nc.us (TDD # 800-735-2962) by April 2, 2026. Accommodations will be made for all who request assistance with participating in the public hearing.

This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Stephanie Canady at 910-671-3844 or at 500 North Cedar Street, Lumberton, NC for accommodations for this request.

Esta información está disponible en español o cualquier otro lenguaje a petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Stephanie Canady en 910-671-3844 o en 500 North Cedar Street, Lumberton, NC de alojamiento para esta solicitud.



Lincoln Heritage Funeral Advantage

Kary Wilkins Insurance Group
Regional Manager
Your Final Expense Solution
2175 N Roberts Ave, Ste. 203
Lumberton, NC 28358
910-374-4523
pastorkarywilkins@yahoo.com

Flowers By Billy
Voted Best Florist in Robeson County

Come Visit Our Vast Showroom Selection of Seasonal Designs and Beautiful Live Plants

2101-A North Pine St. • Lumberton • (910) 738-2279

Dog Has Styl Pet Salon
Paula Lewis
(910) 740-7857
Brandy Church
(321) 320-2081

Luxury Shampoo, Conditioner & Cologne Available
Large Selection Of Pet Safe Vegan Colors

Accepting New Clients
208 South Main Street
Fairmont, NC 28340
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Editorial

OPINION SHAPER

The Israel hoax

We've long known that Donald Trump drives his critics crazy, and he's now doing it to some critics who used to be friends. The isolationist right is convinced that President Trump is waging the Iran War in behalf of Israel, which would make him the handmaiden of a foreign power.

That should be a familiar-sounding charge since Democrats and the media spent most of Trump's first term making the same accusation, except the foreign puppeteer was Russia rather than Israel. Now, "Russia, Russia, Russia," as Trump puts it, has become "Israel, Israel, Israel."

All of this is misbegotten, first, because we have never had a president who is so thoroughly his own man as Donald Trump. Good luck trying to control him, as so many advisors have learned over the years. There are few things he's done as president where you've thought, "Oh, that's so unlike him."

That includes firing FBI director James Comey in his first term, one of the counts against him during the Russia frenzy, and launching the war against Iran today.

Going back 50 years, no one would have been shocked to learn that a nationalistic American president had bombed Iran. Trump is just such a figure, and sure enough, has bombed Iran twice now.

Trump has made bellicose statements about Iran since 1980, and nothing we've heard now suggests anything other than that he genuinely relishes killing Iran's leaders and destroying its weapons.

Temperamentally, Trump loves exercising power, always wants to do it on his own authority and seeks to preserve his options. It shouldn't be surprising, then, that as commander in chief of the world's most proficient military, he's been drawn to using and threatening force.

Israel didn't talk Trump into conducting his Venezuela raid, or menacing Denmark over Greenland, or looking to Cuba as his next potential target.

One argument, based on a distortion of remarks made by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, is that Israel forced Trump's hand; it was going to attack Iran no matter what, and we knew U.S. personnel would be hit by Iran in response and would be particularly vulnerable if we didn't hit Iran as well.

Check and mate, Bibi Netanyahu.

The idea, though, that Trump was too sheepish to stay Netanyahu's hand if the Israeli prime minister was about to launch a military operation that Trump opposed and was going to jeopardize American lives is preposterous.

Trump has been happy to say "no" to Netanyahu before. He pressured the Israeli leader into turning back planes at the end of the 12 Day War last June.

By alleging that Israel forced the U.S. into war, the isolationists think they are making a harsh criticism of the Jewish state, but they are really damning Trump. What worse offense can a president of the United States commit than subjugating his own nation to a foreign power? It's a treasonous act that deserves impeachment and removal.

This is exactly why the Russian obsessives so delighted in believing that Trump was a tool of the Kremlin.

Most of the right-wing dissenters blanch at following their own logic. An alternative tack — seen in intelligence official Joe Kent's resignation letter — is to argue that Trump was fooled. Kent said there was "a misinformation campaign" that created an echo chamber "to deceive" the president.

This argument is still a stinging condemnation. It paints Trump as an easily manipulated naif, and on a consequential matter of war and peace. In reality, there was no broad-ranging media drumbeat for war and no wave of popular support. This, again, emphasizes how the decision was Trump's, and his alone.

The Russian hoax was, in part, driven by the left's shock at Trump's victory in 2016. Likewise, the isolationists are having trouble processing the fact that the president whom they invested so much in launched a major Middle Eastern war. But Trump was not owned by this faction of the right, any more than he is owned by Israel.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

LETTERS POLICY

The Robesonian welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be about issues of general interest, brief and to the point. We reserve the right to refuse letters longer than 400 words; poetry; letters that are in bad taste or libelous; and letters from outside our readership. Letters may be edited, but content will not be altered.

Letters should be original. They must be signed. Please include your address and daytime phone number. Street addresses and phone numbers will not be published. A photograph of the writer will be used if provided.

Send letters to: The Robesonian, P.O. Box 1028, Lumberton, NC 28359, or fax them to (910) 739-6553. Letters can be sent via email to cstiles@robsonian.com.



CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF ROBESON COUNTY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LUMBERTON CITY

COUNCIL, 910-272-1346

Bruce Davis, Mayor, 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, wixie.stephens@robeson.nc.us

Pauline Campbell, Dist. 2, pauline.campbell@robeson.nc.us

John Cummings, Dist. 3, john.cummings@robeson.nc.us

Faline Locklear Dial, Vice Chairman, Dist. 4, falinedial907@gmail.com

Judy Sampson, Dist. 5, judy5rcc@gmail.com

David Edge, Chairman, Dist. 6, 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](tel:919-733-5651)

Rep. John Lowery, R-Dist. 47 (Robeson), 300 N. Salisbury Street, 306B2, Raleigh, NC 27603-5925, [919-715-0875](tel: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](tel:919-733-5821) or [919-733-5821](tel: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](tel:919-856-4630), or 113 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, [202-224-6342](tel:202-224-6342)

U.S. Sen. Ted Budd, R-N.C., B85 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, [\(202\) 224-3154](tel:(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](tel: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](tel:202-224-3121)

White House Switchboard, [202-456-1414](tel:202-456-1414)

HIS VIEW

Carolina arts need your investment

RALEIGH — The brilliant (and controversial) French artist Edgar Degas drew, painted and sculpted. Although he relished a wide range of subjects, his best-known works depict ballet dancers.

"Art is not what you see," Degas once observed, "but what you make others see." He used the term in its broadest sense, to include not just the arts he mastered but those of the dancers he painted, the musicians he knew, the writers he admired.

North Carolina has a long and fascinating tradition of artistic expression and appreciation. One of our oldest surviving works, the intricate petroglyphs carved into Judaculla Rock near Cullowhee, date back more than a millennium. John White, founding governor of Sir Walter Raleigh's doomed "Lost Colony," captured his initial impressions of Roanoke Island and its indigenous residents in watercolor sketches now preserved in London's British Museum. For centuries, North Carolinians of varied backgrounds and interests produced pottery, beadwork, jewelry, embroidery and other pieces that still retain their power to impress, impart and inspire.

In the performing arts, too, our state has been a leader. The first professionally staged drama penned by an American was The Prince of Parthia, completed in Wilmington by Thomas Godfrey in 1759 and produced nearly a decade later in Philadelphia. Wilmington is also the home of one of the oldest theatrical companies in the country. Founded in 1788, the Thalian Association Community Theatre stages regular productions at the city's Thalian Hall, built in 1858.

I write not to rehearse North Carolina's artistic history but to encourage today's generation to contribute to it. Public institutions have a role to play, but neither state grants nor local appropriations will ever supply more than a fraction of what the arts require to thrive.

Some succeed as purely commercial endeavors, of course. Publishing, music, and film are big businesses. Other arts with high costs and narrower (but still substantial) audiences are best housed within nonprofits. On average, ticket sales and other earned income comprise about 60% of annual reve-

nue for such organizations, with private philanthropy supplying 30% and government 10%.

These shares vary by sector and size. For example, a 2025 survey of community theatres across the country found that nearly two-thirds have annual budgets below \$250,000 and most receive either no government funding or grants counted in four figures, not five or six.

The charitable organization for which I serve as president, the John William Pope Foundation, has been supporting the arts since its inception in 1986. One of our statewide initiatives, named after John Pope's wife and philanthropic partner Joy, offers \$100,000 a year in grants to local groups needing to upgrade their facilities or pilot new programs.

In 2026, there are five recipients of Joy W. Pope Memorial Grants for the Arts. The Lenoir-based James C. Harper School of Performing Arts provides high-quality musical and performing arts instruction. The Mifflord Museum & Discovery Center, also in Caldwell County, will use our grant to upfit its

exhibit space and recording studio. The Smoky Mountain Community Theatre in Bryson City will refurbish its electrical and HVAC systems, walls, flooring, seats, and stage.

Another grantee, Junior Appalachian Musicians, offers after-school training in traditional instruments such as fiddle, banjo and guitar to students in a swath of Western North Carolina counties. And on the other side of the state, the Wilson Arts Center will use its Joy Pope grant to build out class and studio space as well as facilities for theatrical rehearsal and scene construction.

Arts groups don't just need institutional grants. They need individual gifts, attendance and volunteers. Don't be shy. Jump in with both feet. "Practicing an art, no matter how well or badly, is a way to make your soul grow, for heaven's sake," said Kurt Vonnegut. "Sing in the shower. Dance to the radio. Tell stories. Write a poem to a friend, even a lousy poem. Do it as well as you possible can. You will get an enormous reward."

As will we all.

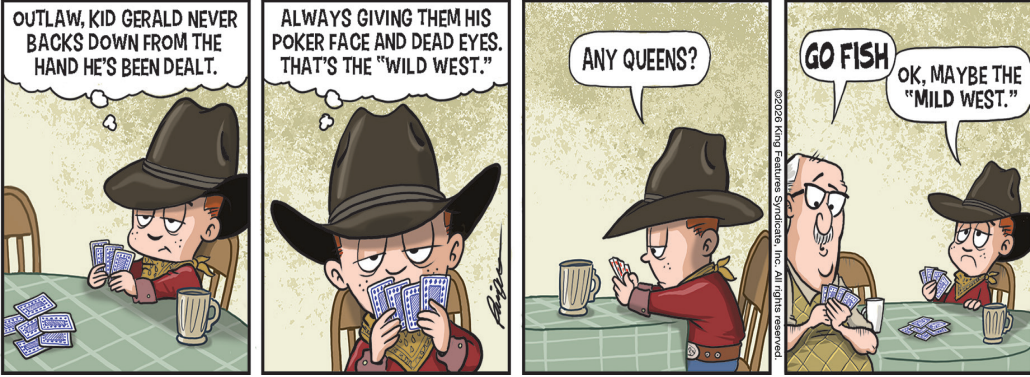
John Hood is a John Locke Foundation board member. His latest books, Mountain Folk and Forest Folk, combine epic fantasy with early American history (FolkloreCycle.com).



