

Inside today
Hitting the right notes

JAYLEN JONES

UNCP senior accepted to prestigious jazz graduate program. **News 8A**



AND...
Deeds trump words on affordability
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THE ROBESONIAN

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A Fresh Perspective

Local NEWS

\$1.50

Despite weekend rain, burn ban still in place



File photo

Chris Stiles
The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — A statewide burn ban remains in effect as drought conditions persist across North Carolina, even after some rain fell over the weekend.

The burn ban first went into effect on March 28, and continues until further notice.

“We have been in a drought since the winter part of the year; even

though we the snow accumulation that we had in January and February, I think it was in March the National Weather Service said we were nine inches shy on rainfall for the winter part of the year,” Robeson County Fire Marshal Justin Hunt said. “With all of that, then with the higher temperatures that we’re starting to get, and vegetation is starting to grow and taking all of the moisture out of the ground.

“So therefore it’s put us — just about all the state of North Carolina is in a drought at this time. Due to no rain in the forecast, they issued a burning ban, because it has been very dry and it doesn’t take much for a fire to spread and get out of control and burn hundreds of acres, if not structures involved.”

A few wildfires have burned in Robeson County in recent weeks; the largest was on March 28,

the very day the burn ban went into effect, when more than 180 acres burned just west of St. Pauls. No structures were damaged and no one was injured.

A few other fires have burned between 10 and 50 acres, Hunt said.

“We’ve had several outside fires that’s caught sheds on fire, houses on fire, and people have lost houses because of how

See BAN | 9A



Photo courtesy of UNCP

Air Force ROTC Cadet Maximus Lang standing in front of a Piper Warrior II at Fayetteville Regional Airport, where he is training as part of his pursuit to become an Air Force pilot.

UNCP Air Force cadet earns national aviation scholarship

Mark Locklear
For The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — As Cadet Maximus Lang guided a small aircraft through the skies above Fayetteville Regional Airport, preparing for one of aviation’s most challenging maneuvers, he realized something had shifted.

“For the first time, I felt confident in what I was doing,” Lang said.

“I knew ahead of time what I should be doing. That was a good feeling.”

That moment reflects more than progress in flight training — it marks a milestone. Lang has become the first UNC Pembroke cadet to earn the prestigious You Can Certify Scholarship. This highly competitive national Air Force

See LANG | 9A



Photo courtesy of PSRC

The Lumberton High School Robotics Team will compete at the FIRST Robotics World Championship this week in Houston.

Lumberton HS robotics team earns spot at world championship

Jessica Sealey
For The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — A team of talented student innovators from Public Schools of Robeson County is headed to the FIRST Robotics World Championship after earn-

ing one of only two available slots designated for rookie teams from North Carolina. The prestigious international competition will be held in Houston from Wednesday through Saturday.

Advised by educator

Nancy Townsend, the Lumberton Robotics Team’s journey to the world stage is a story of determination, resilience and rapid growth. In just three weeks, students successfully transitioned from competing in the

FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) program to becoming a fully competitive FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) team.

Their progress came despite unexpected setbacks, including the loss

See ROBOTICS | 9A

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TODAY'S FORECAST
High, 78, Low 58 – Cloudy with a couple of showers and a thunderstorm in the afternoon; thunderstorms can bring gusty winds and ponding on roadways

A NEWS
Obituaries: 2
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B SPORTS

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NC could have below-average hurricane season, researchers say



This photo from 2016 shows the flooding in Lumberton caused by Hurricane Matthew.

Ben Rappaport
Border Belt Independent

With hurricane season quickly approaching, at least one group of researchers is predicting below-average storm activity along the East Coast, including North Carolina.

The forecast, released this month by weather researchers at Colorado State University, predicts that 13 named storms will develop in the Atlantic Ocean this hurricane season, which lasts from June 1 to November 30. The forecast includes six hurricanes and two

See HURRICANES | 9A

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EDITOR'S NOTE

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



Image courtesy of RCSO

Man arrested after shooting near Lumberton

Staff report

LUMBERTON — A suspect has been arrested and charged in connection with a recent shooting that has left an individual in critical condition.

On Monday at approximately 4:26 pm, Robeson County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to the area of Mt. Olive Church Road and Willie Road, north of Lumberton in reference to an individual shot. Prior to the arrival of the deputies and Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Ethan Ray Hunt, 20, of Lumberton, was transported to UNC Health Southeastern Medical Center. Hunt is being treated at an undisclosed medical center and is listed in critical condition.

Tylan Jacob Hunt, 30, of Lumberton was arrested and charged with attempted first-degree murder, assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury, discharging a weapon into an occupied vehicle, robbery with a dangerous weapon, and conspiracy to robbery with a dangerous weapon. Hunt is being held at the Robeson County Detention Center with no bond.

The investigation is ongoing and more arrests will be forthcoming.

Anyone with information about the case is asked to contact the Robeson County Sheriff's Office at 910-671-3100.

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

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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 Slamma 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 Classifieds... just a click away!



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CONTACT US

REGIONAL PUBLISHER:
Denise Ward
910-416-5867
dward@robsonian.comEDITOR:
Chris Stiles
910-416-5847
cstiles@robsonian.comADVERTISING:
Denise Ward
dward@robsonian.comCIRCULATION:
Marty Deaver
910-416-5447
mdeaver@robsonian.comCaroline Arrington
carrington@robsonian.comCLASSIFIEDS/LEGALS
Linda Currie
910-739-4322
lcurrie@robsonian.comDee Dee Prevatte
dprevatte@bladenjournal.comOPERATIONS DIRECTOR:
Mike Skipper2175 N Roberts Ave., Lumberton, NC 28358
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Event to give public chance for feedback on downtown Lumberton projects

Staff report

LUMBERTON — A Community Outreach Event will give the public the opportunity provide input on plans for the future of downtown Lumberton.

The event is scheduled for

Thursday from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Carolina Civic center.

Residents will have the chance to explore the downtown master plan and market study updates, while also viewing proposed concepts, asking questions and sharing feedback.

Food will be available at the event; the city would appreciate an RSVP so that it can plan to accommodate everyone.

For questions, or to RSVP, contact Sarah Beth Ward at 910-671-3876 or sward@ci.lumberton.nc.us.

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FROM THE LEGISLATURE

Rouzer introduces STORM Act to accelerate medical response during natural disasters

WASHINGTON — Representing a hurricane-prone area, U.S. Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC7) understands the importance of rapid access to medical care. He recently introduced H.R. 6539, the Strategic Teams Organized Response Mobilization (STORM) Act, which authorizes the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to use online platforms to quickly connect healthcare workers with communities affected by natural disasters.



Rouzer

"In a natural disaster, every second counts — especially for those in need of urgent medical care," said Rouzer, whose district includes some eastern and northern areas of Robeson County. "Local providers are often overwhelmed or directly impacted by the disaster themselves. By leveraging technology, the STORM Act ensures FEMA can quickly connect medical experts with the communities that need them most."

As communities saw in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, natural disasters create a massive spike in healthcare needs, which can quickly overwhelm local doctors and hospitals — especially when those providers are also victims of the storm.

The STORM Act streamlines emergency response by allowing FEMA to use separate staffing platforms to fill medical gaps during disasters. Instead of relying on slow, manual coordination, these digital tools instantly match verified healthcare professionals with specific areas of need.

Tillis drops hold on Warsh's fed nomination



Tillis

Sunday, U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC), a member of the Senate Banking Committee, issued the following statement:

"I have been clear from the start: the U.S. Attorney's Office criminal investigation into Chair Powell was a serious threat to the Fed's independence, and it needed to end before I could support Kevin Warsh's confirmation. I welcome

the Inspector General's investigation. This is a necessary and appropriate measure, and I have confidence it will be conducted thoroughly and professionally.

"I take the Department of Justice at its word: the investigation is closed, and any appeal of Judge Boasberg's ruling will be with respect to legal principles and not for the purpose of reissuing subpoenas. Only a criminal referral from the inspector general would cause a reopening of the investigation.

"With these assurances, I look forward to supporting Kevin Warsh's confirmation. He is an outstanding nominee, and it is time for the Federal Reserve to move beyond this distraction and return its full attention to its mission."

Lawmakers react to Correspondents Dinner shooting

North Carolina lawmakers expressed their relief that no one was seriously injured and their condemnation of the suspect's actions following a shooting at the White House Correspondents Dinner on Saturday in Washington, attended by President Donald Trump, First Lady Melania Trump, Vice President J.D. Vance and numerous other administration officials.

"I am grateful everyone is safe following last night's incident at the Washington Hilton during the White House Correspondents' Dinner where President Donald J. Trump, Members of Congress, members of the press, and many others were gathered," said U.S. Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC7). "An individual rushed the venue, but thanks to the swift response of the Secret Service and law enforcement, the situation was quickly secured. Violence of any kind has no place in our nation."

"I am praying for President Trump, the Cabinet, and all attendees of the White House Correspondents Dinner," U.S. Sen. Ted Budd (R-NC) said in a post on X. "I thank the Secret Service for their swift and decisive action to keep everyone safe tonight."

Budd, Shaheen lead three-bill package to enhance American airpower and boost defense industrial base

Sens. Budd and Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, led several



Budd

of their colleagues in introducing a robust bipartisan legislative package of three bills focused on elevating and preserving the dominance of American military airpower in modern warfare.

The Airpower Acceleration Act would ensure strategic and generational investment in American air superiority by expanding fighter aircraft production, providing financial stability to the Defense Industrial Base, saving taxpayer dollars, and recapitalizing aged aircraft with modern fighters to ensure our combat aviators prevail in conflict.

The Retention Enhancements for Tactical Aircrew Initiative (RETAIN) Act would focus on retaining mid-career Air Force aviators by increasing Aviation Incentive Pay for more experienced pilots, authorizing greater and more flexible Aviation Bonus options, and expanding non-monetary incentives, such as minimizing Permanent Change of Station (PCS) moves.

The Fighter Aircrew Career Flexibility Act would establish a program that permits a one-time career intermission for Fighter Pilots and Weapon Systems Officers (WSOs). The purpose of this program is to permit targeted service intermissions to reduce the number of fighter aircrew separating from active duty and correct the most acute pilot manning challenges for the Air Force.

"The future of American military dominance relies on maintaining our air superiority, and the path forward is clear — rebuild our Defense Industrial Base through restoring our combat aircraft forces and retaining experienced aviators," Budd said. "We cannot afford to fall behind China, and that is why Senator Shaheen and I have brought forward a robust, bipartisan legislative package that gives the U.S. a fighting chance to preserve our airpower to be the most lethal fighting force in modern warfare, while also retaining our nation's most elite pilots."

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

King Charles highlights US-UK bond in speech to Congress noting 'times of great uncertainty'

Steven Sloan, Josh Boak and Mary Clare Jalonick

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — King Charles III acknowledged "times of great uncertainty" as he expressed gratitude to the American people and marked the 250th anniversary of independence from Britain in a speech to the U.S. Congress that highlighted the bonds between the two countries at a time of political turmoil.

"For all that time," Charles said, "our destinies have been inter-linked."

Charles is only the second British monarch to address a joint session of Congress. His mother, Queen Elizabeth II, delivered a similar speech in 1991 highlighting the historic ties between both countries and the importance of their democratic values.

The king picked up on those themes during his remarks on Tuesday, which were delivered in a far different environment than when his mother spoke to the same chamber in the U.S. Capitol. President Donald Trump is in open conflict with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer over the war in Iran. Many of the lawmakers in the room were at the White House Correspondents' Dinner on Saturday, which was disrupted by a shooting that authorities have described as an attempted assassination against Trump.

"Let me say with unshakeable resolve," Charles said. "Such acts of violence will never succeed."

The king began his day at the White House, where he and Trump greeted each other warmly during a ceremony on the South Lawn. Appearing under gray, drizzly skies, Trump quipped that



Mark Schiefelbein | AP Photo

President Donald Trump, right, and Great Britain's King Charles III, left, stand together during a ceremony at the White House Tuesday in Washington.

it was a "beautiful British day" before shifting his focus to the shared history of the U.S. and U.K.

