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Rain brings relief for dry conditions. **News 2A**

THE ROBESONIAN

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A Fresh Perspective

Local
NEWS

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UNCHSE earns 'A' grade in Leapfrog

Hospital given top national grade for patient safety

Amanda Crabtree
For The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — UNC Health Southeastern has received an "A" Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit that rates hospitals on how well they protect patients from harm.

The Spring 2026 grade recognizes hospitals that work to prevent medical errors, infections, injuries, and accidents. Leapfrog assigns letter grades from "A" to "F" to general hospitals across the country, using evidence-based measures that look only at patient safety.

"An 'A' Grade is a strong sign that UNC Health Southeastern is deeply committed to protecting patients from harm," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "We commend the leadership, board, clinicians, staff and volunteers for the role each played in earning this distinction."

What is the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade?

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is the only national ratings program focused solely

on preventable medical errors, infections, and injuries. The program is peer-reviewed, transparent, and free to the public. Grades are updated twice a year, in the spring and fall. Scores are based on publicly available data and hospital-reported information on infection rates, problems after surgery, safe medication practices, staffing and communication, and use of proven safety protocols.

An "A" grade means a hospital performed better than most hospitals on these safety measures at the time of scoring.

What This means for patients and community

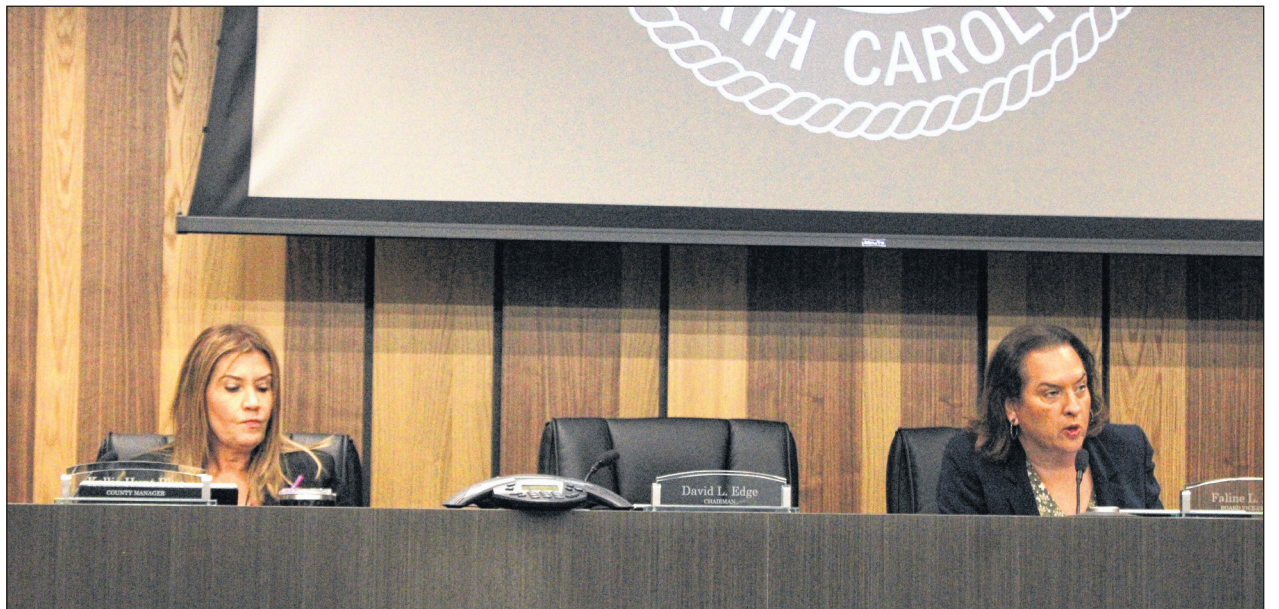
The new "A" grade is a sign of sustained progress over multiple grading cycles, not just a one-time fix. It reflects better performance in areas such as infection prevention, safe surgery and treatment practices, systems that reduce the chance of errors, and early response to serious conditions like sepsis.

"In a community like ours, where the need is great and the stakes are high, this achievement says something very important: our patients are receiving care that meets the highest standards in the country right here at UNC



Ellington

See HOSPITAL | 9A



Robeson County Board of Commissioners Vice Chair Faline Dial, right, presides over Monday's meeting in the absence of Chairman David Edge, as County Manager Kellie Blue, left, looks on.

Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

Public decries Edge social post as commissioners wait to take action

Chris Stiles
The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — Numerous speakers in the public comment period of Monday's Robeson County Board of Commissioners meeting expressed their discontent at a social media post shared last week by Commissioner David Edge, the board's chairman. The board, however, took no action on the matter as Edge was not physically present and joined the meeting by telephone.

Out of eight public speakers, seven spoke on Edge's post; the eighth did not mention the post but spoke on the Confederate monument at the Robeson County Courthouse, which other speakers also mentioned in comments about Edge, connecting the two topics.

Edge's virtual participation came as he is currently out of town, he told The Robesonian and another commissioner confirmed. Edge represents District 6, which includes the northern Lumberton, Saddletree

and Rennett areas, and is up for reelection in November.

The board did not take action, therefore, as a matter of waiting until Edge is expected to be present at the next meeting, scheduled for May 18, Commissioner Wixie Stephens told The Robesonian.

"We just wouldn't do it today (with Edge absent), out of common decency," Stephens said. Discussion on any action that is taken — which could include a resolution of censure or the removal of Edge as chairman — would take place in closed session, Stephens said. However, a board vote on any action it takes, in any context, has to take place in an open meeting.

Last week, in a since-deleted post on Facebook, Edge shared a meme including a photo of former President Barack Obama with text stating "a Black racist queer was president for eight years and not one crazy racist redneck Republican



Edge

ever took a shot at him." He posted on Wednesday afternoon apologizing for the initial post, saying in the subsequent post he "was forwarding it to get opinions" and "I am sorry if it offended anyone."

Some say the apology was not enough, and Edge has faced backlash on social media in the days since. This includes posts from two members of the Board of Commissioners, Stephens and Vice Chair Faline Dial, condemning the post.

The criticism of the post continued during Monday's regularly scheduled board meeting in the form of public comments.

"I'm here to denounce recent racist comments that do not move Robeson County forward. Commissioners, racism does not promote economic growth, jobs, reduce crime, promote educational opportunities," said Charles Graham, a former state representative. "We elect our representatives on a promise of trust, respect and doing the

right thing. Often times, we may not agree on policy or particular situations, but we should all agree that racist remarks should not be tolerated from our leadership. This publicity brings Robeson County in the wrong direction. Who and what will be next if this is not resolved?"

While the board does not have the power to vote to remove a member from office, multiple commenters suggested Edge should resign, and even that other members of the board should encourage him to do so.

The fact that the post came from not only a commissioner, but the chairman of the board, was also a point of contention for some commenters.

"The chair represents every citizen in this county: Black, white, Native; Democrat, Republican, independent; young, old; and everyone in between," said Kelvin Barnes, pastor at Sandy Grove Baptist Church in Lumberton. "Recently

See EDGE | 9A

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TODAY'S FORECAST
High 84, Low 67 – Breezy in the morning; otherwise, times of clouds and sun

A NEWS
Obituaries: 2
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B SPORTS

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

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Red Springs to staff new splashpad

Victoria Sanderson
The Robesonian

RED SPRINGS — The Red Springs board of commissioners voted to hire seasonal employees for the town's splashpad during Monday's meeting.

The splash pad's renovations are predicted to be complete before Memorial Day, when the pool season starts. The board voted to staff the splashpad with seasonal employees for its opening months.

Seasonal staff will have the option to be hired back by the town's Recreation Department at the end of their original contract.

The board also heard an update on the April 7, 2025, power surge in Red Springs. The Electric Department said it plans to review and spot-check the electrical poles for missing surge protectors and grounding. The department also did an inventory of its service lights, finding two unaccounted for. Five members of the public spoke

to the board during the public comments section. They brought up a range of concerns, including the lack of website updates and not receiving return phone calls when calling the town, and requested that the town look into hiring a grant writer.

Additionally, the board chose members for the planning board and N.C. Eastern Municipal Power Association (NCEMPA) boards.

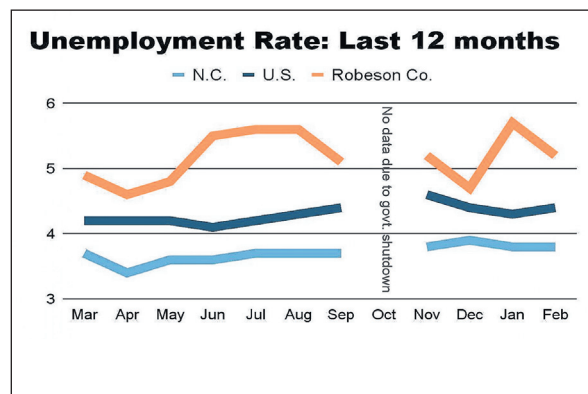
Contact Victoria Sanderson at vsanderson@robsonian.com.