John Hood
Contributing columnist

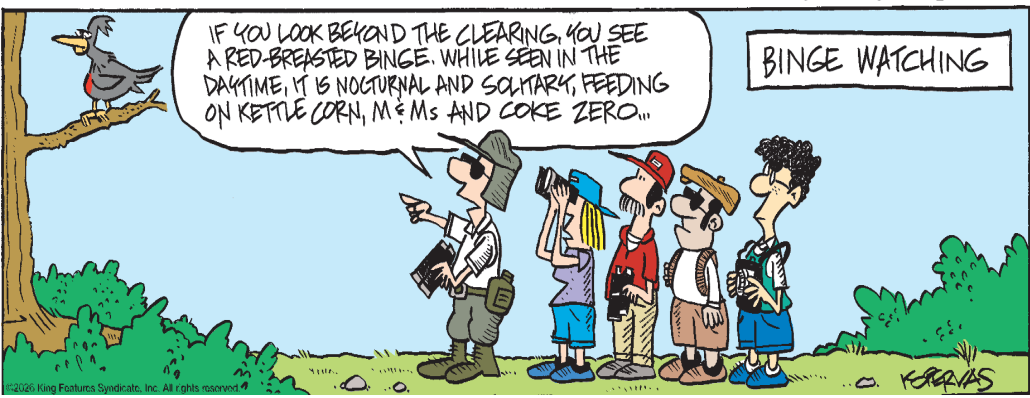
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



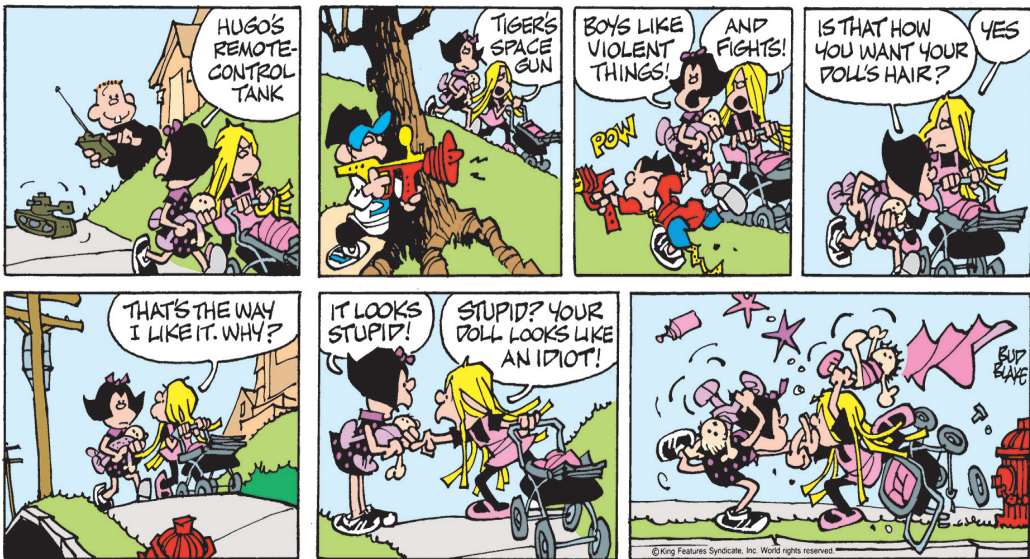
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



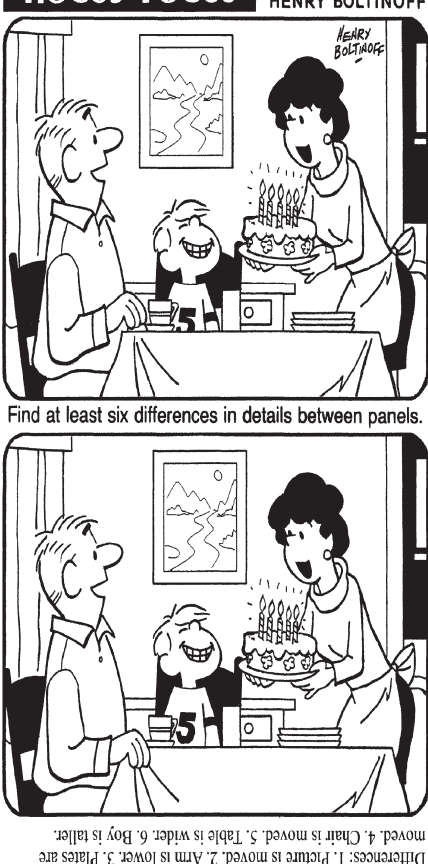
OLIVE & POPEYE

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: A equals B

SR BNJ LWBZVK LRRUJWX,
KBSUUJV LDT XSDPKUJC LVJ
LUU PZZT AFTTSJK, S
KFMMZKJ BNJC'VJ AJD MLUK.

©2026 King Features Synd., Inc.



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!

Refuge: MUSALY

Mixture: BHIRDY

Crazy: RABUDS

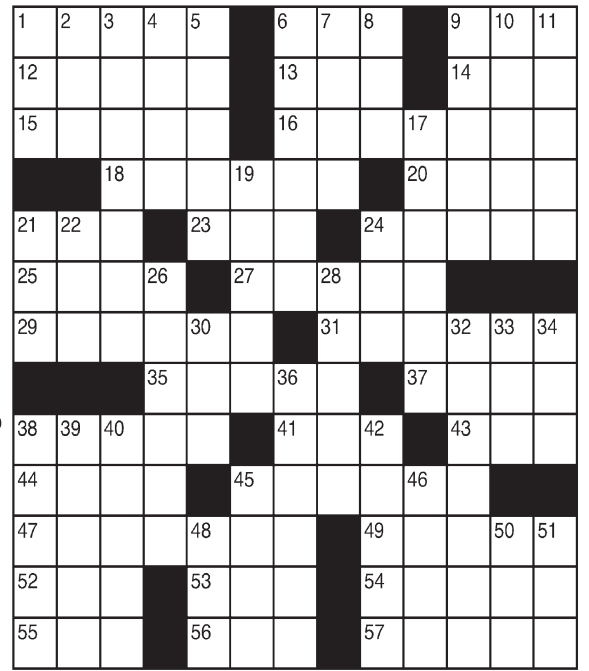
Grieve: ROMUN

TODAY'S WORD: _____

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Purse part
- 6 Tatter
- 9 Fr. holy woman
- 12 Borders on
- 13 In the past
- 14 Allow
- 15 Trattoria offering
- 16 Wild hurry, as on Black Friday
- 18 Divides in two
- 20 Greek mountain rule
- 21 Rule in India
- 23 Goat's plaint
- 24 City on the Yangtze River
- 25 Broadway failure
- 27 Zaps in a microwave
- 29 Argue
- 31 Portugal's place
- 35 Fix a lawn
- 37 Bath bubbles
- 38 Long-legged shorebird
- 41 Hwys.
- 43 Scale note
- 44 Spanish "but" abbr.
- 45 Rob Roy spirit
- 47 Pressed for time
- 49 Garlicky mayo
- 52 Dijon denial



- 53 Blackbird
- 54 "What's in — me?"
- 55 — Lanka
- 56 "Acid"
- 57 Crusoe's creator
- 7 Turkish officials
- 8 Deity
- 9 Melting snow
- 10 "Selma" actress
- 11 Patriot Allen
- 17 Awakens
- 19 Wind indicators
- 21 "Mayberry —"
- 22 Hearty brew
- 24 Spider's home
- 26 Sitting room
- 28 Youngster
- 30 Hanoi holiday
- 32 Exit in haste
- 33 Altar promise
- 34 Visual communication syst.
- 36 Corsage flower
- 38 Whirls
- 39 Choir member
- 40 Resident of Tabriz
- 42 Composed
- 45 Taxpayer IDs
- 46 Refer to
- 48 "Friendly skies" co.
- 50 Brit's restroom
- 51 Fury

DOWN

- 1 Enervate
- 2 TV schedule
- 3 Work that's done ASAP
- 4 "— boy!"
- 5 Sacred song
- 6 French Baroque composer

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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!

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

FiveSpot™

Wedding star

F	A	N	C	Y

Have a taste for

Word before "apple" or "dish"

Ritual movement

Accelerated

Shed tears

Bouquet tosser

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 02633



Solution time: 26 mins.

King Crossword Answers

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. TELEVISION: What is Ron Swanson's favorite food group in the sitcom "Parks and Recreation"?
2. GAMES: In Scrabble, how many tiles does each player get to start?
3. GEOGRAPHY: Dubai is in which Middle Eastern country?
4. MOVIES: What is Neo's real name in "The Matrix"?
5. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was born with the name Leslie Lynch King Jr.?
6. LITERATURE: Which 19th-century English novel introduces the character Mr. Rochester?
7. FOOD & DRINK: Cornelius Rooster is the mascot of which cereal brand?
8. SCIENCE: What is the process called when water evaporates from plants?
9. CHEMISTRY: What is the most abundant metal in Earth's crust?
10. ANATOMY: How many vertebrae are in the human spine?

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

BUY-NUY

Today's Word

3. Absurd; 4. Mourning solution

SCRAMBLERS

B	R	I	D	E
C	R	I	E	D
R	A	C	E	D
D	A	N	C	E
C	A	N	D	Y
F	A	N	C	Y

Solution

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

CryptoQuip

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Suppose they're Ben pals.

Stiller and Kingley are answer

If the actors Affleck, Stiller and Kingley are all good buddies, I suppose they're Ben pals.

1. Meat
2. Seven
3. United Arab Emirates
4. Thomas Anderson
5. Gerald Ford
6. "Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Bronte
7. Kellogg's Corn Flakes
8. Transpiration
9. Aluminum
10. 33

THE ROBESONIAN Classifieds

BUY • SELL
RENT • HIRE

www.robsonian.com

Local Rates Include Online

Bargain Basement - ONE ITEM \$50 or less - 3 lines or less, 3 days \$10.70
 Yard Sale Ads - 1 Day \$10 - 2 Days \$18 - 3 Days \$20
 Merchandise for Sale - Special 3 lines or less - 7 days \$34.50
 Notice to Creditors/Debtors Legal Ad - \$108.50
NO REFUNDS for early cancellation

Our hours: M-F 8:30am-5pm

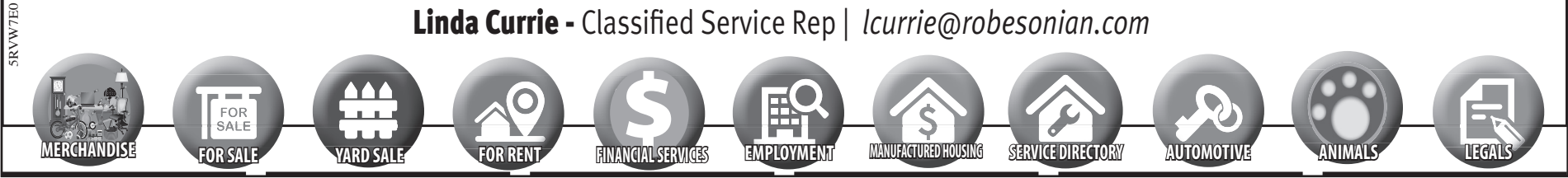
DEADLINES:

Wednesday's paper @ 12noon Tuesday
 Saturday's paper @ 4pm Thursday
 *Holiday deadlines will vary.
 Visa - MC - AMEX - Check

5 Easy ways to place your ad:

- 1. Call:** (910) 739-4322
- 3. E-mail:** robclassifieds@cmpapers.com
- 4. Stop by or mail to:**
2175 N. Roberts Ave., Lumberton, NC 28358

Linda Currie - Classified Service Rep | lcurrie@robsonian.com



LEGALS LEGALS LEGALS LEGALS LEGALS LEGALS LEGALS LEGALS LEGALS LEGALS

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

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Lumberton will hold the Planning Workshop on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, starting at 8:30 a.m. The meeting will be held in the City Council Conference Room of the Municipal Building, 500 N. Cedar Street.

Laney Mitchell-McIntosh
City Clerk
Control Number # 1370

4/1 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION BEFORE THE CLERK 26SP000054-770 JAMES H. WALTERS and Spouse, VICKIE H. WALTERS, Vs. Petitioners, DEBRA LEE PEEAL and any unknown Spouse, BILLY JOE HANEY and any Unknown Spouse, JAMES STEPHEN HANEY and any unknown Spouse, and JAMES MONROE HANEY and any Unknown Spouse. TO: Respondents.

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

3/18 3/25 4/1 2026

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

3/18 3/25 4/1 2026

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

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: KHAIZA CUMMINGS, 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 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 23rd 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

4/1 4/8 4/15 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

GET THE WORD OUT
ADVERTISE WITH US

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM CLOSE-OUT 2021 LUMBERTON CDBG-NR

Notice is hereby given that the Lumberton City Council will conduct a Public Hearing on April 13, 2026 at 11:00 am at the Lumberton City Hall concerning the Close-out of the Lumberton 2021 CDBG-NR project.

The purpose of this public hearing is to notify citizens of the completion of the project and receive comments relative to the project. Formal written views concerning the project submitted to the Mayor's office will be responded to within ten (10) business days.

This program was funded with \$750,000 of CDBG funds which represents 100% of the total project funds.