Making no mention of his dispute with Starmer, Trump drew a line from King John's sealing of the Magna Carta in 1215 to the American Revolution.

"American patriots today can sing, 'My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty,' only because our colonial ancestors first sang, 'God save the King,'" Trump said.

The two leaders huddled in the Oval Office for a meeting that was closed to the public, reducing the potential for the free-wheeling, sometimes controversial meetings with foreign officials that have become routine during Trump's second term. Afterward, Trump said it was a "really good meeting" and Charles is a "fantastic person."

Trump's relationship with Starmer has soured Trump's up-and-down

relationship with Starmer has taken a particularly sour turn over the past several months as the Republican president has sought to rally international support for the war in Iran. Trump criticized Starmer, who has largely resisted his overtures, by saying "this is not Winston Churchill that we're dealing with."

Trump has also imposed tariffs on the U.K. and warned of additional levies despite a Supreme Court ruling earlier this year that has made such unilateral moves more challenging. Trump threatened just last week to slap a "big tariff" on the U.K. if it doesn't scrap a digital services tax on U.S. technology companies.

Trump has more broadly challenged the traditional trans-Atlantic alliance with efforts to annex Greenland and threats to walk away from NATO. He has repeatedly

imposed tariffs on and taunted Canada, a member of the British Commonwealth.

House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York blamed Republican policies on Monday for straining the U.S.-U.K. relationship.

"Hopefully, the king's visit is going to go a long way toward repairing the damage that this administration has done to one of our most important allies in the world," Jeffries said.

Meanwhile, Charles has faced some calls on Capitol Hill to meet with victims of Jeffrey Epstein while he is in the U.S. There's no indication that he will do so even as the scandal involving the convicted sex offender has ensnared his brother, who was arrested in February over misconduct allegations, which he denies.

Rep. Ro Khanna, a California Democrat who has been a leader of the push on Capitol Hill for a reckoning over Epstein, said he was told by the British ambassador to the U.S. that there would be an acknowledgment of the survivors during the congressional address.

Charles and Camilla arrived at the nation's capital on Monday and held a tea with the president and first lady Melania Trump. The royal couple will continue their U.S. trip later this week with stops in New York City and Virginia.

Department of Adult Correction hosting hiring event

Staff report

LUMBERTON — The North Carolina Department of Adult Correction is hosting a hiring event for correctional officer candidates at Lumberton Correctional Institution.

Full and part-time positions are available.

A \$3,000 sign-on bonus is available for correctional officer candidates hired into full-time positions.

Candidates can apply online or in person and come prepared for an interview. The event will take place from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday at 75 Legend Road.

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"God has truly blessed our business to Him we give all the glory"

Editorial

4A Wednesday, April 29, 2026

The Robesonian

OPINION SHAPER

Yes, of course, war settles things

Countless protest signs have informed us over the years that “war is not the answer.” We hear this message, with varying levels of sophistication and differing underlying worldviews, from institutions and people ranging from Code Pink to Pope Leo.



Rich Lowry
Contributing columnist

“War does not solve problems,” the pontiff said in an Angelus address last year. “On the contrary, it amplifies them and causes deep wounds in the history of peoples — wounds that take generations to heal.”

Now, there are many things that can be said about the tragedy of warfare without crediting the blatantly ahistorical cliché that it is never the answer, or doesn’t solve disputed questions, often with a terrible finality.

Warfare can determine international boundaries and the nature of governments. It can decide who will rule and who will not. The relative power of states, the extent of religious faiths and the status of a culture can depend on it.

Wars might be pointless, or fought for prestige, revenge or territorial aggrandizement. That’s all true, but it doesn’t change the fact that military conflict is, at times, necessary and highly consequential; it can achieve beneficial ends, as well as awful ones.

It mattered for the spread of Christianity, for instance, that Constantine, who would become the first Christian emperor of Rome, won the Battle of Milvian Bridge in 312. Later, Christendom benefited from Ferdinand and Isabella taking back Granada from its Muslim rulers in 1492, and from the Holy Roman Emperor defeating the Ottoman besiegers of Vienna in 1683.

Certainly, it would have been better if all this could have been amiably worked out among the relevant parties, but that’s not how the world usually works.

In the early 19th century, Europe had a Napoleon problem — a world-historical military genius determined to bend the continent to his will through force of arms. After serial failures, the Allies finally solved this problem in the War of the Seventh Coalition. The ensuing diplomatic settlement at the Congress of Vienna forged a peace that lasted nearly a century, but wouldn’t have been possible without victory at Waterloo.

In the early 20th century, Europe had a Hitler problem — a fanatical, race-obsessed militarist who wanted his Third Reich to dominate Europe. This problem, too, was solved by force and led to a lasting peace, although a very tense one during the Cold War. If it’s true that war should usually be the last resort, the Allies would have been better off if it had been the first resort against Hitler, checking him when he was relatively weak.

More parochially, the United States wouldn’t be what it is today absent two existential wars. When the colonies began agitating for independence, the British weren’t simply going to cede what they considered sovereign territories, especially given their economic and strategic value. The American cause — and all the good that has flowed from it — depended on prevailing in a grinding eight-year war.

About a hundred years later, it all could have collapsed had the United States not prevailed in the Civil War, an appallingly bloody conflict that extinguished American slavery and preserved the foundation for the nation’s gathering greatness.

None of this is a warrant for heedless war-mongering, or a reason to dismiss, say, the sheer cynical brutishness of the Roman destruction of Carthage in the Third Punic War, or the horrors of Passchendaele. That war is terrible; however, it doesn’t mean that it’s ineffective.

In our times, Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022 in the erroneous, but not crazy, belief that a sharp, decisive military campaign would topple the Western-oriented government in Kyiv and force the creation of a regime more to the Kremlin’s liking. This was a war that never should have been launched, yet Ukraine had no alternative but to fight it.

If Kyiv wants to protect its sovereign territory and eventually get a tolerable diplomatic outcome, war is the answer — as, sadly, it has been so often throughout human history.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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



CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF ROBESON COUNTY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LUMBERTON CITY COUNCIL, 910-272-1346

Bruce Davis, Mayor, 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

ley@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 Lowry, R-Dist. 47 (Robeson), 300 N. Salisbury Street, 306B2, Raleigh, NC 27603-5925,

919-715-0875, John.Lowry@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

On affordability, deeds trump words

RALEIGH — Most federal, state, and local policymakers are saying the right things about housing. Our leaders say they want to make it easier for young people to purchase homes and older people to keep them. But are they doing enough to turn their words into deeds?

To make housing more affordable, we must build more of it. Expand supply to meet demand, and prices will adjust accordingly. That’s how the market process works. And this comports with the findings of most empirical research on the issue, which shows a positive relationship between barriers to new housing and its average price.

How can policymakers encourage more housing supply? By easing regulations that limit where new housing can go, how many units can be constructed per acre, and how many (non-safety) amenities are required. By streamlining the process to get a building permit. By eliminating tariffs on lumber, steel, appliances, fixtures and other goods used to produce housing for sale. And by creating more ways for skilled workers to emigrate legally to the country to fill construction jobs while also encouraging and training young people to enter the field.

Want to make it easier for households to obtain mortgages? Rather than monkeying around with price controls or pressuring the Federal Reserve to lower rates, policymakers should go after one of the primary pressures on credit markets: Washington’s reckless deficit-spending. When the government is borrowing heavily, Adam Millsap of Stand Together Trust argues, “it has to increase interest rates to attract more investors,” and then those higher Treasury rates “push up mortgage rates, as well as car loans, small business loans, credit card rates, etc.”

These aren’t new ideas. Outside the fever swamps of populist and socialist agitation, they aren’t even particularly controversial ideas. But applying them consistently can be difficult. Every zoning code, bureaucratic delay, import tax, and labor-market regulation has a political constituency — someone who gains, or at least expects to gain, by shutting others out.

Despite these challenges, state and local leaders in North Carolina have implemented some important reforms in recent years. As a result, we are, indeed,

better off than most places. According to the latest data I could find, only Idaho is adding new housing stock at a faster rate than North Carolina is. Among large metropolitan areas, Raleigh-Cary topped the list with 28.8 new units per 1,000 existing homes, followed by Austin (28.6), Dallas (22.2), Houston

(21.6), and Phoenix (21.4). Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia came in sixth with 21.3. Among mid-size metros, both Wilmington (1) and Asheville (10) ranked high. Among small metros, Burlington ranked fifth.

Because North Carolina is adding population faster than the nation as a whole, such increases in supply won’t necessarily yank housing prices dramatically downward. What they will do — what they already seem to have done — is lessen the upward pressure on prices, and produce modest declines in some local and regional markets.

Now is no time to pause, however. Some of our competitors are pressing forward with ambitious reforms. Colorado and Arizona, for example, have adopted statewide reforms to permit residential uses in commercial zones, allow single-stair multifamily designs, and ease parking mandates. Lawmakers in Florida, Idaho, and Virginia have enacted bills requiring their municipalities to legalize manufactured homes within their jurisdictions. I’ve long been an advocate for this policy, which taps the tremendous potential of mass production and automation to serve a broad swath of price-sensitive workers, young families, and retirees.

Matching words with deeds on housing is the right thing to do. It’s also the politically astute thing to do. Affordability remains a top priority for voters. A recent High Point University poll revealed significant pessimism among North Carolina voters, with 59% describing America’s economy as getting worse rather than better, 54% opposing the administration’s tariffs, and 81% saying price increases have greatly or somewhat affected their spending decisions.

Many barriers make housing artificially scarce, and thus inordinately expensive. We can’t afford to keep talking about them. They must come down.

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



John Hood
Contributing columnist

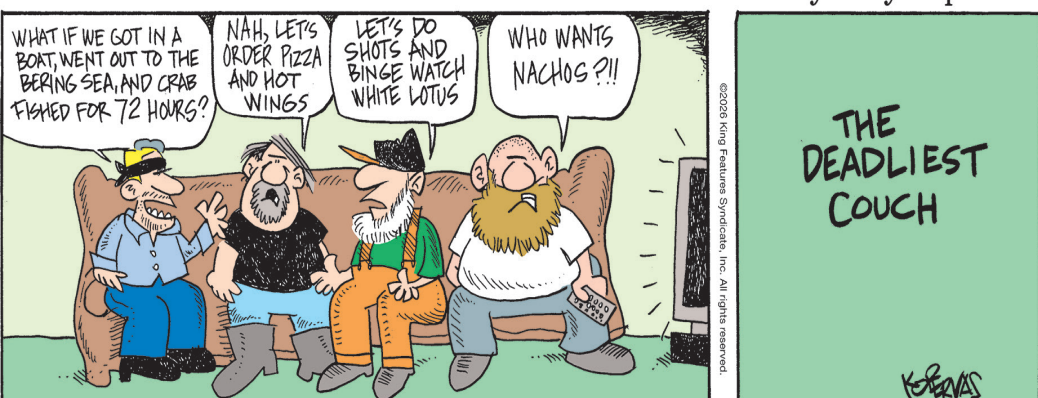
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



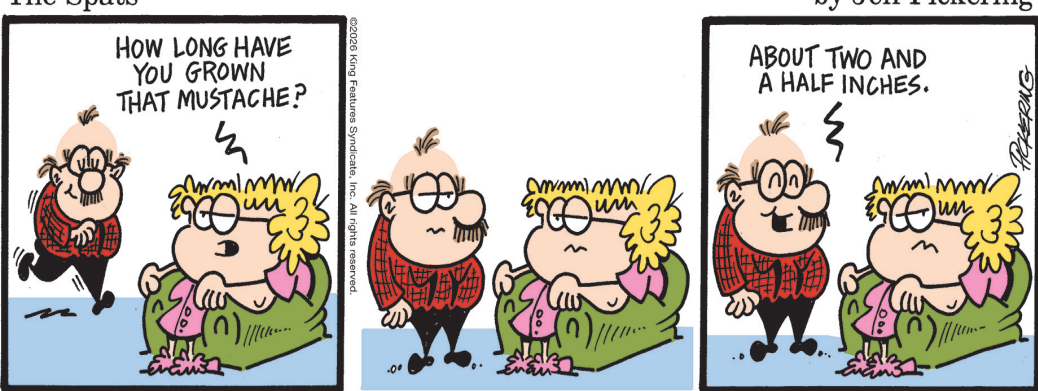
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



