

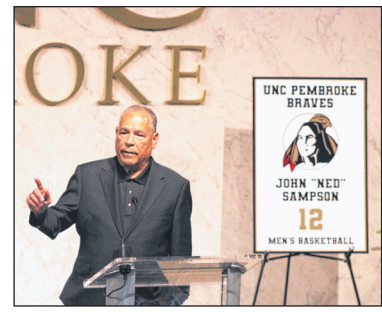
Inside today
TRAUMA
TRAINING

RCC hosts annual event to train EMS, nursing students. **News 10A**



AND...
Hood:
Expand
school
choice
Opinion 4A

In today's paper
SPORTS:
Honoring
'Mr. Ned'
Sampson
Page 1B



THE ROBESONIAN

Serving Robeson County Since 1870

Wednesday, April 22, 2026 • Issue 30, Volume 157

robsonian.com

A Fresh Perspective

Local NEWS

\$1.50

ECHS wins title at Battle of the Books state competition



Photo courtesy of PSRC

The PSRC Early College High School Battle of the Books team won first place at the NCSLMA state competition Monday in Stateville.

Jessica Sealey
For The Robesonian

STATESVILLE — PSRC Early College High School students brought home gold Monday and the title of 2025-26 NCSLMA Battle of the Books State Champions. The competition, hosted by the NC School Library Media Association, took place at the Unity Center in Stateville.

The Battle of the

Books is a quiz-style academic competition designed to promote literacy and a love of reading. The competition challenges teams to read a selected list of books and answer detailed questions that test comprehension, teamwork and critical thinking. "I am proud of these scholars for their hard work, dedication and time spent reading and preparing to compete," said PSRC ECHS Princi-

pal Andrew Davis. "This award is a reflection of their excellence and the dedication of our educators, team members, coaches and families. Congratulations, Eagles!" PSRC Early College advanced to the state level after earning first place at the regional competition in Cumberland County and at the local level. "They have shown resilience, discipline, and a true love for reading

throughout this journey," said PSRC ECHS Battle of the Books Coaches Shitan Jones and Paulette DeGroot in a joint statement. "Watching them grow in confidence and come together as a team has been incredibly rewarding. We are proud of all they have accomplished." PSRC Media Supervisor Cindi Humphrey could be seen beaming

See BATTLE | 9A



Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

Cecilia Peers, regional vice president for Trillium Health Resources, presents to the Robeson County Board of Commissioners during Monday's meeting in Lumberton.

County board hears health care update

Chris Stiles
The Robesonian

in downtown Lumberton.

LUMBERTON — The Robeson County Board of Commissioners heard a presentation from Trillium Health Resources on its services in the county during Monday's regular monthly board meeting at the Robeson County Administration Building

Trillium manages health care services for individuals on Medicaid or without insurance as they receive care for mental health, substance use, traumatic brain injury and intellectual/developmental disability

See COUNTY | 9A



Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

Rob Cole, center, performs at Darlington Raceway in Darlington, South Carolina on March 21.

Cole continues on whirlwind

Pembroke musician to play CCMF, fresh of 'The Voice' success

Chris Stiles
The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — It may have been four months since Rob Cole completed his time on NBC's "The Voice," finishing as a

semifinalist on Season 28. But that doesn't mean that the first four months of 2026 have slowed down for the Pembroke artist. Anything but. "I still feel pretty fresh

off the show, even though they've already done a whole new season. ... A lot has happened in these last couple months, I keep getting busier and busier," Cole said. "A lot of people ask, what has

'The Voice' done for you? I'll be able to answer that in about a year's time. I can tell you what's been going on the last couple of months, but we'll get

See COLE | 9A

UNCP students experience Washington in person

Mark Locklear
For The Robesonian



Photo courtesy of UNCP

From left, Josiah Marineau, Dominic Forney, Daniel Contreras, Bethany Locklear, Maryely Dominguez, Melanie Escue, Veronica Smith, Chanelle Lott, Dustin Barnes and Jessica Reynolds gathered at Capital overlooking the George Washington Monument.

PEMBROKE — Sitting inside the U.S. Supreme Court courtroom, UNC Pembroke student Dustin Barnes found himself imagining his future. "I could see myself being there one day," said Barnes, a sophomore criminal justice major who aspires to become a federal prosecutor. "It brings everything you learn in class to life."

That moment was part of a Spring Break Study Away trip to Washington,

D.C., where UNCP students experienced firsthand the institutions, history and culture they study in the classroom.

Organized by Melanie Escue, assistant professor in sociology and criminal justice, and Josiah Marineau, associate professor of political science, the Study Away trip brought students enrolled in intro to political science and law and society courses to the nation's capital, where they explored some of the country's most significant

See UNCP | 9A

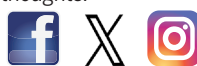
ServiceMaster Restore
Service Master by ERS Inc.
Fire & Water Damage and Mold Restoration
910-7333808 • 1-833-761-2030
www.servicemasterrestore.com

TODAY'S FORECAST
High 82, Low 54 – Warmer with intervals of clouds and sunshine

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.



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

OBITUARIES

SUSAN PATE JOHNSON



Susan Pate Johnson, of Lumberton, passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, surrounded by love.

Susan was preceded in death by her mother, Bernice Thomas Pate, and her grandmother, Eunice Thomas. Their memories remained close to her heart throughout her life.

She is lovingly remembered by her devoted husband of 55 years, Jack Johnson; her children, Sharon Daughtry (Kenneth), Chad Johnson (Candice), and Zachary Johnson; her brothers, Ricky Pate and Tommy Pate; and her cherished granddaughters, Brianna Bondurant, Caroline Daughtry and Danielle Daughtry. Susan's family was the center of her world, and she took great pride in each of them.

Susan will be remembered for her kindness, strength, and the love she shared so freely with those around her. She touched many lives and leaves behind a legacy of warmth, faith and family.

A memorial service to celebrate Susan's life will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 25, 2026, at Long Branch Baptist Church in Lumberton.

Online condolences can be made by visiting: www.FloydMortuary.net.

Annual Friends of the Library gathering to spotlight Washington's historic southern journey

Staff report

LUMBERTON — The Friends of the Robeson County Public Library will host its annual meeting at Adelio's Restaurant on May 7. This year's featured guest is acclaimed North Carolina author Warren L. Bingham, who will share insights from his memoir, "George Washington's 1791 Southern Tour."



Bingham

Bingham's work explores President Washington's ambitious journey through Virginia, the Carolinas and Georgia. This was a pivotal chapter in the nation's early years, as Washington sought to visit each of the original 13 states during his presidency. Through careful research and vivid storytelling, Bingham retraces Washington's path, offering

thoughtful reflections on both the historical significance and the enduring legacy of this southern tour.

He has twice addressed audiences at Mount Vernon, appeared on C-SPAN, been interviewed by National Public Radio in Atlanta, and featured on PBS North Carolina's "North Carolina Book Watch." He has brought his passion for history to over six hundred audiences across five states and the District of Columbia.

The Friends of the Library organization plays a role in funding initiatives that might otherwise fall beyond the library's reach. Thanks to the generosity of its members, the Friends contributed \$3,000 this year to support the summer reading program, along with funding for a NCPLDA Lobbyist and community marketing efforts.

If you value the library and its mission, consider joining the Friends of the Robeson County Public Library. Membership options include individual (\$25), family (\$50), or patron (\$100 or more). To purchase tickets for this special event and to renew or begin your membership, visit www.robesoncountylibrary.org/friends, or contact Blake Tyner at blake@blaketyner.com or 910-827-5504.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

DIY & Unwind, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., April 22: The Robeson County Public Library is hosting an adult craft-ing 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. The show will be at UNC Pembroke's Givens Performing Arts Center.

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! The parade will be at Jack Pait's Strawberry Farm at 1561 Old Allenton Road in Lumberton.

Hallucinations Prompted by Reality, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., April 26: The Red Springs Art Gallery presents the opening of a new exhibition gallery by Henrik Fantazos, a Polish-American artist from Hillsboro NC.

Cash Bash, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., April 30: Get ready for an unforgettable evening at the 2026 Cash Bash. Guests will indulge in a delightful array of culinary offerings while enjoying the festive atmosphere, complete with live and silent auctions featuring exclusive items and experiences. Attendees will have the unique opportunity to connect with coaches, student-athletes, and fellow supporters, all while making a significant impact on the future of UNCP Athletics. The event is on the UNCP Campus in the English E. Jones Center.

Community Outreach Event, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., April 30: Join with the Main Street Lumberton committee to explore a master plan, hear market study updates and take part in shaping the future of downtown Lumberton. Food will be served, and ALL are welcome. An RSVP would be appreciated to ensure we have enough food for the attendees.

Wizard of Oz on Ice, 7:30 p.m., April 30: Experience the enchantment of "The Wizard of OZ" like never before with this all-new dazzling ice show! Watch as world-renowned professional skating champions bring this beloved tale to life on ice, combining breathtaking performances with interactive elements for audiences of all ages. From Dorothy's iconic journey down the Yellow Brick Road to the magical encounters with the Scarecrow, Tin Man, and Cowardly Lion, every moment is filled with mesmerizing choreography and stunning visuals. Don't miss an unforgettable experience that will leave you spellbound!

Border Belt Horseman Association Event, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., May 2: The Southeastern NC Agricultural Event Center is hosting the Border Belt Horseman Association Show. Our mission is to bring riders of all ages, skill levels and disciplines together to develop their skillset and love for these animals. We instill a culture of positive reinforcement and the desire to help each and every rider. Negative Coggins is required.

Robstock IV- Robeson County Band of Brothers, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., May 2: Robstock IV is presented by the Robeson County Band of Brothers at Lumberton Station 1917. The event honors the late musician David Smith of the band Ashes to Ashes and features performances by them, Eleven Fifty Nine, Delgado, and C.O.A.D. Proceeds support scholarships for Lumberton Senior High School students.

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.

Stories & Sounds, 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., May 3: The Kinship NC is the location for a cozy Sunday afternoon in Historic Downtown Lumberton. Wind down with Tonya Holy Elk & Lakota John as they recite poetry and

play acoustic guitar. Enjoy the beautiful setting in Kinship, NC.

Farmer's Market Opening Day, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., May 9: The 2026 Season of the Robeson County Farmers Market begins! The Market is located downtown on the plaza for opening day. Farmers display the fresh-from-the-field vegetables, eggs, meats and more. Vendors are present, and there is space for more.

Master Gardener's Plant Sale, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., May 9: The Master Gardeners extension of the NC Cooperative Extension Services is hosting a plant sale at the Farmers Market. Buy Spring annuals, perennials, herbs, vegetables and learn about how to take care of your favorite plants.

Chamber Golf Classic, 11 a.m., May 14: The Lumberton, NC Chamber of Commerce Golf Classic is at Pine Crest Country Club. Lunch is at 11:00 a.m., and Shotgun starts at 12:00 p.m. Hole-in-one prize is available, as are 4 closest-to-the-pin, most accurate drive, money board, and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Team awards. Support the Chamber and enjoy the day!

Alive After 5 Concert Series Opening Show, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., May 14: The Sand Band is opening the Alive After 5 Concert Series in Historic Downtown Lumberton on the Dick Taylor Plaza. Get in the groove for a weekly concert each Thursday for the next 5 weeks! The Sand Band is based in Pinehurst and is known for the variety of music that will reach the soul of the audience. Some seating is available at the plaza, but be encouraged to bring your own folding chair to rest between dances. More details will follow, so SAVE THE DATE!

Lumbee Federal Recognition Celebration, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., May 16: An invitation is extended to the celebration of a Federal Recognition Event on campus at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Join the mini-powwow with food, festivities, a gospel sing, vendors and more. This is an occasion to remember! The celebration area is the quad between Old Main and the Mary Livermore Library.

Oeuvre d'Art en Exposition, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., May 16: Trinity Episcopal Church is hosting Oeuvre d'Art en Exposition, an afternoon of Art and Music with Mark Andersen. Well-known musician Mark Andersen will premiere his new piano suite, composed to accompany the artwork on display. The artwork exhibit will include paintings and sculptures from Mark Andersen's personal collection, in addition to work recently shown at the Robeson Art Guild.

Da Bomb Barrel Racing, 9 a.m., May 23: Summa Slam barrel racing is happening at the Southeastern NC Agricultural Events Center! Activities begin at 9:00 a.m.

John P. Williamson Memorial Golf Tournament, 12 p.m., May 23: Date changed to the 23rd of May!!! This is the 23rd annual John P. Williamson Memorial Golf Tournament, and the proceeds from the tournament benefit the Robeson County Humane Society. Lunch is at Noon. A shotgun start is at 1:00 p.m.; \$300 per 3-player team or \$100 per individual. See the other details on the flyer above. Sponsor a hole for this worthy cause!

Lumbee Tribe Veterans Stand Down, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., June 6: Veterans, mark your calendar for the Lumbee Tribe Veterans Stand Down on June 6 at the Lumbee Tribe Boys & Girls Club in Pembroke. The event, which runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., will offer health screenings, employment assistance, housing/shelter assistance, haircuts, assistance with veterans' benefits, some great gear and much more.

ONGOING

Children's Storytime — Lumberton, 10:30-11:00 a.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays, Robeson County Public Library, 101 N. Chestnut St., Lumberton.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Music Jam Session: Bring instruments and songs to The Barn at Risen Farms from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on the first Friday of each month to jam the night away. There might be a dance or two.

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

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

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

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

THE ROBESONIAN
Champion Media
(USPS 467-40)
910-739-4322
Publishes every Wednesday and Saturday
eEdition and in print.
If you have a newspaper delivery concern
please call weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Prices are subject to change at any time.

CONTACT US

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

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

Voted Best Florist in Robeson County

Flowers By Billy

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

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

We care like family!

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

GlenFlora

Private Baths
Homelike Atmosphere

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

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

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) 556-4662 | (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) 989-8114
• THE VILLAGE (252) 752-6566
• OUR HOUSE (910) 521-1464
• MEN'S RECOVERY HOME (910) 738-5646

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/>

Local jobless rate sees usual January increase

Staff report

ROBESON COUNTY — Robeson County's unemployment rate saw an increase of a full percentage point in January, according to data released by the N.C. Department of Commerce, though such a spike is often seen in January.