If you plan to attend and require special accommodations because of a disability or physical impairment, please contact Laney Mitchell-McIntosh at 910-671-3807 (TDD 800-735-2962) at least 2 business days prior to the hearing.

This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Stephanie Canady at 910-671-3844 or at 500 North Cedar Street, Lumberton, NC for accommodations for this request.

Esta información está disponible en español o cualquier otro lenguaje a petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Stephanie Canady en 910-671-3844 o en 500 North Cedar Street, Lumberton, NC de alojamiento para esta solicitud.

Bruce Davis
Mayor
Equal Housing Opportunity
EEO Employer

4/1 2026

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

GARY ALLEN SCHWARZMAN vs. WHITNEY NICOLE SCHWARZMAN

FILE NO. 26 CV 000256-770

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

TO: WHITNEY NICOLE SCHWARZMAN

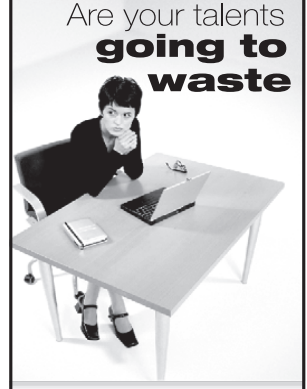
TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action in Lumberton, Robeson County, North Carolina. The nature of relief being sought is as follows: Complaint for Absolute Divorce.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not 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



Find your new career in our Classifieds that work

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF BERTHA CAROL LOCKLEAR DECEASED FILE NUMBER 25 E 002166-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of BERTHA CAROL 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 3rd day of July 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 1st day of APRIL 2026

KENNETH LOCKLEAR
1668 MIDWAY RD
MAXTON NC 28364

4/1 4/8 4/15 4/22 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 to Creditors
File Number:
26 E 000098-770

Having qualified as the Personal Representative of the Estate of CHARLES FREEMAN, late of Robeson County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned in care of the attorney for the estate, Sonya Linton, Magnolia Legal, 3001 Academy Rd., Ste 120 Durham, NC 27707, on or before the 30th day of June, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This is 1st day of day of April 2026.

Charles Freeman
Personal Representative

Attorney for Estate:

Sonya Linton
3001 Academy Rd., Ste 120
Durham, NC 27707

4/1 4/8 4/15 4/22 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF DELLA REE HAMMONDS DECEASED FILE NUMBER 25 E 001248-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of DELLA REE HAMMONDS, 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 3rd day of JULY 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 1st day of day of April 2026.

Charles Freeman
Personal Representative

Attorney for Estate:

Sonya Linton
3001 Academy Rd., Ste 120
Durham, NC 27707

4/1 4/8 4/15 4/22 2026

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

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 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 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

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 LINDA SUE GREER DECEASED FILE NUMBER 26 E 000170-770

The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the Estate of LINDA SUE GREER, 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 3rd day of JULY 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 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

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

NORTH CAROLINA ROBESON COUNTY IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COUT DIVISION BEFORE THE CLERK FILE NUMBER: 26 E 000182-770

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE

In the Matter of the Estate of

HEAVERD DOBBER OXENDINE, JR.

Deceased.

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Heavard Dobber Oxendine, Jr. deceased, late of Robeson County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to present them to the undersigned on or before July 1, 2026 (which is three (3) months after the day of the first publication of this notice), or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

THIS the 1st day of April, 2026.

Melissa Oxendine, Executor of the Estate of Heavard Dobber Oxendine, Jr., Deceased
c/o J. Thomas Neville
Yarborough, Winters & Neville, P.A.
P.O. Box 705
Fayetteville, NC 28302-0705

4/1 4/8 4/15 4/22 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 LINDA SUE GREER DECEASED FILE NUMBER 26 E 000170-770

The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the Estate of LINDA SUE GREER, 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 3rd day of JULY 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 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.

LEGALS

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

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF NANCY CARROLL LANCASTER AKA NANCY C 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

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF SHIRLEY MILLER PRICE DECEASED FILE NUMBER 26 E 000143-770

The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the Estate of SHIRLEY MILLER PRICE, 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 3rd day of JULY 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 1st day of APRIL 2026

SHARON P WILLIAMS
2218 GADDYS MILL RD
HAMER SC 29547

4/1 4/8 4/15 4/22 2026

LEGALS

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).

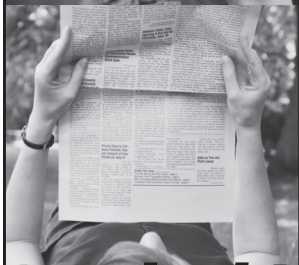
You will further take notice that the undersigned will appear before the Juvenile Court of Robeson County forty (40) days or more after this first date to such pleadings by said time, upon your failure to do so, the undersigned will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

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



YOUR LOCAL NEWS. YOUR WAY.
To find out more, call or go online and subscribe today!

LEGALS

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

ROBESON COUNTY

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

DISTRICT COURT DIVISION

FILE NO. 25CV006457-770

VANDERBILT

MORTGAGE AND FINANCE, INC.,
Plaintiff
vs.

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

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

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

THE GREEN LAW

FIRM, P.C. S/ Jay B. Green

Jay B. Green

Attorney for Plaintiff

908 E. Edenton

Street Raleigh, North

Carolina 27601

Telephone: 919-

829-0797

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT.

ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

3/18 3/25 4/1 2026

Help Wanted General

Robeson Community College Dean of Health Sciences

Robeson Community College is seeking a dynamic and experienced leader to serve as Dean of Health Sciences. This is a unique opportunity to shape the future of healthcare education while leading high-quality academic programs that prepare students for meaningful and in-demand careers in the health sciences field.

For a full listing of requirements, duties, and to apply, visit: www.robeson.edu/hr or contact Human Resources at 910-272-3524.
Closing Date: April 3, 2026

ROBESON COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Help Wanted General

Robeson Community College Program Director, Social and Human Services Technology

Are you a passionate educator and leader committed to student success? Join our team as a Program Director for Social and Human Services Technology and help shape the next generation of professionals in a dynamic, student-centered environment.

In this role, you'll provide leadership for academic programs, ensuring high-quality instruction, relevant curriculum, and strong student outcomes. You'll teach courses, guide faculty, and collaborate across departments to support recruitment, retention, and career readiness.

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

Deadline for applications: April 10, 2026

ROBESON COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Robeson Community College Vice President of Student Services

Minimum Qualifications:

A master's degree in Education, Educational Administration, or a related field from a regionally accredited institution is required. Candidates must have at least five years of progressively responsible leadership experience, including oversight of multiple departments or programs within higher education or a related field. Demonstrated leadership ability and a minimum of five years of administrative experience are essential.

Candidates should demonstrate strong critical thinking skills, resourcefulness, and excellent written and verbal communication abilities. A proven ability to effectively lead and supervise staff is required, along with a solid understanding of data-driven decision-making. Applicants should align with the college's vision of transforming lives through high quality education, dynamic learning experiences, and a strong commitment to service. Proficiency in computer applications, including database systems (such as Colleague) and Microsoft Office, is required. For a list of duties and to apply, visit www.robeson.edu/hr or contact Human Resources at hr@robeson.edu.

Deadline for applications: April 10, 2026

ROBESON COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Want to Rent

ROOMMATE WANTED!
Call Chris at 910.738.4702

STATEWIDE ADS

Home Improvement
No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-877-649-1190 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Plus, Military & Seniors get an additional 10% off. Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

Miscellaneous
We Buy Houses for Cash AS-IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Call today for your fair cash offer: 1-919-925-6362.

Miscellaneous
WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-833-928-1861. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

Miscellaneous
We Buy Vintage Guitar's! Looking for 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. These brands only! Call for a quote: 1-833-641-6577

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

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

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

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!

STATEWIDE ADS

BEHIND ON YOUR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS?
Threatened with foreclosure? Denied a loan modification? Let us help! Call the Homeowner Relief Line to speak with a mortgage specialist 844-492-0883

Sale
Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-877-920-7405

Time Share
Wesley Financial Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts. Over \$50,000,000 in time-share debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 844-213-6711



Notices

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

BATH RENOVATIONS #6085 FAIRMONT HOUSING AUTHORITY FAIRMONT, NORTH CAROLINA

Sealed proposals will be received by the FAIRMONT HOUSING AUTHORITY for CAPITAL FUND PROJECT NC 47-50124 and 50125 until 3:00 PM, THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026, and immediately thereafter publicly opened and read for the furnishing of labor, material and equipment entering into the Modernization of Project NC 47-1. Scope of work includes, but is not limited to, the following items:

1. Renovations to existing bathrooms, to include new plumbing fixtures, tile, chair rail, accessories, light fixture and exhaust fan. Repaint bathroom.
2. All other work as shown on the plans and in the Project Manual.

A Pre-Bid Conference has been scheduled for WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026 AT 10:00 AM. Meeting will be held at the Fairmont Housing Authority office located at 501 McDaniel Street, Fairmont, NC 28340. A site visit will follow.

Contractors will be able to make on-site visits to see the interior of the apartments on the following additional dates:

- April 7, 8, or 9, 2026 between 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM with advance notice to Maria Floyd, mfloyd@fairmont-housing.com

Questions that arise from the Site Visits are to be directed to the Architect at bids@stognerarchitecture.com.

Complete Bid Documents will be open for inspection in the office of Stogner Architecture (Designer); at the Housing Authority Office; or complete Bid Documents will be available for on-line viewing from the offices of Construct Connect www.constructconnect.com; Dodge Data & Analytics <http://dodgeprojects.construction.com>; The Blue Book www.thebluebook.com; and Construction Journal www.constructionjournal.com.

Complete Bid Documents may be obtained by download from Stogner Architecture, PA, by qualified bidders. For instructions on downloading these documents email bids@stognerarchitecture.com.

Documents may be obtained in printed form from McGee-CADD, 2110 Fort Bragg Road, Suite 100, Fayetteville, NC 28303, Phone (910) 323-9300 and Email mcgee05@mcgee-cadd.com with production costs being paid by the contractor.

All contractors are hereby notified that they must have proper license under the State laws governing their respective trades, whether or not Federal Funding is involved.

Contractors will be responsible to ensure that economic opportunities, to the greatest extent feasible follow Section 3 Requirements 24 CFR Part 135.1 and Section 3 Clause 24 CFR Part 135.38.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive informalities.

Maria Floyd, Executive Director
FAIRMONT HOUSING AUTHORITY

Designer: Stogner Architecture, PA
615 E. Broad Avenue
Rockingham, NC 28379
bids@stognerarchitecture.com

Buy & Sell In the Classifieds



Notices

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

GENERAL NOTICE

City of Lumberton (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following:

Project: Lumberton - Production Wells 11, 12 & 13

Wooten Project Number: 2799-CL

Owner: City of Lumberton

500 North Cedar Street
Lumberton, NC 28358

Engineer & Issuing Office for Bidding Documents:

The Wooten Company
119 Brookstown Avenue, Suite 100
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
336.722.5326

Bids for the construction of the Project will be received at the City Hall Building, 1st Floor Community Room located at 500 N. Cedar Street, Lumberton, NC 28358 until Thursday, April 30, 2026 at 10:00 am local time. At that time, the Bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The Project includes the following Work:

Construction of production well sites, including, but not limited to: Site work, structures, well head, well construction, pump installation, piping and all associated appurtenances. Includes the following well sites: Well Site #11, Well Site #12, and Well Site #13

Bids are requested for Contract: Lumberton - Production Wells 11, 12 & 13

OBTAINING THE BIDDING DOCUMENTS

Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents as follows:

The Issuing Office and Owner's Office on Monday through Friday between the hours of 9am and 4pm.
Dodge Construction (online)
Construct Connect (online)

To submit a Bid for the Project, Prospective Bidders are required to register at The Wooten Plan Room as a plan holder.

With a request for Bidding Documents supply the following information:

Company name, contact person with email, street address, and phone numbers; N. C. contractor's license with limitation and classification; indicate if the firm will be a Bidder, Supplier or Sub-Contractor.