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DEATH NOTICES

ANDREW MCCALLUM

Sgt. 1st Class Andrew McCallum passed away April 30, 2026. Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at First Baptist Church Lumberton. Burial will follow at Elizabeth Heights Cemetery in Lumberton. Visitation will be Monday, May 11, 2026 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Central & Worley Mortuary of Lumberton.



Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

Robeson jobless rate improves 0.5% in February

Staff report

ROBESON COUNTY — The unemployment rate in Robeson County saw a half-point improvement in the month of February, according to data released by the N.C. Department of Commerce.

Robeson County's not seasonally adjusted jobless rate was 5.2% in February, down from 5.7% in January. While the rate has improved in the month of February in five of the last six years, the 0.5% improvement is the biggest drop in February in that span.

The rate also improved from January to February in each of the North Carolina counties bordering Robeson, going from 5.7% to 5.3% in Bladen County, 4.8% to 4.4% in Columbus County, 5.1% to 4.7% in Cumberland County, 5.1% to 4.8% in Hoke County and 5.4% to 5.3% in Scotland County.

The Fayetteville metro statistical area, which includes Robeson County, saw a drop from 5.1% to 4.7% in February.

Robeson County had a labor force of 44,038 in February, with 41,739 employed and 2,299 unemployed.

North Carolina's unemployment rate remained at 3.8% in February, while the U.S. rate increased slightly from 4.3% to 4.4%.

Statewide, unemployment rates decreased in 91 of the 100 counties in February.

Robeson's jobless rate has increased slightly year-to-year from Feb. 2025, when it was 4.9%. Statewide, the rate has decreased in 57 of the 100 counties, increased in 27 and remained the same in 16 from Feb. 2025 to Feb. 2026.

It is important to note that employment estimates are subject to large seasonal patterns, the N.C. Department of Commerce said in a press release; therefore, it is advisable to focus on over-the-year changes in the not seasonally adjusted estimates.

The statewide unemployment rate for March 2026 will be announced on Wednesday.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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 Pinecrest Country Club. Lunch is at 11 a.m., and Shotgun starts at 12 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 avail-

able at the plaza, but be encouraged to bring your own folding chair to rest between dances.

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 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 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 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays, Robeson County Public Library, 101 N. Chestnut St., Lumberton.

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

Children's Storytime — Fairmont, 4:30 p.m. to 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 a.m. to 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 p.m. 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 a.m. to 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 8 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 robesoncofarmer-smkt@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.

Burn ban lifted after weekend rain

Staff report

RALEIGH — The N.C. Forest Service has lifted a ban on all open burning for 81 counties, including Robeson County; this went into effect on Sunday morning following rainfall across much of the state on Saturday.

The statewide ban on open burning went into effect March 28 due to hazardous forest fire conditions, and the ban remains in effect for 19 counties in the central part of the state until further notice.

"The recent rainfall has provided some relief and has moderated fire danger enough for us to lift the ban on open burning in 81 counties," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "However, we're still in the thick of spring wildfire season when conditions can change quickly and frequently. We still need rain to move us forward with drought recovery, improving soil moisture and water levels.

"Be extremely vigilant

with any outdoor burning if you're in one of the 81 counties no longer under the state-issued ban," Troxler continued. "Make sure you have a valid burn permit, tools and a water source, and stay with your fire. If you're in one of the 19 counties still under the state-issued burn ban, be patient and hold off on burning. We need more rain in your area to lift the ban. With the persistent drought, it's important for all of us to use extreme caution when handling potential ignition sources such as machinery and motorized equipment. When in doubt, lean on your N.C. Forest Service county ranger's office for guidance and best practices."

The lifting of the burn ban in 81 counties does not apply to fires started within 100 feet of an occupied dwelling. The local fire marshal has authority to issue or lift a burn ban within those 100 feet.

Burn permits are available in the counties no



File photo

longer under the state's ban on open burning. Residents in those counties can obtain a burn permit from any authorized permitting agent or online at <https://apps.ncagr.gov/burnpermits/>. All burn permits granted before the statewide burn ban were canceled when the ban became effective. To legally burn in the counties no longer under the state's ban, a valid permit must be obtained.

More rain is expected in Robeson County beginning Wednesday night, with showers and thunderstorms expected on

Thursday and additional rain possible into Friday and Saturday, the National Weather Service says.

Residents with questions regarding their specific county can contact their local N.C. Forest Service county ranger or county fire marshal's office. To find contact information for your local NCFS county ranger, visit www.ncforests.gov/ contacts.

To learn more about preparing for and preventing wildfires, visit www.preventwildfire.org.

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Delta Sigma Theta holds Miss Jabberwock Pageant

Staff report

LAURINBURG — The Laurinburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., held its Miss Jabberwock Scholarship Pageant on April 18 at The Highlands in Laurinburg. The Jabberwock program is a cultural and scholarship fundraising program that seeks to present, honor and recognize achievements among young ladies in the community. This year's theme "Distinguished Sophisticated Treasures" engaged the contestants in cultural, educational and social development activities.

Four young ladies and four young men from the Scotland, Richmond and Robeson counties competed in this scholarship fundraising event.

Ava Bullock was crowned Miss Jabberwock 2026. Ava is a junior at Scotland Early College High School (SEARCH). She was escorted by Earnest Manning, Jr., who is a junior at Purnell Swett High



Contributed photo | Vicki Jones
From left, Jayden White, Zoe' Isaac, Reginald Bethea, Autumn Singletary, Earnest Manning, Jr., Ava Bullock, Austin Hayes and Paysheence John at the Miss Jabberwock Pageant.

School. Autumn Singletary was first runner-up. Autumn is a senior at Scotland High School and was escorted by Reginald Bethea who is a senior at Scotland High School.

Second runner-up was Paysheence John. Paysheence is a junior at Scotland Christian Academy. Paysheence was recognized with trophies for Scholastic, Talent and Miss Congeniality. She was escorted by Austin Hayes who attends Marl-

boro County High School where he is a senior.

Zoe' Isaac was the final contestant. Zoe' is a junior at Richmond High School. She was escorted by Jayden White who is a junior at Richmond Senior High School.

Essay winners among the escorts were Austin Hayes, first place, and Jayden White, second place.

The Laurinburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta was chartered in 1979. The

chapter sponsored its first Jabberwock in 1980 and has continued to receive an overwhelming response and support from the community. The chapter presently continues the tradition of raising funds for scholarships for deserving students in its three-county service area.

The co-hosts of the event were Gloria McKenzie, Naomi Newton and Godzetta Whittington. Denita H. Campbell is the chapter president.

FROM THE LEGISLATURE

Harris celebrates House passage of Farm Bill to strengthen agriculture

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Mark Harris (R-NC8) released the following statement after the House of Representatives passed H.R. 7567, the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, a modern Farm Bill that strengthens American agriculture, supports rural communities, protects taxpayers, and gives North Carolina farmers the tools they need to succeed:

"North Carolina farmers feed our families, fuel our economy, and keep rural communities strong," said Harris. "This Farm Bill gives them the certainty and tools they need to continue producing the abundant food supply American families depend on."

"American agriculture looks very different today than it did when the first Farm Bill was passed nearly a century ago, and the challenges facing our producers have changed with it. Farmers are facing rising costs, rapid changes in technology, foreign competition, and burdensome regulations that make it harder to stay in business. This bill meets those modern challenges by strengthening risk management tools, expanding access to credit, supporting precision agriculture, investing in research and innovation, and improving rural infrastructure."

"One of the most important ways we can support our farmers is by protecting them from harmful mandates that drive up costs and create uncertainty. I am especially proud that this Farm Bill protects North Carolina pork producers from California's disastrous Proposition 12. Families who have raised hogs for generations in our state should not be forced to follow one state's radical mandates just to sell their products across state lines. By including the Save Our Bacon Act, this bill restores certainty in the marketplace, protects interstate commerce, and stands up for North Carolina farmers."

"Beyond the farm gate, this legislation strengthens the rural communities that make American agriculture possible. It strengthens voluntary conservation programs, expands rural broadband, improves water and wastewater infrastructure in rural America, and prioritizes American agriculture on the global stage. These are practical policies that give our farmers and rural communities the tools they need to succeed for the next generation."