Robeson's non-seasonally-adjusted rate increased from 4.7% in December to 5.7% in

January.

Unemployment in the county has increased by at least 0.5% in every January since at least 2020, likely due to the end of temporary season employment for some workers at the conclusion of the holiday season.

The 5.7% rate for Jan. 2026 is higher than Robeson's 5.3% rate from Jan. 2025.

Robeson County has a labor force of 43,936, the data shows, with

41,418 employed and 2,518 unemployed. The labor force is nearly 1,700 people less than it was in Jan. 2025.

Unemployment rates increased in January in all 100 counties in North Carolina. This includes increases similar to that in Robeson in each of the counties that Robeson borders: Bladen County increased from 4.6% to 5.7%; Columbus from 3.9% to 4.8%; Cumberland from 4.3% to 5.1%;

Hoke from 4.3% to 5.1%; and Scotland from 4.8% to 5.4%.

The statewide unemployment rate, which is seasonally adjusted, saw a slight improvement in January, from 3.9% to 3.8%. The U.S. rate, also seasonally adjusted, saw a similar improvement from 4.4% to 4.3%.

The statewide unemployment rate for February will be released on Wednesday, NCDOC says.

FROM THE LEGISLATURE

Harris introduces bill to ensure equal treatment in USDA programs

WASHINGTON — Monday, U.S. Rep. Mark Harris (R-NC8) introduced the Equal Treatment for Farmers Act, legislation to restore equal treatment under the law in U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs.

The bill ensures assistance is provided based on merit, demonstrated need, and objective eligibility requirements, rather than race or gender. By removing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)-based preferences from the U.S. Code, the legislation promotes fairness, neutrality, and constitutional consistency while preserving access to the federal resources and support rural Americans rely on.

"Every farmer, rancher, and rural community deserves to be treated equally under the law," said Harris. "USDA programs should be based on merit — not arbitrary classifications like race or gender. This legislation restores fairness and

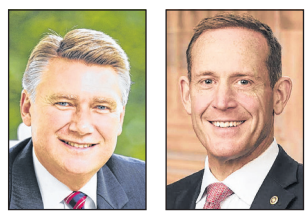
ensures federal resources are distributed in a way that is consistent with our Constitution."

Specifically, the Equal Treatment for Farmers Act:

- Eliminates the "socially disadvantaged" classification by striking its multiple underlying definitions in U.S. Code
- Removes references to this classification across USDA programs
- Prohibits race- or gender-based discrimination in current and future USDA programs

The bill has 23 cosponsors in the House of Representatives.

On February 9, 2026, U.S. Solicitor General Dr. John Sauer sent a letter to House Speaker Mike Johnson stating that the Department of Justice (DOJ) had identified multiple provisions of federal law governing USDA agricultural and conservation programs that provide individuals with enhanced benefits or priority consideration based on their race or



Harris

Budd

gender.

These programs, authorized under Titles 7 and 16 of the U.S. Code, apply those preferences to farmers, ranchers, and communities classified by the USDA as "socially disadvantaged."

The DOJ concluded that these race- and gender-based preferences are unconstitutional as they violate the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution and stated that the DOJ would no longer defend these discriminatory provisions in court.

Budd introduces bill to provide transparency on Medicaid spending resulting from marijuana use

U.S. Sen. Ted Budd (R-N.C.) introduced the Marijuana Impact on

Medicaid Act Monday, which would require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to collect data on Medicaid spending associated with both hospital inpatient and outpatient care, as well as emergency room visits that result from marijuana use.

"The health consequences tied to marijuana use are serious, leading to increased risk for heart attacks, strokes, psychotic disorders, and further addictions. When legislating on this issue, Congress needs to put the health and safety of the American people first, full stop. This is exactly why lawmakers need access to reliable data that details Medicaid spending associated with marijuana abuse. Millions of Americans rely on Medicaid health-care benefits, and my legislation will ensure Congress understands the dangers of this drug and its impact on federally funded health programs," said Senator Budd.

Extension's Senior Tai Chi class to start in August

Staff report

LUMBERTON — The NC Cooperative Extension is hosting a free Tai Chi class for older citizens starting Aug. 26.

The class is for adults aged 60 and older and focuses on arthritis relief and fall prevention.

Sessions will take place each Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., from Aug. 26 through Oct. 30.

Registration closes on Aug. 17. Register by calling 910-671-3276.

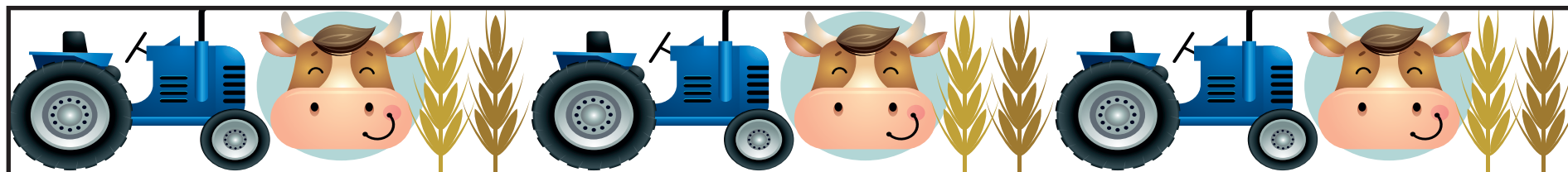
Extension to host master gardener plant sale

Staff report

LUMBERTON — The NC Cooperative Extension is hosting a plant sale at the county farmer's market on May 9.

The sale will offer gardening advice for all levels alongside a wide variety of plants, from annuals and perennials to herbs and vegetables.

The sale will run from 9 a.m. to noon.



NOW ENROLLING!

COTTONWOOD PRE-ELEMENTARY

505 Cottonwood St
Lumberton, NC 28358
910-618-1300

6 Weeks - 12 Years Old

Free Preschool For Eligible Children.

Before/After School Care

www.Cottonwood-weefarm.com

Wee Farm Learning Center

4530 NC Hwy 211 E
Lumberton, NC 28358
910-738-6070

Hablamos Español

FARM AND FAMILY CENTER

We sell a variety of animal and garden products, including animal medications and feed, hay, garden seeds, plants and more!

4530 NC Hwy 211 East
Lumberton, NC 28358
910-738-7392

COUNT & CONNECT

Count the objects inside each box, then draw a line to connect it with the correct number!

3	
8	
2	
6	
5	
4	

Editorial

4A Wednesday, April 22, 2026

The Robesonian

HIS VIEW

Ed Camp: 'I owe a lot to' Ken Cross

Ed Camp was finishing up a round of golf near his New Jersey home when he received the news that his high school basketball coach, Ken Cross, had died.



Sonny Jones
The Bladen Journal

Camp played basketball for Cross at Saint Cecilia High School in the early 1970s. He graduated from the Catholic school in Englewood, New Jersey in 1973.

"I owe a lot to him for teaching me the right things in life," Camp said. "He was brutally honest and very tough."

Coach Cross, who was 82, died Monday, April 13 at his home in White Lake. A celebration of life service was held Tuesday in Lumberton. He coached at Tar Heel High School, West Bladen Bladen High School, East Bladen High School, Paul R. Brown Leadership Academy and Tar Heel Middle School during his time in Bladen County.

You may not recognize the name Ed Camp, but if you have watched National Football League games in the first two decades of this century you might have hollered a few choice words at him.

Camp officiated in the NFL for 22 years, retiring in 2022 after serving as an alternate official and shadowing Sean McVay in Super Bowl LVI between the Los Angeles Rams and Cincinnati Bengals. He was the down judge in Super Bowl LIII between the Rams and New England Patriots in 2019.

After spending a couple of seasons playing for a hard-nosed and young high school head coach in Cross, listening to the barbs of NFL fans probably was a piece of cake.

Cross was the varsity basketball coach and junior varsity baseball coach when Camp was at Saint Cecilia.

"He was a tough guy," Camp said of Cross. "He wasn't pressured by anybody. He had rules. This was 53 years ago.

"I was a good kid. I was very coachable. He instilled in me the basics, but the thing is he wanted to win and he said that all the time, sometimes to a fault."

Those who played for Cross know how important practice time was to him. Unfortunately, Wednesday nights at Saint Cecilia was Bingo Night, a fundraiser for the school. Since the gymnasium had to be set up in the afternoon that meant no basketball practice on Wednesdays. It led to a falling out with the administration, Camp recalled, and Cross began his long coaching journey that included stops in Florida, Georgia and Pennsylvania before he found his way to Tar Heel High School in 1990.

If you watched Ken Cross on the sidelines at a basketball game in Bladen County, you know how intense he could be, hollering, gesturing, ripping off his jacket, pulling off his tie and making certain the game officials gave his teams a fair shake. Or, at least what he felt was a fair shake.

Believe it or not, Cross may have actually mellowed by the time he arrived in Bladen County.

Camp and Cross kept in touch over the years. Camp recalled Cross telling him about working at summer basketball camps featuring former NBA coaches Cotton Fitzsimmons and Hubie Brown.

"I noticed after he told me that he met Hubie Brown that he had changed a little bit," Camp said. "I knew probably for the better. He was always holding us to a higher standard. He was tough to deal with, but it was good for me.

"He told me that what he learned from Hubie Brown was that you have to keep your best players happy. Now, coming from Coach Cross, that was way out of the ballpark. It was his way or the highway."

Camp's former high school teammates couldn't believe it.

As the two became friends over the years, Camp saw a softer side of Ken Cross. He always encouraged his players to read, to study, to respect others, to honor their parents and family.

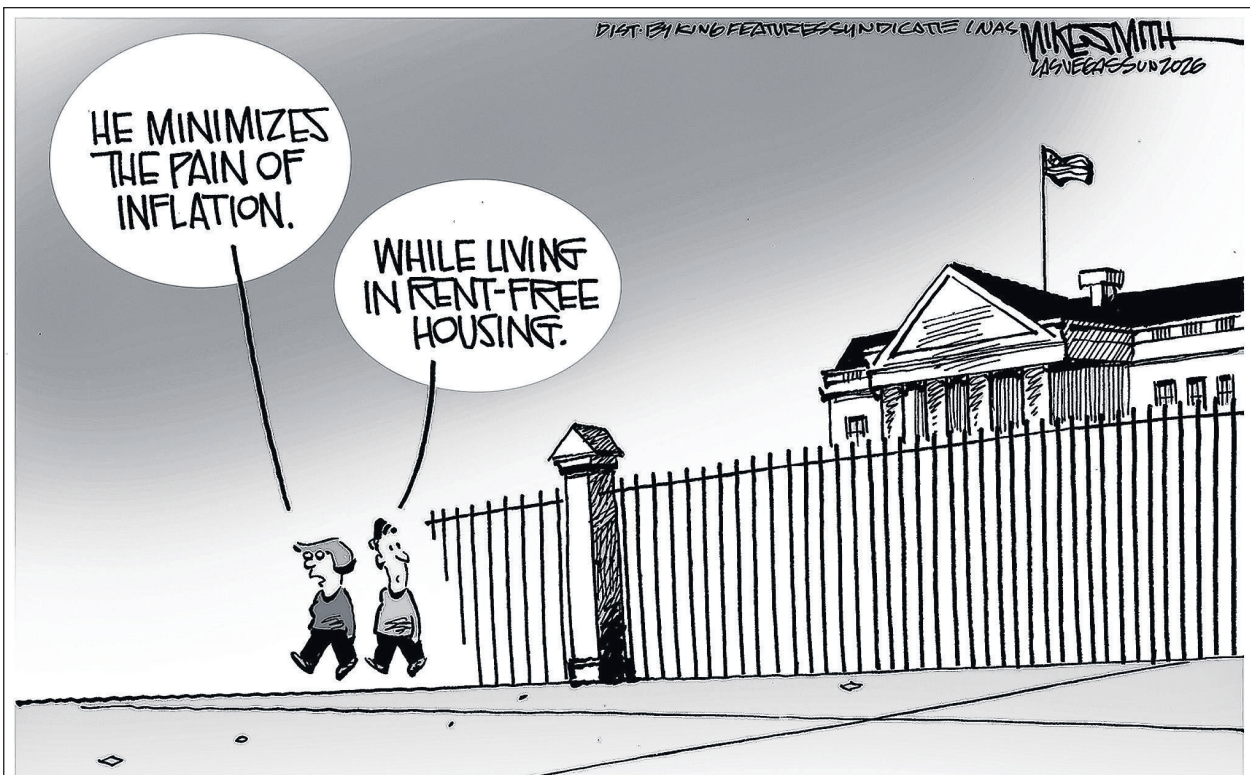
From Saint Cecilia's Ed Camp in the early 1970s to the likes of West Bladen's Wayne McDonald and Rodd Baxley on the 2008 NCHSAA 2A championship team, to D.J. Mason, who went on to be a standout at Campbell University, to those who played at Tar Heel Middle School and every player along his coaching journey, nearly all will tell you that Ken Cross was a positive influence on their life.

It wasn't easy playing for Ken Cross. He was demanding. Maybe he did mellow a bit over the years, but it still remained his way or the highway.

But his players knew that Ken Cross loved them, wanted the best for them and took tremendous pride in each of them long after he was no longer their basketball coach. He would always be their mentor.

Rest in peace, Coach. Yours was a life well lived.

Sonny Jones can be reached at wibbyj@gmail.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.emmanuel@robeson.k12.nc.us

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LUMBERTON CITY COUNCIL, 910-272-1346

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ROBESON COUNTY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NORTH CAROLINA (State Offices)

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

Rep. John Lowery, R-Dist. 47 (Robeson), 300 N. Salisbury Street, 306B2, Raleigh, NC 27603-5925,

919-715-0875, John.Lowery@ncleg.gov.

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

UNITED STATES (Federal Offices)

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

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

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

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

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

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

White House Switchboard, 202-456-1414.

HIS VIEW

Expand choice among public schools

RALEIGH — For all the satisfied smiles among school-choice supporters, and the gnashing of teeth among its opponents, North Carolina is not one of the top-ranked states for educational freedom.