Prospective Bidders may obtain Bidding Documents by accessing The Wooten Plan Room (<https://planroom.thewootencompany.com/>).

Registration and a payment of \$50.00 (by credit card) provides access to the Wooten Plan Room, the Issuing Office, for Electronic download of Bidding Documents as PDF files. Registration and payment of \$300 (by credit card) provides access to the Wooten Plan Room, the Issuing Office, for Electronic download of Bidding Documents as PDF files. The payment also includes one (1) full size Drawing set and one (1) Project Manual. Documents will be shipped via UPS Ground.

Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. If Bidding Documents are obtained from a plan room or source other than the designated website in either electronic or paper format, Bidder must still be registered at the Bid Website. The designated website will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of registered plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. All of fiscal notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered only through the designated website. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated website.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE

A pre-bid conference for the Project will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 10:00 am at City Hall Building, 1st Floor Community Room, 500 North Cedar Street, Lumberton, NC 28358. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is encouraged but not required.

INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS.

Bidders will be required to show evidence that they are licensed to perform the work in the Bidding Documents as required by North Carolina General Statute, Chapter 87 and the Instructions to Bidders. Bid Security in the amount of five (5) percent of the Bid must accompany each Bid and shall be subject to the conditions provided in the Instructions to Bidders.

The Owner is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages bidding by small, minority and female contractors and does not discriminate on the basis of handicapped status. Bids from qualified disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) are encouraged.

For further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL

Section 746 of Title VII of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017 (Division A - Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017) and subsequent statutes mandating domestic preference applies an American Iron and Steel requirement to this project. All iron and steel products used in this project must be produced in the United States. The term "iron and steel products" means the following products made primarily of iron and steel: lined or unlined pipes and fittings, manhole covers and other municipal castings, hydrants, tanks, flanges, pipe clamps and restraints, valves, structural steel, reinforced precast concrete, and Construction Materials.

Statewide burn ban in effect due to dry, windy conditions

Staff report

ROBESON COUNTY — A statewide burn ban went into effect at 6 p.m. Saturday.

Due to hazardous fire conditions, all open burning permits have been canceled statewide, an official statement said. The burn ban will remain in effect until further notice.

The public is encouraged to help protect the community by avoiding all outdoor burning and staying fire safe.

“With drought severity across the state, forecast fire weather and the potential for limited rainfall, it is critical to reduce the number of new fire starts,” said N.C. Agriculture Com-

missioner Steve Troxler. “Vegetative fuels will dry rapidly, and with the amount of fuel loading in the mountains and drought impacts statewide, a burn ban for all 100 counties is necessary to reduce the number of wildfires across our landscape. Please follow this burn ban to help reduce the risk for every-

one.” Under North Carolina law, the ban prohibits all open burning statewide, regardless of whether a permit was previously issued. The issuance of any new permits has also been suspended until the ban is lifted. Anyone violating the burn ban faces a \$100 fine plus \$183 court costs.

Any person responsible for setting a fire may be liable for any expenses related to extinguishing the fire.

The burn ban does not apply to fires started within 100 feet of an occupied dwelling. The local fire marshal has authority to issue a burn ban within those 100 feet. Local fire departments

and law enforcement officers are assisting the N.C. Forest Service in enforcing the burn ban.

The Lumbee Tribe canceled the evening portion of its Wild Game Festival, which was to include a bonfire and traditional social dancing, due to the advisory and the high winds.



A 184-acre wildfire burns near St. Pauls on Saturday.

Deputy Chief Jason Brown | Big Marsh Fire Department

Wildfire

From page 1A

Responding fire departments included Big Marsh, Lumber Bridge, St. Pauls along with the N.C. Fire Service. The cause was unknown as of Saturday evening.

Jimmy Fields, a landowner in the area, worked through the night on his tractor to dig ditches and keep the fire from spread-

ing onto his property or others, the Big Marsh Fire Department said in a Facebook post.

The smoke plume from the fire appeared on radar, according to media reports, and could be faintly seen at least as far south as Lumberton.

A statewide burn ban is in effect until further notice due to dry and windy conditions; it was put into effect at 6 p.m. on Saturday.

Mayor

From page 1A

election after a stay was not granted. Davis presented the certificate to Dial at about 11:30 a.m. Monday, she told The Robesonian, and provided a copy of the certificate to the state board.

“I won the case in 2023, and he’s just been appealing, appealing, appealing every time,” Dial told the Border Belt Independent last week. “I’ve been to court four times and I’ve won all those four times, so you would think there would be a transition.”

Cummings asked the N.C. Supreme Court to suspend the March 4 ruling of the N.C. Court of Appeal that said he failed to prove his claims of voter irregularities rose

to the level of affecting the outcome of the Nov. 7, 2023 election. The State Board of Elections, in a Thursday court filing, urged the N.C. Supreme Court to deny Cummings’ request for a stay.

Cummings asserts that 16 voters who cast ballots in the election claimed to live at addresses of commercial properties owned by Dial, questioned the eligibility of those voters and requested a new election.

“(Cummings) failed to show that more than one contested voter did not reside in the Town of Pembroke; thus, there were no irregularities

so extensive that they tainted the results of the entire election and cast doubt its fairness,” the N.C. Court of Appeals said in the March 4 decision, written by Judge Julee Flood. Each mem-

ber of the three-judge panel voted against Cummings’ petition.

This election has been tied up in the legal process for over two years. Cummings’ initial protest of the race to the Robeson County Board of Elections was dismissed on Nov. 28, 2023 due to being filed too late, and the State Board of Elections upheld that decision on Jan. 8, 2024. Cummings appealed that decision in court, and a judge granted a stay; he was then allowed to present the case to the Robeson County Board of Elections in evidentiary hearings held June 25 and July 8, 2024, and the county board voted to dismiss the protest.

Cummings appealed again to the State Board of Elections, which heard the case on Sept. 5, 2024 and issued a Sept. 23, 2024 decision denying Cummings’ protest. Cummings appealed in Superior Court in Wake



Dial



Cummings



Contributed photo | Chad Herndon

Pembroke Mayor Allen Dial celebrates with his family after taking the oath of office Monday in Pembroke.

County, and on March 18, 2025, the court affirmed the state elections board’s decision. Cummings appealed to the State Court of Appeals, which heard the case on Jan. 13 before issuing its decision Wednesday.

Dial’s attorney, Elliot Abrams, held firm dur-

ing January oral arguments before the Court of Appeals that his client has done nothing wrong through the election process.

“What we see is we have statutes, and those statutes have not been broken in any way,” Abrams said.

After Cummings defeated Dial in the 2015 mayoral election, the pair ran against each other in 2019, with Cummings winning by 40 votes, or about nine percentage points. Dial, a former town councilman, then ran against Cummings again in the 2023 race.

SECURE YOUR HOME & BUSINESS

- Camera Systems
- Security Systems
- Access Control Systems
- Monitored Smoke & CO Detectors
- UL Fire Protection Systems
- Keyless Door Locks
- and more for your peace of mind

Holmes Security Systems LOCAL & FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1908

We have the only UL-listed, 5-diamond central monitoring station in Eastern NC. Our team is here for you 24/7/365 with exceptional service.

Dog Has Styl
Pet Salon
Paula Lewis (910) 740-7857
Brandy Church (321) 320-2081

Luxury Shampoo, Conditioner & Cologne Available
Large Selection Of Pet Safe Vegan Colors

Accepting New Clients
208 South Main Street
Fairmont, NC 28340

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Statewide ‘Speed a Little. Lose a Lot’ campaign targets dangerous driving

Staff report

RALEIGH — The N.C. Governor’s Highway Safety Program (GHSP) is launching its statewide “Speed a Little. Lose a Lot” campaign to remind drivers that speeding comes with serious, and often deadly, consequences.

Now through Sunday, law enforcement officers

throughout the state will increase patrols and checkpoints to identify and catch speeders.

“Speeding is not just a bad habit — it’s a dangerous choice that puts everyone on the road at risk,” said GHSP Director Mark Ezzell. “This campaign reminds drivers that even going a few miles over the speed limit can have devastating consequences.”

According to data from the N.C. Department of Transportation, 335 people were killed in speed-involved crashes in 2025. Preliminary data shows 41 people have already lost their lives in speed-involved crashes in just the first two months of this year.

Driving at high speeds significantly reduces a driver’s ability to maintain control of a vehicle and increases stopping distance. In ideal weather conditions, a vehicle traveling 55 miles per hour will require more than 200

feet to stop completely, according to the N.C. Driver Handbook.

“Speed limits exist for a reason — they protect everyone on our roads,” said Col. Freddy Johnson Jr., commander of the N.C. State Highway Patrol. “When drivers stay within those limits, they give themselves more time to react and help prevent crashes before they happen. Speeding takes that margin for error away and puts everyone on the road at risk. Every time a driver gets behind the wheel, they make a choice, and choosing to follow the law can make all the difference.”

GHSP’s ongoing “Don’t Play With Death” marketing campaign reinforces this message, using a Grim Reaper character (who will appear at the press event) to deliver a powerful visual reminder that speeding can have fatal consequences.

Attorney JENNIFER A. CLAY
“LEGAL ANGEL”
PERSONAL INJURY

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

FREE 3ct lab grown Center stone with purchase of any Fana semi-mount purchase.

limited time!

FANA | Bob’s Jewel Shop
Where quality has made the difference since 1904

Welcome to your local Farm Bureau Insurance Agency!

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE
Auto • Home • Life • Health • Bank

ROBESON COUNTY
302 Bailey Road Lumberton NC 28358
Monday-Friday 8:30am-5:00pm

FARM BUREAU BANK
1.866.645.8123 farmbureaubank.com

(910) 738-7171 (910) 521-3131 www.ncfbins.com

50 Years of Service

Southern Heating & A/C, Inc.
910-738-7000
www.southernheatingandac.biz

Lumbee Tribe Wild Game Festival



The Drowning Creek drum group performs during the powwow at the Lumbee Tribe Wild Game Festival Saturday in Maxton.

Lumbee Ambassadors, including, from left, Junior Miss Lumbee Kyndall Locklear, Miss Lumbee Taylor Davis and Teen Miss Lumbee Keely Deal, march during the powwow at the Lumbee Tribe Wild Game Festival Saturday in Maxton.



Emcees Kinston Blake Wilkins, left, and John Oxendine, right, look on during the powwow at the Lumbee Tribe Wild Game Festival Saturday in Maxton.



Micah Boughman showcases Lumbee artifacts including pottery that is more than 400 years old during the Lumbee Tribe Wild Game Festival Saturday in Maxton.



Head Male Dancer Brarick LeMark Locklear Jr. dances during the powwow at the Lumbee Tribe Wild Game Festival Saturday in Maxton.



Cheyenne Revels takes a bite during the Lumbee Tribe Wild Game Festival Saturday in Maxton.



Young dancers participate in the powwow during the Lumbee Tribe Wild Game Festival Saturday in Maxton.



Junior Henderson cooks during the Lumbee Tribe Wild Game Festival Saturday in Maxton.



Veterans are honored during the powwow at the Lumbee Tribe Wild Game Festival Saturday in Maxton.



The Pine Lodge drum group performs during the powwow at the Lumbee Tribe Wild Game Festival Saturday in Maxton.



Lumbee Tribal Chairman John Lowery, left, speaks as Lumbee Ambassadors look on during the Lumbee Tribe Wild Game Festival Saturday in Maxton.



Lumbee Tribal Speaker Alex Baker signs a banner commemorating the Lumbee Tribe's federal recognition during the Lumbee Tribe Wild Game Festival Saturday in Maxton.



A man is served food during the Lumbee Tribe Wild Game Festival Saturday in Maxton.

Gas prices eclipse \$4 a gallon in the US, the highest since 2022

Wyatte Grantham-Philips

Associated Press

NEW YORK — U.S. gas prices jumped past an average of \$4 a gallon for the first time since 2022 on Tuesday, as the Iran war pushes fuel prices higher worldwide.

According to motor club AAA, the national average for a gallon of regular gasoline is now \$4.02 — over a dollar more expensive than before the war began. The last time U.S. drivers were collectively paying this much at the pump was nearly four years ago, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The price is a national average, meaning drivers in some states have been paying well over \$4 a gallon for a while now. Prices vary between states due to factors ranging from nearby supply to differing tax rates.