"Food security is national security, and protecting our food supply also means protecting taxpayers. This Farm Bill strengthens American agriculture while improving SNAP integrity, locking in savings, reducing waste, and making sure hardworking Americans' tax dollars support the American people — not Washington's bureaucracy. As a member of the House Committee on Agriculture, I am proud of our work to deliver for our farmers, strengthen rural America,

protect taxpayers, and help secure America's food supply for generations to come."

The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 provides certainty to farmers, ranchers, producers, and rural communities currently operating under the third consecutive extension of the 2018 Farm Bill, a press release said.

With 14 Democrats voting in favor, the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 earned the strongest bipartisan support for any House farm bill since 2008. More than 96% of House Republicans backed the bill, marking the highest level of GOP support for a farm bill in modern history.



Harris



Tillis

Tillis, Gillibrand resolution honoring 'Donut Dollies' passes Senate

U.S. Sens. Thom Tillis (R-NC) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) announced Tuesday the Senate passage of their resolution commending the "Donut Dollies" for their patriotic service and steadfast support of United States servicemembers in combat and honoring their extraordinary contributions to the morale and well-being of United States servicemembers during wartime.

"The Donut Dollies served our troops in some of the most dangerous conditions imaginable, bringing comfort, connection, and a reminder of home to those far from it," said Tillis. "Their courage and compassion lifted morale on the front lines and left a lasting impact on generations of servicemembers. This resolution honors these extraordinary women for their selfless service and ensures their contributions to our nation are never forgotten."

During World War I, Salvation Army volunteers known as the "Doughnut Lassies" served near the front lines, providing coffee, doughnuts, and comfort to American troops, inspiring the later Red Cross "Donut Dollies" programs. During World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, American Red Cross volunteers traveled to bases and combat zones to boost morale by offering refreshments, recreation, and a connection to home.

From 1965 to 1972 alone, more than 600 Donut Dollies served in Vietnam through the Supplemental Recreation Activities Overseas program, reaching hundreds of thousands of servicemembers and often traveling by helicopter or convoy into dangerous areas. Military leaders credited their work as essential to maintaining troop morale. This resolution recognizes their courage, sacrifice and lasting impact on generations of American troops.

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



Chris Stiles | The Robesonian
Theresa Lowry, left, and Vontiese Locklear, second from left, take a bite during the People's Table event last month in Pembroke. This month's event was postponed to May 14 due to expected inclement weather.

People's Table postponed to May 14

Staff report

PEMBROKE — The People's Table event for May has been postponed one week due to expected rain on Thursday.

The event, which was originally scheduled for this Thursday, will now be Thursday, May 14. The People's Table is organized monthly by the Lumbee Regional Development Association.

"We want to make sure everyone — vendors, performers and our community — can fully enjoy the day, and the weather just isn't cooperating at this time," LRDA said in a social media post.

The event will run from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and includes live music from The Henry Berry Band from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Vendors including food, drinks, sweets and crafts will be on site for the event. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own chairs.

The People's Table is held at the LRDA Office Complex at 636 Prospect Road in Pembroke.

Red Springs Artspace seeks entries for art exhibition celebrating Lumbee recognition

Staff report

RED SPRINGS — The Red Springs Artspace is seeking entries for a juried art exhibition celebrating the Lumbee Tribe's full federal recognition.

The exhibition is called "575 | Recognition" and will run from June 24 through July 8 at the Red Springs Artspace.

Works must center on Lumbee stories, culture or experiences, and can be figurative or abstract.

The deadline for submissions is May 25. General entries are \$25 and the student fee is \$10. Submit through CAFE at https://artist.callforentry.org/festivals_unique_info.php?ID=17345.

Jurors include Nancy Strickland Chavis, the director and curator of UNC Pembroke's Museum of the Southeast American Indian, and Harlen Chavis Jr., and artist and the Lumbee Tribe's tribal historic preservation officer.

Cash awards will be given for first, second and third place.

More information is available online at redspringsart.space.

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- Rehabilitation
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Editorial

OPINION SHAPER

The indomitable Trump

Andrew Jackson is the only president of the United States who got the better of his attempted assassin.

The aged Jackson was at the Capitol for a congressional funeral when a crazed man named Richard Lawrence aimed a pistol directly at his chest and pulled the trigger. It misfired. Jackson bull-charged his assailant with his cane and, incredibly, Lawrence pulled out another pistol. It, too, misfired.

As bystanders intervened, an enraged Jackson supposedly yelled, "Let me alone! Let me alone! I know where this came from." Let us think we live in a uniquely inflamed, conspiratorial moment, Jackson's Whig opponents dubbed him King Andrew, and John C. Calhoun reportedly called him "a Caesar who ought to have a Brutus." Jackson thought the Whigs had orchestrated the attack, and the Whigs thought he had staged it.

Trump isn't a former general or wizened old Indian fighter like Jackson, but he partakes of the same spirit of aggressive defiance. By all appearances, the least fearful people in the ballroom of the White House Correspondents' Dinner were a random older gentleman from New York who kept eating his dinner during the mayhem ... and the presidential target of the attack himself.

Donald Trump is one of the most indomitable figures in the history of our politics. No matter how much he's mocked or hated, no matter how intense the controversy or how impossible the fix, no matter how dramatic the situation, he never breaks or loses his sense of command.

The ever-ebullient Teddy Roosevelt, who once gave a speech from shot-through notes immediately after an assassination attempt, might tip his cap. (TR takes the cake for toughness in the face of a threat to his life, given that he delivered that 1912 campaign speech while bleeding and with the bullet still lodged in his chest.)

A fundamental part of the Trump ethos is, as he said right after the dinner attack, when everything was still confused, "Let the show go on." For him, the show must never stop, and he's always at the center of it.

This is one reason that he had the instinct to pump his fist in the air in Butler, Pennsylvania, after he'd been bloodied and nearly killed by an assassin's bullet, demonstrating fight and lack of fear in an instantly iconic moment.

Anyone inclined to dismiss this trait as that of a mere entertainer should consider how showmanship has always had an outsized role in high-level politics; FDR referred to himself, in a positive way, as one of the top actors in the country.

Trump's belief that he's always going to prevail and that if he doesn't, he'll find a workaround gives him an invincible self-confidence. It doesn't mean that he won't retreat if necessary, but whether he's being firm or flexible, he's equally upbeat and assured about his position.

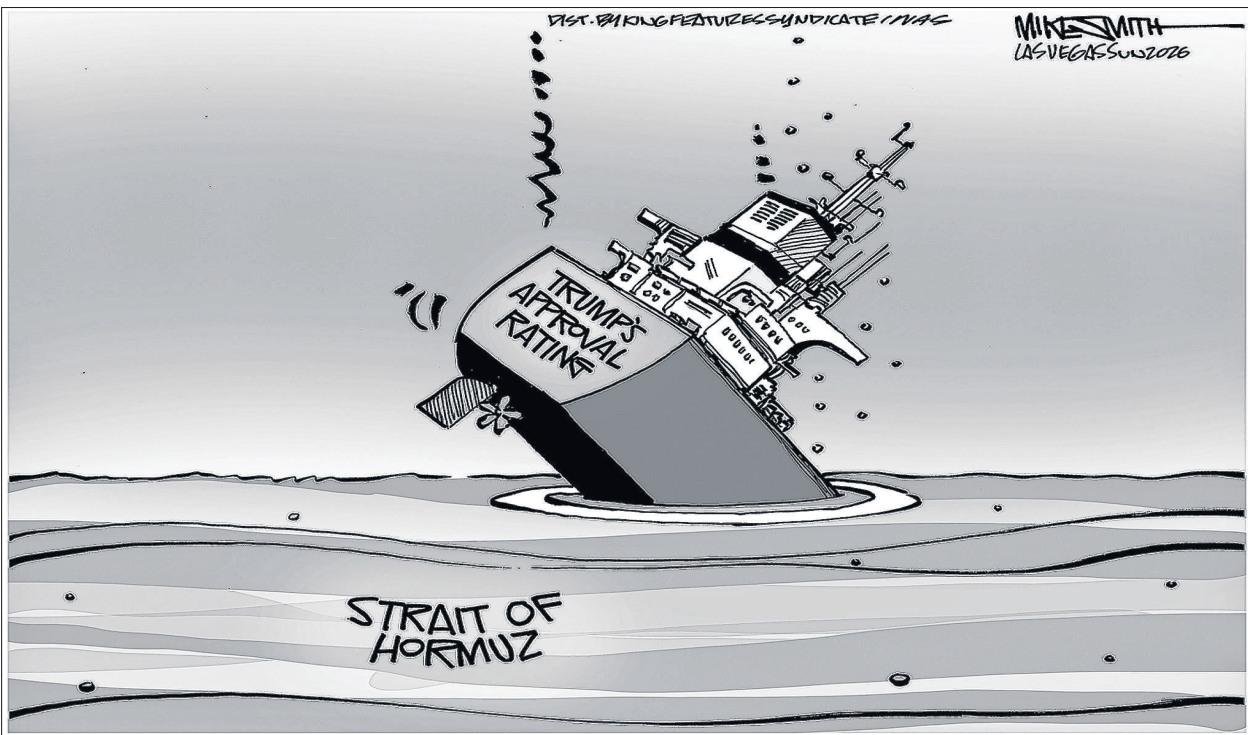
He couples this with a hyperactive energy. Just look at Washington, D.C. He's deployed the National Guard to fight crime, cleaned up homeless encampments and public parks, vowed to make the grass look greener and the water in the Reflecting Pool look bluer, hosted a military parade, brought the coming attractions of an IndyCar race and an enormous fair on the National Mall, started construction of a massive new White House ballroom and stated his intention to build a 250-foot triumphal arch.