That's how the American Legislative Exchange Council sees it, anyway. Its latest Index of State Education Freedom, published in January, gave the Tar Heel State a B+. Florida's A+ rating snagged the top spot, with Arizona, Arkansas, Iowa, West Virginia, Indiana, Utah, Oklahoma, Texas and Idaho filling out the rest of the top 10 states.

What keeps us from earning an A? It's not our charter school laws or opportunity scholarships for students attending private schools. Both earn high rankings. Where North Carolina gets slammed — the only area where we get a failing grade, in fact — is the extent of parental choice within public schools.

Some local districts give parents a reasonably good chance of transferring their children to schools other than the ones assigned to them. Others offer magnet schools with special programs or distinctive themes. But unlike many states, North Carolina has no statewide policy offering parents choices both within their home school districts and in neighboring ones.

In Florida, for example, parents can opt for any public school in the state so long as the school has space to accommodate new students. Children in special circumstances, such as those in foster care or in military families being redeployed, receive preference.

Oklahoma, Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, and Utah also have strong open-enrollment policies. But this form of school choice isn't as ideologically predictable as some of the others. Among the states with good (B) or fair (C) systems of open enrollment are the likes of Colorado, Delaware, California and Washington.

Indeed, North Carolinians who detest vouchers, distrust charters, and disdain homeschooling ought to embrace open enrollment as an alternative way to champion parental autonomy within district-run public schools. "In many states with robust open enrollment laws," wrote Reason Foundation analyst Jude Schwalbach, "public schools remain a cornerstone of a community."

"Contrary to many district administrators' fears," Schwalbach continued, "robust open enrollment laws

don't lead to chaos. In fact, we have good data from multiple states showing that districts can successfully operate even when student mobility is high."

In Arizona, for example, 13% of public-school students are enrolled in districts other than their assigned ones. On average, data from the 14 states with strong cross-district open enrollment laws show that, on average, 6% of public school students use the programs. State and local funding flows accordingly, without much in the way of political rancor or policy confusion.

In their latest policy guide, my John Locke Foundation colleagues recommended that North Carolina give parents the ability to choose among public schools both within their districts and via transferring to nearby

districts. This ought not be a heavy lift. A Carolina Journal Poll found that nearly three-quarters of North Carolinians support open enrollment, including majorities of Republicans, Democrats, independents, white voters, black voters and those from higher-income, middle-income and lower-income households.

Locke policy analyst Kaitlyn Shepherd argued that policymakers, educators and activists "concerned with slowing declining enrollment in public schools should welcome open enrollment as a chance to market these schools as the best choice for students and families throughout North Carolina."

Over my entire professional career, I have advocated parental choice and school competition. I believe they are a necessary (but not sufficient) condition for extending educational opportunity to all North Carolinians and adequately preparing our next generation for the responsibilities that come with career, parenthood and citizenship. While critics claim the educational-freedom movement is just an elaborate conspiracy to abolish public schools altogether, that does not comport with my personal views or firsthand experience. North Carolina's constitution requires the provision of public education. Those requirements aren't going anywhere.

But the constitution does not require that the General Assembly fund only district-run public schools. Nor does it preclude expansive choice within public schools. We've done the former. Now, let's do the latter.

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

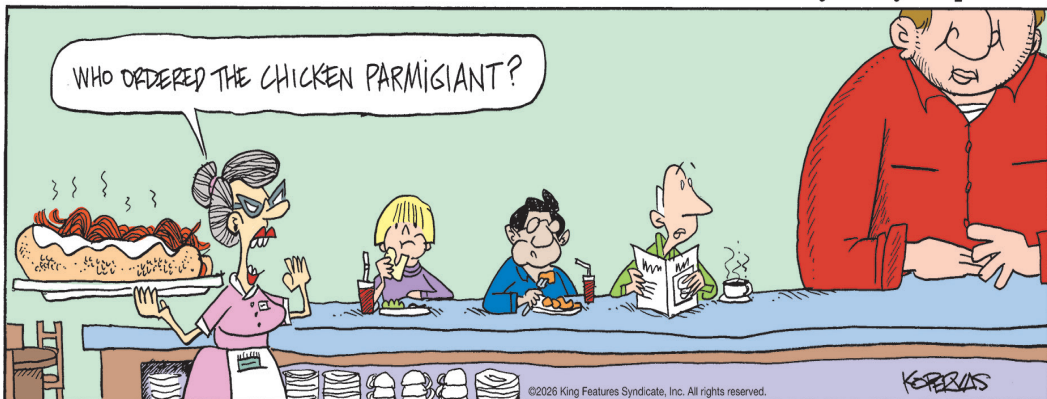
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



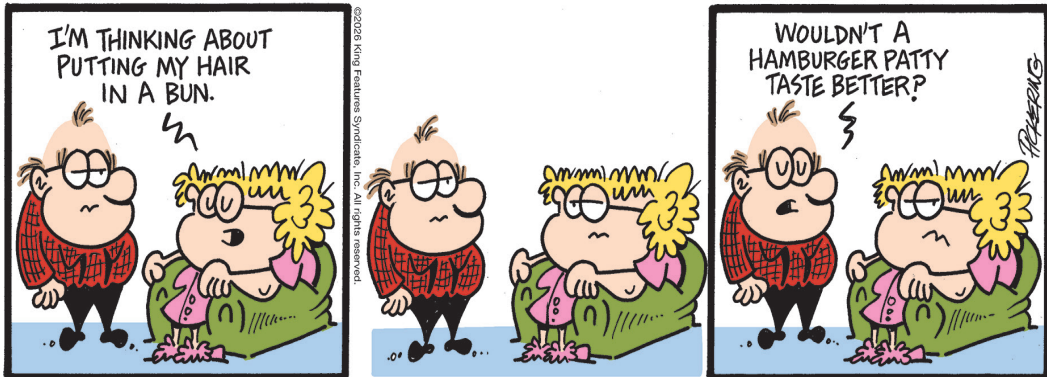
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



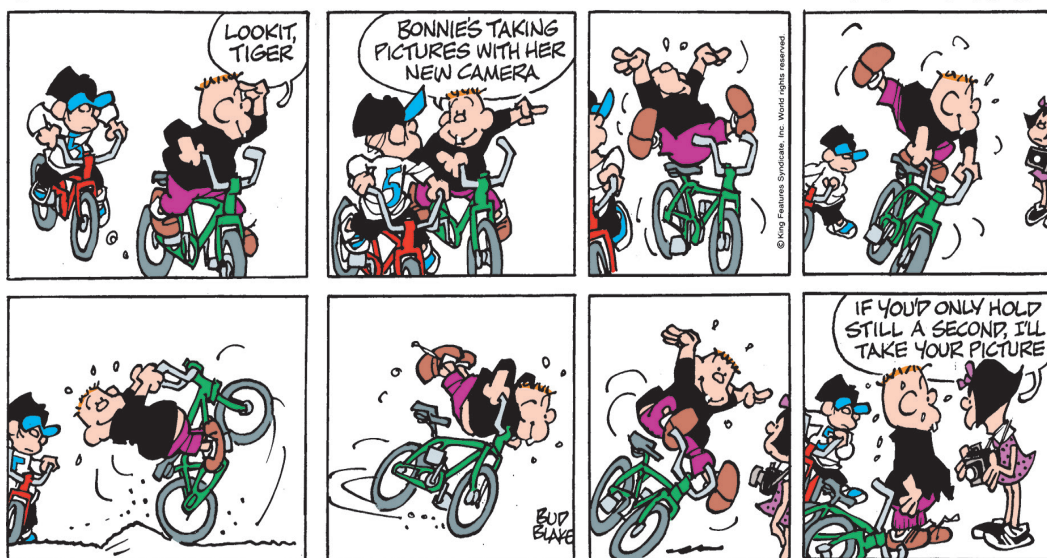
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



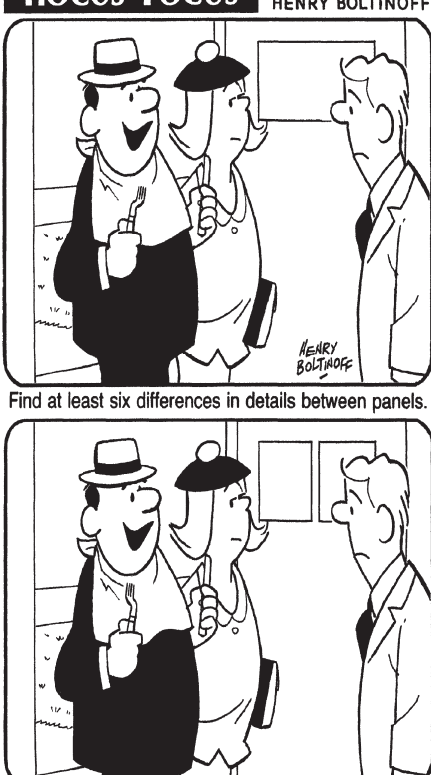
OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Milholland



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



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: B equals C

CMBGJT JP C SJMXVHUO
BCDSO MOLF DTJCEBCFV
LGJ UJJMSHXGVF CF C
IJSHBO JPPHBT:
CMEOTFJM BJIOT.

©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!

Leave **TARPED** _____

Cut **CREEPI** _____

Tribute **OHMEGA** _____

Slope **RAGED** _____

Boxed letters: T, A, R, E, D, P, I, O, M, E, G, A, R, A, G, E, D

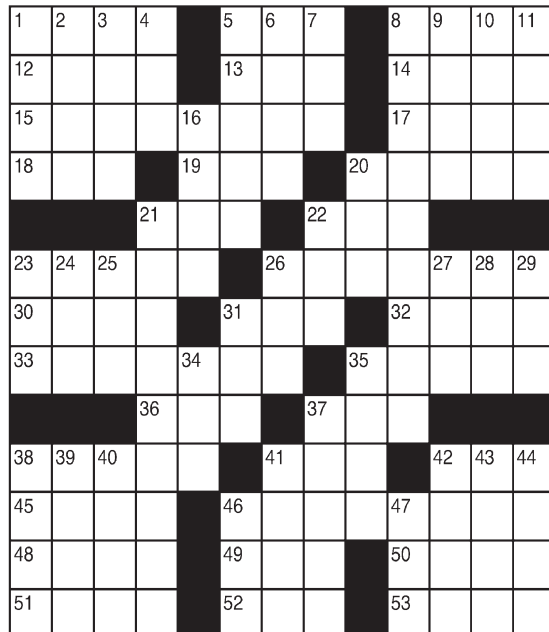
"I noticed they changed their act since the _____!"

TODAY'S WORD _____

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Spruced up
- 5 Comedian Margaret
- 8 Arduous journey
- 12 Taj Mahal city
- 13 Unprocessed
- 14 Conceal
- 15 Buffets with Mexican food
- 17 Rocker — Pop
- 18 Yoko from Tokyo
- 19 Astern
- 20 Unravels
- 21 Blaster's need
- 22 Tease
- 23 Neighbor of Chad
- 26 Wilma and Fred's kid
- 30 Piglet's pop
- 31 Author Fleming
- 32 Ethereal
- 33 Rabbi's religion
- 35 Fall bloom
- 36 Buddy
- 37 Canonized Fr. woman
- 38 Prima donnas
- 41 Carnival city
- 42 Co. that created Watson
- 45 Pizza cooker
- 46 Home to the Buccaneers
- 48 Social standing



- 49 Wall St. wheeler-dealer
- 50 Deadly septet
- 51 Picnic invaders
- 52 Pot pie morsel
- 53 Whispered "Hey!"
- 7 Pained sounds
- 8 Baseball diamond stop
- 9 Latvia's capital
- 10 Jittery
- 11 Lock openers
- 16 "Troy" actor Eric
- 20 Little lie
- 21 "America's Next Top Model" host
- 22 "Community" actor Jeong
- 23 JFK's veep
- 24 Chit
- 25 Abysmal
- 26 Shriver of tennis
- 27 Tippy
- 28 Before
- 29 Aleppo's land (Abbr.)
- 31 Equi-
- 34 1040 org.
- 35 On
- 37 "The Lion King" lion
- 38 TV explorer
- 39 Author Turgenev
- 40 Air outlet
- 41 Scarce
- 42 Nile wader
- 43 Proscribes
- 44 Island in a computer game
- 46 Spigot
- 47 Nile biter

DOWN

- 1 Post-WWII alliance
- 2 "The Candy House" author
- 3 Not pizzicato
- 4 Eastern "way"
- 5 Make by hand
- 6 Male red deer

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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™

Airport update

S	H	O	R	T	Electrical malfunction
					Sunday dinner staple
					Look without blinking
					Career choice
					Prepared
					Hold back

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.sproutsudoku.com

02636



Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION: What was the title of the final episode of "M*A*S*H"?
- GEOGRAPHY: The Red Sea is an inlet of which ocean?
- INVENTIONS: Which English scientist invented the color wheel?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What do pandas mostly eat?
- MOVIES: What is the name of the fictional college where "Animal House" is set?
- HISTORY: What was the last Chinese imperial dynasty?
- GEOMETRY: What is the distance around a circle called?
- SCIENCE: The world's first vaccine was developed to prevent which disease?
- LITERATURE: Where is Stephen King's novel "It" set?
- BUSINESS: What is the Disney logo based on?