Since the U.S. and Israel launched the joint war against Iran on Feb. 28, the cost of crude oil — the main ingredient

in gasoline — has spiked and swung rapidly. That's because the conflict has caused deep supply chain disruptions and cuts from major oil producers across the Middle East. Both Brent crude, the international standard, and benchmark U.S. crude are now going for more than \$100 per barrel, up from roughly \$70 before the war.

Motorists around the world are coping with higher gas prices. In Paris, for example, gas is at 2.34 euros per liter (\$2.68), which is about \$10.27 a gallon.

Expensive gas could drag on the economy and drive up other prices

Higher gas prices are impacting consumers and businesses as many households continue to face wider cost of living strains. As drivers pay more to cover necessities like gas, or even utility bills impacted by soaring fuel costs, many may be forced to cut their budgets in other places. That threatens broader

consequences for the economy overall.

Before launching the war, President Donald Trump bragged about keeping gas prices low. Consumer prices and the cost of living already have become flashpoints in this midterm election year. A recent AP-NORC poll found that 45% of U.S. adults are "extremely" or "very" concerned about being able to afford gas in the next few months, up from 30% shortly after Trump won the 2024 presidential election with promises to lower costs.

Beyond visits to the pump, analysts say high fuel costs will trickle into groceries, which have to be restocked frequently and could also see price hikes as businesses' transportation and packaging costs pile up. Other cargo has also been impacted. The U.S. Postal Service is seeking a temporary 8% added charge on some of its popular products including Priority Mail.

U.S. diesel, used for many freight

and delivery trucks, is now going for an average of \$5.45 a gallon, up from about \$3.76 a gallon before the war began per AAA.

"It's going to mean more expensive bills for truckers, tractors and trains that move the U.S. economy with diesel fuel. It's going to mean consumers are likely greeted by rising grocery prices — and broadly speaking, a rise in U.S. inflation," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at fuel-tracking service GasBuddy.

It's possible those prices could jump even higher. To Trump's frustration, most tanker movement in the key Strait of Hormuz — where roughly one-fifth of the world's oil once sailed through — remains at a halt. That's led to cuts from producers in the region who have no way of getting their crude to market. Meanwhile, Iran, Israel and the U.S. have all struck oil and gas facilities, worsening supply concerns.

Military

From page 1A

reflects the trust our military-affiliated students place in us to understand their unique challenges and the university's commitment to helping them succeed."

A veteran and military spouse, Coleman said the distinction also fuels her work.

"These rankings push me to keep expanding programs, partnerships, and resources so every military-connected student at UNCP can go beyond their goals," she said.

About 25% of UNCP's current student body are veterans or military-affiliated, and the number served both on campus and online continues to grow each year. Plus, UNCP offers a convenient location at the Bragg Training and Education Center designed to serve soldiers, families and civilians stationed at Fort Bragg and Pope Army Airfield.

Militaryfriendly.com uses public data and a survey completed by each school to gauge an institution's military student resources, retention, graduation, career outcomes, financial aid support and culture, among other data points.

Kelly Brennan, UNCP's vice chancellor for enrollment management, said the recognition sends a strong message to prospective students.

"Military-connected students are looking for a place where they can continue to grow and see a clear path forward after their service," Brennan said. "This designation signals that UNC Pembroke is a place they can choose with confidence."

For Corey and Rita Beal, a married couple and student veterans at UNCP, the rankings are more than accolades — they reflect a lived experience.

"This has absolutely been true to our experience," said Corey Beal, a U.S. Army veteran and junior majoring in philosophy and religion. "The Academic and Mil-

itary Outreach office has been incredibly helpful, engaging and walking us through the entire process. They made everything very easy and user-friendly."

Corey, who served from 1997 to 2021 and retired as a sergeant first class after combat deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan, is beginning his first semester at UNCP after earning college credit at other institutions over the years. Now on track to graduate in May 2027, he said he intentionally pursued the opportunity to be a full-time student.

"I never got the opportunity to be a full-time college student before," he said. "Now I have the time and ability to do it, and I wanted to take advantage of that for personal growth."

His wife, Rita, is also a student veteran and is pursuing her second degree at UNCP. A former administrative specialist with the 525th Military Intelligence Brigade, she enlisted in 1999 and was medically discharged in 2001 after sustaining severe injuries

during service.

For her, returning to the classroom decades later came with some uncertainty.

"It had been 30 years since I was in a classroom," Rita Beal said. "I wasn't nervous about the coursework — I was asking myself, 'Do I still have it in me?' But the support here has been incredible."

Now a sophomore majoring in exercise and sport science with a focus on health advocacy, she is scheduled to graduate in May 2028.

From navigating VA benefits to transferring military credits, the Academic and Military Outreach office has played a central role in their transition.

"Making sure our benefits were applied correctly and our credits counted — that eliminated a lot of the burden that someone new to this process might feel," Corey Beal said.

The clear support and the welcoming community, the couple says, are what define UNCP's military-friendly culture.

"They were always calm and steady — like,

'We've got you. Not a problem.' And that made a huge difference," Rita Beal said.

The couple's journey to UNCP is truly a family affair. Their daughter, Cecilia, is also a student at UNCP, and is who first introduced them to campus.

The Beals commute together to campus, even sharing a psychology class. It's a unique experience, they say, that has strengthened both their academic and personal journey.

"We're on different academic paths, but we get to do this together," Corey Beal said. "It's been a really great experience."

Their presence on campus also reflects a broader sense of community among military-connected students.

"Our primary goal is to be students first," Corey Beal said. "But there's this quiet recognition among veterans — a sense of trust and understanding. That speaks highly of the environment here."

For Rita Beal, UNCP's

recognition as a military spouse-friendly school is equally meaningful.

"Professors have been incredibly respectful of both our experiences and the fact that we're still undergraduate students," she said. "They meet you where you are. That's been huge."

As they continue their academic journeys, both Corey and Rita Beal say UNCP has provided not just access, but confidence.

"These are well-earned accolades for UNC Pembroke," Corey Beal said. "This is a place where veterans and their families can succeed."

UNC Pembroke will be showcased in the 2026-2027 Guide to Military Friendly Schools in the April issue of G.I. Jobs magazine and on militaryfriendly.com.

More information about militaryfriendly.com and the methodology for their rankings can be found on their website.

Mark Locklear is a public communications specialist with UNC Pembroke communications & marketing. Reach him by email at mark.locklear@uncp.edu.



MAKE IT YOUR NATURE

The outdoors is really a reflection of you. It's up to all of us to do our part to help preserve the natural beauty of our state. Join us in following the 7 Outdoor NC Leave No Trace Principles, so our spaces can remain beautiful and enjoyable for years to come.

PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE
STICK TO TRAILS AND OVERNIGHT RIGHT
TRASH YOUR TRASH
LEAVE IT AS YOU FIND IT
BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE
KEEP WILDLIFE WILD
SHARE OUR TRAILS

OUTDOORNC.COM
#MAKE IT YOUR NATURE

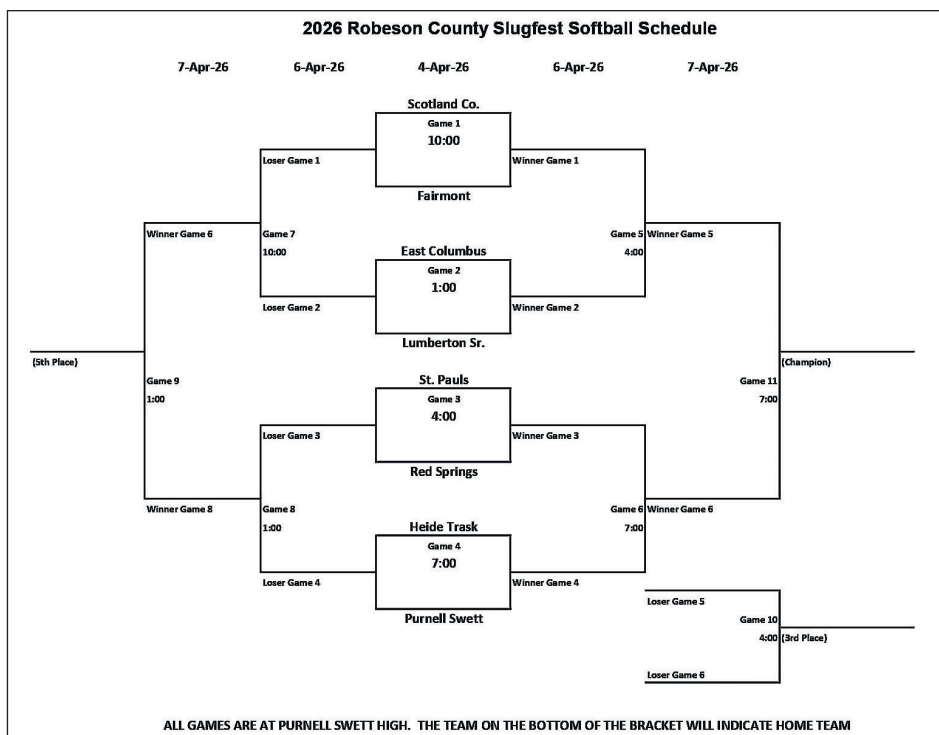
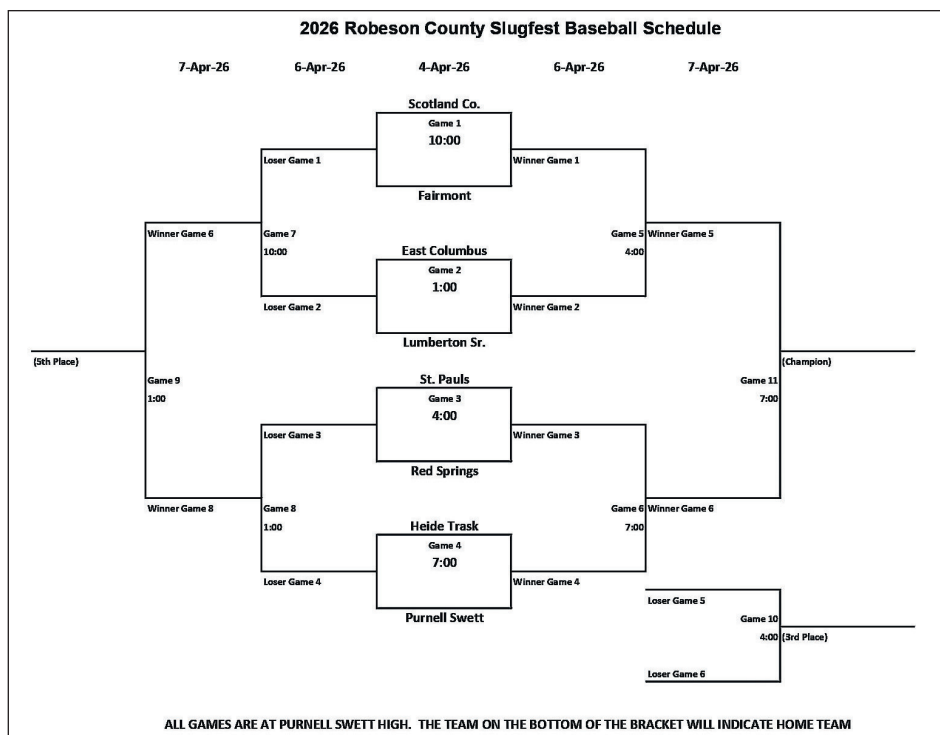
LEAVE NO TRACE



Sports

The Robesonian

Wednesday, April 1, 2026 • Section B



Images courtesy of PSRC

Brackets released for 32nd Robeson County Slugfest

Jacob Husson
The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — Another high school baseball and softball season is in full swing and now, the 2026 Robeson County Slugfest schedule has been unveiled.