His omnipresence, ambition and willingness to exercise power across two presidencies — spanning 12 years with the Biden interregnum — are going to make him one of the most dominant figures in American political history, up there with the likes of Reagan, FDR and TR in the modern era.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

LETTERS POLICY

The Robesonian welcomes letters to the editor from individual authors. We reserve the right to refuse or edit letters longer than 400 words. Please, no poetry, letters that are in bad taste or libelous, or letters from outside our readership area. Letters should be original and include your address and daytime phone number - for confirmation only. Send letters to cstiles@robsonian.com.



CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

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

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

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

5925, 919-715-0875, John.Lowery@ncleg.gov

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

UNITED STATES (Federal Offices)

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

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

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

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

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

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

White House Switchboard, 202-456-1414.

HIS VIEW

Carolínians helped shape comic culture

RALEIGH — Although we're already a quarter of the way through the 21st century, much of our pop culture bears the unmistakable imprint of the previous century. You can see it in fashion, architecture and entertainment. Check out the music even young people today are consuming. Most of the songs aren't new, and indeed a sizable share of streamed content and movie soundtracks draw from the Great American Songbook (jazz standards and show tunes from the 1920s to the 1950s) or rock, soul and pop songs from the 60s and 70s.

Speaking of movies, 13 of the 15 top-grossing franchises of all time feature characters our grandparents and even great-grandparents might instantly recognize (such as Batman, Captain America, James Bond and Frodo Baggins) or homages to stories of adventure, fantasy and science fiction from the early- to mid-20th century.

Among the inspirations for Star Wars, for example, were Flash Gordon (introduced in a 1934 comic strip by Alex Raymond) and John Carter of Mars (introduced in a 1912 story by Edgar Rice Burroughs). James Cameron also credited John Carter as an inspiration for Avatar.

And when creating Jurassic Park, Michael Crichton drank from a deep well of dinosaur-themed fiction by the likes of Burroughs (At the Earth's Core, 1914) and Arthur Conan Doyle (The Lost World, 1912).

While we properly associate American pop culture with places such as New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, I've recently come to appreciate the pivotal contributions of North and South Carolínians to the pulp fiction of the early 20th century and the comic-book culture that followed it.

Consider the case of O. Henry, born William Sydney Porter in 1862 in Greensboro. In addition to writing such famous stories as "The Gift of the Magi" (1905) and "The Ransom of Red Chief" (1907), he created the Cisco Kid — originally a villain but later a popular hero in comic strips, radio, television and film.

Another key figure was Thurman Scott. A Winston-Salem native, Scott co-founded an oil-burner company and then made a radical shift in career by marrying the daughter of the co-owner of Fiction House, a major producer of

pulp magazines and comic books, and becoming its publisher in 1938. Fiction House help launch the careers of such notables as writer Ray Bradbury

(Fahrenheit 451 and The Martian Chronicles), screenwriter Leigh Brackett (The Big Sleep and The Empire Strikes Back) and artist Jack Kirby (co-creator of The Avengers and The Fantastic Four, among many other comics).

Murphy Anderson, also from Greensboro, illustrated such characters as Superman, Green Lantern, the Flash and Burroughs' John Carter and Tarzan. Manly Wade Wellman, born in Africa but a longtime resident of Chapel Hill, wrote Burroughs-style planetary romances and many other kinds of stories before finding his niche as a writer of fantasy tales set in the North Carolina mountains.

Prominent South Carolínians in the field included Adolphe Barreault, a Charleston native who during the 1930s became one of the first African-American writers for pulps and comics, and Dave Cockrum, a longtime resident of Belton, South Carolina, who started out

as an assistant to Murphy Anderson and later worked on such influential series as The Legion of Super-Heroes for DC and X-Men for Marvel.

For that latter job, Cockrum's supervisor was Roy Thomas, editor-in-chief of Marvel Comics and co-creator of such characters as Wolverine, Ghost Rider, Luke Cage and the Vision. During the 1970s, Thomas helped bring pulp-era characters like Tarzan, Doc Savage and Conan the Barbarian into the realm of comics and, in the latter case, film. A Missouri native, Thomas now lives in St. Matthews, South Carolina, and continues to create new works.

The first volume of his autobiography, A Life in Four Colors, was just released by Raleigh-based TwoMorrrows Publishing. Roy Thomas will speak and sign the new book at the 2026 Edgar Rice Burroughs Convention, to be held June 25-28 in Raleigh (visit CarolinaCalots.com for more information).

The Carolínians have many claims to fame. Now you know another one!

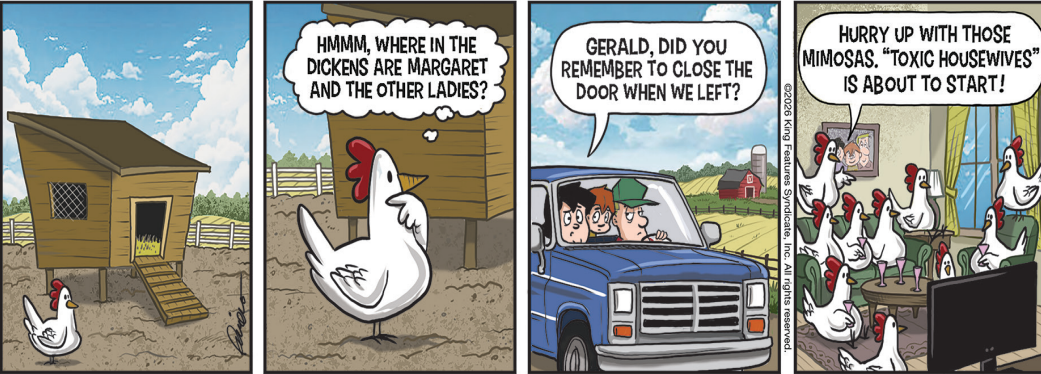
John Hood is a John Locke Foundation board member. His latest books, Mountain Folk and Forest Folk, combine epic fantasy with early American history (FolkloreCycle.com).



John Hood
Contributing columnist

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



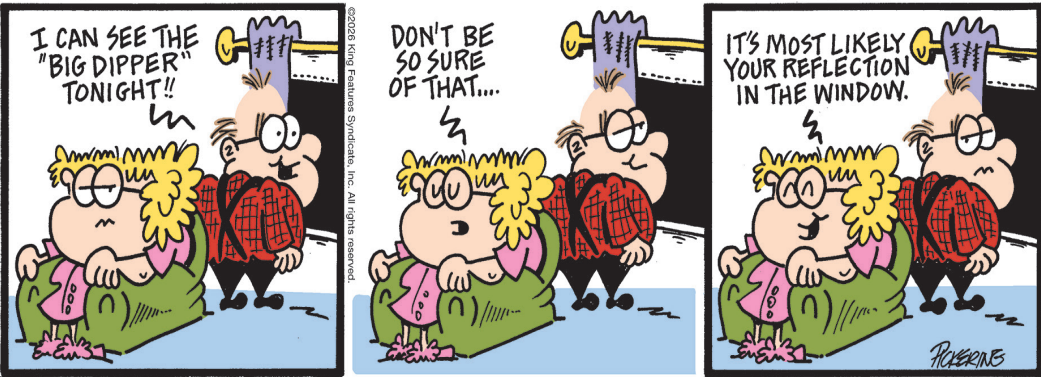
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