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

SCRAMBLERS

Today's Word

1. Depart; 2. Pierce
3. Homage; 4. Grade

V	A	L	E	D	
V	E	A	D	V	
E	T	R	A	D	E
E	S	T	A	R	E
T	O	A	S	T	
S	H	O	R	T	

FiveSpot™ solution

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

CryptoQuip answer
Anchor of a longtime cable news broadcaster who moonlights as a police officer.
Anderson Cooper

- "Goodbye, Farewell and Amen"
- Indian Ocean
- Sir Isaac Newton
- Bamboo
- Faber College
- Qing
- Circumference
- Smallpox
- Derry, Maine
- The signature of Walt Disney

THE ROBESONIAN Classifieds

BUY • SELL
RENT • HIRE

LEGALS

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

DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO.: 26CV001681-770
COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina;
Plaintiff
VS
RICHARD JONES, RICHARD JONES, JOE NATHAN MCLEAN, and APRIL HAYES AS TRUSTEES OF HESTER CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Owners; and CRYSTAL GRAHAM, GUARDIAN AD LITEM OF VASHTI JONES, RICHARD JONES, JOE NATHAN MCLEAN, and APRIL HAYES AS TRUSTEES OF HESTER CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH;
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
TO: VASHTI JONES, RICHARD JONES, JOE NATHAN MCLEAN, and APRIL HAYES AS TRUSTEES OF HESTER CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Owners; and CRYSTAL GRAHAM, GUARDIAN AD LITEM OF VASHTI JONES, RICHARD JONES, JOE NATHAN MCLEAN, and APRIL HAYES AS TRUSTEES OF HESTER CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH;
Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action, and notice of service by Publication began the 22nd day of April, 2026.
The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: foreclosure sale to satisfy unpaid property taxes on your interest in the property described as:

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Owner(s) of Record: Hester Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. Title Reference: Deed Book 1578, Page 425. PIN No: 101803006, 101803007, and 10103008. Tax Account No: 1059912. Property Location: Lumberton Township, Hestertown Rd. Lots 18-26 of Map Book 5 Page 45 – Division 1 of Troy Musselwhite Farm.
Being all of Lot Numbers 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26 of the division Number One of Troy Musselwhite's Farm at Hestertown, and as shown on Book of Maps 5, at Page 45, in the Robeson County Public Registry. Said map is incorporated herein by reference for a more full and accurate description of the said lots.
Being the same lands described in deed dated August 24th, 2006 from Andrew B. Canady et ux., Bonnie J. Canady to Vashiti Jones, Richard Jones, Joe Nathan McLean, and April Hayes as Trustees of Hester Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, and recorded in Book 1578, page 425, December 22, 2006, Robeson County Registry.
The above-described property is subject to all Right of Ways and Easements of record.
This 16th day of April, 2026.
Edward K. Brooks
Attorney for Plaintiff
State Bar No. 32602
550 N. Chestnut Street
Lumberton, NC 28358
910-671-3060 x7353

4/22 4/29 5/6 2026

Busy law office seeking Full Time Legal Assistant. Must be dependable, friendly, team-player, and well-organized. Desired applicant will multi-task, answer multi-line phone system and direct calls. Must be able to type 60+ words per minute. Excellent writing and analytical skills are a must. Must have your own transportation, as occasional errands are necessary. Must be able to keep work confidential. Desired applicant must be professional in appearance and manner. Bilingual (English/Spanish) applicants highly preferred. Proficiency in QuickBooks and Microsoft Office is a plus! Benefits and Vacation pay are available. Email resume with references to: andrea@johnsonlawyers.net

4/8 4/15 4/22 4/29 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF JANICE HOFFMAN DECEASED 26E000108-770

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Janice Hoffman, deceased, late of Robeson County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 25th 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 the 22nd day of April, 2026.

Dallas Locklear
Executor

Jessica B. Scott
Hunt & Brooks
Post Office Box 999
Pembroke, N.C. 28372
(910) 521-3413
(910) 521-1027 (fax)

4/22 4/29 5/6 5/13 2026

LEGALS

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

NOTICE
JOSEPHINE BUTLER a/k/a JOSEPHINE CHAVIS BUTLER HARRIS and BLEECKER OLDS BUICK GMC, INC., Lienholder, AND)
)
If they be deceased then their legal representatives,) heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested) persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in) esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown,) resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved) corporations, who might have or claim any right or title) to the property which is the subject of this action;
Defendants.
) Pursuant to the requirements of G.S. 105-375(c)(4)b, notice is hereby given to:
JOSEPHINE BUTLER a/k/a JOSEPHINE CHAVIS BUTLER HARRIS and BLEECKER OLDS BUICK GMC, INC., Lienholder AND)
) If they be deceased then their legal representatives, heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown, resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved corporations, who might have or claim any right or title to the property which is the subject of this action;
2026.
That a judgment of foreclosure will be docketed against the property described below on or after May 22,
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION PARCEL #09110300706A North side of and adjacent to SR #1745 New Bethel Church Road, Lumber Bridge Vacant 79 ft. x 246 ft. Lot
Execution will be issued on the judgment, and the real property will be sold as provided by law. The tax lien, including interests and costs, may be paid before the judgment is docketed and at any time thereafter as allowed by law.
Robert Conner Robeson County Tax Administrator

4/15 4/22 2026

Classifieds Get Results

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina;
VS,
Plaintiff,
HEIRS OF FUSHIA GAIL LOCKLEAR (DECEASED: 11.12.2008), AND
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION)
)

NOTICE
If they be deceased then their legal representatives,) heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested) persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown,) resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved) corporations, who might have or claim any right or title) to the property which is the subject of this action;
) Pursuant to the requirements of G.S. 105-375(c)(4)b, notice is hereby given to:
HEIRS OF FUSHIA GAIL LOCKLEAR (DECEASED: 11.12.2008), AND)
) If they be deceased then their legal representatives, heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown, resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved corporations, who might have or claim any right or title to the property which is the subject of this action;
2026.
That a judgment of foreclosure will be docketed against the property described below on or after May 22,
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION PARCEL #271504003 Union Township, East side of SR #1003 102 and 130 Strolling Lane, Rowland
31 x 30 Canopy listed on property, Grade C 1.0 acres +/- Execution will be issued on the judgment, and the real property will be sold as provided by law. The tax lien, including interests and costs, may be paid before the judgment is docketed and at any time thereafter as allowed by law.
Robert Conner Robeson County Tax Administrator

4/15 4/22 2026

Classifieds Get Results

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina;
VS,
Plaintiff,
HEIRS OF FUSHIA GAIL LOCKLEAR (DECEASED: 11.12.2008), AND
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION)
)

NOTICE
If they be deceased then their legal representatives,) heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested) persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown,) resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved) corporations, who might have or claim any right or title) to the property which is the subject of this action;
) Pursuant to the requirements of G.S. 105-375(c)(4)b, notice is hereby given to:
HEIRS OF FUSHIA GAIL LOCKLEAR (DECEASED: 11.12.2008), AND)
) If they be deceased then their legal representatives, heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown, resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved corporations, who might have or claim any right or title to the property which is the subject of this action;
2026.
That a judgment of foreclosure will be docketed against the property described below on or after May 22,
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION PARCEL #271504003 Union Township, East side of SR #1003 102 and 130 Strolling Lane, Rowland
31 x 30 Canopy listed on property, Grade C 1.0 acres +/- Execution will be issued on the judgment, and the real property will be sold as provided by law. The tax lien, including interests and costs, may be paid before the judgment is docketed and at any time thereafter as allowed by law.
Robert Conner Robeson County Tax Administrator

4/15 4/22 2026

Classifieds Get Results

LEGALS

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 Heaverd 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 Heaverd 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

Classifieds Get Results

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF JERREL ANN RICHARDSON LENNON DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 26 E 000286-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of JERREL ANN RICHARDSON LENNON, 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 13th 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 8th day of APRIL 2026.

RHONDA L BRUCE
EXECUTOR
65 VOLLIE DR
LUMBERTON NC 28360

GLORA L HUNT HARDIN
CO-EXECUTOR
P.O. BOX 1143
LUMBERTON NC 28359

4/8 4/15 4/22 4/29 2026

Classifieds Get Results

LEGALS

The Board of Commissioners for Robeson County received an offer in the amount of \$2,500.00, plus the cost of advertisement to purchase land described as being in St. Pauls Township, Parcel No. 3808 02 003, tax card and map available in the Robeson County Tax Office and more particularly described as follows:

In St. Pauls Township, more particularly described as lot #52, according to the Map of Spiro Subdivision of Shaw land Containing approximately 0.17 +/- acre, more or less.
The property hereinabove described was acquired by County by instrument recorded in Book 2532, Page 686.
That within ten days from the date of this notice any person may raise the bid by no less than 10% of the first 1,000.00 and 5% of the remainder of the new bid in accordance with N.C.G.S 160-A -269. Bids can be made by depositing the same at the Robeson County Tax Department with Crystal Atkinson at 550 North Chestnut Street, Lumberton, NC. (910-671-3060 x7306)
The Robeson County Board of Commissioners may at any time reject any and all offers, including the original offer.

4/22 2026

Classifieds Get Results

Buy & Sell In the Classifieds

LEGALS

NORTH CAROLINA

ROBESON COUNTY

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

BEFORE THE CLERK

FILE NO. 26SP000028-770

IN THE MATTER OF THE FORECLOSURE

OF THE DEED OF TRUST EXECUTED BY

DAPHNEY LAKEITA WASHINGTON, unmarried,

Recorded in Book 2191, Page 573,

Robeson County Registry

NOTICE OF

FORECLOSURE SALE

DEED OF TRUST BEING FORECLOSED:

The Deed of Trust being foreclosed is that Deed of Trust executed by DAPHNEY LAKEITA WASHINGTON, unmarried, to Jay B. Green, Attorney at Law, PC, Trustee, dated August 12, 2019 and recorded in Book 2191, Page 573 in the Robeson County Registry of North Carolina.
RECORD OWNERS OF THE REAL PROPERTY:

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

The sale will be held on April 29, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the door of the Robeson County Courthouse, Lumberton, North Carolina.
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD:

The following real property to be sold "sight unseen" together with any improvements is located in Robeson County, North Carolina and is believed to have the address of 149 Huggins Road, Lumberton, NC 28360

and is otherwise more particularly described as follows:

BEING ALL OF LOT 15, AS SHOWN ON SURVEY ENTITLED "RICHFIELD ESTATES", PREPARED BY POWERS SURVEYING DATED JANUARY 18, 2019 AND RECORDED IN MAP BOOK 53, AT PAGE 176, ROBESON COUNTY REGISTRY.
Included is a 2019 Clayton manufactured home bearing serial no. OHC028915NC.
TERMS OF SALE:

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

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

This date being March 10, 2026

THE GREEN LAW FIRM, P.C.

By: S/ Jay B. Green

Jay B. Green, Attorney at Law

The Green Law Firm, P.C.

Attorney for Trustee
908 E. Edenton Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601
Telephone: 919-829-0797

4/15 4/22 2026

Notices

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

GENERAL NOTICE

City of Lumberton (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following:
Project: Linkhaw Road Flood Mitigation

Wooten Project Number: 2799-CR

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 Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. local time. At that time, the Bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The Project includes the following Work:
Removal and reinstallation of railroad, ballast and ties for installation of two (2) - 60 IF long 7' x 4' box culverts with concrete headwalls. Installation of bioswale and native grasses planted along existing channel.

Bids are requested for Contract: Linkhaw Road Flood Mitigation

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 9 am and 4 pm.

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- (<https://planroom.thewootencompany.com>).

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. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated website. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office.

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 download Bidding Documents as PDF files by accessing The Wooten Plan Room.

Registration and a payment of \$50.00 provides access to The Wooten Plan Room. Registration and payment of \$300.00 provides access to The Wooten Plan Room and includes one (1) full size Drawing set and one (1) Project Manual. Documents will be shipped via UPS ground.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE

A pre-bid conference will not be conducted for this Project.

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.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informality or to reject any or all Bids. Unless all Bids are rejected, Award will be made to the lowest responsible Bidder, taking into consideration quality, performance and the time specified in the proposals for the performance of the Contract.

LEGALS

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION BEFORE THE CLERK 25SP001350-770

IN THE MATTER OF THE FORECLOSURE OF A DEED OF TRUST from Michelle April Mason, an unmarried woman to Grady I. Ingle and Elizabeth B. Ellis, Trustee, dated April 20, 2015, recorded in Book D 1990, Page 231, Robeson County Registry Pursuant to an order entered February 9, 2026, in the Superior Court for Robeson County, and the power of sale contained in the captioned Deed of Trust (the "Deed of Trust"), the Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at auction (the "Sale"), to the highest bidder for cash on:

APRIL 27, 2026, AT 11:00 A.M.
ROBESON COUNTY COURTHOUSE
500 NORTH ELM STREET,
LUMBERTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28359

the real estate and the improvements thereon secured by the Deed of Trust, less and except any of such property released from the lien of the Deed of Trust prior to the date of said sale, lying and being in Robeson County, North Carolina, and being more particularly described as follows (the "Property"): BEING ALL OF LOT NUMBER TWO (2), AS SHOWN ON THAT CERTAIN MAP ENTITLED, "MAP OF HICKORY HILLS SUBDIVISION", PREPARED BY POWERS LAND SURVEYING, P.A., RECORDED IN MAP BOOK 37, AT PAGE 51, ROBESON COUNTY REGISTRY. A.P.N. 21160200101 AND 21160200101

The record owners of the Property not more than ten (10) days prior to the date hereof is Michelle April Mason. Parcel ID: 21160200101

Unless delayed by other sales held at the same place, the sale will be held at the fixed time, or as soon thereafter as practicable, but not later than 3 hours after the time fixed, as provided in Section 45-21.23 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

A five percent cash deposit, or a cash deposit of \$750.00, whichever is greater, will be required of the last and highest bidder. The balance of the bid purchase price shall be due in full in cash or certified funds at a closing to take place within thirty (30) days of the date of sale. The Substitute Trustee shall convey title to the property by non warranty deed. This sale will be made subject to all prior liens of record, if any, and to all unpaid (ad valorem) taxes and special assessments, if any, which became a lien subsequent to the recordation of the Deed of Trust. This sale will be further subject to the right, if any, of the United States of America to redeem the above-described property for a period of 120 days following the date when the final upset bid period has run.

The purchaser of the property described above shall pay the Clerk's Commissions in the amount of \$.45 per \$100.00 of the purchase price (up to a maximum amount of \$50.00), required by Section 7A-308(a) (1) of the North Carolina General Statutes. If the purchaser of the above-described property is someone other than the Beneficiary under the Deed of Trust, the purchaser shall also pay, to the extent applicable, the land transfer tax in the amount of one percent (1%) of the purchase price. To the extent this sale involves residential property with less than fifteen (15) rental units, you are hereby notified of the following:

- (a) An order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to Section 45-21.29 of the North Carolina General Statutes in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold; and
- (b) Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving the notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement upon 10 days' written notice to the landlord. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.