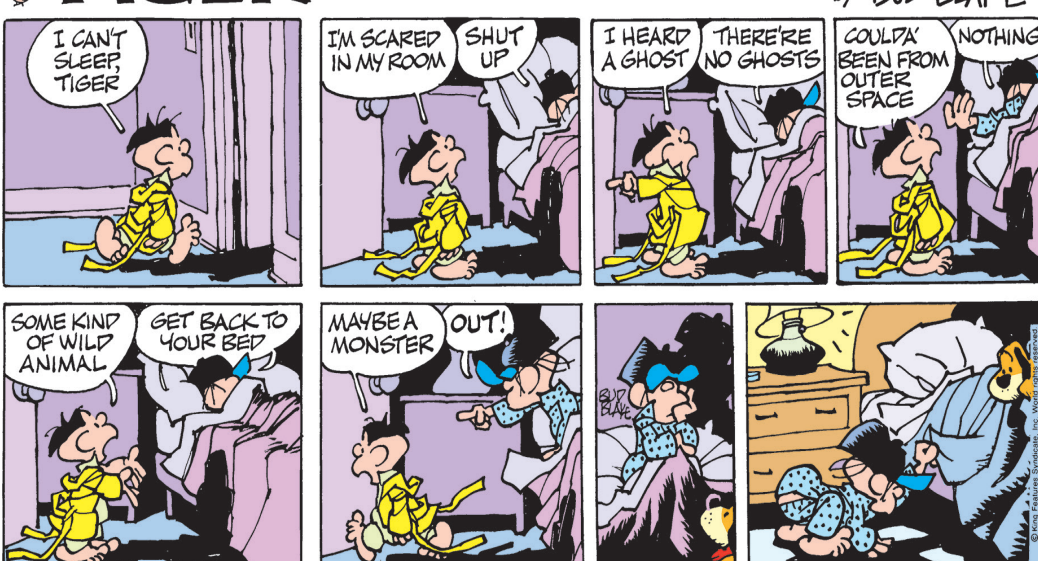
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Milholland



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



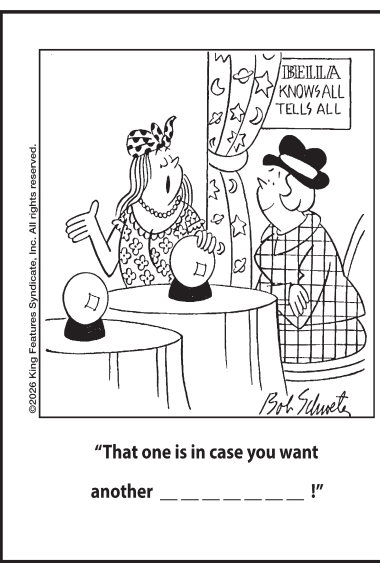
CryptoQuip

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

Clue: L equals U

MWDG NZLGBOP FTGYTG
 NDEDCOTBP OZP KBBGDH
 CEKNS-BTD KVVKTOF, HTH WD
 MDKO KNLVV-ETGSF?

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SCRAMBLERS

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

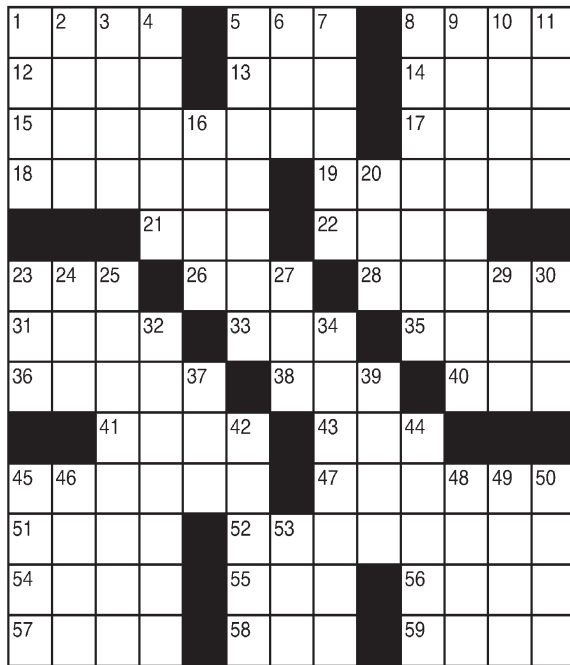
Stay: MARINE
 Chance: MODARN
 Fake: SOUPED
 Values: SCITHE

TODAY'S WORD

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Lopsided win
- 5 Have bills
- 8 Wan
- 12 Golden
- 13 Fleece ship
- 14 Fix illegally
- 14 Final Four gp.
- 15 Speed
- 17 Teri of "Tootsie"
- 18 Actor Estevez
- 19 Looked closely (at)
- 21 Pitcher Maglie
- 22 Bath powder
- 23 Speed (up)
- 26 Poetic contraction
- 28 Period of rule
- 31 El-Masry of "Star Wars"
- 33 Bro, maybe
- 35 Stair part
- 36 Deeply touched
- 38 Its cap. is Brussels
- 40 "— outta here!"
- 41 "Dream on!"
- 43 Actor Holbrook
- 45 Locust
- 47 Talisman
- 51 Seethe
- 52 Maximum contents
- 54 Diminutive suffix



- 55 Hirohito's title (Abbr.)
- 56 One-named supermodel
- 57 Sun beams
- 58 Verbalize
- 59 Church section
- 7 Pharaoh's land
- 8 The "A" of UCLA
- 9 Shortage
- 10 Fast runner
- 11 Lawn party site
- 16 Pisa farewell
- 20 Jug handle
- 23 Zodiac animal
- 24 Comic Philips
- 25 Liveliness
- 27 Tease
- 29 "My word!"
- 30 "Science Friday" network
- 32 Secondhand deals
- 34 "Cheer up!"
- 37 Carried out
- 39 Tibetan monk
- 42 Confronts
- 44 "— di Lammermoor"
- 45 Driver with a handle
- 46 Tiny bit
- 48 Walk unevenly
- 49 LAX guesses
- 50 Broadway actress Daly
- 53 Docs' org.

DOWN

- 1 Gushing review
- 2 Utah city
- 3 Wrinkled fruit
- 4 Workshop array
- 5 Baltimore baseballers
- 6 Humorist

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES: What is Indiana Jones' real first name in "Raiders of the Lost Ark"?
- LITERATURE: What is Charlie's last name in the children's book "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory"?
- GEOGRAPHY: What isthmus connects the Asian and African continents?
- MATH: What is the first prime number to follow 19?
- GEOLOGY: What type of rock is formed by cooled lava?
- TELEVISION: What is the title character's famous line in the TV detective show "Columbo"?
- BUSINESS: What company's stock ticker symbol is LUV?
- ASTRONOMY: Which four planets in our solar system have rings?
- HISTORY: About how many people worldwide were infected by the Spanish flu in the early part of the 20th century?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: If an animal eats only plants, what is it called?

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Weather watching

C	L	O	U	D

Computer data storage option
 Type of peerage
 Prepared new running shoes
 Increase proportionally
 Type of printer
 Views with dread

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.sproutsuzzles.com

02637

NONINO

Today's Word

3. Pseudo; 4. Ethics
 1. Remain; 2. Random solution

SCRAMBLERS

F	E	A	R	S
L	A	S	E	R
S	C	A	L	E
L	A	C	E	D
D	U	C	A	L
C	L	O	U	D

Solution

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

Answer

King Crossword

Solution time: 24 mins.

Answers

1. Henry
 2. Bucket
 3. Isthmus of Suez
 4. 23
 5. Igneous
 6. "Just one more thing"
 7. Southwest Airlines
 8. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune
 9. Nearly one-third of the world's population
 10. An herbivore

CryptoQuip

When country singer celebrity Roy attended black-tie affair, did he wear Acouff-links?

Answer

LEGALS

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

ROBERT LEE MCCABE, JR., PEGGY MCMILLAN AND LAURA MCMILLAN, IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION)

NOTICE)

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: ROBERT LEE MCCABE, JR., PEGGY MCMILLAN AND LAURA MCMILLAN, 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 June 6, PROPERTY DESCRIPTION PARCEL #22050100503BC West of but not adjacent to SR #1505, Old Lowery Road Shannon Township 0.5 acres +/- Vacant Land Execution will be issued on the judgment, and the real property will be sold as provided by law. The tax lien, including interests and costs, may be paid before the judgment is docketed and at any time thereafter as allowed by law. Robert Conner, Robeson County Tax Administrator

4/29 5/6 2026

LEGALS

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

LEGALS

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

LEGALS

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

LEGALS

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

LEGALS

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



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

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LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE - DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO.: 25CV000554-770

GENERAL NOTICE OF TAX FORECLOSURE SALE

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

DALLAS OXENDINE, and spouse, if any, Owner, and CRYSTAL GRAHAM, GUARDIAN AD LITEM OF DALLAS OXENDINE and spouse, if any; Defendants.

Under and by virtue of an order of the District Court of Robeson County, North Carolina, made and entered in the action entitled "County of Robeson vs Dallas Oxendine and spouse, if any, Owner and Crystal Graham, Guardian ad Litem of Dallas Oxendine and spouse, if any" the undersigned Commissioner will on the 12th day of May, 2026, offer for sale and sell for cash, to the last and highest bidder at public auction, at the courthouse door in Robeson County, North Carolina, in Lumberton at 12:00 noon the following described real property, lying and being the aforesaid State and County, and more particularly described as follows:

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Owner of Record: Dallas Oxendine and spouse, if any. Title Reference: DB 1682 @ PG 344. PIN No: 04030202012. Tax Account No: 1095152. Property Location: Burnt Swamp Twp. Tr 26 Hannah O Wood et al Map 44 @ 85, 1.95 AC +/- with easements for the purpose of ingress, egress and utilities.

TRACT 26
Burnt Swamp Township, Robeson County, North Carolina

All that certain tract or parcel of land lying about 3.2 miles east of the center of Pembroke, NC, about 1/2 mile northeast of NC Highway 72 West, about 0.25 miles northwest of SR 1516, Genes Road, adjacent to and on the northeast side of a 45 foot private easement #3, adjacent to and south of the southeast end of easement #2 and adjoining Tract 25 of this Division on the southwest, Tract 23 on the northwest, Tract 27 on the northeast, Harry Locklear (1073/164) and Mary Chavis (19-B/331) on the southeast and being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron rod set in the northwest line of Mary Chavis (19-B/331), the corner of Tracts 25 and 26 of this Division, this iron rod being located North 51 degrees 45 minutes 40 seconds East 513.56 feet from a pump pipe found in a ditch, the northwest corner of Sue Ellen Brooks (1130/701), this pump pipe being located North 24 degrees 46 minutes 37 seconds West 1128.13 feet from a mag nail found in the centerline intersection of SR 1516, Genes Road with Jimmy's Farm Road and runs thence from said beginning iron rod with the line of Tracts 25 and 26, North 45 degrees 50 minutes 57 seconds West 300.86 feet to an iron rod set in the center of a 45 foot private easement #3, the corners of Tracts 25 and 26; thence with the center of said 45 foot private easement #3 North 40 degrees 49 minutes 44 seconds East 184.78 feet to an iron rod set in the intersection of said 45 foot private easement #3 with the 45 foot private easement #2, the corner of Tracts 23, 26, 27 and 28; thence with the center of said 45 foot private easement #2, South 69 degrees 27 minutes 30 seconds East 89.69 feet to an iron rod set in the center of a cul-de-sac, having a 50 foot radius at the southeast end of said easement #2; thence with the line of Tracts 26 and 27, South 69 degrees 27 minutes 30 seconds East 300.0 feet to an iron rod set in the northwest line of Harry Locklear (1073/164), the corner of Tracts 26 and 27; thence with the northwest line of said Harry Locklear and Mary Chavis (19-B/331), South 51 degrees 45 minutes 40 seconds West 343.56 feet to the beginning containing 1.95 acres more or less.