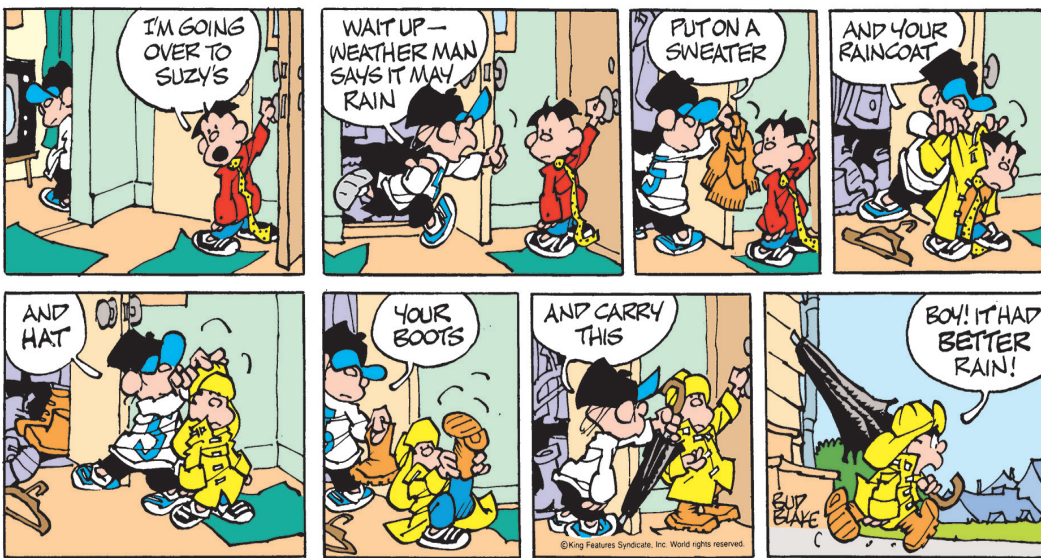
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



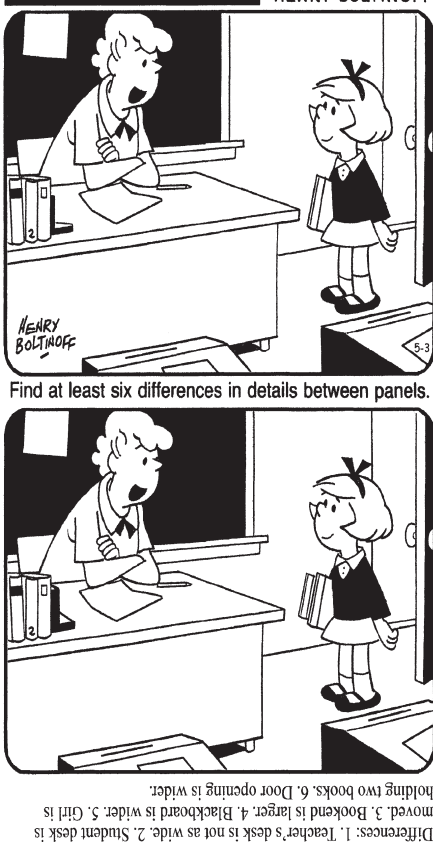
OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Milholland



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



CryptoQuip

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

Clue: P equals W

XMC RISOGPHROHYJ OIPJ PGRIH
FMOMQJHR TWW IPJ T ETMY
IU CYTFHUSW EIJZ XMYZR:
OPI-RPTJ, TYMQIJT.

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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!

Trim: NUPER
Place: DATES
Burn: GENIS
Saying: EAGAD

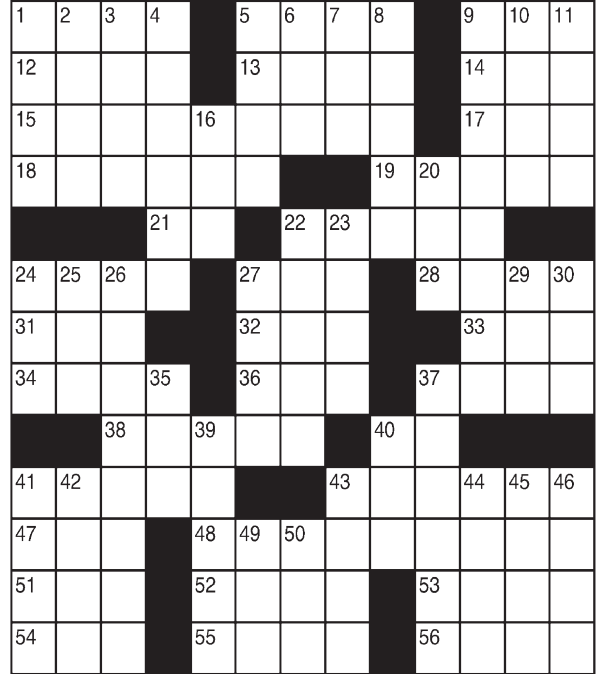
TODAY'S WORD: _____

"Of course David knows you're staying for a while, Mother — we _____ about it all week!"

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Supergirl's first name
- 5 Platter
- 9 Author Tolstoy
- 12 Lay — the line
- 13 Cold War initials
- 14 Days of yore
- 15 Citrus producer
- 17 Avril follower
- 18 At hand
- 19 Unmanned plane
- 21 Apt. cooler
- 22 Rid of wool
- 24 Coconut juice
- 27 "Nova" subj.
- 28 Feed the piggy bank
- 31 Hearty quaff
- 32 Klutz
- 33 Actor Patel
- 34 Mater lead-in
- 36 Roman 1051
- 37 Big party
- 38 Chose
- 40 Undergrad deg.
- 41 Ford or Hudson
- 43 Parlor piece
- 47 PC key
- 48 Tangy, custard-like spread
- 51 Employ



- 52 "Zounds!"
- 53 Novelist Bronte
- 54 Grazing tract
- 55 Activist Parks
- 56 Adolescent
- 8 Words to live by
- 9 Picnic drink
- 10 Panache
- 11 Garfield's pal
- 16 "The Wall" network
- 20 B&O and others (Abbr.)
- 1 Potters oven
- 2 Suit to —
- 3 Capital of Italia
- 4 Parka
- 5 Obligation
- 6 Medit. nation
- 7 Away from NNW
- 22 Burn with steam
- 23 LP player
- 24 Goat's cry
- 25 Under the weather
- 26 Throat-soothing drink
- 27 Not all
- 29 Bird doc
- 30 Cain's mom
- 35 Earth Day mo.
- 37 Nabob
- 39 10th U.S. president
- 40 "Gandhi" star Kingsley
- 41 Move, as freight
- 42 Otherwise
- 43 Pop
- 44 Melody
- 45 Sea eagle
- 46 Paradise
- 49 Id counterpart
- 50 Pas' mates

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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 the name of the blue diamond necklace in "Titanic"?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president once said, "Speak softly and carry a big stick"?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is New Zealand's national bird?
- MATH: How many sides does a tri-decagon have?
- BIBLE: What is the first book in the Bible called?
- SPACE: How long does it take the International Space Station to orbit the Earth?
- MYTHOLOGY: Who is the Greek god of the sun?
- ANATOMY: Where are the carpus and metacarpus located in the human body?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the largest hydroelectric power plant in the world?
- LITERATURE: Who wrote the dystopian novel titled "The Testaments"?

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FiveSpot™

Not tonight

O	T	H	E	R

Not this
Major Monopoly purchase
Dowel and spindle maker
Where oil is frequently found
Expire
Concocts a scheme

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

FiveSpot is a trademark of Michael McLinden. See more at www.sproutsuzzle.com 02638

ARGUED

Today's Word

3. Singer; 4. Aidge
1. Prune; 2. Stead

SCRAMBLERS

solution

S	N	A	L	P
E	A	P	L	A
L	E	A	H	S
E	H	A	T	H
L	O	T	E	L
R	H	E	R	O

FiveSpot™ solution

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

Answer

King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

K	A	R	A	D	I	S	C	L	E	O	
L	E	M	O	N	T	R	E	E	M	A	I
N	E	A	R	B	Y	D	R	O	N	E	
A	C	S	H	O	R	N					
M	I	L	K	S	C	I	S	A	V	E	
A	L	E	O	A	F	D	E	V			
A	L	M	A	M	L	I	F	E	T	E	
O	P	T	E	D	B	A					
H	E	N	R	Y	S	E	T	I	T	E	
A	L	T	L	E	M	O	N	C	U	R	D
U	S	E	E	G	A	D	A	N	N	E	
L	E	A	R	O	S	A					
N	E	E	N	T	E	E	N				

Trivia Answers

- "Heart of the Ocean"
- Theodore Roosevelt
- The kiwi
4. 13
- Genesis
- 6, 90-93 minutes
- Helios
- The hand
- Three Gorges Dam, China
- Margaret Atwood

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LEGALS

NORTH CAROLINA

ROBESON COUNTY
26 E 365

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS

All persons, firms or corporations having claims against Pattie Rowland Davis, deceased, late of Robeson County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before August 6, 2026, or be barred from any recovery.