The 11th day of February 2026. John W. Fletcher III, Substitute Trustee (NCBS No. 15503) Fletcher, Tydings, Williams-Tracy & Gott, PLLC 100 Queens Road, Suite 250, Charlotte, North Carolina 28204 704-334-3400 / jfletcher@fletcherdydings.com

4/15 4/22 2026

LEGALS

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

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION)

NOTICE)
 HEIRS OF DAVID DEAN LOCKLEAR A/K/A DAVIS DEAN LOCKLEAR (DECEASED 03.20.2023), AND)

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

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

HEIRS OF DAVID DEAN LOCKLEAR A/K/A DAVIS DEAN LOCKLEAR (DECEASED 03.20.2023), AND)

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

That a judgment of foreclosure will be docketed against the property described below on or after May 22.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION Parcel #232301007 1999 Preston Road, Maxton NC West Side of SR #1339 - 7.14 acres +/- Traditional dwelling listed on property in below average condition Execution will be issued on the judgment, and the real property will be sold as provided by law. The tax lien, including interests and costs, may be paid before the judgment is docketed and at any time thereafter as allowed by law. Robert Conner Robeson County Tax Administrator

4/15 4/22 2026

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

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION)

NOTICE)
 HEIRS OF JOHN MCEACHERN and wife, ROSIE MCEACHERN and MAUDE KENT MCMILLAN A/K/A MAUDE FOXWORTH MCGARR, AND)

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

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

HEIRS OF JOHN MCEACHERN and wife, ROSIE MCEACHERN and MAUDE KENT MCMILLAN A/K/A MAUDE FOXWORTH MCGARR AND)

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

That a judgment of foreclosure will be docketed against the property described below on or after May 22.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION PARCEL #380403009 and PARCEL #380403008 Lots 35 and 36, J.M. Butler Subdivision Addition St. Pauls Township, Alford and George Streets Vacant 50 ft. x 135 ft. Lots Execution will be issued on the judgment, and the real property will be sold as provided by law. The tax lien, including interests and costs, may be paid before the judgment is docketed and at any time thereafter as allowed by law. Robert Conner Robeson County Tax Administrator

4/15 4/22 2026

LEGALS

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

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION)

NOTICE)
 HEIRS OF MILDRED DENT (DECEASED: 02.19.2006) AND HEIRS OF LORA ANN MCINNIS (DECEASED: 01.27.2026)) AND, TOWN OF ROWLAND, NORTH CAROLINA,) LIENHOLDER,)

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

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

HEIRS OF MILDRED DENT (DECEASED: 02.19.2006) AND HEIRS OF LORA ANN MCINNIS (DECEASED: 01.27.2026) AND THE TOWN OF ROWLAND, NORTH CAROLINA, LIENHOLDER, AND)

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

That a judgment of foreclosure will be docketed against the property described below on or after May 22.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION PARCEL #370401049 Lot 4 Block C-1 Plat of Rowland 104 Chapel Street, Rowland Traditional dwelling listed on property in below average condition 0.260 acres +/- Execution will be issued on the judgment, and the real property will be sold as provided by law. The tax lien, including interests and costs, may be paid before the judgment is docketed and at any time thereafter as allowed by law. Robert Conner Robeson County Tax Administrator

4/15 4/22 2026

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 WEST WALTERS DECEASED FILE NUMBER 25 E 001150-770

The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the estate of BETTY WEST WALTERS, 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 18th 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 15th day of APRIL 2026

KENAN WALTERS CHANCE 7146 NC HWY 72 E LUMBERTON NC 28358

4/15 4/22 4/29 5/6 2026

Are your talents going to waste



Find your new career in our Classifieds that work

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF BOBBY RAY CREECH DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 25 E 001315-770

The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the Estate of BOBBY RAY CREECH, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 8th day of 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 8th day of APRIL 2026.

VICTORIA LYNN SUTTON, EXECUTOR c/o RORY C EDDINGS, ATTORNEY P.O. BOX 10415 GOLDSBORO NC 27532 (919) 759-0455

4/8 4/15 4/22 4/29 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 the 1st day of APRIL 2026

JAMES ALLEN HAMMONDS 824 ISLAND GROVE ROAD 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 JANNIS IRENE BROWN DECEASED FILE NUMBER 26 E 000352-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the estate of JANNIS IRENE BROWN, 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 27th 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 22nd day of APRIL 2026

RICKY ALEXANDER BROWN 5438 US HWY 301 S ROWLAND NC 28383

4/22 4/29 5/6 5/13 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 1st day of APRIL 2026

MELISSA GREER METCALF 934 GENTRY RD MAXTON NC 28364

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

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF MARTHA LEE CREECH DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 26 E 000320-770

The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the Estate of MARTHA LEE CREECH, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 8th day of 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 8th day of APRIL 2026.

VICTORIA LYNN SUTTON, EXECUTOR c/o RORY C EDDINGS, ATTORNEY P.O. BOX 10415 GOLDSBORO NC 27532 (919) 759-0455

4/8 4/15 4/22 4/29 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF MICHAEL HAMMONDS DECEASED FILE NUMBER 24 E 000972-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the estate of MICHAEL 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 18th 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 15th day of APRIL 2026

CORA CHAVIS LOCKLEAR 110 LYDA RD SHANNON NC 28386

4/15 4/22 4/29 5/6 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF OLIVER YATES STEPHENS DECEASED FILE NUMBER 25 E 001516-770

The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the estate of OLIVER YATES STEPHENS, 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 18th 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 15th day of APRIL 2026

TRACYE STEPHENS JACKLE 1612 COVINGTON HEIGHTS CIRLE APT B 3 WINSTON SALEM NC 27103

4/15 4/22 4/29 5/6 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

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF TERRY TERRELL BROWN DECEASED FILE NUMBER 22 E 918

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the estate of TERRY TERRELL BROWN, 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 18th 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 15th day of APRIL 2026

FRANETTE LATORIA SMITH 272 BRANDIE ROAD MAXTON NC 28364

4/15 4/22 4/29 5/6 2026

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF THEODORE VINCENT SHERRY DECEASED FILE NUMBER 26 E 000417-770

The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the estate of THEODORE VINCENT SHERRY, 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 27th 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 22nd day of APRIL 2026

TIMOTHY JOHN ANDERSON 511 S MAIN STREET RED SPRINGS NC 28377

4/22 4/29 5/6 5/13 2026

ORDER AUTHORIZING MOTOR VEHICLE SALE 26SP000095-770

Name of Petitioner Lopez Auto Repair vs Name of Respondent(s) Jesus Valentin Vela Serrano; First Technology Federal Credit Union

The petitioner has filed with the clerk a petition in proper form for indicating that the petitioner has a valid lien against each of the vehicles below and that the Division of Motor Vehicles has notified the petitioner that the registered or certified mail notices(s) of intent to sell the motor vehicle(s) has been returned as undeliverable or that the name of the owner(s) of the motor vehicle(s), which had a fair market value of less than \$800, could not be determined.

Vehicle: 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe ID NO: IGNSKCKC5FR239096 Name of Registered Owner: Jesus Valentin Vela Serrano 160 Nealy Ave Lumberton NC 28360

It is ORDERED that the petitioner shall have the right to see to the highest bidder the motor vehicle(s) listed above on the date and at the location shown below, and to disburse the proceeds in accordance with the petition and G.S. 44a-4. The Petitioner must comply with the sale provisions of G.S. 44A-4.

It is also ORDERED that the petitioner immediately mail a copy of the petition and this Order by first class mail, pursuant to G.S. 1A-1, Rule 5, to the owner of the motor vehicle; the person with whom the petitioner dealt, if different from the owner; and each secure party and person claiming an interest in the vehicle to whom the Division of Motor Vehicles mailed notice of the lien.

NOTE TO VEHICLE OWNER: If you wish to contest this Order, you must file a written statement that you contest the sale or the lien with the office of the Clerk of Superior Court before the time of sale as shown above.

Repairs \$ 3600.00 Storage Cost To Date \$32,640.00 Total Lien Claimed To Date \$36,240.00 Plus Storage at \$30.00 Per Day Until Sold Date of Public Sale or Date After which Private Sale Proposed: 4-30-26 Time of Public Sale: 10AM Location of Proposed Sale: 499 Parnell Rd Lumberton NC 28360

Help Wanted General Robeson Community College NC Boost Success Coach

The NC Boost Success Coach assists with program recruitment and provides comprehensive academic, career, and personal support to a case-load of students enrolled in the NC BOOST program. This position plays a pivotal role in promoting student persistence, retention, and graduation through proactive advising, individualized engagement, and holistic support from enrollment to completion.

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

Deadline for applications: April 30, 2026

ROBESON COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Miscellaneous FOR SALE LARGE BUILDING 12FT X 12FT GOOD CONDITION ASK FOR JAMES 910-734-1717

Reach potential buyers! Post your home in the classifieds!



everybody's talking about what's in our classifieds



Classifieds that work.com

Check out our Classifieds! So many bargains!





Photo courtesy of UNCP
Michela Gritti, left, and Sean Hancock, right, with their Mark of Excellence awards.

Pine Needle editors take top honors

Staff report

PEMBROKE — Two editors from UNC Pembroke's Pine Needle newspaper notched first place in writing at the Society of Professional Journalists Region 2 Competition on Saturday.

Sean Hancock won the Breaking News Reporting for his piece on Lumbee recognition titled "Oppo-

sition Dubbed Casino Cartel."

Michela Gritti topped the Feature Writing category for her article, "A Journey of Hope: Abdullah's Story from Gaza to Pembroke."

The Pine Needle newspaper was a finalist for the Corbin Gwaltney Award for Best All-Around Student Newspaper.

The Pine Needle competes in the SPJ Region 2, which encompasses North Carolina, Virginia, Delaware, Washington D.C. and Maryland. The Pine needle competes in the small schools' division (under 10,000 students).

The first-place regional winners advance to the national competition in Columbus, Ohio, in October.

Mill Prong House hosting annual meeting

Staff report

RED SPRINGS — Mill Prong Preservation, Inc., will host their annual meeting on May 3 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the historic Mill Prong House museum.

The home is located at 3062 Edinburgh Road, Red Springs. Constructed in 1795, Mill Prong is one of the few surviving homes in the area built not only by a Scottish immigrant but also by an American Revolutionary soldier. The home is on the National Registry of Historic Sites.

There is an exciting program planned with speaker Catherine Fort. She is the President of the Scottish Society of Wilmington and a leader in initiatives like the Cape Fear Scottish Immigration Memorial and the National Scottish Heritage Discovery Center.

Her talk is entitled Scotland & America: A Shared Story. The presentation explores the rich history, culture, and enduring legacy of Scotland and its people, with a special focus on their migration to America and settlement in North Carolina.



The historic Mill Prong Plantation House near Red Springs.

Contributed photo | Mill Prong Preservation, Inc.

In February 1770, Effie and John Gilchrist were married in Campbeltown, Argyll, Scotland, on the Kintyre Peninsula. Within months, they crossed the Atlantic and sailed into

the Cape Fear River. John had acquired property in what is now Hoke County and, at one time, owned 200,000 acres.

Effie's parents, Gilbert and Christian McMillan,

followed the next year. The Gilchrists had nine children when Effie died in 1794. John remarried and bought a piece of land near Little Raft Swamp to build a fine

house for his new bride, Flora Curry. They had one daughter. John died in 1802.

In 1834, Archibald McEachern moved into the house and expanded it for his large family. His father, Daniel McEachern, and mother, Beatrice Torrey (Purcell), emigrated from Argyllshire, on the west coast of Scotland, before the American Revolution.

Archibald's wife, Effie Sellars, was the granddaughter of Gilbert and Christian McMillan. John Gilchrist's children were her cousins. In fact, Archibald's half-brother John Purcell married John Gilchrist's oldest daughter, Mary. Come

and learn more about the many connections of these Scottish settlers.

Docents will guide visitors through the home and grounds, highlighting the architecture and the efforts in preservation and restoration. Historical displays weave the narrative of the early Scottish settlers through the tumultuous times of the American Revolution and Civil War, all set against the backdrop of Raft Swamp and Lumber River.

An array of refreshments, featuring recipes from "Keepers of the Hearth," a compilation of cherished recipes discovered within the Mill Prong House ledgers.

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.

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

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

LET OUR FAMILY FEED YOUR FAMILY!

Pier 41 SEAFOOD

Providing Exceptional Seafood & Service in Our Hometown

ORDER ONLINE

2401 East Elizabethtown Road
Lumberton, NC
910-738-8555

Mon-Tues: Closed
Wed-Sat: 11am - 9pm • Sun: 11am - 8pm

www.pier41seafood.com "God has truly blessed our business to Him we give all the glory"

50 Years of Service

Southern Heating & A/C, Inc.

910-738-7000
www.southernheatingandac.biz

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
See store for details.

Attorney JENNIFER A. CLAY

"LEGAL ANGEL"

PERSONAL INJURY

411 N Elm Street
Lumberton, NC 28358

910-720-5028
attorneyjaclay@gmail.com

Battle

From page 1A

alongside the team in photos at the competition.

“They represented PSRC well,” Humphrey said. “I am very proud of the way they competed and of the diligence they showed in their reading.”

“On behalf of the Pub-

lic Schools of Robeson County I would like to congratulate these outstanding students on this remarkable achievement. Their success reflects the talent, commitment, and bright future of Public Schools of Robeson County,” said Superintendent Freddie Williamson.

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



Photo courtesy of UNCP

UNC Pembroke students exploring Washington, D.C.

UNCP

From page 1A

historic and governmental sites.

From visiting the White House and U.S. Capitol to touring the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the trip offered students a deeper understanding of history, government and public service.

For Chanelle Lott, a sophomore political science major, the experience reinforced the value of learning beyond the classroom.

“It was a fun experience, especially getting to go with my classmates and build those connections,” Lott said. “You see these places on the news all the time, but being there in person — in the Capitol, in the Supreme Court — that’s something completely different.”