Granted and Reserved, a 45 foot Private Easement for Jimmy's Farm Road
BEGINNING at an iron rod found in the bend of a ditch, a corner of Tract 12 of this Division and Carolyn O. Carter (452/44), said iron rod being located South 83 degrees 26 minutes 39 seconds West 127.05 feet from an iron rod found at a bend in said ditch, this iron rod being located South 34 degrees 47 minutes 22 seconds West 128.33 feet from an axle found in said ditch, the northeast corner of Tracy Carter (1063/203) and runs thence from said beginning iron rod and runs with said ditch and the southwest line of Jimmy's Farm Road (45 ft. private road) North 51 degrees 24 minutes 52 seconds West 359.20 feet to an iron rod set in said ditch; thence with the center of Jimmy's Farm Road (45 ft. private easement) North 38 degrees 01 minutes 38 seconds East 301.93 feet to an iron rod set at a bend in said easement; thence with the center of said Jimmy's Farm Road (45 ft. private easement) North 40 degrees 09 minutes 45 seconds West 272.56 feet to an iron rod set at a bend in said easement; thence with the center of Jimmy's Farm Road, (45 foot private easement), North 34 degrees 52 minutes 53 seconds East 97.67 feet to an iron rod set at a bend in said easement; thence with the center of said 45 foot private easement for Jimmy's Farm Road North 24 degrees 33 minutes 57 seconds West 545.70 feet to an iron rod set in the center of said easement and the center of a cul-de-sac, having a radius of 50 feet, the easement granted and reserved herein is 45 feet at right angles to and northeast of the 1st line described above and 22.5 feet at right angles to and on both sides of the center of all other lines with a 50 foot radius at the end of the last call for the purpose of ingress, egress and utilities, also granted and reserved is any and all rights to Jimmy's Farm Road that leads from Genes Road, SR 1516, to the above tracts, also a 20 foot private road easement shown in Deed Book 1063, page 203.

45 Foot Private Easement #1, Granted and Reserved
BEGINNING at an iron rod set in the center of Jimmy's Farm Road, a 45 foot private easement, at its intersection with the center of a 45 foot private easement #1, the corner of Tracts 16, 21 and 22, this iron rod being located North 38 degrees 01 minutes 38 seconds East 301.93 feet from an iron rod set in a ditch, the corner of Tracts 15 and 16, this iron rod being located South 51 degrees 24 minutes 52 seconds East 224.49 feet from an iron rod found, a corner with Addie R. Oxendine (471/168) and Audrey Oxendine (452/42) and runs thence from said beginning iron rod with the center of this 45 foot private easement #1, North 73 degrees 04 minutes 27 seconds East 149.11 feet to an iron rod set at a bend in said easement at a ditch; thence continuing with the center of this 45 foot private easement #1, North 39 degrees 07 minutes 56 seconds East 281.44 feet to an iron rod set; thence continuing with the center of this 45 foot private easement #1, North 34 degrees 49 minutes 30 seconds East 159.37 feet to an iron rod set in the center of a cul-de-sac, having a 50 foot radius at the northeast end of this 45 foot private easement #1, the easement granted and reserved herein is 22.50 feet at right angles to and northwest and southeast of the above-described centerline for the purpose of ingress, egress and utilities.

45 Foot Private Easement #2, Granted and Reserved
BEGINNING at an iron rod set in the center of a 45 foot private easement #1, at its intersection with this 45 foot private easement #2, the corner of Tracts 22 and 29 of this Division, this iron rod being located North 34 degrees 49 minutes 30 seconds East 23.94 feet from an iron rod set, the corner of Tracts 21 and 30 of this Division, this iron rod being located South 50 degrees 52 minutes 04 seconds East 297.64 feet from an iron rod set in the south line of Lee Alford Oxendine (603/877), this iron rod being located North 41 degrees 01 minutes 32 seconds East 79.40 feet from an iron rod set in a ditch, the south corner of said Oxendine and runs thence from said beginning iron rod with the center of this 45 foot private easement #2, South 55 degrees 10 minutes 30 seconds East 595.96 feet to an iron rod set, the corner of Tracts 23, 26, 27 and 28 of this Division; thence with the center of this 45 foot private easement #2, South 69 degrees 27 minutes 30 seconds East 89.69 feet to an iron rod set in the center of a cul-de-sac, having a 50 foot radius at the southeast end of said 45 foot private easement #2, the easement granted and reserved herein is 22.50 feet at right angles to and northeast and southwest of the above described centerline for the purpose of ingress, egress and utilities.

45 Foot Private Easement #3, Granted and Reserved
BEGINNING at an iron rod set in the center of 45 foot easement #2 at its intersection with this 45 foot private easement #3, the corner of Tracts 23,26,27 and 28, this iron rod being located North 69 degrees 27 minutes 30 seconds West 389.69 feet from an iron rod set in the northwest line of Harry Locklear (1073/164), the corner of Tracts 26 and 27 of this Division, this iron rod being located South 51 degrees 45 minutes 40 seconds West 82.49 feet from an iron rod found, the south corner of Walter David Oxendine (943/807), and runs thence from said beginning iron rod with the center of this 45 foot private easement #3, South 40 degrees 49 minutes 44 seconds West 369.55 feet to an iron rod set in the center of a cul-de-sac having a 50 foot radius at the southwest end of this 45 foot private easement #3, the easement granted and reserved herein is 22.50 feet at right angles to and northwest and southeast of the above described centerline for the purpose of ingress, egress and utilities.

And being a part of those certain lands as shown in Special Proceedings File 06 SP 0471 in the office of the Clerk of Court of Robeson County. Bearings referenced to Deed Book1063, page 203. Exempt from Robeson County Subdivision Ordinance under Article V, Section 501, Item f. The above-described tract is subject to all right-of-ways and easements of record. The sale will be made subject to all outstanding city and county taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above-described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. A deposit of twenty (20) percent of the successful bid will be required. This 17th day of April, 2026.

K. Robert Davis, Commissioner

4/29 5/6 2026

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LEGALS

26SP000005-770 NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE NORTH CAROLINA, ROBESON COUNTY Under and by virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust executed by Jimmie F. Priest and Ruth K. Priest dated December 4, 2009, recorded on January 6, 2010 in Book D 1749, Page 766 of the Robeson County Public Registry ("Deed of Trust"), conveying certain real property in Robeson County to F. Blair Williams, Trustee, for the benefit of Harvard Home Mortgage, Inc. Default having been made of the note thereby secured by the said Deed of Trust and the undersigned, having been substituted as Trustee in said Deed of Trust, and the holder of the note evidencing said default having directed that the Deed of Trust be foreclosed, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at the courthouse door of the county courthouse where the property is located, or the usual and customary location at the county courthouse for conducting the sale on May 13, 2026 at 10:00 AM, and will sell to the highest bidder for cash the following described property situated in Robeson County, North Carolina, to wit: Being all of Lots 100, 101, and 102 as shown on a map of the Subdivision of East Park, which map is duly recorded in Map Book 3 at Page 2 of the Robeson County, NC Registry. The improvements thereon being known as 608 Old Whiteville Road, Lumberton, NC 28358. Being all and the same lot of ground which by General Warranty Deed dated October 10, 1997, and recorded among the Land Records of Robeson County, North Carolina in Liber 973, folio 307, was granted and conveyed by ABC Learning Center of Lumberton, NC unto Jimmie F. Priest and wife, Ruth K. Priest. Save and except any releases, deeds of release or prior conveyances of record. Said property is commonly known as 608 Old Whiteville Road, Lumberton, NC 28358; Parcel ID: 324604048. A deposit (no personal checks) of five percent (5%) of the purchase price, or Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, payable to Bell Carrington Price & Gregg, PLLC, will be required at the time of the sale. Following the expiration of the statutory upset bid period, all the remaining amounts are immediately due and owing. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 45-21.30, if the highest bidder at the sale, resale, or any upset bidder fails to comply with its bid upon the tender of a deed for the real property, or after a bona fide attempt to tender such a deed, the clerk of superior court may, upon motion, enter an order authorizing a resale of the real property. The defaulting bidder at any sale or resale or any defaulting upset bidder is liable for the bid made, and in case a resale is had because of such default, shall remain liable to the extent that the final sale price is less than the bid plus all the costs of any resale. Any deposit or compliance bond made by the defaulting bidder shall secure payment of the amount, if any, for which the defaulting bidder remains liable under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 45-21.30. THIRD PARTY PURCHASERS MUST PAY THE EXCISE TAX AND THE RECORDING COSTS FOR THEIR DEED. Said property to be offered pursuant to this Notice of Sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance "AS IS WHERE IS." There are no representations of warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at, or relating to the property being offered for sale. This sale is made subject to any and all superior liens, including taxes and special assessments. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the current owner(s) of the property is/ are the Heirs of Ruth K. Priest. An Order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 45-21.29, in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. 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 date 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. The notice shall also state 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 [N.C. Gen. Stat. § 45-21.16(b) (2)]. If the trustee is unable to convey title to this property for any reason, the sole remedy of the purchaser is the return of the deposit. Reasons of such inability to convey include, but are not limited to, the filing of a bankruptcy petition prior to the confirmation of the sale and reinstatement of the loan without the knowledge of the trustee. If the validity of the sale is challenged by any party, the trustee, in their sole discretion, if they believe the challenge to have merit, may request the court to declare the sale to be void and return the deposit. The purchaser will have no further remedy. ATTENTION ALL PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS: On March 1, 2026, the data collection and reporting requirements under the U.S. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) new Anti-Money Laundering Rule (the "Rule"), found at 89 FR 70258, will go into effect. The Rule applies to certain residential real estate sale transactions (including nonjudicial foreclosures) where the transfer is to a legal entity (including but not limited to a corporation, LLC, partnership, trust, or similar entity), and which includes cash purchases, private financing or financing provided by an institution not subject to a federal Anti-Money Laundering or Suspicious Activity Report requirement. As part of this Rule, purchasers and sellers are required to provide additional information and documentation about themselves, their legal entities, and/or the source of funds used in the reportable transaction. The collection of this information and documentation is required to comply with the Rule's federal reporting requirements. This notice is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. You are encouraged to consult with your own independent legal counsel if you have questions about how the FinCEN Anti-Money Laundering Rule affects your transaction and whether your transaction is reportable. Cape Fear Trustee Services, LLC, Substitute Trustee, Attorney Aaron Seagraves, NCSB No. 50979 5550 77 Center Drive, Suite 160 Charlotte, NC 28217 PHONE: 980-201-3840 File No.: 25-45148 60824

4/29 5/6 2026



UNCP senior Jaylen Jones accepted to top jazz graduate program

Mark Locklear
For The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — Sitting on stage during his senior recital, tenor saxophonist Jaylen Jones found himself in a moment that once felt far out of reach — performing original compositions, confident in his sound and certain of his path.

Just four years earlier, Jones arrived at UNC Pembroke as a music major with limited jazz experience. Today, the graduating senior has been accepted into multiple prestigious jazz studies graduate programs and will continue his musical journey this fall at the University of North Texas, one of the nation's premier jazz programs.

"I was a saxophone player, but I wasn't really a jazz player," Jones said. "When I came here, I was introduced to artists like Duke Ellington, and that changed everything. I started writing, studying and really taking it seriously. That's when I decided this could be my career."

Jones, 21, picked up the saxophone at age 13, encouraged by his mother. While he entered UNCP with a background in band and performance, it wasn't until his time on campus that he began to refine his identity as a jazz musician.

Through mentorship from faculty members, including Aaron Vandermeer, Jones developed both the technical foundation and creative mindset needed to grow. He became a cornerstone of Jazz Combo I, performing regularly and composing more than 40 original works — many of which premiered at UNCP.



UNCP Pembroke senior Jaylen Jones was accepted to the prestigious jazz graduate program at the University of North Texas.

Photo courtesy of UNCP

"Jaylen came to UNCP as a novice in jazz studies," said Vandermeer, a long-time professor of music. "Since then, he has made extraordinary progress in improvisation, theory, composition, historical knowledge and proficiency on the saxophone and piano. He is among the finest students I have had in 20 years at UNCP."

A defining moment came during UNCP's Holiday Extravaganza, where Jones delivered what he considers one of his strongest performances.