This is the 32nd edition of the Slugfest for baseball and the 15th for softball. East Columbus won last year's baseball tournament, while Scotland won the softball tournament last year. Each school returns for both

the baseball and softball tournaments as one of the visiting schools for the 2026 tournament, alongside Heide Trask and the five local high schools. As each team looks to make its mark in the tournament and spur themselves onto success, this

tournament is critical. All games are being held at Purnell Swett, beginning on Saturday. Here's a look at this year's tournament schedule. First-round matchups, and the schedule format for successive rounds, are identical for the baseball

and softball tournaments. Scotland and Fairmont will begin the Slugfest by playing each other at 10 a.m. Saturday. East Columbus plays Lumberton at 1 p.m. In the latter half of the first day, St. Pauls will face Red Springs at 4 p.m.

Heide Trask will compete against Purnell Swett at 7 p.m. Monday, April 6 will begin with the consolation rounds. The loser Scotland-Fairmont will play the loser of East Columbus-Lumberton at 7 p.m. See SLUGFEST | 3B



UNC Pembroke's Kasen McCawley throws a pitch during Saturday's game against Shorter. McCawley threw the Braves' first solo no-hitter since 2009.

McCawley shows dominance in no-hit performance

Senior throws Braves' first solo no-hitter since 2009

Jacob Husson
The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — It's uncommon for a pitcher to dominate the way UNCP's Kasen McCawley did on Saturday, as the hurler threw a no-hitter, en route to a 4-0 Braves win. McCawley threw the Braves' first solo no-hitter since Jake Dailey

on Feb. 14, 2009; it's the program's first no-hitter overall since a combined no-hitter by Trystan Kimmel and Darren Bowen on Feb. 5, 2022. "(This) goes back to him as a human being," UNCP coach Paul O'Neil said. "He works extremely hard and hates to lose more than he loves to win." McCawley struck out

10 and allowed no walks in the seven-inning no-hitter. His only baserunner came on a Braves error in the fourth inning. "I just tried to go out there and execute my pitches and I was able to do that," McCawley said. "I tried not to think too much about the result of the game. I just focused on controlling what I could and making good

pitches." This was the latest in a long line of dominant outings from him. McCawley now has an 8-1 record with a 2.83 ERA and 57 strikeouts. With opposing batters hitting .211 against him this season, Saturday was the culmination of McCawley confusing hitters all season. "(The key is) coming in and putting in work on Monday, not just expect-

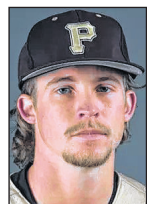
See MCCAWLEY | 2B

UNCP baseball sweeps series against Shorter

PEMBROKE — Kasen McCawley hurled a no-hitter on the way to a 4-0 win in the opening game of Saturday's double-header, while the Braves offense scored early and often en route to a 13-3 win in the finale to finish off a sweep of Shorter in Conference Carolinas action at Sammy Cox Field. McCawley turned in the first UNC Pembroke no-hitter since Trystan

Kimmel and Darren Bowen combined for one against USC Aiken on February 5, 2022. The senior also logged the first UNCP solo no-hitter since Jake Dailey against Millersville on February 14, 2009. McCawley (8-1) struck out ten and polished off the seven-inning no-hitter on just 83 pitches. Landon Lucas was

3-for-3 with two doubles and an RBI in the opener, while Peyton Young was 2-for-4 with two doubles of his own and three RBI in the series finale. The Braves (23-9, 15-6 CC) improved to 3-0 all-time against the Hawks (11-19, 3-18 CC). **Game One** The Braves would jump out to a quick 3-0 lead in



McCawley

the first inning as Landon Lucas provided an RBI single, while Peyton Young would later follow with a two-run double. In the sixth, UNCP tacked on an insurance run via Morgan Padgett's safety squeeze to make it 4-0. Logan Bryson (2-3) took the loss for Shorter. **Game Two** Shorter struck first in the first inning as Isaiah

See BASEBALL | 2B



Jacob Husson | The Robesonian
Lumberton's Sofia Benitez (17) runs with the ball during Monday's match against Terry Sanford in Lumberton.

Lumberton soccer drops 3rd straight in loss to Terry Sanford

Jacob Husson
The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — The Lumberton Pirates girls soccer team had no answer for the offensive firepower Terry Sanford brings, losing Monday's match, 8-0. After starting the season 6-2, the Pirates have lost their first three Tri-County Conference games. "We did really well for the first 20-30 minutes," Lumberton coach Ethan Freeman said. "0-0, we played really well and then we gave up the goals we did in the second half. Down 3-0, I was still pleased with how we played until that point. We made some silly mistakes that we would live to regret." Terry Sanford (7-1, 4-0 TCC) scored its first goal with 14:00 left in the first half before adding additional goals with 10:48 and 2:25 left in the first half.

"Going into the second half, I told the ladies we had to play with confidence and we started playing with confidence, but then we gave up the fourth goal and heads went down after that," Freeman said. The Bulldogs opened the second half with a goal with 35:03 left. After more than 20 scoreless minutes, Terry Sanford added another with 13:57 remaining. They made it 6-0 with 11:19 to go and quickly added another goal with 11 minutes to spare. They added another goal for good measure with 8:25 left to make it 8-0. Lumberton (6-5, 0-3 TCC) visits Scotland on Wednesday at 6 p.m. looking to put an end to this losing streak. Time will tell if the offense finds answers. Jacob Husson can be reached at 910-816-1977 or by email at jhusson@robsonian.com.

Wingate sweeps Braves softball

Staff report

WINGATE — The UNC Pembroke softball registered 17 hits across two games, but timely hitting for Wingate and costly errors by UNCP helped the Bulldogs to a non-conference sweep on Sunday afternoon at the Wingate Softball Complex.

The Braves got on the board first in the opening game, but a six run fourth inning helped the Bulldogs to an 8-2 victory to start the day. The Black & Gold took a 3-2 lead late with a solo homer from Chloe Locklear in the top of the sixth, but Wingate answered in the bottom of the seventh inning with three hits to complete the sweep 4-3.

Game One

Wingate (19-13) put runners on first and second to start the fourth inning, but a single from Carrie Ellen Bryan scored a runner followed by an RBI single from Kaylee Hobgood. The Bulldogs loaded the bases with an infield single from Damyia McFadden, but Kendra Murray knocked a single through the left side to bring in a pair of runners. Lily Huneycutt and Riley Griffin both singled to bring in a pair of runners to cap off the six-run inning.

Emma Wrenn and Chloe Locklear each had two hits for UNCP (25-15) and Summer Bullard had an RBI. Halona Sampson (8-6) took the loss.

Kendra Murray had two hits and two RBIs for Wingate and Kaylee Hobgood had three hits and an RBI. Lily Robins (4-4) earned the win.

Game Two

Chloe Locklear got the sixth inning started for UNCP with a leadoff homer over the center field fence to knot the game at 3.

Wingate's Hobgood started the seventh inning with a single through the left side followed by a bunt single from Damyia McFadden. A throwing error by the Braves loaded the bases, but an infield single from Lily Huneycutt scored Hobgood for the winning run.

Wrenn and Locklear each had two hits and an RBI for the Braves. Summer Bullard (14-7) was the losing pitcher.

Huneycutt and Sydney Patterson each had two RBIs for Wingate, while Jamie Horodecki (1-0) was the winning pitcher.

The Braves will be back in action on Wednesday when they travel to Virginia to face Ferrum. First pitch of the twin bill is slated for 2 p.m. at the Vicki Van Kleecoff Softball Complex.

Braves track & field wraps up at Raleigh Relays

Calen McKinney took 32nd in the men's 200-meters to highlight final-day action at the Raleigh Relays on Saturday at the Paul Derr Track & Field Facility.

McKinney crossed in 21.53 to take 32nd, while Mekhi Hayes finished in 53rd with a time of 21.82 in the event.

On the women's side, Sofia Skidmore ran a personal-best 2:15.03 to take 128th in the women's 800-meters, while Janaya Davis-Gainer finished 93rd in the 200-meters with a time of 25.34 to round out the action.

Both squads will be back in action Thursday, April 2 as they head to High Point for the VertKlasse Meeting. The two-day event will be held at Vert Stadium.

Tiger Woods had hydrocodone pills in his pocket, bloodshot eyes at crash scene, authorities say

Mike Schneider
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Tiger Woods' eyes were bloodshot and glassy, his pupils dilated and he had hydrocodone pills in his pocket when interviewed at the scene of his car crash last week in Florida, according to a sheriff's office report released Tuesday.

Woods' movements were slow and lethargic, he was sweating as he talked to deputies and told them he had taken prescription medication earlier in the morning, according to the incident report released by the Martin County Sheriff's Office. Woods told deputies he had been looking at his phone and fiddling with the radio before he clipped a truck in front of him, the report said.

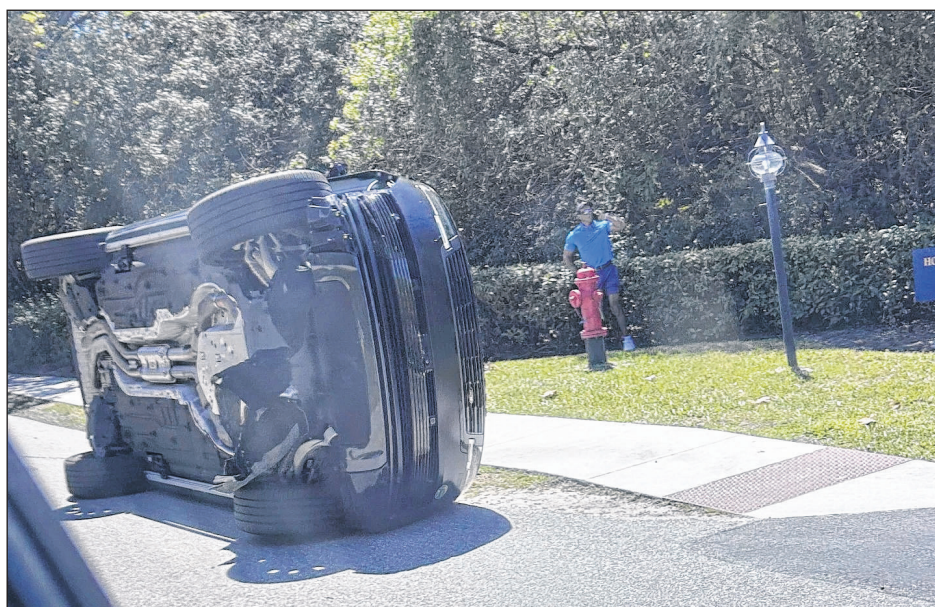
Deputies found two white pills, which were identified as the opioid hydrocodone used to treat pain, in his pocket, the report said.

When asked by a deputy if he took any prescription medications, Woods said, "I take a few."

The golfer was traveling at high speeds on a beachside, residential road on Jupiter Island when his Land Rover clipped the truck and rolled onto its side, according to the sheriff's office, which noted Woods showed signs of impairment.

The truck had \$5,000 in damage, according to the sheriff's report.

The truck driver and



Jason Oteri | AP Photo

Tiger Woods stands by his overturned vehicle after a crash Friday in Jupiter Island, Fla.

another person helped Woods out of his vehicle, with the golfer needing to climb out from the passenger side. Neither Woods nor the truck driver were injured.

During a field sobriety test, deputies noticed Woods limping and that he had a compression sock over his right knee. The golfer explained he had undergone seven back surgeries and over 20 leg operations and that his ankle seizes up while walking. Woods, who was hiccupping during the questioning, continuously moved his head during one of the sobriety tests and deputies had to instruct him several times to keep his head straight, the report said.

"Based on my observations of Woods, how he performed the exercises and based on my training, knowledge, and experi-

ence, I believed that Woods normal faculties were impaired, and he was unable to safely operate the motor vehicle," the deputy wrote after the tests.

Woods, 50, is the most influential figure in golf and has become as recognizable as any athlete in the world. The first person of Black heritage to win the Masters in 1997, he has captivated golf fans with records likely never to be broken.

But his injuries kept him from accomplishing more, including those suffered in a 2021 car crash that damaged his right leg so badly he said doctors considered amputation.