Lott said the visit to the Holocaust Memorial Museum had a particularly lasting impact.

“In school, we learn about the Holocaust, but we don’t really learn about it,” she said. “Seeing the images, the exhibits and understanding the global impact — it was eye-opening. It made you realize how those events shaped the world.”

For many students, the trip transformed abstract concepts into tangible experiences.

Barnes described the opportunity as “absolutely magnificent,” noting it was his first time traveling to Washington, D.C.

“Being able to sit inside the Supreme Court courtroom — it brings everything you learn in class to life,” Barnes said. “You’re not just reading about it

anymore. You’re seeing where major decisions were made. Being there gave me even more drive.”

Like many students, Barnes said the Holocaust Museum left a profound impression.

“It’s hard to describe,” he said. “You feel the weight of what happened. It’s not something you can fully understand from a textbook.”

Dominic Forney, a junior criminal justice major, said the trip offered both educational and cultural enrichment.

“You get to experience history firsthand,” Forney said. “It gives you a better understanding of what people lived through during those time periods. And beyond that, we got to experience different cultures, foods and perspectives that we don’t always have access to here.”

The trip also reflected UNCP’s commitment to providing personalized, high-impact learning opportunities.

“UNCP is a great facilitator for experiences like this,” Lott said. “Because of the smaller class sizes and the relationships with professors, this felt very personal. Dr. Escue and Dr. Marineau did an incredible job organizing everything.”

Students said the affordability and accessibility of the trip made it especially impactful.

“There are a lot of people who may never get the chance to visit Washington, D.C.,” Barnes said. “This allows students to experience American history in real time, not just read about it.”

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



Rob Cole, center, performs at Darlington Raceway in Darlington, South Carolina on March 21.

Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

Cole

From page 1A

a full spectrum in about a year.”

Cole is now playing bigger stages in front of more fans than ever before, with not only the increased name recognition that comes from his television appearances but the continued momentum of a career that’s been building over the last few years.

That includes an invitation to play at Carolina Country Music Fest, held June 4-7 in Myrtle Beach. Cole will perform on Friday, June 5, at a time to be determined. Luke Bryan, Cole Swindell and Flatland Cavalry headline that night’s lineup; Riley Green, Blake Shelton and Post Malone are among the headliners on other nights of the festival.

“I’ve got a new single that I’m going to be releasing here next month called ‘Sweet

Home Carolina.’ I wrote it back in December while I was out (in California) for The Voice, and coming into the year I said ‘man that would be cool to play at Carolina Country Music Fest,’” Cole said. “And sure enough, about four or five weeks ago, at a show down in North Myrtle, they came up my show and surprised me and invited us to play.”

Cole was informed he’d been selected for the festival as one of its “Hometown Stars” while recently performing at Duck Dive Bar & Grill in North Myrtle Beach, when CCMF representative Chasity Todd came on stage and surprised him.

“A lot of folks that have been following me for three, four years were there that day, so I think they shared in it as much as I did,” Cole said.

Fans interested in attending the festival can use a discount code of ROBCOLE20 to purchase tickets, Cole said.

Cole also signed with

the booking agency Imagine Music Group on Jan. 8, which will allow him to book more shows throughout the Carolinas and beyond, including upcoming shows ranging from Mooresville, in the Charlotte area, to LaGrange, near Kinston. The agency has connections nationwide, Cole said.

“We’ve been working together to book some bigger stages, festivals,” he said.

Another recent highlight was the chance to play a Saturday night concert on NASCAR’s race weekend at Darlington Raceway in South Carolina.

“They sent me an email back in January,” Cole said. “I was like, absolutely — I didn’t even ask the band yet when I said yes.”

Several hundred people attended the show, a blend of Cole’s fans, friends and family and racing fans who were at the track for the weekend. The show ended in Cole’s first encore, when the production team

wouldn’t let him leave the stage.

Cole is scheduled to play a similar concert in August on a NASCAR race weekend in Richmond, Virginia.

The impending release of “Sweet Home Carolina” is just the first portion in an expected wave of new music to be released by Cole. He wrote about 15 songs when he was in California for a week for the finale of “The Voice,” he said, and from that he anticipates three singles will be released this year, leading to an eventual album.

Cole’s upcoming dates include the American Indian Center in Chapel Hill on Friday, the Lincoln Reagan Dinner on Saturday in Lumberton, the South Carolina Strawberry Festival on May 2 in Fort Mill, South Carolina, and numerous shows in the Myrtle Beach area, where he frequently plays, among others.

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

County

From page 1A

(I/DD) services.

Cecilia Peers, regional vice president for Trillium Health, informed the board that 19,931 people in Robeson County are covered by Trillium. Of those, 6,200 are enrolled in Trillium’s Tailored Plan, which is a full service health-care plan, and another 13,731 are in its Medicaid Direct plan, which provides behavioral health and I/DD care for those on Medicaid.

In the 2025 fiscal year, 6,293 of those members in Robeson County were served. This included 4,676 for mental health, 2,366 for substance use and 725 for I/DD; this adds up to more than the 6,293 total as some were served in multiple categories, Peers said.

Robeson is one of 46 counties in Trillium’s coverage area, which spans across most of Eastern North Carolina and has 3.1 million residents. Trillium divides that coverage area into five regions

in an effort to ensure local connections, Peers said, with regional advisory boards and consumer and family advisory committees.

Commissioner Wixie Stephens and Marie Britt each represent Robeson County on the regional advisory board.

“Most of our counties are very rural, very spread out, so we have unique opportunities and challenges in working with providers to deliver services where people are,” Peers said.

Peers also addressed a \$1 million gift to the Lumbee Tribe, which was announced last week, to help build a health and wellness center.

“We were given the opportunity to bring in money from the state for health centers and community opportunity centers, so one of our partners was the Lumbee Tribe, so we were able to provide them with \$1 million to help them with a health and wellness center,” Peers said.

“They will direct those funds, I think to rehab a property, that will provide basic health

care and other services that are really led by the Tribe, with cultural awareness and support in mind.”

Trillium has signed a memorandum of understanding with UNC Pembroke, for all of its departments, to provide internships and give them training opportunities, Peers said.

Trillium is also encouraging its members to use digital health support services, Peers said, including apps.

“We’re using technology, not to replace direct services, but to enhance them, and to supplement where experience gaps or where a person might not be eligible to receive service in that moment, but they need some support.”

Trillium also works with residential recovery programs to provide long-term support for those struggling with addiction, she said.

Peers also referenced the Behavioral Health Urgent Care facility, which held a ribbon cutting last week, opened by Southeastern Integrated Care.

The facility can accommodate up to 12 patients at a time.

“There’s a behavioral health urgent care service for people that are in distress, but not necessarily needing the need of an inpatient service, or even an overnight stay,” Peers said. “They just need short-term stabilization; maybe a few hours to decompress and talk to someone with behavioral health experience.”

Peers advised that members can call a helpline at 877-685-2415, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and that a behavioral health crisis line is available 24/7, 365 days a year, at 888-302-0738.

The board also approved the appointment of Jason Carter to the Town of Fairmont Planning Board. While that is a municipal board, a position representing the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) is appointed by the county Board of Commissioners.

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

Find it
FAST
in the
Classifieds
that work

'Safe actions save lives': NC observes Work Zone Awareness Week

Staff report

RALEIGH — Drivers are urged to slow down, stay alert and avoid distractions as transportation officials mark North Carolina Work Zone Awareness Week, April 20-24, to improve safety in roadway work zones.

The North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program and its partners kicked off the campaign with a press conference at the Interstate 95 South Welcome Center in Northampton County, bringing together state and federal officials, safety advocates and transportation workers to highlight the importance of protecting both the roadway workers and the traveling public.

"Work zones demand our full attention," said Mark Ezzell, director of the N.C. Governor's

Highway Safety Program. "Whether you're driving through or working alongside the road, everyone deserves to make it home safely. Safe actions behind the wheel truly save lives."

Work zone crashes continue to have a serious impact across North Carolina. Between 2020 and 2025, 215 people were killed in nearly 38,900 work zone crashes statewide. In 2025 alone, 28 people lost their lives in work zones, including seven workers, eight pedestrians and 13 drivers.

"Too many families have been affected by preventable work zone crashes," Ezzell said. "Speeding and distracted driving remain leading causes. Slowing down, staying focused and following traffic laws can make all the difference."

Throughout the week, the N.C. Department of Transportation will share safety messages, videos and resources to remind drivers to use caution when traveling

through work zones. The campaign also highlights the national theme, "Safe Actions Save Lives," reinforcing the shared responsibility between drivers and workers.

Special observances during the week include:

— **Go Orange Day (April 22):** The public is encouraged to wear orange to show support for work zone safety and honor victims of work zone crashes.

— **Social Media Day (April 23):** Safety partners will amplify work zone safety messages across digital platforms.

— **Moment of Silence (April 24):** A statewide moment of remembrance will honor those who have lost their lives in work zone incidents.

On any given day, hundreds of active work zones exist across N.C. as crews work to maintain and improve the state's transportation infrastructure. Officials stress that drivers play a critical role in keeping these areas safe.



Photo courtesy of RCC

Robeson Community College will hold its annual Trauma Rodeo training exercise on Thursday.

RCC hosts annual trauma rodeo

Courtney Jacobs
For The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — Robeson Community College will host its annual Trauma Rodeo on Thursday, offering a high-impact, hands-on training experience for students in its Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Nursing programs. The event will begin at 9 a.m. with a safety briefing in Building 17, followed by live training scenarios at 9:30 a.m. While the event is not open to the general public, photos and videos will be shared throughout the day, with portions of the event streamed live on Facebook.

This joint exercise brings together RCC's EMS and Nursing departments with community partners including Lumberton Fire Department, Lumberton Police Department, regional air medical teams and resident physicians from UNC Health Southeastern.

"Our 11th annual Trauma Rodeo represents a decade of commitment to preparing future paramedics for the challenges they will face in the field," said Chris Lucas, EMS instructor at RCC. "These scenarios challenge students to think quickly, adapt, and deliver high-quality care

when it matters most."

The Trauma Rodeo immerses students in realistic emergency scenarios, where they manage patient care from initial dispatch through hospital treatment, strengthening critical thinking, communication and teamwork.

"The Trauma Rodeo gives our senior paramedic students a chance to apply their training in realistic, high-stress situations," added Lance Speights, EMS instructor. "It helps bridge the gap between the classroom and real-world patient care."

Students participate in multiple in-hospital and out-of-hospital scenarios throughout the day, culminating in a large-scale mass casualty simulation.

For more information about the Robeson Community College Trauma Rodeo, visit www.roberson.edu.

Contact Courtney Jacobs, RCC director of governance and marketing, at 910-272-3231 or cjacobs@roberson.edu.

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

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

QUALITY PROPANE DELIVERY

Switch providers today at www.switchtoquality.com

RELIABLE PROPANE DELIVERY

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

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 22, 2026 • Section B



UNC Pembroke's softball seniors were honored before Saturday's game. Pictured, from left, are Megan Ellis, Summer Bullard, Katie Neel, Cirstin Calloway, Madison Davis and Rachel Mori.

Braves dominate Bulldogs for senior-day softball sweep

Chris Stiles
The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — The bats came alive for the UNC Pembroke softball team, supplementing a strong day from senior Summer Bullard and the rest of the pitching staff, as the Braves beat Barton 9-1 in 10-2 in a senior-day doubleheader Saturday at Willoughby Field.

"Fourteen hits in both games," UNCP coach Stephanie Graziani said. "It was pivotal, with the pitching changes, to keep them off-balance; I thought we did it at the right time, and I thought our pitchers came in and did their job very well of keeping them off-balance, finding the zone, and just

See SOFTBALL | 3B

MONDAY ROUNDUP

Lumberton soccer dominated by Gray's Creek

Staff report

HOPE MILLS — The Lumberton girls soccer team was soundly defeated 5-0 by Gray's Creek in a conference matchup Monday night.

For Lumberton (7-8, 1-6 Tri-County), this was the Pirates' third straight loss. Meanwhile, Gray's Creek (7-5-2, 5-2 TCC) won its second game in a row.

Gray's Creek Kaydyn Deutscher scored three goals to lead her team. Sofia Carrasco had a goal and two assists and Kiara George also had a goal. Hayley Connolly had two assists and Ryleigh Bill had one.

Lumberton will visit Terry Sanford at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Purnell Swett soccer drops matchup with Cape Fear

The Purnell Swett girls soccer team lost to Cape Fear 4-2 in a double overtime conference game Monday night.

The Cape Fear Colts (8-6-2, 6-1 TCC) scored a goal in the first half and held the Purnell Swett Rams (8-6-1, 2-5 TCC) scoreless.

The Rams scored two goals in the second half and allowed one to force overtime.

Neither team scored in the first overtime, but Cape Fear scored twice in the second one to win the game, 4-2.

This was Purnell Swett's third loss in its last four games. They visit Scotland Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Red Springs softball dominates Seventy-First

The Red Springs softball team easily defeated the Seventy-First Falcons Monday night, winning 16-0.

After both teams were held scoreless in the first two innings, the Red Dev-

ils (6-10) scored four runs in the third inning, eight in the fourth and four in the fifth, keeping the Falcons (3-11) scoreless to win 16-0 in five innings.

Ava Goins led Red Springs with three hits, three runs scored and two RBIs. Gabriella Locklear had two hits, three runs and two RBIs. Finally, Bailey Locklear had two hits and three runs.

Red Springs played Whiteville Tuesday; the result was unavailable at press time.

Red Springs baseball has strong showing against Seventy-First

The Red Springs baseball team came to play against Seventy-First Monday, winning 17-6.

The Red Devils (7-10) started the game scoring three runs in the top of the first inning. The Falcons (8-10) answered with a run of their own in the bottom half. Both teams scored two runs in the second inning to make it 5-3 Red Devils.

Red Springs added a run in the top of the third inning and Seventy-First responded with two of their own. Red Springs answered with five in the fifth inning and Seventy-First couldn't answer. The Red Devils added three more in the sixth and the Falcons again couldn't answer, resulting in a 17-6 win for Red Springs.