"That was when I thought, 'I'm just about there — I just need to keep working,'" he said.

Jones' growth did not go unnoticed. He was accepted into all four gradu-

ate programs he applied to, including the highly competitive Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University and the University of North Texas (UNT).

"It was surprising," Jones said. "Having those schools say they wanted me — that was exciting. It showed me I could keep developing."

Ultimately, he chose North Texas for both its reputation and the opportunity to learn from some of the top minds in jazz.

At UNT, Jones will study composition and arranging, including private lessons with Grammy-nominated composer and arranger Rich DeRosa, whose own high school teacher was Richie Iacona, a 1969 alumnus of Pembroke State Col-

lege. Iacona was honored by UNCP as its first Distinguished Music Alumni Award recipient.

"I love UNCP because of the personal connections, and I wanted to challenge myself," Jones said. "Being around people who are as good or better than me — that's how I grow."

Vandermeer believes Jones is ready for that challenge.

"At UNT, he's going to enter an environment with students who have been seriously studying jazz for more than a decade," Vandermeer said. "Still, with his passion and work ethic, I am certain that he will thrive."

Beyond technical skill, Jones credits UNCP for shaping him personally.

"I feel like I've opened up more," he said. "The professors here are passionate, and they push you. It made me more committed — not just to music, but to being better overall."

His journey reflects the university's mission of access and opportunity — proof that growth is possible regardless of where a student starts.

"Jaylen is a quiet guy, but when he puts the saxophone to his mouth or the pen to the music staff, he's anything but," Vandermeer said. "He's taken advantage of the expressivity of this quintessentially American art form, and I'm excited to see his continued development in such an elite environment."

While Jones acknowledges the competitive nature of the music industry, his goals remain grounded in passion.

"My dream is to be a full-time composer, but I'm happy just being part of the industry," he said. "I love playing, creating and working with others."

PSRC educator named UNC principal fellow

Jessica Sealey
For The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — The Public Schools of Robeson County (PSRC) announced that Rowland-Norment Elementary STEM educator Sarah Griffin-Greene has been selected as a 2026 Principal Fellow at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, one of the state's most prestigious leadership development programs for future school administrators.

Griffin-Greene was chosen through a highly competitive selection process and will join an elite cohort of aspiring school leaders from across North Carolina as part of the university's Master of School Administration program.

"I am grateful to PSRC for supporting me in this next step of my career and honored to be selected as a UNC Principal Fellow. This opportunity represents not only a personal milestone, but a chance to grow as a leader and better serve the students, families and staff of Robeson County," Griffin-Greene said.

"I hope to become a leader who empowers others, builds strong school communities and creates opportunities for all students to succeed. I believe strong schools are built on relationships, innovation and a commitment to every child's success. I look forward to developing those skills further through this program," she added.

The UNC Principal Fellows Program is designed to prepare exceptional

educators for the complex and rewarding field of school leadership through rigorous coursework, immersive experiences and mentorship opportunities.

"We are incredibly proud of Sarah and this outstanding accomplishment," said Freddie Williamson, PSRC superintendent. "She has demonstrated a strong commitment to students,

staff and excellence in education. This recognition reflects both her leadership potential and the bright future ahead of her. We are excited to see the impact she will continue to make for our schools and community."

Griffin-Greene's selection also highlights the strength of leadership development within PSRC and the district's commitment to growing talented educators from within.

"We celebrate Sarah on this incredible milestone," said Jamal Campbell, assistant superintendent of human resources. "Her dedication, professionalism and passion for education make her highly deserving of this honor. We look forward to watching her continue to grow as a transformational leader."

As a Principal Fellow, Griffin-Greene will begin her journey with orientation this summer and continue advanced studies to prepare her to lead schools across North Carolina.

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



Griffin-Greene



PSRC recognized Pauline Cheng, who serves as a music teacher at Lumberton Jr. High School, as the district's Certified Impact Award recipient during a recent Board of Education meeting.

Photos courtesy of PSRC

PSRC recognizes April Impact Award recipients

Jessica Sealey
For The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — The Public Schools of Robeson County honored its April Impact Award winners during the April 21 PSRC Board of Education meeting.

"These individuals work tirelessly each day tirelessly to help create a supportive and positive school environment where everyone can thrive," said Jamal Campbell, PSRC assistant superintendent of human resources.

Certified Employee: Pauline Cheng

The district recognized Pauline Cheng, who serves as a music teacher at Lumberton Jr. High School, as the district's Certified Impact Award recipient.

"Ms. Cheng is recognized for her exceptional dedication to students and the school community. She goes beyond her role by supporting students academically and personally, including helping with

English language development and tutoring in math," said LJHS Principal Jamane Watson. "A constant and reliable presence on campus, she contributes to school events, supports colleagues, and mentors students. Her positive attitude and commitment to student success make her a highly valued and impactful member of the school."

PSRC celebrates Cheng for the powerful difference she makes each day in the lives of her students, colleagues and school community.

Classified Employee: Sharron McLean

The district proudly recognized Red Springs Middle School Data Manager Sharron McLean as the district's April Classified Impact Award recipient.

RSMS Principal Joyce Brown praised McLean for "her critical role in maintaining accurate and accessible student data that sup-

ports daily operations and instructional decisions."

"She is dependable, detail-oriented, and consistently provides timely information that helps guide planning and school improvement. Her professionalism and willingness to support others also contribute positively to the school's overall culture," Brown said.

The district celebrates and honors McLean for the powerful difference she makes each day.

The Impact Award is presented monthly to one classified and one certified employee within PSRC who goes above and beyond to support students, colleagues, and their school communities. These employees embody the district's mission to work collaboratively in building strong schools where all children can succeed.

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



PSRC recognized Red Springs Middle School Data Manager Sharron McLean as the district's April Classified Impact Award recipient during a recent Board of Education meeting.

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Robotics

From page 1A

of valuable preparation time due to school repairs following water damage. Even so, the students remained focused, working tirelessly to design, build and compete at a level that earned them state-wide recognition. That earned recognition has propelled them onto the world stage.

“Their accomplishment says so much about the talent, resilience, and perseverance of our students,” Townsend said. “To rise to this level in

such a short amount of time is extraordinary. They are proving that Robeson County students can compete with the best in the world.”

Participation in the world championship offers students hands-on experience that can shape future careers in engineering, technology, robotics and advanced manufacturing — industries vital to the region’s economic success. It also places Lumberton and all of Robeson County on the world stage, alongside other teams competing from across the U.S. and as far away as Australia and China.

“This is about more

than a competition,” said PSRC Science Supervisor Susan Miller-Hendrix. “It is about opening doors, building confidence and showing our students that their future is bright and full of possibility.”

The “Iron Corsairs” robotics team extends its sincere appreciation to its sponsors, the Robeson County Board of Commissioners, and the Lumberton City Council for their generous donations and strong support — along with other local businesses and individuals — as students prepare to travel to Texas to compete.

“We are so excited for our students to compete

on an international stage and represent the Public Schools of Robeson County. What an incredible opportunity and testament to the excellence of this team!” said PSRC Superintendent Freddie Williamson. “I would like to congratulate these students for this prestigious honor.”

To learn more about the team’s travel or to share support for the team, please contact Nancy Townsend at nancy.townsend@robeson.k12.nc.us.

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

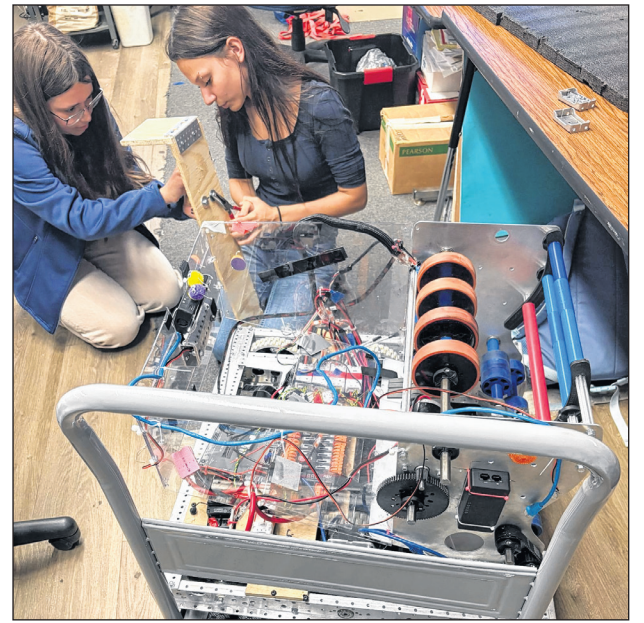


Photo courtesy of PSRC

The Lumberton High School Robotics Team will compete at the FIRST Robotics World Championship this week in Houston.

Lang

From page 1A

ROTC award provides up to \$20,000 toward the cost of earning a private pilot’s license.

The honor builds on an already impressive list of accomplishments. Lang is also a recipient of the Air Force ROTC Type 2 Scholarship, valued at approximately \$60,000, awarded to top-performing cadets nationwide for their academic achievement, leadership potential and overall performance.

For Lt. Col. Daran Linthicum, commander of Air Force ROTC Detachment 607, Lang’s selection comes as no surprise.

“Cadets like Maximus don’t come along very often,” Linthicum said. “When you combine his academic performance, his physical fitness and his leadership ability, you’re looking at a one-of-a-kind

cadet — someone who comes along maybe once in a generation.”

Lang’s selection places him among an elite group nationally and highlights his rapid rise within the program. Since joining Air Force ROTC in spring 2025 after transitioning from Army ROTC, Lang has distinguished himself across every performance metric.

“He has a drive that only a few cadets I’ve seen possess,” Linthicum said. “He’s willing to take command when needed, but just as importantly, he’s willing to be the best follower he can be. That balance is what we look for in future officers.”

A junior computer science major from Hope Mills, Lang has excelled in the classroom with a strong GPA in a demanding field of study, while also ranking among the detachment’s top cadets based on national Order of Merit standings. His academic discipline is

matched by elite physical performance: he scored 97 on his physical fitness test and posted one of the fastest run times in the program.

“He’s a standout in every category,” Linthicum said. “Academically, physically and as a leader, he consistently performs at a high level.”

The You Can Certify Scholarship, designed to remove financial barriers to aviation training, provides funding for flight time, ground school and certification costs. These expenses can total up to \$20,000. For Lang, the opportunity opens the door to a long-held goal of becoming an Air Force pilot.

“I was shocked, honestly,” Lang said. “It’s a national selection, and I wasn’t expecting it. I just put my name in, and the opportunity presented itself.”

Tracy Mulvaney, dean of UNCP’s School of Education, said Lang’s achieve-

ment reflects the broader impact of the university’s academic programs.

“Cadet Lang’s achievement reflects the caliber of students we are developing at UNC Pembroke — individuals who excel academically while demonstrating exceptional leadership and discipline,” Mulvaney said. “Honors like this showcase the strength of our programs and reinforce that our students are competing and succeeding on a national stage.”

So far, Lang has logged 15 flight hours in a Piper Warrior aircraft and is on track to complete his training this summer. The experience will play a critical role in strengthening his competitiveness for pilot selection upon commissioning in spring 2028, positioning him for acceptance into the Air Force Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) program.

“The more flight experience you have, the better your chances,” Linthicum

said. “This program gives him a significant advantage.”

Beyond his technical abilities, Linthicum has been especially impressed by Lang’s growth as a leader.

“When he first joined, he was quieter and more reserved,” Linthicum said. “Now, he’s becoming more confident and more vocal. We’re seeing those natural leadership traits come out, and we’re continuing to develop them every day.”

Lang credits the ROTC program and Linthicum’s mentorship for pushing him beyond his comfort zone.

“He challenges us to think critically and make decisions on our own,” Lang said. “That’s been a big part of my growth.”

For Detachment 607, which includes cadets from multiple universities across the region, Lang’s achievement marks a historic milestone.

“This is the first time a UNC Pembroke cadet has

received this scholarship,” Linthicum said. “It says a lot about Cadet Lang and how he represents the university.”

Lang’s success also reflects the broader opportunities available to students at UNCP.

“He’s an example of what can happen when someone commits fully to the program,” Linthicum said. “He’s taken every opportunity we’ve given him and excelled. For him, the sky is the limit.”