At this latest crash, Woods agreed to a Breathalyzer test that showed no signs of alcohol, but he refused a urine test, authorities said. He was arrested and released

on bail eight hours later.

Woods' agent at Excel Sports, Mark Steinberg, has not responded to multiple messages seeking comment. No one from Woods' camp or the PGA Tour — he is on the board and is chairman of the committee reshaping the competition model — has commented since his arrest.

Woods, who has been involved in many crashes over the years, is charged with driving under the influence, property damage and refusal to submit to a lawful test. He is scheduled for arraignment April 23. Online court records do not list an attorney for him.

Under a change to Florida law last year, refusing a law enforcement officer's request to take a breath, blood or urine test became a misdemeanor, even for a first offense.

McCawley

From page 1B

ing to get results on Saturday," McCawley said. "Just being consistent throughout the week and doing what is necessary to put myself in the correct spots."

McCawley's no-hitter helped UNCP (23-9, 15-6 CC) sweep Shorter as part of a four-game winning streak. More

dominant pitching from him and the rest of the rotation will greatly help them continue the Braves' progress.

"We're really close as a team, we get along pretty well, and I think if we can just play as one and pull from the same end of the rope, we're going to be alright," McCawley said.

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

Baseball

From page 1B

Sims doubled and came home on Reece Newberry's RBI single.

The Braves jumped in front in the second as Branton Jernigan singled, stole second, and came home on a Shorter error to tie the score, while J.D. Scarbrough gave UNCP the lead with an RBI bunt single. Another Hawks error made it 3-1,

while Hayden Davis followed with an RBI single to stretch the lead to 4-1.

The Black & Gold put the game away with five runs in the fourth, as Mason Mozeley delivered an RBI single, followed by a Lucas sac fly and a Young two-run double, while Morgan Padgett capped off the scoring with an RBI groundout to make it 10-1.

Young, Lucas and Mozeley each had two hits in the nightcap, with Young driving in three runs, Lucas

driving in two and Mozeley one. Marcus Locklear (1-0) pitched two scoreless innings with one hit allowed and four strikeouts.

Reece Newberry had two RBIs and Griffin Tamucci had two hits for Shorter; Grayson Goss (2-3) was the losing pitcher.

The Black & Gold will be back in action Tuesday as they head south to take on USC Aiken. First pitch is set for 5 p.m. at Roberto Hernandez Stadium.

Adelio's
Italian-American Ristorante

Mention This Ad And Enjoy 5% Off Your Dinner Order Over \$30 Carry Out Or Dine In

111 West 3rd St • Lumberton, NC • (910) 671-4747

DILLON TIRE SUPERSTORE

- Lift Kits
- Leveling Kits
- Toolboxes
- B&W Hitches
- On-Site Mechanic
- Alignments
- Bed Covers

LET US TAKE CARE OF ALL YOUR AUTOMOTIVE NEEDS!
306 E. Main St., Dillon, SC 29536
(843)-774-2146

DO YOU WANT TO AVOID KNEE SURGERY?
WE HELP THOSE WHO SUFFER BEFORE OR AFTER KNEE SURGERY

If you are experience any of the following

- Aching Knee Pain
- Grinding Sensation
- "Bone on bone"
- Arthritis
- Tendonitis
- Bursitis
- Cartilage Damage
- Weakness in your knees
- Sharp/Shooting Pain
- Muscles Spasms
- Burning

LUMBERTON LASER PAIN CENTER
Affiliated with Dial Chiropractic Accident & Injury Center
910-802-4034

ROBESON COUNTY ATHLETIC SPOTLIGHT

PURNELL SWETT HIGH SCHOOL

Purnell Swett senior Jordan Locklear had a big week on the diamond as part of a 3-0 stretch for the Rams. Locklear was 6-for-12 with a home run and six RBIs for the week. Locklear is hitting .421 with 10 RBIs and four extra-base hits so far this season, with the Robeson County Slugfest hosted by Purnell Swett looming this weekend.

JORDAN LOCKLEAR
Baseball

LUMBERTON HIGH SCHOOL

Lumberton softball sophomore Olivia McLamb helped end a pair of big comebacks by the Pirates, with the winning run scoring on an error on her at-bat against Purnell Swett and a walkoff single against Cape Fear. McLamb was 4-for-9 with 5 RBIs across the two games and is hitting .452 with 9 RBIs and 10 runs this season.

OLIVIA MCLAMB
Softball / Tennis

RCC baseball swept by Brunswick

Staff report

BOLIVIA — The Robeson Community College Diamond Eagles faced a tough stretch over the last week, coming up short against Fayetteville Tech 15-5 on Wednesday before being swept, 12-2, 8-1 and 11-1 by Brunswick.

On Wednesday against Fayetteville Tech, the Eagles scored early with a second-inning home run by Lezlie Jackson, driving in

three runs. Nick Widener took the mound, allowing six runs over one inning. Jackson led the offense with three RBIs, while Owen Noonan added two hits. The team remained flawless in the field, with Jorge Torres handling the most chances.

During the three-game series against Brunswick, the Eagles showed flashes of offense despite the outcomes. Ivan Sierra, Davin Roush and David Ramsey each

made starts, with Roush going five innings and Ramsey striking out five. Messiah Miller and Noah Hince contributed key hits and RBIs, including Miller's solo home run in Game 3. The Eagles maintained solid defense, committing no errors in multiple contests.

This week the Eagles will face Fayetteville Tech on the road on Wednesday and return home to face Southeastern in a three-game series on Friday and Saturday.

Slugfest

From page 1B

10 a.m., while the loser between St. Pauls-Red Springs will play the loser between Heide Trask-Purnell Swett at 1 p.m.

In the first semifinal game, the winner of the Scotland-Fairmont will play the winner of East Columbus-Lumberton at 4 p.m. The winner between St. Pauls-Red

Springs will face the Heide Trask-Purnell Swett winner at 7 p.m.

The winners of the consolation round will face each other on Tuesday, April 7 at 1 p.m. in the fifth-place game. The semifinal losers will play in the third place game at 4 p.m., while the semifinal winners will play at 7 p.m. for the tournament championship.

Jacob Husson can be reached at 910-816-1966 or by email at jhusson@robesonian.com

Women's Final Four a repeat of last season, headlined by undefeated reigning national champion UConn

John Marshall
AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX — The women's Final Four is on repeat.

No. 1 seeds UConn, UCLA, Texas and South Carolina are in the Final Four for the second straight season, just the second time the same teams have reached the sport's final weekend in consecutive years.

Only the matchups and location will be different this time.

Reigning national champion UConn will face South Carolina on Friday in Phoenix after playing UCLA last season. The Bruins will take on the Longhorns.

"I don't think people understand how hard it is to do it," Texas coach Vic Schaefer said. "I think it bodes well for all of us, but there's four or five more teams right there nipping at your heels."

Just not this season — or last.

The only other time the same four teams reached consecutive Final Fours was when UConn, Tennessee, Stanford and Georgia did it from 1995-96.

Everyone will be trying to stop the Huskies in this one.

UConn has been the standard in women's college basketball under coach Geno Auriemma. The Huskies have won 12 national championships, played in 25 Final Fours — a record 14 straight from 2008-22 — and have won 1,288 games in 41 seasons under Auriemma.

UConn had to work to win last year's national title as a No. 2 seed. The Huskies (38-0) have dominated this season in their bid to finish the program's seventh undefeated season.

Deep and talented, UConn has won 54 straight games over two seasons, winning by an average of 37.8 points this year. The Huskies are led by first-team All-Americans Sarah Strong and Azzi Fudd, but have eight players averaging at least 6.8 points per game.

"I feel like no other team has a bench like us,"



The South Carolina bench celebrates after guard Agot Makeer, not show, makes a layup during Monday's NCAA Tournament Elite Eight game against TCU Monday in Sacramento, Calif. Sara Nevis | AP Photo

said Strong, who leads the team at 18. points per game. "We can have kind of anyone off the bench step up and change the whole pace of the game."

They'll face a South Carolina team very familiar with Final Four pressure in a rematch of last year's title game.

The Gamecocks have reached the Final Four seven of the past nine seasons — six straight — under coach Dawn Staley, winning three national championships.

South Carolina (35-3) has five players averaging double-figures in scoring, led by second-team All-American Joyce Edwards' 19.6 points per game, and plays the kind of defense that leaves opponents flailing. The Gamecocks hold teams to an average of 57.6 points per game and had 17 steals in a 101-61 win over Southern California in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

South Carolina faced its first deficit of the NCAA Tournament against TCU in the Elite Eight, but

pulled away in the second half for a 78-52 win that completed the Final Four repeat. It also sets up a chance for payback after the Gamecocks lost to UConn in last year's title game.

"I think you've just got to go pound for pound with them, just be unafraid of running against an undefeated team," Staley said. "The pressures of playing undefeated, if you keep it close, you might — might — get them on a bad night and that's what we're hoping for on Friday."

UCLA has played in the NCAA Tournament nine times in coach Cori Close's 15 seasons, including the program's first Final Four a year ago.

The Bruins have yet to win a national championship, yet have a huge advantage inside in Lauren Betts.

The 6-foot-7, two-time All-American has dominated during her senior season, averaging 18.5 points and 7.6 rebounds while shooting 60.1% from the field. Betts led the Bruins

back from a rare halftime deficit against Duke in the Elite Eight, finishing with 23 points, 10 rebounds and five blocked shots in the 70-58 win on Sunday.

"Her size and her skill make her difficult to defend one-on-one," Duke coach Kara Lawson said. "And then the framework of their team with the shooting around her makes it really hard to bring an extra defender, is kind of how they've built and matched the skill sets."

Betts and the Bruins (35-1) head to the desert to face the only team that beat them this season.

It came at the Players Era Championship Nov. 26, when the Longhorns led by 20 at halftime and held off a late charge by UCLA to win 76-65 in Las Vegas.

Led by fifth-year guard Rori Harmon and All-American forward Madison Booker, Texas (36-3) steamrolled its first four NCAA Tournament opponents by an average of 35.5 points per game. The Longhorns blew

out Michigan 77-41 in the Elite Eight on Monday night, earning consecutive Final Four trips for the second time in program history. The 1996 team finished undefeated on the way to the school's only national championship, a year after losing in the national semifinals.

"Well this group is awfully special. They're tough. We call it Texas tough in Austin, but I told them they're good enough," Schaefer said. "I've been on this trip before, but I want them to really be focused. Enjoy today. Don't take this for granted."

POLARIS
THE 2026 LINEUP HAS ARRIVED

YAMAHA OF LUMBERTON
CHECK OUT OUR LOCAL INVENTORY. VISIT US AT:
4401 FAYETTEVILLE ROAD
LUMBERTON, NC 28358
(910) 738-1454
WWW.YAMAHAOFLUMBERTON.COM

Discover the Beauty & Durability of PuroStone

CALL NOW (855) 932-7733

\$1500 OFF*

PLUS ZERO Interest, ZERO Payments Financing for 12 Months**

Military & Senior Discounts Available

*Includes labor and product; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires 6/30/26. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. **Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. Participating dealers only. See your dealer for details. ©2026 Both Concepts Industries, LLC

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel

Safety. Style. Stress-Free Installation.

CALL NOW 1.844.328.3694

SPECIAL OFFER
Waiving All Installation Costs!

Add'l terms apply. Offer subject to change and vary by dealer. Expires 12/27/26.

HIS and HER GREENHOUSE, INC.

Locally Grown Seasonal Vegetables!

910-739-2235
2278 E. Powersville Rd., Lumberton 28358

Tested and proven gutter protection. LeafFilter

LeafFilter® Common hood style

We install year-round - Exp 6/30/26

Schedule your free inspection and estimate today!
1-877-649-1190 Promo Code: 285

Special offer - Save up to **25% off** LeafFilter Gutter Protection

*Promotional offer includes 15% off plus an additional 10% off for qualified veterans and/or seniors. Cannot be combined with any other offers. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. See representative for full warranty details. AZ: POC 340221, CA: 1038785, CT: HIC087800, DC: 432028, FL: CFC086878, IA: 027230, IL: PSC09204, LA: 589844, MA: 292825, MI: MICH025, MN: HIC04488, MO: 262200329, NE: 262200329, ND: 262200329, RI: 262200329, SC: 262200329, TN: 262200329, VA: 262200329, WA: 262200329, WI: 262200329, WY: 262200329. ©2026 LeafFilter, Inc. All rights reserved.