Jacoby Locklear was a big factor for Red Springs, finishing with three hits, three runs scored and four RBIs. Terry Locklear was also productive with three hits, four runs and two RBIs. Finally, T.J. Ellerbe had two hits and four runs.

Red Springs snapped an eight-game losing streak.

Red Springs hosted Whiteville at 6 p.m. Tuesday; the result was unavailable at press time.



Kelvin Sampson, left, and UNC Pembroke Chancellor Robin Cummings, right, applaud after unveiling the retired jersey of Ned Sampson, Kelvin's father, during a ceremony Saturday in Pembroke.

Photos by Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

UNCP honors No. 12, 'Mr. Ned'

Sampson remembered for humility, character at jersey retirement

Chris Stiles
The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — He may have been their coach, but that's not what they called him. It was "Mr. Ned," because in those days the word "mister" carried even more respect and authority.

Numerous former players honored John W. "Ned" Sampson on Saturday as UNC Pembroke retired the No. 12 that the 1953 alumnus wore on the basketball court before a long high school coaching career in Robeson County.

"Ten years from now, 20 years from now, 40 years from now, somebody's going to walk into that gym and look at No. 12, and they're going to ask questions, and I hope somebody will tell the story," said Kelvin Sampson, Ned Sampson's son who is head basketball coach at the University of Houston. "Not just about him, but all of us. History is the past, but it's important to honor the past."

Ned Sampson played football, basketball and baseball at UNCP, but his biggest legacy as a player came on the hardwood. He averaged 24.3 points per game as a senior.

But the on-court accomplishments — and even the accomplishments of the teams he coached — were only a small part of the story told in Saturday's ceremony. It more largely focused on the man that Ned Sampson was.

"When somebody gets their jersey retired, it's because of what they accomplished on



The family of Ned Sampson takes a group photo during his jersey retirement ceremony Saturday in Pembroke.

the playing field or the court, and people will remember them," Kelvin Sampson told The Robesonian following the ceremony. "But what I want people to realize today, as good of a player as he was, he was a better person. Great coach, great player."

As a player, Ned Sampson was said to be an excellent shooter — and could even make hook shots from 25 to 30 feet from the basket. Even while coaching, he was once challenged to see how many free throws out of 100 he could make, and sank 98 of the 100 including 95 in a row.

He went on to coach at Magnolia High School from 1953-68 and Pembroke from 1968-83.

"He loved coaching. He loved teaching," Kelvin Sampson said. "He taught me a lot about coaching — maybe not the strategy part, but he know how to do more with less."

"I valued his dedication. I watched how he dealt with his athletes," said Ronnie Chavis, who coached alongside Ned Sampson and led the nomination to retire his jersey. "I never heard him say a nasty word. That's hard to say that a coach can coach and not say something nasty, but he did. And I watched him as he conditioned his team to play opponents that were physically more talented than we were."

Kelvin Sampson, who has coached in three Final Fours and won over 800 games as a college head coach, shared two of the best pieces of advice he got from his father: don't ever lose sight of the fact that parents would rather their son make the all-conference team than the team win the conference championship; and if you listen to those people sitting behind you, pretty soon you'll be sitting with them.

"My dad's legacy will be, just a simple man, respectful, treated everybody the same, he didn't have a lot of highs or lows, but I always thought his greatest strength was his common sense," Kelvin Sampson said. "After every game, I always enjoyed talking with him because he knew what to say."

Others who played for Ned Sampson shared their own stories during Saturday's ceremony, with his character being a common theme throughout.

"Mr. Ned was more than a coach to us, and I'm sure a lot of guys second that," said Charles Graham, a former state representative who played for and coached alongside Ned Sampson. "He was a counselor, teacher, humanitarian; a man of wisdom. And I'm very honored to say that I played for (him),"

See SAMPSON | 2B

Rams' Oxendine signs to Bryant & Stratton



Jacob Husson
The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — Many young baseball players dream of playing at the college level and Nolan Oxendine, a senior catcher at Purnell Swett, will fulfill that dream. He will play baseball and pursue an education at Bryant & Stratton, signing on Monday.

"Academically, they just fit in," Oxendine

said. "They had what I wanted to major in and their program was just a really good fit for me."

Oxendine has a home run and 12 RBIs this season.

"We're excited for him," Purnell Swett coach Edmund Locklear said. "Bryant & Stratton is a junior college near Virginia Beach, Virginia. Nolan went there and

See OXENDINE | 4B



Chris Stiles | The Robesonian
Ronnie Chavis speaks during Saturday's jersey retirement ceremony for Ned Sampson in Pembroke.



Photo courtesy of UNCP
Kelvin Sampson, center, and his family share a laugh during Saturday's jersey retirement ceremony for Ned Sampson in Pembroke.

Sampson

From page 1B

coached with (him), and those are memories that will last forever."

"He had this way about him, remember that disarming smile," UNCP Chancellor Robin Cummings said. "That smile that would pull you in, and he had that twinkle in the eye. When you saw him, you just felt good about this man, as a young person growing up with him, and he encouraged you, he lifted you up. Even when your performance didn't quite match your effort, he found a way to make you believe in yourself, to make you feel good about yourself."

"I'd never heard a coach that didn't use profanity when he was trying to get his players to do something," said Sylvester McArthur, the first Black player to play for Ned Sampson at the predominantly Native American

Magnolia High School. "I respected that."

Those who coached alongside him shared similar sentiments.

"He gave me so many little pointers and tips, not about baseball, but about coaching young men," Ronnie Chavis said. "He talked about having a philosophy how to attack the opponent, how you show leadership to your kids, how they learn from you and fall in love with you and what you're doing."

Kermit Chavis said that it was Ned Sampson who, when he was at a life crossroads, encouraged him to "keep going to school" because that's all he had ever known, leading to a 52-year career as an educator.

He presented Kelvin Sampson with a letter from the North Carolina Coaches Association regarding the historical details of Ned Sampson's membership, while also showcasing one plaque with a key to the gym at Magnolia, using the key

as a symbol for success, and another plaque which included a piece of the original free-throw line at Magnolia, where Ned Sampson had made his 95 straight free throws.

"If I touch this tile, it's like I'm rubbing my hands across Mr. Ned's feet," Kermit Chavis said. "Good feeling."

Beyond his high school coaching career, Ned Sampson started the Little League, Babe Ruth and American Legion baseball programs in Pembroke, Ronnie Chavis said.

Eva Sampson was also remembered alongside her husband on Saturday. She served as the head school nurse at UNCP for 30 years, and was described as "a face that showed wisdom and confidence" by Cummings.

"The one person that would be the obstacle (to the jersey retirement) would be Mr. Ned," Kelvin Sampson said. "He wouldn't want to do it, but mama would have, and mama would

see it. "If Mr. Ned was here today, he would be proud," Ronnie Chavis said. "But there wasn't a cocky bone in his body. He had humility, he understood what that was. He knew what it was to have class, how to always demonstrate to other people that you cared."

Others agreed that Ned Sampson, who died in 2014, would have found the ceremony very humbling if he were alive to

have won. ... We hear about power couples, but Ned and Eva really were a power couple. Not because of accumulation of material things, but the impact that they had on other people."

Ned Sampson becomes just the second retired jersey for men's basketball at UNCP, with the banner in the English E. Jones Center that bears his name and numeral sitting next to that of Joe Gallagher's No. 24.

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



Chris Stiles | The Robesonian
Kermit Chavis holds a plaque that includes a strip of the free-throw line from the original gym at Magnolia High School during Saturday's jersey retirement ceremony for Ned Sampson in Pembroke.



Photo courtesy of UNCP
Kelvin Sampson, top right, and his family take a photo in front of the banner hanging in the English E. Jones Center commemorating Ned Sampson's retired No. 12 jersey following Saturday's retirement ceremony in Pembroke.

CLASSIFIEDS **The Fastest Way to Get Sales**
MOVING

ROBESON COUNTY ATHLETIC SPOTLIGHT

ST. PAULS HIGH SCHOOL



TYLER LAVOIE
Baseball

St. Pauls senior Tyler Lavoie pitched 2 2/3 innings with five strikeouts as part of a combined no-hitter against Westover on April 14, and has 34 strikeouts in 30 2/3 innings pitched this season. At the plate, Lavoie had four hits, five runs and three RBIs in a three-game week, and is hitting .292 this season with nine RBIs and 19 runs scored.

LUMBERTON HIGH SCHOOL



JAELYN HAMMOND
Softball, Swimming, Cross Country

Lumberton shortstop Jaelyn Hammond, the 2025 Robeson County Player of the Year, had a big week as the Pirates were 2-1 last week. Hammond had 11 hits, two RBIs, nine runs and 10 steals over the three games. The Gardner-Webb signee is hitting .536 with 32 runs, 19 RBIs and 29 steals in her senior season.

Lumberton pickleball tournament a big success

Staff report

LUMBERTON — The Lumberton Pickleball Invitational Open was held Sunday at the Meadow Road Courts, just outside of Lumberton.

The event had 87 competitors across seven different divisions, with three men's divisions and seven women's divisions. Participants came from Southern Pines, Fayetteville, Laurinburg, Eastover and other areas.

The tournament was played as a celebration of National Pickleball Month. USA Pickleball District Ambassador Austin Babb and Byrd Britt, the USA Pickleball ambassador for Robeson County, led the event's organization.

This was the first large tournament at the Meadow



The Lumberton Pickleball Invitational Open is played at the Meadow Road Courts on Sunday near Lumberton.

Road Courts, which opened in April 2024. Last year's event had 24 players.

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the United States, with over 24 million players and participation

up 171% over the last three years, according to the Sports & Fitness Industry Association.

Local players who were medalists included: Yvonne Galbreath, first place in the

women's 3.0 division; Kimberly Thompson, second place, and Puja Gatiwala, third place in women's 2.5; and Dennis Watts, second place in men's 2.5-3.0.



Robeson County's Yvonne Galbreath won first place in the women's 3.0 division.



Robeson County's Kimberly Thompson finished in second place and Puja Gatiwala in third place in the women's 2.5 division.

Contributed photos | Byrd Britt

Braves baseball splits doubleheader, takes series at King

Staff report

BRISTOL, Tenn. — The UNC Pembroke baseball team's offense was stymied in Game 1 of the doubleheader on the way to a 6-2 loss, but bounced back with a 12-4 win in the rubber match to take the series over King in Conference Carolinas action Saturday afternoon.

Daniel Stephens had two of UNCP's five hits in the first game of the twinbill, before racking up three more, including a home run, in the finale. Landon Lucas and Jackson Crute each added three hits apiece in the rubber match, with Crute also tallying three RBI.

CW Bayer turned in a career-high five innings in the series finale, not allowing a run to go along with three strikeouts.

King's Rohde Kirkland earned the win for King in the first game, moving to 3-7 this season, while UNCP's Kasen McCawley took the loss, falling to 9-3.

The Braves (28-16, 18-12 CC) moved to 14-2 all-time against the Tornado (13-33, 10-20 CC).

Game one

King struck first on a two-run double from Kenny Hirschfield and Misael Garcia added an RBI-single to give the Tornado an early 3-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning of game one.

In the bottom of the second, the Tornado added three more runs on a bases-clearing double from Hirschfield to make it 6-0, as the first and second innings

proved to be essential to King's win.

Kenny Hirschfield went 2-3 with two doubles and five RBIs in game one for King. The Tornado's Misael Garcia was also critical for them going 2-for-3 with three RBIs.

Game two

In the finale, the Braves took the lead on a solo home run from Daniel Stephens before Landon Lucas doubled and came around to score on Branton Jernigan's RBI single. Finally, Jackson Crute added an RBI to make it 3-0, all in the third inning.

UNCP put the game away with a six-run, eight-hit inning, using RBI singles from Jernigan, Mason Mozeley, Morgan

Padgett, and Tyler Steele, while Boone Herman tacked on two more runs with a double to cap off the inning.

Jackson Crute went 3-for-5 with a triple and three RBIs in game two for UNCP. Daniel Stephens went 3-for-6 with a home run and an RBI for the Braves, while Branton Jernigan went 2-for-3 with a walk and two RBIs.

UNCP's CW Bayer pitched five shut-out innings, allowing three hits.

King's Kenny Hirschfield went 1-for-4 with a home run and an RBI, while Mitchell Victor went 1-for-2 with an RBI.

The Braves will be back in action Tuesday as they host No. 3 Catawba. First pitch is set for 6 p.m. at Sammy Cox Field.

Softball

From page 1B

helping us get to the at bats again."

Game one

Bullard (17-8), Pembroke's own, allowed one run on six hits with three strikeouts in six innings the first game of the twin bill.

"I knew coming in this was going to be my last time on this field," Bullard said. "Chloe (Locklear) called a good game; Barton was putting the bat on the ball, but my defense was behind me the whole game and I don't think we had any errors that game. They were behind me like they have been all season. I'm just thankful for every person on this team for always having my back."

The Braves (33-17, 20-8 CC) took a 1-0 lead on Alona Hanna's third-inning RBI double, then added four runs each in the fifth and sixth innings to finish off the run-rule victory.

In the fifth, a two-run home run by Kaitlynn Hunt preceded RBI hits by Maggie Cunningham and senior Rachel Mori, making it 5-0 Braves.

Madison Mercer homered in the sixth for Barton (21-27, 10-18 CC) for the Bulldogs' lone run of the contest, but the Braves struck back with an RBI single by Makayla Etling, a successful squeeze by Alona Hanna that scored Kaitlyn King, an RBI single by Cunningham and an RBI hit by pitch by Mori.

"Our squeezes today were great, our bunts were great," Graziani said. "We did a lot of the little things right, and that's what we preached all season was the little things. It's so refreshing to know, we can call squeeze here and we

know we're going to get it in. That's been a big part of our last few series, really, that we're doing the little things and finding ways to push runs across the plate."

That was more than enough for Bullard, whose ERA improved to 3.27 on the season.

"She did really well," Graziani said. "I think her speed throws them off, and I think she did really well with the zone and making her adjustments. Just her confidence on the mound makes everybody else confident. When our bats can help her as well, it just makes her pitch better and better. It was a lot of fun; I'm glad we got the win for her."