As Lang continues his training and prepares for field training this summer, he remains focused on the future — one that now feels more within reach than ever before.

“I love the challenge and the precision of flying,” Lang said. “It’s helping shape me into the kind of person I want to be.”

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

Hurricanes

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major hurricanes that are Category 3 or higher.

An average season has 14.4 tropical storms, 7.2 hurricanes and 3.2 major hurricanes, according to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The main reason for the decreased likelihood of storms is the climate phenomenon known as El Niño. The pattern, which occurs roughly every two to seven years, inhibits hurricane development and intensification due to warmer ocean temperatures and weaker winds.

El Niño also tends to push storms south and east, making them curve before reaching the Carolinas.

While forecasts call for a quieter Atlantic hurricane season in 2026, counties across southeastern North Carolina remain vulnerable to catastrophic flooding.

Inland counties — including Bladen, Columbus, Robeson, and Scotland — often face the risk of freshwater flooding because they sit atop a low-lying, flat landscape where the Lumber, Little Pee Dee, and Cape Fear River basins act as funnels for tropical moisture, according to research from North Carolina Sea Grant. This means that even “weak” tropical storms can become catastrophic if they stall and cause rivers to rise.

These slower moving storms are what researchers call slow-motion disasters.

Residents can prepare by stocking up on emergency supplies and moving valuables to higher ground. Additional precautions include mapping inland evacuation routes that avoid low-lying bridges, and monitoring real-time river gauges through the N.C. Flood Inundation Mapping and Alert Network system.

“It takes only one storm near you to

make this an active season for you,” Michael Bell, a researcher on the Colorado State University report, said in a statement.

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

Ban

From page 1A

dry it is and how fast the fire spreads,” Hunt said.

The weather system that brought precipitation over the weekend poured about 0.75 to 0.85 inches of rain across Robeson County, according to the National Weather Service.

However, when the drought status is updated by the NWS on Thursday, it is likely that the area will remain classified as a D-2, which is a “severe” drought, according to Ian Boatman, a meteorologist at the NWS Wilmington office.

One problem that could arise as the drought continues, Boatman said, is that soil becomes so dry that it becomes less effective at absorbing moisture when rain does finally come, calling the scenario being stuck between a

rock and a hardplace.

“As the soil continues to dry, even when we do get rain, the soil becomes less susceptible to soak up the rain,” Boatman said. “So what could be an issue down the road, if you get a really strong storm system moving in, or a tropical system in a few months down the road, what could be an issue is that you could have flash flooding occur, because the ground is just not good at soaking up water, because it hasn’t seen water in so long.”

Fortunately, there are multiple instances of rain in the forecast over the coming days. This includes Wednesday, with an 80% chance of precipitation and an expected rainfall of a quarter to a half an inch, before a larger system could impact the area from Friday evening through Saturday evening.

“You’ve got a big system offshore, not tropical relat-

ed, but it does bring plenty of moisture with it,” Boatman said. “You may get generally half an inch to an inch of rain, with locally higher amounts possible. Which is better than what we’ve seen in the last few months at this point.”

As Robeson County waits for more rain to break the drought, Hunt is encouraging the public to heed the warnings and to not do any outdoor burning.

“(N.C.) Forestry is in the process of writing citations for people that violate the burning ban,” Hunt said. “We know everybody’s wanting to clean up their yards for the winter and make it pretty for the spring, but we’re asking everybody right now to just hold off until we get a considerable amount of rainfall.”

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

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LUMBEE TRIBE OF NORTH CAROLINA

CLLO-2026-0416-02

DATE: APRIL 16, 2026

"TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE LUMBEE TRIBE OF NORTH CAROLINA TO AUTHORIZE GAMING AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES"

WHEREAS, the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina (the "Tribe") is a federally recognized Indian Tribe, possessing all inherent powers and attributes of self-governance as a sovereign Tribal Nation; and

WHEREAS, the General Membership of the Tribe adopted the Constitution of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina ("Tribal Constitution") on November 16, 2001, to establish the framework of Tribal government and to protect the rights of Tribal members; and

WHEREAS, the General Membership of the Tribe established three branches of government (i.e., legislative, executive, and judicial) and delegated all legislative authority to the Tribal Council of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina ("Tribal Council") under Article VII, Section 1, of the Tribal Constitution; and

WHEREAS, on December 18, 2025, the United States fully restored the Tribe's status as a federally recognized Indian Tribe, including all federal benefits the Tribe should have always been entitled to but for the termination of such benefits under the Lumbee Act of 1956; and

WHEREAS, the restoration of the Tribe's status as a federally recognized Indian Tribe allows the Tribe to conduct gaming activities on Tribal lands, consistent with Tribal, federal, and other applicable laws; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council finds that establishing a clear governance framework for gaming is necessary to promote economic development, self-sufficiency, and strong Tribal government, and to fund essential governmental services, including public safety, education, housing, healthcare, and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Constitution does not currently provide a comprehensive framework to authorize, regulate, and govern gaming activities or to enter into compacts or agreements related to gaming; and

WHEREAS, Article XIII of the Tribal Constitution authorizes the Tribal Council to propose amendments by a two-thirds (2/3) vote and submit such amendments to the General Membership for approval; and

WHEREAS, upon certification and publication of the proposed amendment, the Tribal Elections Board is responsible for conducting a special election on the proposed amendment; and

WHEREAS, if a majority of eligible voters vote in favor of the proposed amendment, the amendment shall become effective after it has been posted and published for the public, consistent with Article XIII, Section 2, of the Tribal Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council finds it in the best interest and welfare of the Tribe to authorize gaming activities on Tribal lands; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the Tribal Council hereby proposes an amendment to the Tribal Constitution, attached hereto as Exhibit 1, and directs the Tribal Elections Board to conduct a special election on the proposed amendment in accordance with Article XIII, Section 2, of the Tribal Constitution.

CERTIFICATION

THIS CLLO-2026-0416-02 "TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE LUMBEE TRIBE OF NORTH CAROLINA TO AUTHORIZE GAMING AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES" ADOPTED AT A MEETING OF THE TWENTY-ONE (21) MEMBER TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE LUMBEE TRIBE OF NORTH CAROLINA WHERE 19 MEMBERS WERE PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM THIS THE 16 DAY F APRIL 2026, BY A VOTE OF 17 YES, 2 NO, 0 ABS

RELATED PURPOSES" ADOPTED AT A MEETING OF THE TWENTY-ONE (21) MEMBER TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE LUMBEE TRIBE OF NORTH CAROLINA WHERE 19 MEMBERS WERE PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM THIS THE 16th DAY OF APRIL 2026, BY A VOTE OF 17 YES, 2 NO, 0 ABS

ATTEST: ALBERT A. BAKER
SPEAKER, TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE LUMBEE TRIBE OF NORTH CAROLINA
4/16/2026 DATE

ATTEST: CHOCAJUANA OXENDINE
SECRETARY, TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE LUMBEE TRIBE OF NORTH CAROLINA
4-16-2026 DATE

ATTEST: JOHN L. LOWERY
CHAIRMAN, LUMBEE TRIBE OF NORTH CAROLINA
4-20-26 DATE

POSTING

THIS CLLO-2026-0416-02 "TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE LUMBEE TRIBE OF NORTH CAROLINA TO AUTHORIZE GAMING AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES" July posted on the 16th & day of April 2026.

ATTEST: BELINDA BREWER
TRIBAL CLERK DESIGNEE, LUMBEE TRIBE OF NORTH CAROLINA
4/16/26 DATE

EXHIBIT 1

Proposed Amendment to Tribal Constitution

The Constitution of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina is hereby amended, as follows:

• Article I, Section 1: Insert after the second use of the term "North Carolina": "and any additional lands acquired by the Tribe or by the United States on behalf or for the benefit of the Tribe." To read, in relevant part-

The territory of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina shall include Robeson, Hoke, Scotland and Cumberland Counties, North Carolina, and any additional lands acquired by the Tribe or by the United States on behalf or for the benefit of the Tribe.

• Article VII, Section 1: Insert new subsection "d" as follows: "d). the authority to approve any gaming compact negotiated by the Tribal Chairperson, to confirm the Tribal Chairperson's appointment of all members to the board of any Tribal gaming regulatory body and any Tribal gaming enterprise, and to enact tribal ordinances that permit, license, regulate or otherwise govern gaming activities, consistent with Tribal, Federal, and other applicable law." To read, in relevant part-

[The Tribal Council 's] legislative power shall include the authority to approve any gaming compact negotiated by the Tribal Chairperson, to confirm the Tribal Chairperson's nomination of all members to the board of any Tribal gaming regulatory body and any Tribal gaming enterprise, and to enact tribal ordinances that permit, license, regulate or otherwise govern gaming activities, consistent with Tribal, Federal, and other applicable law.

• Article VIII, Section 1, Subsection b: Delete "affects fundamental rights or interests of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. Any ordinance imposing a tax or authorizing gaming in Lumbee territory shall be deemed to affect fundamental rights or interests of the Tribe. No ordinance certified as requiring a referendum shall be effective unless and until such ordinance is approved by a majority of those voting in the referendum, such referendum to be conducted in accordance with Article V of the Constitution," and replace with "imposes a tax on Individual Tribal Members. Any such ordinance shall not take effect until the Tribal Elections Board conducts a referendum on it and a majority of those voting in the referendum approves it". To read, in relevant part-

[T]he Tribal Chairperson shall, within ten (10) days of its passage by the Tribal Council, certify for referendum by the general voting membership any tribal ordinance that imposes a tax on Individual Tribal Members. Any such ordinance shall not take effect until the Tribal Elections Board conducts a referendum on it and a majority of those voting in the referendum approves it

• Article VIII, Section 1: Insert new subsection "f" as follows: "f). negotiate gaming compacts and appoint members to the board of any Tribal gaming regulatory body and any Tribal gaming enterprise that is established to conduct and operate gaming on behalf of the Tribe, consistent with Tribal, Federal, and other applicable law." To read, in relevant part-

[T]he Tribal Chairperson shall have the authority to negotiate gaming compacts, subject to approval by the Tribal Council, and to nominate members, subject to confirmation by the Tribal Council, to the board of any Tribal gaming regulatory body, and any Tribal gaming enterprise established to conduct and operate gaming on behalf of the Tribe, consistent with Tribal, Federal, and other applicable law.



Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina

The Desk of the Tribal Clerk

RECORD OF POSTING

Tribal Ordinance: CLLO-2026-0416-02 "TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE LUMBEE TRIBE OF NORTH CAROLINA TO AUTHORIZE GAMING AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES"

Posted Date: 04/16/2026

Presented to Tribal Chairman for Review: 04/16/2026 VIA EMAIL

Signature or Veto date: _____

Reason for Veto: _____

Other _____

ATTEST: BELINDA BREWER
TRIBAL CLERK DESIGNEE, LUMBEE TRIBE OF NORTH CAROLINA
4/16/26 DATE

Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina Board of Elections
Pembroke North Carolina 28372
910-522-5469
electionsboard@lumbeetribe.com

Sports

The Robesonian

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 • Section B

LATE FRIDAY



Photos by Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

Purnell Swett's Kamryn Locklear, center, throws a pitch during Friday's game against Lumberton in Pembroke.

Lady Rams dominate Pirates, clinch TCC crown

Chris Stiles
The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — The first time the Purnell Swett softball team faced Lumberton this season, the Pirates made a big comeback. When the Rams built a lead Friday night, they made sure that didn't happen again this time.

Purnell Swett pulled away, earning a 10-0 win in six innings over their rivals and clinching the Tri-County Conference championship.

"It's just amazing to watch these girls from where we started, and to be together as a team like we were from start to finish," Purnell Swett coach Amy Lancaster said. "We didn't let up,

we kept going, we kept talking. There was a few moments, but they held it together and we pulled out a win."

Kamryn Locklear pitched a complete-game shutout for Purnell Swett (15-5, 7-3 TCC), allowing five hits and no walks with two strikeouts.