All persons indebted to said estate are asked to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 6th day of May, 2026.

Donna Davis Floyd, Executrix of the Estate of Pattie Rowland Davis, Deceased, c/o Katherine H. Davis Attorney for the Estate Huggins, Davis & Associates, LLP
P.O. Box 1571
Lumberton, NC 28359

5/6 5/13 5/20 5/27 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF BETTY WEST WALTERS DECEASED FILE NUMBER 25 E 001150-770

The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the estate of BETTY WEST WALTERS, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 18th day of JULY 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This is the 15th day of APRIL 2026

KENAN WALTERS CHANCE
7146 NC HWY 72 E
LUMBERTON NC 28358

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

LEGALS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Robeson County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 18, 2026 in the County Administration Center, 550 North Chestnut Street, in the City of Lumberton, North Carolina. The purpose of this hearing is to consider the following requests:

I

Case # 2026 - 963861 -Stephenson Sales & Acquisitions LLC, Orrum Twp. District 3. Consideration of a Rezone Request from Neighborhood Commercial District (C-1) to Residential Agricultural District (R-A) on a 0.61 +/- acre tract, more or less, located on NC Hwy 130 E; Submitted by Stephenson Sales & Acquisitions LLC (Applicant/Owner); Tax Parcel # 0509-01-015.

Case # 2026 - 963673 -R and R Legacy Ventures, LLC (Asa Revels), Philadelphus Twp. District 5. Consideration of a Special Use Permit to allow for the establishment of a Nonprofit for community education and outreach in a Residential Agricultural District (R-A) on 3.21 +/- acre tract more or less, located on 1913 Philadelphus Road; Submitted by R and R Legacy Ventures, LLC (Asa Revels) (Applicant/Owner); Tax Parcel # 1512-02-04201.

A copy of this request is available for review at the office of the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, at 550 North Chestnut Street, City of Lumberton, North Carolina.

THIS the 29th day of April, 2026.

TAMMY S. FREEMAN, CLERK
ROBESON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

5/6 5/13 2026

On 5/1/26 Certificate of Need review began for **Southeastern Regional Medical Center** Proj N-12770-26 Relo OR to hosp campus. Written comments are due to the Agency by 6/1/26. A public hearing will only be scheduled if requested in writing by 6/1/26 and sent to DHSR. CON.Comments@dhhs.nc.gov or 2704 Mail Service Ctr, Raleigh, NC 27699-2704

5/6 2026

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF JERRY L HAMMONDS DECEASED FILE NUMBER 26E000454-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrator, of the estate of Jerry L 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 9th day of August, 2026, or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 6th day of May, 2026.

William Hammonds
217 Connor Dr
Red Springs Nc 28377

5/6 5/13 5/20 5/27 2026

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

Classifieds Get Results

LEGALS

NORTH CAROLINA ROBESON COUNTY IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION FILE NO.: 26CV000882-770

NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

RE: Armond Rochade Davis, Plaintiff, vs. Dominic Geronimo Ide and Gerardo Rodriguez, Defendant(s)

TO: Gerardo Rodriguez
3181 NC Hwy 20
St. Pauls, NC 28384

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief sought is as follows:

To recover compensatory and punitive damages arising from injuries sustained on or about the 3rd day of May, 2023.

You are required to make defense to such pleadings no later than the 8th day of JUNE 2026, said date being forth (40) days from the first publication of this notice; and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 29th day of, APRIL 2026.

MARK D. LOCKLEAR of the Firm
The Law Offices of Mark D. Locklear, PLLC
Post Office Box 1045
Lumberton, NC 28359
(910)739-7327
Counsel for Plaintiff

4/29 5/6 5/13 2026



LEGALS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Robeson County Board of Zoning Adjustment will hold a public hearing at 5:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, May 18, 2026 in the Robeson County Administration Center, 550 North Chestnut Street, in the City of Lumberton, North Carolina. The purpose of this hearing is to consider the following requests:

I

Case # 2026 - 964679- Timothy F. O'Brian, Lumberton Township, District 6. Consideration of a Variance of Robeson County Zoning Ordinance Section 3.6 (h) requiring an accessory building or use shall be located no less than ten (10) feet from any property line. The purpose for this Variance is to allow for the replacement of an existing garage/storage building on a 0.46 +/- acre tract, more or less, in a Residential Agricultural District (R-A), located at 56 McKensie St; submitted by Timothy F. O'Brian (Applicant); Timothy F. O'Brian & Caroline O'Brian (Owner). Tax Parcel # 1007-02-022.

A copy of this request is available for review at the office of the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, at 550 North Chestnut Street, City of Lumberton, North Carolina.

THIS the 29th day of April, 2026.

JAMES L. LOCKLEAR, CLERK
ROBESON COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT

5/6 5/13 2026



Notices

RE-ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

GENERAL NOTICE

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

Project: Lumberton - Production Wells 11, 12 & 13

Wooten Project Number: 2799-CL

Owner: City of Lumberton

500 North Cedar Street

Lumberton, NC 28358

Engineer & Issuing Office for Bidding Documents:

The Wooten Company

119 Brookstown Avenue, Suite 100

Winston-Salem, NC 27101

336.722.5326

Bids for the construction of the Project will be received at the City Hall Building, 1st Floor Community Room located at 500 N. Cedar Street, Lumberton, NC 28358 until Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 2:00 pm local time. At that time, the Bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The Project includes the following Work:

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

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

OBTAINING THE BIDDING DOCUMENTS

Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents as follows:

The Issuing Office and Owner's Office on Monday through and Owner's on Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 am and 4 pm.

Dodge Construction (online)

Construct Connect (online)

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

With a request for Bidding Documents supply the following information:

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

Supplier or Sub-Contractor.

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

Registration and a payment of \$50.00 (by credit card) provides access to the Wooten Plan Room, the Issuing Office, for Electronic download of Bidding Documents as PDF files.

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

Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office.

If Bidding Documents are obtained from a plan room or source other than the designated website in either electronic or paper format, Bidder must still be registered at the Bid Website. The designated website will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of registered plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered only through the designated website. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated website.

INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS.

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

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

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

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

AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL

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

Notices

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

THIS ACTION BROUGHT PURSUANT TO THE POWER AND AUTHORITY contained within that certain Deed of Trust executed and delivered by Katrina Locklear dated January 22, 2025 and recorded on January 29, 2025 in Book 2500 at Page 221 in the Office of Register of Deeds of Robeson County, North Carolina. As a result of a default in the obligations contained within the Promissory Note and Deed of Trust and the failure to carry out and perform the stipulation and agreements contained therein, the holder of the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust made demand to have the default cured, which was not met. Therefore, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will place for sale that parcel of land, including improvements thereon, situated, lying and being in the City of Pembroke, County of Robeson, State of North Carolina, and being more particularly described in the heretofore referenced Deed of trust. Said sale will be a public auction to the highest bidder for cash, at the usual place of sale at the Robeson County Courthouse, Lumberton, North Carolina, on **May 22, 2026 at 10:00 AM.**

Address of Property: 940 Union Chapel Road, Pembroke, NC 28372
Tax Parcel ID: 140402029
Present Record Owners: The Estate of Katrina Locklear, deceased

The terms of the sale are that the real property hereinbefore described will be sold for cash to the highest bidder. A deposit of five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid or Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, is required and must be tendered in the form of certified funds at the time of the sale. The successful bidder will be required to pay revenue stamps on the Trustee's Deed, any Land Transfer Tax, and costs for recording the Trustee's Deed.

The real property hereinabove described is being offered for sale "AS IS, WHERE IS" and will be sold subject to all superior liens, unpaid taxes, special assessments and other encumbrances. Other conditions will be announced at the sale. The sale will be held open for ten (10) days for upset bids, as by law required. The sale will not confirm until there have been ten (10) consecutive days with no upset bids having been filed.

If for any reason the Trustee is unable to convey title to this property, or if the sale is set aside, the sole remedy of the purchaser is the return of the bid deposit. Furthermore, if the validity of the sale is challenged by any party, the Trustee in its sole discretion, if it believes the challenge to have merit, may declare the sale to be void and return the bid deposit. In either event, the purchaser will have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee's attorney, or the Trustee.

Additional notice required for Residential Real Property with Less Than Fifteen (15) Rental Units:

An order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold.

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 ten (10) days, but no more than 90 day, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagee has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. 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.