When needed, Morrison Manor provides 24-hour inpatient care to keep your loved one close and out of the hospital.

Morrison Manor is available to any Scotland Regional Hospice patient, who meets the criteria for inpatient care, regardless of the county they reside in.

A non-profit hospice provider since 1986

Proudly offering in-home care to residents of Robeson County

Accredited by the Accreditation of Commission for Health Care (ACHC).

Recognized by Strategic Healthcare Programs (SHP) as a "Superior Performer" for providing high quality service to families and caregivers of patients receiving hospice care.

SCOTLAND REGIONAL Hospice

"A Special Kind of Caring"
610 Lauchwood Drive
Laurinburg, NC 28352
(910)276-7176
scotlandhospice.org

UConn stuns Duke at buzzer to reach Final Four

Noah Trister
AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON — Braylon Mullins retrieved a loose ball near midcourt and suddenly, improbably, UConn had a chance to win.

As the frantic final seconds unfolded, Dan Hurley figured out timeout would do little good.

"It just felt like the window where you've just got to let March Madness take over," Hurley said. "March magic."

The Huskies have enjoyed plenty of that through the years, and this may have been their most astonishing win yet. Mullins sank a desperation 3-pointer with 0.4 seconds left to give UConn a 73-72 victory over top-seeded Duke on Sunday, earning the Huskies a spot in the Final Four after they rallied from a 19-point first-half deficit.

The Blue Devils (35-3) led by three before UConn's Silas Demary Jr. made one of two free throws with 10 seconds left. With Duke playing keep-away to prevent the Huskies from fouling, Cayden Boozer's pass near midcourt was deflected by Demary, and after UConn came up with the ball, Mullins swished a 3 from 35 feet away.

"We were trying to foul the worst free-throw shooter on the floor, and Silas ended up deflecting the pass," Mullins said. "I knew I had to put one up. Man, I'm just happy that was the one that went down tonight."

UConn (33-5) went just 5-of-23 from 3-point range. The fifth will be remembered in Connecticut for generations.

It's the second straight season to end in a huge collapse for Duke, which was the top overall seed in this year's tournament. The Blue

Devils led by six with 1:14 remaining before falling to Houston in last year's national semifinals.

"I could not be more disappointed and feeling for our guys, at the same time of just trying to process what happened," Duke coach Jon Scheyer said. "I don't have the words. I don't have the words."

Hurley is trying to coach the Huskies to a national title for the third time in four seasons, a feat that hasn't been accomplished since UCLA in the 1970s. UConn now faces third-seeded Illinois in Saturday's semifinal in Indianapolis.

To get there, the Huskies needed one of the biggest comebacks in regional final history. Only Louisville, which came from 20 down to beat West Virginia in 2005, had a bigger one. Duke led 44-25 late in the first half and 44-29 at the break. That's now the largest halftime lead in tournament history blown by a No. 1 seed.

Cameron Boozer, who had 27 points for the Blue Devils, fought his way to a basket inside with 28.9 seconds to play, and the next UConn possession used precious time before Demary was fouled.

After he made one of two, the inbound came to Cameron Boozer, who passed out of a double team to Dame Sarr, who then found Cameron's twin brother, Cayden Boozer, in the middle of the court. Instead of waiting to be fouled, Cayden Boozer — who shoots about 81% from the line — tried for one more pass as Mullins and Demary closed in on him.

"I knew we were the back two guys, and we left whoever was behind us," Mullins said. "We were just trying to make a play."

There were two Duke players



UConn guard Braylon Mullins (24) scores the winning basket during Sunday's NCAA Tournament Elite Eight game against Duke in Washington. Abbie Parr | AP Photo

alone deep, but the ball never got there. Demary was able to deflect it and Mullins picked it up near midcourt. He passed to Alex Karaban, who gave it back to Mullins. The freshman was in rhythm, but about halfway between the 3-point arc and half court.

Nothing but net.

It'll go down alongside the great NCAA Tournament game-winning shots, next to Christian Laettner's for Duke in the 1992 Elite Eight against Kentucky and Kris Jenkins' to win the national title for Villanova in 2016. Or Laettner's shot in the 1990 regional final — which turned another Duke-UConn classic from a loss into a win for the Blue Devils.

"Just another chapter in the UConn-Duke NCAA Tournament dramatics," Hurley said. "Obviously a really tough way for their season to end.

I thought they played great. I thought they punched us in the mouth with incredible force."

The Blue Devils smothered UConn defensively for most of the game, in part because the Huskies missed 17 of their first 18 attempts from beyond the arc. When told of that stat after the game, Hurley laughed and held his hands over his face.

"What the hell did you just say, 1 for 18?" Hurley said. "I knew it was bad. I kept asking the assistant coaches, and no one would tell me what it was."

Tarris Reed Jr. led UConn with 26 points, and for a while he had little help offensively. The Huskies gradually cut into their deficit in the second half, though, and a 3 by Karaban pulled them within one with under a minute left.

UConn rolls in later rounds, sometimes at Duke's expense. UConn has now won 18

consecutive games in the Sweet 16 or subsequent rounds. The last loss for the Huskies in those stages of the tournament came against Michigan State in the 2009 Final Four.

For all the success Duke has had through the years, the Blue Devils have now had hearts broken by UConn three straight times in the Big Dance. The Huskies beat one of Duke's greatest teams in the 1999 title game and rallied late to beat the Blue Devils in the 2004 semifinals.

This one was a gut punch very much on par with those.

Up next
UConn: The Huskies have met Illinois in the NCAA Tournament once. UConn won 77-52 in the Elite Eight in 2024.

Duke: The Blue Devils are expected to lose Cameron Boozer to the NBA.

NC State to hire ex-player Gainey as men's basketball coach

Aaron Beard
AP Basketball Writer

RALEIGH — N.C. State has an agreement with Tennessee assistant coach and former Wolfpack player Justin Gainey to lead its men's basketball program, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press on Monday.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the school has yet to make a formal announcement. The deal requires approval by the school's

board of trustees to become official, with trustees scheduling an emergency meeting for Tuesday to "consider a personnel matter."

The school also said Monday that it would hold a news conference for its next coach on Wednesday.

Gainey would replace Will Wade, who lasted just one season in Raleigh before leaving for a second stint at LSU.

Gainey, 49, served as the Volunteers' associate head coach under Rick Barnes since the 2022-23 season, when he also

took over as the team's defensive coordinator. Defense was a key piece of Tennessee's run to the Elite Eight for three straight seasons, with the Volunteers ranking third, third and 14th in KenPom's adjusted defensive efficiency metrics.

Gainey started his coaching career at N.C. State as an administrative coordinator and later as director of basketball operations.

The Wolfpack guard from 1996-2000 under Herb Sendek also was an assistant at Marquette, Arizona, Santa Clara, Appalachian State and Elon. Set to become a first-time head coach, Gainey is from High Point and played high school ball in Greensboro, a little more than an hour west of the N.C. State campus.

"I hope he gets the job," Barnes said before losing

to No. 1 seed Michigan in the Midwest Region final. "I don't think there's anybody in the country that loves N.C. State more than Justin Gainey."

Gainey would inherit a program with tradition highlighted by winning national titles in 1974 and 1983 — the latter being the famed "Cardiac Pack" run helmed by the late Jim Valvano — as well as an unlikely to run to the Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament title followed by the Final Four just two years ago.

Yet there's also the tough-neighborhood dynamic of building a winning program in the Triangle region in North Carolina, where UNC, Duke and N.C. State — boasting a combined 13 NCAA championships — share the 919 area code and are all within a half-hour's drive of one another.

Consistent success has



Justin Gainey, then an Arizona assistant coach, gestures during a game against Washington State on March 5, 2020 in Tuscon, Ariz. Gainey, who most recently has been an assistant at Tennessee, is set to be hired as N.C. State's new head coach. Rick Scuteri | AP File Photo

been tricky to maintain of late, too.

The remarkable 2024 run under Kevin Keatts marked the program's first wins in the NCAA Tournament since a Sweet 16 appearance in 2015 under Mark Gottfried, with the Wolfpack missing five of seven tournaments and experiencing a pair of first-round exits in 2018 and 2023. Keatts was fired after the Wolfpack crashed to 12-19 following the Final Four run.

Wade's bravado-filled arrival last year included promises of a "reckoning" for the ACC and nationally. N.C. State started 18-6 before collapsing, with a

First Four loss to Texas sending the Wolfpack into the offseason with eight losses in 10 games.

Then came Wade's abrupt departure, exactly two weeks after he proclaimed he was determined to win big with the Wolfpack amid speculation about a possible LSU return and saying he was already talking with school administrators about Year 2 needs. Athletic director Boo Corrigan told reporters last week that Wade provided multiple confirmations he would return in recent weeks, only to no-show a meeting before resigning via an email through his agent.

We care like family!

We offer quality short-term and long-term care.

GlenFlora

- Assisted Living
- Skilled Care
- Rehabilitation
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy

Private Baths
Homelike Atmosphere

5701 Fayetteville Road, Lumberton NC 28360
910-739-2821

DENTAL Insurance

Great coverage for retirees.

Get your **FREE** Information Kit

Ask about the Premier Plan - our most popular option!

1-844-496-8601

Dental50Plus.com/NCpress

Physicians Mutual Insurance Company

Product/features not available in all states. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. To find a network provider, go to physiciansmutual.com/find-dentist. This specific offer not available in CO, NV, NY - call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for a similar offer in your state. Certificate C254/B465, C250A/B438 (ID: C254ID, PA: C254PA); Insurance Policy P154/B469 (GA: P154GA, OK: P154OK, TN: P154TN). 6347-0125

QUALITY OIL & GAS CO.

Switch providers today at www.switchtoquality.com

RELIABLE PROPANE DELIVERY

Servicing Richmond, Scotland, Robeson, Anson and surrounding counties.

Floyd Mortuary & Crematory, Inc.

809 EAST 5TH STREET,
LUMBERTON, NORTH CAROLINA
(910) 738-8144 | www.floydmortuary.net

RHCC
Your Health Care Guardian
www.rhcchealth.org

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

HEALTH CENTERS

- DR. A.J. ROBINSON HEALTH CENTER (910) 370-0815
- JULIAN T. PIERCE HEALTH CENTER (910) 521-2816 | (910) 521-2878 Pharmacy
- MAXTON MEDICAL CENTER (910) 844-5253
- RED SPRINGS HEALTH CENTER (910) 227-2850 | (910) 586-0030 Pharmacy
- SCOTLAND HEALTH CENTER (910) 536-4662 | (910) 501-5127 Pharmacy
- SOUTH ROBESON HEALTH CENTER (910) 628-6711 | (910) 535-1003 Pharmacy
- ST. PAULS HEALTH CENTER (910) 241-3042
- LUMBERTON HEALTH CENTER (910) 739-1666 | (910) 674-3174 Pharmacy

* Locations with Pharmacy Services

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FACILITIES

- GRACE COURT (910) 618-9912
- CAMBRIDGE PLACE (910) 989-9114
- THE VILLAGE (252) 752-6566
- OUR HOUSE (910) 521-1464
- MEN'S RECOVERY HOME (910) 738-5645

FAIRMONT FAMILY DENTAL
210 South Walnut Street Fairmont, NC 28340 Phone: 910-668-6534

RED SPRINGS WALK IN
Unexpected injuries and illnesses
382 Mt. Tabor Road Red Springs, NC 28377
Phone: (910) 227-2850
Monday-Friday (10am-7pm)
Saturday and Sunday (10am-2pm)

Providing Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder Services at all Health Centers.

*Your Health is our highest priority. Let us be your Health Care Guardian!
Robeson Health Care Corporation Corporate Headquarters
60 Commerce Plaza Circle • Pembroke, NC 28372 Ph: (910) 521-2900
To learn more about <https://www.rhcchealth.org/>