"It really wouldn't have been done without my defense," Locklear said. "And another thing, me and (catcher Nylah Johnson), she's a senior, I've pitched with her since I was in seventh grade, so just having that connection with her and her knowing what to call and her communicating with me and telling me what's working and what's not working, I think that was



Purnell Swett's Jayla Graham, right, high-fives fans following Friday's game against Lumberton in Pembroke.

a big part of it as well."

"She's just a horse in the circle," Lancaster said. "She goes hard, no matter what pitch is called, no matter whether she likes it or not, she's going to give it her best. From one to six innings, she did a job."

Lumberton (12-10, 5-5

TCC) had baserunners in four of the six innings, and runners reached third base with one out in two separate frames, but each time Locklear got the key outs to put another zero in the line score.

See TCC | 2B

Magnolia wins MS baseball title



Jacob Husson | The Robesonian

Magnolia's Jamison Deese throws a pitch during Monday's Robeson County middle school championship against Pembroke in Saddletree.

Jacob Husson
The Robesonian

SADDLETREE — The Magnolia Middle School baseball team was victorious Monday night, winning the county middle school baseball championship by holding off the Pembroke Middle School team for an 8-7 win.

"I have a great group of kids that come, work hard and correctly in the batting cage and on the

field," Magnolia coach Thomas Smart said. "I tip my hat off to Pembroke. They have a great program over there and I have an awesome coaching staff."

This was the first championship appearance in recent years for Magnolia (12-1), who was the No. 1 seed. No. 3 Pembroke (9-4) has had a lot of success in recent

See BASEBALL | 2B

Littlefield takes MS softball championship

Chris Stiles
The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — After the Littlefield softball team held an early four-run lead, Pembroke tied the score in the third inning of Monday's Robeson County middle school championship game.

But the Hornets provided an answer, with four runs in the next half-inning as part of a game in which they scored in every turn at bat, and Littlefield won the title with a 16-11 victory over the Warriors.

"Just that ability to stay in the moment and

to come back, and just settle into that routine and be able to come back and score runs in that half-inning, that makes a huge difference," Littlefield coach Nick Baffaro said. "One of the things we've talked about all year long is, the games aren't won during the game, the games are won when you're putting in the work in the offseason."

Littlefield (12-1) and Pembroke (11-2) were the top two seeds in the playoffs after the two teams and Prospect all tied for the regular-season championship. No. 2 Littlefield made



Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

Littlefield's Zyrinah Rogers (5) slides into home as Pembroke's Serenity Chavis (4) tries to tag her during Monday's Robeson County middle school championship game in Pembroke.

its first championship-game appearance since winning the 2022 title, overcoming a 5-4 regular-season loss to

the Warriors; No. 1 Pembroke appeared in the title game for the fifth

See SOFTBALL | 2B



Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

St. Pauls' De'Zhian Roberts, second from left, signs to play college football at Allen during a ceremony Monday in St. Pauls.

Bulldogs' Roberts signs with Allen

Chris Stiles
The Robesonian

ST. PAULS — Despite a decorated high school football career, the recruiting process went slow for St. Pauls defensive lineman De'Zhian Roberts.

But it only takes one offer to have a collegiate opportunity.

Roberts signed Monday to play at Allen University, an NCAA Division-II program in Columbia, South Carolina.

"I like the school and everything, I like the coaches," Roberts said. "I'm planning to go there and go hard, and get playing time, do me, and do the same thing I did at St. Pauls."

Roberts finished his high school career with the Bulldogs last fall with a Robeson County record 36.5 career sacks, including 15 in his senior season. He also had 86 tackles and 45 tackles for loss as a senior, playing

through a hand injury for much of the season, and was named Robeson County Defensive Player of the Year. That season brought his career totals to 241 tackles and 76 tackles for loss.

"Right now we have something so special with the D-line that's crazy," St. Pauls coach Mike Setzer said. "His legacy, because that D-line is so strong, his legacy is, he just set the county all-time leading sack record, and we also talk about (tackles for loss) and things. When we think about D-linemen, that's the picture we need to put up there. He's set the bar so high; if a guy got two sacks in a game, back in the day, that was a good game, but he'll get two sacks in a series. That's the kind of guy he is."

And yet, Roberts had trouble getting college offers, considered

See ROBERTS | 4B

MONDAY ROUNDUP

Hammond, Hanna homers lead Pirates past Richmond

Staff report

LUMBERTON — The Lumberton softball team used two inside-the-park home runs to propel a 13-0 senior-night nonconference win over visiting Richmond on Monday.

Jaelyn Hammond led off the game for Lumberton (13-10) with the first inside-the-park round-tripper, the first home run of her decorated high school career, as part of a three-run first inning. After Lumberton scored seven runs in the third, Ava Hanna's three-run inside-the-park homer drove in Tori Sanchez and Hammond to provide the scoring in a three-run fourth.

Hanna also had a three-RBI triple in the third, and finished with two hits and six RBIs. Hammond had three hits and two RBIs for the Pirates, tying her own program record for hits in a season with 44. Kinsley Martin, Jayla Hunt and Charleigh Talton each had two hits, with Martin driving in two runs and Hunt one. Josie Lawson had a double and an RBI, Olivia McLamb had a hit and an RBI and Leea Wilkins recorded one hit.

Norah Johnson was the winning pitcher, allowing three hits with three strikeouts and no walks in five innings.

Lumberton plays Wednesday at Ashley to finish the regular season.

Purnell Swett girls soccer falls to Gray's Creek

Purnell Swett girls soccer dropped its contest Monday against Gray's Creek, 3-2. The Rams have won two of their last four games.

Ashley Guardiola Nunez had two goals for Gray's Creek (8-6-2, 6-3 Tri-County), while Ryleigh Bill had two assists. Plus, Sofia Carrasco had a goal and Hayley Connolly had an assist for the Bears.

Purnell Swett (9-7-1, 3-6 Tri-County) hosts Lumberton at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Lumberton girls soccer thrashes Scotland

The Lumberton girls soccer team convincingly defeated Scotland Tuesday, winning 5-1. This win snaps a four-game losing streak.

Lumberton's Brittny Hernandez scored three goals, while Alex Gava-han and Linsi Campos Padilla each had one.

Hannah McLean had their lone goal in the contest for Scotland (1-17-1, 0-9 TCC)

Lumberton (8-9, 2-7 Tri-County) goes on the road to play Purnell Swett at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

TCC

From page 1B

“She was doing a good job changing speeds,” Lumberton coach William Britt said. “She was keeping us off-balanced. She was able to miss the big part of the barrel and keep us off-balance, and keep us from stringing those big hits together. We might get one or two hits, but then she was able to get a weak groundout or get the double play when she needed it.”

The Rams, meanwhile, scored two runs in the first and then combined for eight runs in their final three turns at bat. In the first, Locklear led off with a walk and was driven in by a Lanna Haggans RBI single; Haggans

later scored on an error for a 2-0 Rams lead.

“Just hearing my team in the dugout helped me a lot; it got me out of my head and gave me confidence,” Haggans said.

After Norah Johnson set the Rams down in order in the second and third innings, Purnell Swett scored four runs in the fourth, with a Braci Woods double plating Angel Chavis and Nylah Johnson, a Shaniya Lewis sacrifice fly bringing home Chloe Chavis and a Zaylee Hunt single plating Woods, making it 6-0.

Nylah Johnson doubled in a Rams run in the fifth to score Haggans and a Chloe Chavis sacrifice fly drove in Angel Chavis, stretching the lead to 8-0.

In the sixth, Haggans singled with two outs to bring in Hunt and Locklear and end the game via



Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

Lumberton's Jaelyn Hammond swings at a pitch during Friday's game against Purnell Swett in Pembroke.

the run rule.

Haggans had two hits, two runs and three RBIs for the Rams. Nylah Johnson and Hunt had two hits, one run and one RBI each and Angel Chavis had two hits and two runs, while Locklear had a hit and two runs, Woods had a hit, a run and two RBIs and Jayla

Graham also recorded a hit.

Jaelyn Hammond and Charleigh Talton each had two hits for the Pirates and Kinsley Martin had one.

After Friday's win to finish its regular season, Purnell Swett sits at eighth in the RPI rankings for the 7A clas-

sification and is likely to receive a first-round bye when the North Carolina High School Athletic Association releases play-off brackets on May 4 before the first round of the state playoffs on May 5. The Rams have won three straight games and seven of their last eight.

“The last three games have been phenomenal,” Lancaster said. “Our girls have stayed on each other. I've fussed a little bit, and they'd cheer harder. So just keeping what we have going, I think it's going to be the best; it just going to carry on to the next game, and hopefully the next game and the next game. They have what it takes, they've just got to put it in play.”

Lumberton had won five of its last six before Friday's loss, and sits

at 24th as of Friday evening in the RPI rankings for 7A. The Pirates are in position to get a first-round home game, but first will have two nonconference games to finish the regular season next week, hosting Richmond on Monday before traveling to Ashley on Wednesday.

“Hopefully with the weekend, having two days to just put this game behind us, and then coming into senior night, to be able to have a good game to send our seniors off, hopefully with a win,” Britt said. “We'll look to get our bats back firing again, and then go down to Ashley in Wilmington and carry some momentum into the playoffs.”

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

Softball

From page 1B

straight season and the eighth time in the last nine seasons played.

Littlefield scored three runs in the first inning, on a Haven Sampson RBI bunt single and two RBI walks, and added a second-inning run on Zyrannah Rogers' inside-the-park home run for a 4-0 lead. Pembroke scored two unearned runs in the bottom of the second, and after an RBI fielder's choice by Laci Lewis gave Littlefield a 5-2 lead in the third, Pembroke came back to tie the game at 5-5 after a two-RBI single by Sofia Sampson followed by Sampson scoring on an error.

“It was definitely a turning point in the game,” Littlefield's Brookes Baffaro said. “It was



Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

The Littlefield Middle School softball team celebrates following Monday's Robeson County middle school championship game at Pembroke.

like, man, it's going to be a close game. We're going to have to fight for it.”

Littlefield got RBI groundouts from Sampson and Kaliyah Flores before two more runs came home on errors to take a 9-5 lead in the fourth.

“Errors killed us,” Pembroke coach April Locklear said. “But

I can't say nothing, we still got quite a bit of hits.”

Baffaro scored on a wild pitch for a 10-5 lead in the fifth; Sofia Sampson scored on error in the bottom half to make it 10-6. Lucy Conner's double in the sixth drove in two more for Littlefield, which led 12-6, and Pembroke scored two on an

error in the bottom half to pull within a 12-8 deficit.

Littlefield double its lead in the seventh, to 16-8, after two runs on an error, a Jada Ragmon RBI groundout and a Lewis RBI single. Pembroke scored three runs in the bottom half after Serenity Chavis' single rolled to the wall to allow two baserunners and Chavis to all score, but Baffaro got the next three batters out to secure the win.

Eight of Littlefield's nine starters got a hit, eight scored a run and seven had at least one RBI. Rogers had three hits, four runs and one RBI, Conner had two hits, one run and two RBIs and Baffaro had two hits and three runs. Sampson and Ragmon each had two RBIs and Ai'maya Clark each scored twice for the Hornets.

“16 runs against a very

good pitcher,” Nick Baffaro said. “Our girls have worked extremely hard to hit, and they've bought into what we're trying to do. We got up there, had a great approach at the bat, and it makes a world of difference.”

Conner pitched six innings and allowed two earned runs for Littlefield to earn the win.

Sofia Sampson had three hits, three runs and two RBIs for Pembroke, Sakiyah Bullard had two hits and Ciara Carter had two hits and one run. Serenity Chavis had one hit, one RBI and one run.

“(We) tied for first. We ended with a loss, but I can't say we didn't do — besides the errors we did good, batting-wise,” April Locklear said. “I can't complain.”

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

Baseball

From page 1B

seasons, winning the championship in 2022 and 2024 with another appearance in the title game in 2023.

Magnolia took a 1-0 lead into the second inning, thanks to Jamison Deese walking, then rounding the bases. It would remain 1-0 Magnolia until the top of the third when Axel Locklear came home off an RBI single with the bases loaded for Pembroke, tying it at one.

In the bottom of the third inning, Magnolia took a 3-1 lead, thanks to Ben Locklear hitting an RBI single, bringing Kolton Locklear home.