Posted: _____

Witness: _____

Assistant/Deputy clerk of Superior Court

s/Franklin L. Greene
Albertelli Law Partners North Carolina, P.A.
Franklin L. Greene, ESQ., NC Bar # 37896
205 Regency Executive Park Drive
Suite 100
Charlotte, NC 28217
Tel: 704-970-0391
fgreene@alaw.net

25SP001382-770/25-013687

FOCUS Broadband donates to 3 local nonprofits

Staff report

SHALLOTTE — FOCUS Broadband is investing \$40,000 in the communities it serves through Community Connections grants awarded to 25 local nonprofit organizations. The funding will support a range of community-focused projects benefiting residents across Brunswick, Columbus, Duplin, Pender, Perquimans and Robeson counties. Three Robeson County organizations are among the recipients.

The program received 87 applications this year from organizations across eastern North Carolina, each representing efforts to strengthen and enrich local communities.

“We look forward to this program every year and are always impressed by the organizations that apply,” said Justin Milliken, FOCUS Broadband board director and board liaison for the grants committee. “We’re proud to support the work they’re doing and the difference they’re making across our service area.”

Bethesda United

Methodist Church in Fairmont received \$2,000 for its food ministry, which delivers weekly meals to residents in need across rural Robeson County.

Nexus Empowerment Network received \$1,500 for its Full and Free Mobile Food Pantry, which provides food and school supplies to support families and reduce food insecurity in Robeson County.

Southeastern Life Center received \$2,000 for its Backpacks for Kids program, which provides weekend meals by filling backpacks with food items for students in Robeson County.

Since launching its grant program in 2006, FOCUS Broadband has awarded more than \$1.2 million through its Community Connections and Smart Connections grants, supporting projects that expand opportunities and enhance the communities it serves. Recipients of the Smart Connections grants will be announced this fall. For more information about FOCUS Broadband’s community giving initiatives, visit focusbroadband.com/givingback.

Presidential Physical Fitness Award returns as Trump revives annual fitness test in US schools

Collin Binkley and Darlene Superville
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Tuesday revived the Presidential Physical Fitness Award as part of his push to return an annual physical fitness test to America’s schools.

The award is tied to the Presidential Fitness Test, which was a public-school fixture for decades but was phased out under President Barack Obama in favor of a program that minimized competition and focused on long-term health. Trump signed an order last summer to reestablish the fitness test, which was created in the 1950s.

“We’re bringing it back,” Trump said at an Oval Office ceremony alongside children and professional athletes. “My administration is working very hard to defend America’s cherished athletic traditions and pass our values of excellence and competitiveness to the next generation.”

The earlier exam tested students on a battery of exercises, including a 1-mile run and sit-ups. Those scoring above the 85th percentile for their gender in each component of the test received the Presidential Physical Fitness Award, though



Jacquelyn Martin | AP Photo

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. speaks as President Donald Trump listens before the signing of a proclamation in the Oval Office at the White House on Tuesday in Washington.

details of the revived test have yet to be released.

Trump unveiled the award at his desk while flanked by Cabinet members including Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Education Secretary Linda McMahon and Housing Secretary Scott Turner. They were joined by children who said they played sports including football, volleyball, hockey and golf.

The test is being made mandatory for students at 161 schools located on U.S. military installations, Hegseth said in the Oval Office. He encouraged other schools across the country to follow.

“We need young, strong, healthy Ameri-

cans, whether you serve in the military or any other aspect of your life,” Hegseth said. “The idea that competition is bad is the beginning of decline of a nation.”

Trump, an avid golfer and sports enthusiast, emphasized the importance of balancing both physical and mental fitness, saying that it’s “all about the mind” at top levels of competition. He praised the athletes at the White House event while joking about his own fitness regimen.

“I work out so much, like about one minute a day, max — if I’m lucky,” Trump said.

Trump said he would be signing the first copy of the new award on Tuesday. After the Oval

Office event, the kids were invited to the South Lawn to play sports to a soundtrack of songs like “YMCA” and “Eye of the Tiger.” Trump joined outside as the kids putted at a green, kicked soccer balls and threw a baseball with pitcher Noah Syndergaard.

The president connected the initiative to Kennedy’s “Make America Healthy Again” agenda. Speaking alongside Trump, Kennedy said it was “very unfortunate” that Obama discontinued the test and cited increased obesity among American children.

“We need to teach people how to win and how to lose and how to process victory and defeat,” Kennedy said.

LEGALS

26SP00005-770 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 AntiMoney 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

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO.: 26CV001681-770 COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina; Plaintiff VS VASHTI JONES, RICHARD JONES, JOE NATHAN MCLEAN, and APRIL HAYES AS TRUSTEES OF HESTER CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Owners; and CRYSTAL GRAHAM, GUARDIAN AD LITEM OF VASHTI JONES, RICHARD JONES, JOE NATHAN MCLEAN, and APRIL HAYES AS TRUSTEES OF HESTER CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH; Defendants. NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION TO: VASHTI JONES, RICHARD JONES, JOE NATHAN MCLEAN, and APRIL HAYES AS TRUSTEES OF HESTER CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Owners; and CRYSTAL GRAHAM, GUARDIAN AD LITEM OF VASHTI JONES, RICHARD JONES, JOE NATHAN MCLEAN, and APRIL HAYES AS TRUSTEES OF HESTER CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH; Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action, and notice of service by Publication began the 22nd day of April, 2026. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: foreclosure sale to satisfy unpaid property taxes on your interest in the property described as: DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY Owner(s) of Record: Hester Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. Title Reference: Deed Book 1578, Page 425. PIN No: 101803006, 101803007, and 10103008. Tax Account No: 1059912. Property Location: Lumberton Township, Hestertown Rd. Lots 18-26 of Map Book 5 Page 45 – Division 1 of Troy Musselwhite Farm. Being all of Lot Numbers 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26 of the division Number One of Troy Musselwhite’s Farm at Hestertown, and as shown on Book of Maps 5, at Page 45, in the Robeson County Public Registry. Said map is incorporated herein by reference for a more full and accurate description of the said lots. Being the same lands described in deed dated August 24th, 2006 from Andrew B. Canady et ux., Bonnie J. Canady to Vashti Jones, Richard Jones, Joe Nathan McLean, and April Hayes as Trustees of Hester Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, and recorded in Book 1578, page 425, December 22, 2006, Robeson County Registry. The above-described property is subject to all Right of Ways and Easements of record. This 16th day of April, 2026. Edward K. Brooks Attorney for Plaintiff State Bar No. 32602 550 N. Chestnut Street Lumberton, NC 28358 910-671-3060 x7353

4/22 4/29 5/6 2026

Classifieds Get Results

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF LYNN MCDANIEL DECEASED File Number 26E000458-770 The undersigned having qualified as Executor of the estate of Lynn McDaniel, 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 2nd day of August, 2026, or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 29th day of April, 2026. Arthur Richard Barnes, Jr. 407 West 36th Street Lumberton, NC 28358 4/29 5/6 5/13 5/20 2026 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF JANNIS IRENE BROWN DECEASED FILE NUMBER 26 E 000352-770 The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the estate of JANNIS IRENE BROWN, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 27th day of JULY 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This is the 22nd day of APRIL 2026 RICKY ALEXANDER BROWN 5438 US HWY 301 S ROWLAND NC 28383 4/22 4/29 5/6 5/13 2026 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF JOYCE BRAYBOY HAYWOOD DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 26 E 000481-770 The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the estate of JOYCE BRAYBOY HAYWOOD, 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 10th day of AUGUST 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 6th day of MAY 2026. JOHNNY LEE HAYWOOD 30 INDIAN SWAMP ROAD ORRUM NC 28369 5/6 5/13 5/20 5/27 2026



LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF LESHIA GAIL DEESE DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 26 E 000485-770 The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the estate of LESHIA GAIL DEESE, 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 10th day of AUGUST 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 6th day of MAY 2026. STEVE STRICKLAND 52 SHEKAH HEIGHTS DRIVE PEMBROKE NC 28372 5/6 5/13 5/20 5/27 2026 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF TERRY TERRELL BROWN DECEASED FILE NUMBER 22 E 918 The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the estate of TERRY TERRELL BROWN, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 18th day of JULY 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This is the 15th day of APRIL 2026 FRANETTE LATORIA SMITH 272 BRANDIE ROAD MAXTON NC 28364 4/15 4/22 4/29 5/6 2026

Count the Money you will save using your classifieds

The savings really add up!