Mori and Hunt each had three hits and two RBIs for the Braves and Hanna and Cunningham each had two hits and two RBIs, with Hanna adding two runs. Emma Wrenn had a hit and three runs.

Game two

The Braves' offensive momentum carried over to the doubleheader finale, the team's final game of the regular season, with another run-rule win.

UNCP scored more in each successive inning, with one in the second, two in the third, three in the fourth and four in the fifth.

"When we play Barton it's always a dogfight, but we really came out today and put bat on ball and just kept the momentum going from the first game to the second game," Bullard said. "I think we had more hits today than we have in the last two weeks, because our bats have been struggling recently, but today we really put bat on ball and showed everybody what we have."

Barton briefly led 1-0 after a Makenzie Burroughs second-inning RBI double; the Braves used a Cunningham single

in the second inning to tie the score and then took a 3-1 lead in the third on another RBI single by Cunningham to drive home two runs.

A Braves error allowed Barton to pull to a 3-2 gap in the top of the fourth, but from there it was all Braves; in the bottom half, a double by Alex Serbio, a single by Wrenn and a single by Locklear each brought in a run, making it 6-2.

In the fifth, the Braves continued crossing home as Cunningham scored on a bunt single by senior Cirstin Calloway, Maddie Gerovac scored on a wild pitch and Serbio and Hunt each had RBI singles to plate two more.

Six Braves had two hits or more in the nightcap, led by three hits and three RBIs from Cunningham. Serbio, Wrenn, Hunt, Locklear and Calloway also each tallied two hits, with Serbio driving in two runs and scoring two and Calloway scoring twice with one RBI. Wrenn, Hunt and Locklear each had one run and one RBI.

Three Braves pitchers combined to cover the game's five innings, with starter Halona Sampson allowing one run on three hits over two innings. Senior Madison Davis (2-0) got the win, allowing no earned runs with one hit in two innings, and senior Katie Neel pitched a hitless fifth inning.

Looking back, and forward

Bullard, Calloway, Davis, Megan Ellis, Mori and Neel were honored before Saturday's game as they near the end of their time in a Braves uniform.

"I couldn't be more proud of this group; the group of seniors have been pivotal players for us throughout the year in different facets, so it's so humbling to have this group through this journey, especially my fourth year as a

head coach," Graziani said. "This is the team that really put it all together and has set the legacy for our season."

Finishing the regular season with 33 wins, the Braves' most in a campaign since 2008, shows the progress the program has made in the seniors' time in it, Graziani said.

"This is what we've been striving for; we've been striving for wins, we've been striving to get better at the little things, to continue to stay aggressive," the coach said. "That senior class has been a pivotal part of our growth here and our mentality, and this is just all our hard work being put on display."

UNCP now enters the Conference Carolinas Tournament in Duncan, South Carolina. The Braves will be the No. 5 seed, and will play a single-elimination play-in game against No. 12 Converse at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, with the winner advancing to the double-elimination portion of the tournament.

"We're going to get back at it (leading up to the tournament)," Graziani said. "We're going to keep fine-tuning, we're going to keep working on the little things. We're going to keep staying hot and keep having the right mentality and mindset of a team win."

The Braves hope the momentum gained Saturday by outscoring Barton 19-3 over two games can help lead them to a run in the conference tournament.

"The momentum we need to carry over is going to be really important for us," Bullard said. "We need to go down there and just win, win, win, and I think it's going to be very important for us to remember how we swung the bats today and carry that on to next week."

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

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

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

PROUDLY SERVING ROBESON COUNTY
NOT FOR PROFIT PUTTING YOUR NEEDS FIRST

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.



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

FRIDAY ROUNDUP

St. Pauls baseball takes Westover to the woodshed

Staff report

FAYETTEVILLE — The St. Pauls baseball team thoroughly defeated Westover in a 24-2, four-inning game in Eastern Sandhills Conference play Friday in Fayetteville.

The Bulldogs (11-7, 6-0 ESC) scored a run in the first and nine in the second before the Wolverines (4-7, 0-4 ESC) scored one in the bottom of the second. St. Pauls added six in the third and eight in the fourth.

The Bulldogs' Cailen McNeill had three hits, four RBIs and three runs scored. Tyler Lavoie had two hits and four runs, while Antonio Arnold had one hit, three runs and three RBIs. Parker Baker had a hit, four runs scored and an RBI, while Aiden Lowry had a hit, two runs and an RBI.

St. Pauls visited South View Tuesday; the result was unavailable at press time.

Lumberton manhandled by Scotland

The Lumberton Pirates baseball team had no answers against Scotland, losing 10-2 in an away conference game Friday.

Lumberton (5-12, 0-8 Tri-County) was held scoreless until the fifth inning when they scored two runs. They were held scoreless in all other innings. Scotland (9-11, 3-5 ESC), meanwhile scored one run in the first inning, seven in the third and one in both the fifth and sixth innings.

Lumberton's Sam Smith had two hits, including a double and a run scored. Brennan Grif-

fin had a hit, a run and an RBI.

The Pirates hosted Purnell Swett Tuesday; the result was unavailable at press time.

Whiteville sneaks past Golden Tornadoes

The Fairmont baseball team came up short Friday, losing 5-4 while visiting Whiteville.

Fairmont (5-12, 2-4 Southeastern) dropped consecutive games to Whiteville (11-6, 6-0 Southeastern) and has now lost four straight, overall.

The Golden Tornadoes visited South Brunswick Tuesday; the result was unavailable at press time.

Red Springs loses to West Bladen

The Red Springs baseball team lost 10-3 at home against West Bladen Friday.

West Bladen and Red Springs each scored a run in the first inning. West Bladen (14-6, 3-3 Southeastern) scored four in the third and one in the fourth before Red Springs scored a run in the bottom of the fourth. West Bladen added three in the sixth and one in the seventh before Red Springs scored one in the bottom of the seventh, but it wasn't enough.

The Red Devils (6-10, 0-6 Southeastern) had dropped eight straight before Monday's win against Seventy-First (see related story, page 1B).

Purnell Swett falls against Gray's Creek

The Purnell Swett baseball team fell against Gray's Creek 15-8 Friday.

Gray's Creek (11-8, 4-4 Tri-County) scored two runs in the top of the second inning before

Purnell Swett (10-11, 3-5 Tri-County) answered with five in the bottom half. Gray's Creek added a run in the third inning and five in the fourth, while Purnell Swett was held scoreless in both innings.

The Bears scored a run in the top of the fifth inning and the Rams answered with two runs in the bottom half. The Bears added three runs in both the sixth and seventh, while the Rams only scored one in the sixth.

The Rams' Grayson Brooks had two hits, four RBIs and a run scored, while Nolan Oxendine had a hit, two runs and an RBI. Conley Jacobs had a hit and two runs.

For Gray's Creek, Dalton Williams had two hits, two RBIs and two runs, while KJ Jackson had three hits, two runs and an RBI. Finally, Ellis Reed had a hit, five RBIs and a run.

Purnell Swett visited Lumberton Tuesday; the result was unavailable at press time.

St. Pauls drops contest against Westover

The St. Pauls girls soccer team dropped Friday's contest at Westover 2-1.

Both of Westover's goals were scored by Nevaeh Alford.

For St. Pauls (1-9, 1-5 Eastern Sandhills), this loss puts them at the bottom of the conference, as Westover (1-4-1, 1-8-2) slides ahead of them.

St. Pauls visited South View Tuesday; the result was unavailable at press time.

Pirates romp Lady Bulldogs

The Lumberton softball team dominated Terry Sanford in a

16-1, four-inning contest Friday in Lumberton.

After Terry Sanford (3-11, 0-8 Tri-County Conference) scored one first-inning run, the Pirates (11-9, 4-4 TCC) answered with one in the first, five in the second, one in the third and nine in the fourth.

Jaelyn Hammond was 4-for-4 for the Pirates with an RBI. Londyn Rozier had three hits and three RBIs, Olivia McLamb had two hits with two RBIs, Leea Wilkins had two hits with a double and an RBI, Charleigh Talton had a hit and an RBI, Jayla Hunt had a hit and two RBIs, Macy Jones had a hit and an RBI and Kinsley Martin recorded a hit for the Pirates.

Natalee Wright was 2-for-2 with a triple for Terry Sanford.

Lumberton hosted Scotland on Tuesday; the result was unavailable at press time.

Red Springs softball thoroughly dismantled by West Bladen

The Red Springs softball team was convincingly defeated by the West Bladen Knights Friday, 16-1 in a Southeastern Conference battle.

West Bladen (9-7, 6-0 Southeastern) opened the game with a seven run first inning before holding Red Springs (6-10, 0-6 Southeastern) scoreless in the bottom of the inning. Both teams scored one run in the second inning before West Bladen added a run in the third and held Red Springs scoreless in their at-bats.

The Knights added another seven runs in the top of the fourth and held the Red Devils scoreless to win 16-1 in four

innings.

West Bladen's Maycee Kinlaw went 4-for-4 with three runs scored and an RBI. Allison Hickman had three hits, three runs and three RBIs. Finally, Karlee Gause had three hits, two runs and an RBI.

Red Springs visited Seventy-First on Monday (see related story, page 1B).

Purnell Swett softball convincingly beaten by Scotland

The Purnell Swett softball team was beaten thoroughly by Scotland 8-1 at home in a Tri-County conference matchup.

After holding Purnell Swett (12-5, 5-3 Tri-County) scoreless in the top of the first, Scotland (12-7, 5-3 Tri-County) scored five runs in the bottom half of the inning. Both teams were held off the scoreboard in the second and third innings.

The Rams were held scoreless again in the fourth inning before the Fighting Scots scored two runs in the bottom half. After holding the Rams off the board again in the fifth, the Fighting Scots added another run to make it 8-0.

Both teams were held scoreless in the sixth before the Rams got on the board in the seventh, but it wasn't enough as they lost 8-1.

Shaniya Lewis led Purnell Swett with two hits and had the team's lone RBI. Chloe Chavis had a hit and a run scored.

Kinsey Hamilton had two RBIs for Scotland.

Purnell Swett visited Gray's Creek Tuesday; the result was unavailable at press time.

LATE FRIDAY



Jacob Husson | The Robesonian

Red Springs' Jurielys Quinones, left, and West Bladen's Jaidyn Taylor (18) battle for possession during Friday's game in Red Springs.

Red Springs soccer drops in-conference matchup against West Bladen

Jacob Husson
The Robesonian

RED SPRINGS — The Red Springs Red Devils soccer team was thrown into the inferno Friday night, losing 2-1 to the West Bladen Knights in a Southeastern Athletic Conference matchup. This was the Red Devils' second straight loss, both coming against the Knights.

"I'm proud of my girls overall," Red Springs head coach Karina Zarate

said. "They never give up. This is pretty hard, but at the end of the day, I'm so proud of them no matter what. You can't win all of them."

West Bladen (4-8-2, 3-0-1 SAC) scored a goal with 39:04 left in the first half and took that 1-0 lead into halftime, as Red Springs (5-8, 2-3 SAC) couldn't respond.

With 35:08 left in the second half, Red Springs' Jurielys Quinones evened the score at one with a goal of her own. It

remained tied for almost 20 minutes before West Bladen scored with 16:26 left in the game. Despite some chances down the stretch, the Red Devils couldn't tie the game again and took the loss.

"I wish we were a little faster," Zarate said. "I wish we'd use our bodies a little bit more on defense."

Red Springs hosts conference foe Whiteville Tuesday at 6 p.m. looking to end this two-game skid.

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

Diamond Eagles swept at Bryant & Stratton

Staff report

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — The Robeson Community College baseball team was swept in a three-game weekend series at Bryant & Stratton in Virginia.

In Saturday's doubleheader, the Eagles (13-30, 12-22 Region X) fell in both games despite strong individual efforts. In game one, a 5-4 defeat, Jorge Torres led with two hits, while Owen Noonan drove in a run as the Eagles capitalized on a Bryant & Stratton error. Noah Christensen allowed five runs (three earned) over five innings. Ayden Wall added two RBIs and Lezlie Jackson stole two bases as the Eagles totaled four stolen bases.

In game two, which Bryant & Stratton (25-23, 17-17 Region X) won 4-1 in seven innings, Torres tied the game with an RBI single in the third, while Davin Roush allowed four runs over 4 1/3 innings. Torres added another RBI, Wall collected two hits and Jackson stole two more bases.

Bryant & Stratton won the finale 17-7 in seven innings on Sunday. The Eagles struck early, with Torres driving in a run on a groundout, and Jack Carela later tied the game with a home run to right. David Ramsey allowed 10 runs (nine earned) over 2 2/3 innings. Carela finished with three RBIs, Wall went 2-for-2 to lead the team in hits and Jackson

stole three bases as the Eagles totaled five stolen bases on the day.

The Diamond Eagles also lost a midweek matchup against Fayetteville Tech (26-19, 22-12 Region X), 8-0 in seven innings. Nick Widener pitched four innings, allowing four runs (two earned) on four hits while striking out three. Joshua Garner, Wall and Carela each recorded a hit for the Eagles.

The Diamond Eagles will host Fayetteville Tech for a 6 p.m. matchup on Wednesday, then host Lenoir Community College for their final home series of the year, with a doubleheader beginning at 1 p.m. Saturday and a single game at 12 p.m. Sunday.

Oxendine

From page 1B

had a workout with them and they really liked him, so they offered him a scholarship to come play for them and his parents thought it was good for him, so he'll go there in the fall and continue playing baseball."

Oxendine has been a critical part of the Purnell Swett baseball team in recent years. Locklear was complimentary of what Oxendine will bring to Bryant & Stratton's program.

"Oxendine is a kid that's going to show up every day and is going to work hard to be at his best," Locklear said. "He's a kid that can play two different positions

for them. He's a catcher and his secondary position is first base."

As Nolan Oxendine wraps up his senior year, his coaches, friends and family are all excited to see what he can do at the next level. Time will tell how he fares playing for Bryant & Stratton next spring.

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

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

HIS and HER GREENHOUSE, INC.
Locally Grown Seasonal Vegetables!
910-739-2235
2278 E. Powersville Rd., Lumberton, NC 28358

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

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

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