Jacob Husson | The Robesonian

The Magnolia baseball team celebrates following Monday's Robeson County middle school championship against Pembroke in Saddletree.

Magnolia added to their lead substantially in the fourth inning, starting with an RBI single from Averick Locklear. He later came in on an error

that put Ben Locklear on second. It was capped off with an RBI triple by Deese, followed by Josiah Clark coming home on a wild pitch to make it 8-1.

In the top of the fifth inning, Noah Scott and Axel Locklear came home on an RBI double for Pembroke, making it 8-3 Magnolia.

In the seventh inning, Pembroke made a fierce comeback, starting with Axel Locklear and Micah Locklear getting on base, followed by an RBI double by Jett Clark. An RBI groundout from Ethan Carter and an RBI single from Brayden Clark made it 8-6 Magnolia. Finally, an RBI double off the bat of Scott made it 8-7. But Magnolia got the final out to stop the Pembroke comeback and seal the win.

“I have to give it to Magnolia. They have a good team,” Pembroke coach Jonathan Graham said. “You just have to

tip your hat to them. I told my guys, they're going to hit the ball. We're going to hit the ball. You can't put your head down. You have to bounce back in the game.”

Magnolia, which also won the regular-season county championship, beat No. 8 Orrum and No. 4 Red Springs in the first two playoff rounds. Pembroke defeated No. 6 South Robeson before a semifinal win over No. 2 Littlefield.

Magnolia will look to repeat as champions next season, while Pembroke looks to continue its streak of impressive seasons.

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

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ROBESON COUNTY ATHLETIC SPOTLIGHT

MAGNOLIA MIDDLE SCHOOL



TALIN TOWNSEND
Soccer

Magnolia sixth-grader Talin Townsend scored the go-ahead goal as the Trojans beat Lumberton Jr. High 2-0 to win the county middle school championship last week. Townsend scored on a volley from 15 yards that found the top corner of the net with 14 minutes left, breaking a scoreless tie. Magnolia finished the season 12-0 to win its first county championship.

LITTLEFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL



LUCY CONNER
Softball

Lucy Conner was key at the plate and in the circle as Littlefield won the county middle school championship with Monday's 16-11 win over Pembroke. Conner allowed two earned runs in six innings pitched, striking out two, and also had two hits including a double, one run and two RBIs. Littlefield (12-1) shared the regular-season championship before winning the tournament title.

LATE FRIDAY

Lumberton baseball comes from behind to defeat Purnell Swett

Jacob Husson
The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — The Lumberton baseball team ended its Tri-County Conference slate in style by winning 8-6 over Purnell Swett on Friday, overcoming a four-run deficit in the middle of the game. This win ends a two-game slide for the Pirates as they seek a playoff berth. Purnell Swett had won its previous two games.

“It was great to finally pull one out,” Lumberton coach Jonathan Benson said. “We’ve been close in quite a few games but we were just missing the big hit. Tonight it came.”

Lumberton (6-13, 1-9 Tri-County Conference) entered Friday’s game as the last team in the projected 7A state playoff field. As of late Friday evening, Lumberton remained 48th in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association’s RPI rankings even after the win.

With this game slipping away, the Rams will have some things to clean up before the playoffs begin.

Friday’s game was Purnell Swett’s regular-season finale.

“It comes down to execution,” Purnell Swett coach Edmund Locklear said. “It all comes down to communication.”

This loss makes it slightly harder for the Rams to earn a home game in the first round of the playoffs as they’ll hope for some dominoes to fall in their favor.

An 8-2 stretch from March 24 to April 7 is the biggest reason Purnell Swett (12-12, 4-6 TCC) has a shot at a home playoff game this season.

“It’s the playoffs.

Everyone starts out with an 0-0 record,” Purnell Swett coach Edmund Locklear said. “Over the last month of the season, we’ve been playing great baseball. We’re hitting the ball well. Our pitchers throw the ball well. If we execute and play clean baseball, we have a chance to beat anybody.”

Lumberton’s Brennan Griffin had two hits, two runs scored and an RBI. Landon Ransom had two hits and two runs in the contest. Manny Alba had two hits, a run and an RBI and while Brody Stueck only had one hit,

he had a sac fly that gave the Pirates two runs and the win.

“It felt great,” Stueck said. “It’s been a hard year so far. We had to find a big hit. We got it tonight and pulled it off.”

Seth Brooks had two hits, two runs and two RBIs for Purnell Swett. Josedon Oxendine had two hits with one run and one RBI and Mason Brewer had two hits and two RBIs, while Jordan Locklear and Wyatt McMillan each had one hit and one run and Nolan Oxendine had one hit and one RBI for the Rams.

Lumberton kicked the game off strong by scoring two runs in the first inning, thanks to an RBI double from Alba and an RBI groundout from Stueck.

Purnell Swett answered in the bottom of the second with sacrifice flies from Christian Locklear and Nolan Oxendine to tie it at 2-2.

In the bottom of the third, Seth Brooks got on base and stole second before eventually being driven in by Josedon Oxendine, making it 3-2 Rams after three innings.

The Rams added to

their lead in the bottom of the fourth with an RBI single from Seth Brooks, followed by a two-RBI double from Mason Brewer, giving them a 6-2 lead going into the top of the fifth inning.

In the top of the fifth, the Pirates started a comeback when Sam Smith and Brennan Griffin earned RBIs on a single and sacrifice fly, respectively, and now only trailed 6-4.

In the top of the sixth, Lumberton’s momentum continued as they loaded the bases before Rylee Carter drove in two runs with a single, tying it at 6-6.

After another scoreless inning for the Rams, Brody Stueck drove in two runs for the Pirates on a sacrifice fly to put them ahead 8-6. The Rams failed to respond in the bottom of the inning and took the 8-6 defeat.

Lumberton’s regular season finale is at North Brunswick at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, while Purnell Swett waits to find out their first round opponent when playoff brackets are released on May 4.

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

RCC baseball swept by Lenoir

Staff report

LUMBERTON — The Robeson Community College Diamond Eagles baseball team was swept by visiting Lenoir Community College in a weekend series on Friday and Saturday in Lumberton.

Lenoir (25-19, 23-15 Region 10) won both ends of Friday’s doubleheader, 8-4 and 14-11, before also claiming Saturday’s series finale 9-1.

In game one on Friday, Will Hicks gave the Eagles (14-33, 13-25 Region 10) the lead in the sixth, and Garrett Secrist tied it in the ninth with a solo homer, but the Eagles fall late. Nemo Chavis had two hits and two RBIs.

In game two, Lezlie Jackson hit two home runs and drove in five runs, while Chavis also homered, but the Eagles dropped the high-scoring battle. RCC totaled 14 hits, with Owen Noonan, Ayden Wall and Jack Carela each recording multiple hits.

The weekend ended with a Saturday loss for the Eagles despite a strong relief outing from Matthew Moser, who allowed one run in 3 2/3 innings. Noonan, Jackson and Chavis each had a hit.

The Eagles return to action Tuesday at Fayetteville Tech before traveling to Pitt Community College for a weekend series to close the regular season.



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LEAVE NO TRACE

Roberts

From page 1B

undersized for a defensive lineman at 6-foot-2, 230 pounds.

"It takes time, motivation; doing things, you've got to grind, keep going, keep pushing, you've got to stop," Roberts said. "I don't plan on stopping here, I give myself motivation every day."

"If the portal didn't exist (Allen) wouldn't be getting him," Setzer said. "What they're getting in De'Zhian is a guy who is a locker room guy, but also a field guy. You don't have to ask him to work, he's going to outwork whoever he's around. He's going to be that guy that you look up and say, man, does

it get any better. He is a wrecking ball. He's kind of like a juggernaut, once his momentum starts, it just don't stop. The only thing that stops him is the time on the clock."

Roberts joins his brother, Ethan Roberts, as a college football player. Roberts, a 2021 St. Pauls graduate, signed at Division-I Eastern Illinois out of high school and later played at Edward Waters and Highland Community College.

"It gave me motivation, because he went to everything, D1, D2, juco," De'Zhian Roberts said. "Just looking at every day, you need motivation, go hard."

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

Braves prevail on senior day, earn victories in season-ending doubleheader

Jacob Husson
The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — The UNC Pembroke baseball team wrapped up their regular season in style, winning both games of a Saturday doubleheader against Barton College. The Braves brought their bats in both games and swung their way to regular season-ending victories, winning 11-2 and 9-8 on senior day.

"These seniors are a special group," UNCP coach Paul O'Neil said. "There are some guys who are going to be sorely missed. We can't replace them."

Scoring 20 runs between two games shows how strong the Braves' offense was in the season-ending doubleheader with Daniel Stephens playing a pivotal role with three hits, two RBIs and a run in game one. He added a hit, a run and an RBI in game two. Morgan Padgett had two hits, two runs and two RBIs in game two.

While Stephens and Padgett both had an impressive day, Jackson Crute stole the show with six hits, five RBIs and three runs between the two games.

With the postseason set to begin for UNCP, O'Neil gave his thoughts on what it will take for them to continue their success.

"I think the key for us is we need to have really good starting pitching," O'Neil said. "We have to play good defense and we have to take advantage of our opportunities offensively."

In game one, the Braves scored four runs in the first inning, thanks to RBI doubles from Branton Jernigan and Krute, followed by a two-

run home run.

UNCP added four more runs in the second inning after Tyler Steele and Ashton Donathan scored on a single by Daniel Stephens. That was followed by Crute scoring two runs with a single of his own, as UNCP took an 8-0 lead into the third inning.

After a scoreless third inning, Barton College's Cameron Greenway hit a solo home run to put the Bulldogs on the board. They trailed 8-1 heading to the bottom of the fourth inning.

During UNCP's turn at the plate, Mason Mozeley hit an RBI double, scoring Crute, before Boone Herman hit a two-run home run, making it 11-1 Braves.

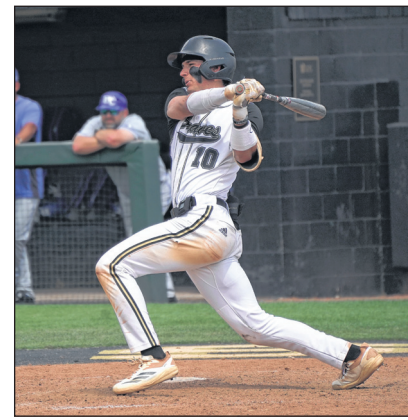
The Bulldogs scored a run in the top of the fifth when Mason McDougall hit a sacrifice fly that scored Myles Odom but it wasn't enough as the Braves won 11-2.

In game two, Barton College's Blake Kolesnik hit a sacrifice fly in the second inning to get the Bulldogs on the board, 1-0. In the bottom of the inning, UNCP's Krute scored on a sacrifice fly from Padgett to tie it back up.

In the fourth inning, the Bulldogs' Jackson Marvel drove in two runs with a single, making it 3-1 heading into the fifth inning, as the Braves couldn't answer.

The fifth inning saw Barton College's Vincent Santostefano go deep with a three-run home run that drove in Cameron Greenway and Tyler Hughesman, making it 6-1. Crute hit an RBI single in the bottom of the inning to make it 6-2 Barton College.

In the bottom of the sixth, Stephens hit a sacrifice fly to score



UNCP Athletics
UNC Pembroke's Daniel Stephens swings at a pitch during Saturday's game against Barton in Pembroke.

Padgett before Landon Lucas scored on a double from Jernigan, making it 6-5 heading into the seventh.

In the seventh inning, Santostefano hit a two-run home run, putting the Bulldogs up 8-5. In the bottom of the inning, Mason Mozeley scored on an error before Tyler Steele flew out, driving in Peyton Young. The Braves went into the eighth inning trailing 8-7.

In the Braves half of the eighth inning, Dylan Hubbard came around to score on a double from Boone Herman, tying it at eight.

Crute followed that with a walkoff RBI single in the ninth, as the Braves completed the comeback with a 9-8 win.

Fifth-seeded UNCP begins the Conference Carolinas Tournament against fourth-seeded Young Harris Thursday at 1 p.m. The tournament is a double-elimination format and will be played in Gastonia.

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

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