Legal Notices / Notices To Creditors

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF CATHERINE BELL ROBINSON DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 24 E 994 The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the estate of CATHERINE BELL ROBINSON, 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 10th day of AUGUST 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 6th day of MAY 2026. Ruby Jorgensen Ancillary Executor, Estate of Catherine Bell Robinson C/O Crystal L. Graham Attorney at Law Graham Law Firm, PLLC. PO Box 965 Lumberton NC 28359 5/6, 5/13, 5/20, 5/27/2026 Notices Robeson Community College Program Director, Business and Information Technology (\$15,000 signing bonus) Minimum Qualifications: Master’s Degree in Information Technology and three years’ experience in a higher education setting. This is a 10-month faculty position. Employment is aligned with the academic calendar, and the selected candidate will not be scheduled to work during periods when students are not in session, except on dates required in accordance with college policy or procedure. For a list of duties and to apply, visit www.robeson.edu/hr or contact Human Resources at hr@robeson.edu. Deadline for applications: May 15, 2026 ROBESON COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER 5/6, 5/9, 5/13 2026 Classifieds Get Results Want to Rent ROOMMATE WANTED! Call Chris at 910.738.4702

US says ceasefire with Iran is holding despite attacks

Adam Schreck, Ben Finley and Elena Becatoros

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — U.S. military leaders said a ceasefire remains in effect a day after Iran was blamed for new attacks in the Strait of Hormuz and against the United Arab Emirates. The key American ally later said it came under Iranian drone and missile attack again on Tuesday.

Still, the fragile truce reached nearly a month ago appeared to be holding as U.S. forces pressed ahead with efforts to reopen the strait, a vital waterway for global energy. On Monday, the U.S. said it had opened a lane and sunk six small Iranian boats that had threatened commercial ships.

So far, only two merchant ships are known to have passed through the new U.S.-guarded route, with hundreds more bottled up in the Persian Gulf. Shippers are still wary, and it's unclear whether U.S. military action can reassure them without reigniting the conflict that began with U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran on Feb. 28.

Iran's effective closure of the strait, through which major oil and gas supplies passed before the war, along with fertilizer and other petroleum products, has sent fuel prices skyrocketing and rattled the global economy. Breaking Iran's grip would deny its main source of leverage as U.S. President Donald Trump demands a major rollback of its disputed nuclear program.



Manuel Balce Caneta | AP Photo

U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, left, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Dan Caine speak to members of the media during a press briefing at the Pentagon Tuesday in Washington.

Iran says new US effort violates ceasefire

U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Gen. Dan Caine, the U.S. military's top officer, told a news conference Tuesday that Iran's renewed attacks hadn't reached the threshold of what Caine called "major combat operations." He said Tuesday marked a "quieter" day in the strait.

"No, the ceasefire is not over," Hegseth said, affirming Caine's assessment. They spoke before the latest attacks on the UAE.

Iran has said the new effort does violate the ceasefire. Iran's parliament speaker and chief negotiator, Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, signaled that Iran has yet to fully respond to the U.S. attempt to reopen the waterway.

"We know full well that the continuation of the status quo is intolerable for America; while we have not even begun

yet," he said in a post on X. His statement did not mention negotiations with the U.S. that are now in the form of passing messages via Pakistan.

Disputing Washington's claim of sinking six boats, an Iranian military commander said two small civilian cargo boats were hit on Monday, killing five civilians, Iran's state TV reported.

Caine, the top U.S. general who serves as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said more than 100 U.S. military aircraft are patrolling skies around the strait. The U.S. has imposed a naval blockade on Iranian ports since April 13, depriving Tehran of oil revenue it needs to shore up its ailing economy.

The Trump administration has cited the April 8 ceasefire in asserting that the president does not have to give a formal update to Congress on the war under the War Powers Resolution. That law typically

requires presidents to seek formal approval from Congress for war activities 60 days after beginning military action.

Shippers remain wary

So far, just two civilian vessels, both U.S.-flagged merchant ships, are known to have passed through the strait as part of the lane the U.S. says it has created. Shipping company Maersk said one of them, a vehicle carrier that it operates, exited the strait safely with U.S. military assistance on Monday.

Former military officers who have served on the strait have said opening it would be dangerous and highly challenging, even with military escorts, which the U.S. isn't providing now.

There's little room to maneuver in the narrow waterway — just 21 miles (34 kilometers) wide — and Iran can reach all of the strait and its approaches with cruise missiles. It also can target vessels with longer-range missiles, drones, fast attack craft and mines.

"At this point in time our risk assessment remains unchanged," Hapag-Lloyd AG, one of the world's largest container shipping companies, said in a statement. "Transits through the Strait of Hormuz are for the moment not possible for our ships."

Iran has attacked ships that try to transit without going through its own route in the northern part of the strait along its coastline. That involves being vetted by Iran's Revolutionary Guard and payment in some cases.

The U.S.-approved route goes through territorial waters of Oman to the south.

"For shipping companies and for insurance companies, they still have to wait and see how this plays out," said Torbjorn Soltvedt, principal Middle East analyst at risk intelligence company Verisk Maplecroft.

"This initiative alone isn't something that looks like it's going to open the Strait of Hormuz," he said.

The UAE bore the brunt of Iran's retaliation

The United Arab Emirates said Monday its air defenses had engaged 15 missiles and four drones fired by Iran. Authorities in the eastern emirate of Fujairah said one drone sparked a fire at a key oil facility, wounding three Indian nationals. The British military reported two cargo vessels ablaze off the UAE, also on Monday.

On Tuesday, the UAE's Defense Ministry said it was responding to another Iranian drone and missile attack. There were no reports of any damage or casualties in the hours after the announcement.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi called the targeting of UAE civilians and infrastructure "unacceptable." Pakistan and Saudi Arabia also condemned the strikes.

Tehran did not confirm or deny the attacks. But Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on X that the U.S. and the UAE "should be wary of being dragged back into quagmire."

Hospital

From page 1A

Health Southeastern," said UNC Health Southeastern President & CEO Chris Ellington.

Residents can look up any hospital's latest grade at HospitalSafetyGrade.org and use that information as a starting point when talking with their doctor and family about where to receive care.

For the community, UNC Health Southeastern's new "A" from The Leapfrog Group signals that the hospital has put stronger safety systems in place and is performing among the better hospitals nationwide on key patient safety measures. While no hospital can elimi-

nate all risk, this rating shows meaningful, sustained progress in making care safer for patients close to home.

How UNC Health Southeastern improved

Over the past several years, UNC Health Southeastern has made a series of coordinated changes aimed at reducing preventable harm and building a stronger safety culture.

Key initiatives included:

— Hospital-wide safety strategy focused on providing a safe environment for care by minimizing and avoiding potential complications.

— Preventing infections and other harm through: Infection prevention, tracking and managing infection rates using national benchmarks; hand hygiene, with regular audits of hand-

washing to improve compliance; fall prevention, monitoring patient fall rates and setting targets to reduce them; and pressure injury reduction, focusing on hospital-acquired pressure injuries (bedsores), with clear goals and trend tracking.

— Responding early to serious illness, for example, related to sepsis care, ensuring doctors and nurses use standardized sepsis order sets so patients receive fast, evidence-based treatment, and tracking sepsis action plans as part of efforts to redesign care and prevent deterioration.

— Making care more consistent by developing and implementing standardized, evidence-based care pathways to reduce complications and make care more reliable from patient to patient.

— Strengthening safety culture through leadership rounding: Leaders visiting patient units regularly to spot risks early and support staff.

— A consistent "nursing bundle" of bedside practices to improve communication, catch problems sooner, and enhance patient experience.

— Learning from safety events such as encouraging staff to report incidents, then reviewing them and following through on improvements.

To explore UNC Health Southeastern's full grade details and to find valuable tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit HospitalSafetyGrade.org.

Amanda L. Crabtree is the director of marketing & public relations at UNC Health Southeastern. Reach her by email at amanda.crabtree@unchealth.unc.edu.

Edge

From page 1A

comments and social media activity connected to the chair sparked concern throughout our community as well as my congregation."

John Campbell, a former member of the Public Schools of Robeson County Board of Education who has been among the most active voices in denouncing Edge in recent days, pointed out that there is no law in North Carolina for a recall election for county officials. But he encouraged the board to remove Edge as chairman, pass a resolution of censure and/or remove him from the appointed boards on which he serves representing the county; Campbell pointed to the removal of James Fuller Locklear from the county planning board in 2020 after comments including racial slurs as precedent.

"The community's sentiment is that there should be no place for social media content from county leaders that creates division instead of unity, especially from the chairman," Campbell said. "Many people want Mr. Edge off the Board of Commissioners."

Campbell read from the county's code of ethics, which says that commissioners "are expected to act with integrity, avoiding actions or personal communications that create conflicts of interest or damage public trust," and said that there's "mounting reasonable



Photos by Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

Nathaniel Thompson, right, speaks during the public comment period in Monday's Robeson County Board of Commissioners meeting in Lumberton.

expectation to restore some of the public trust damaged by the chairman's personal communications."

Along similar lines, Ellis Hill pointed out that those who speak in the public comment period at board meetings are encouraged to "avoid abusive, threatening and disruptive language" in their remarks, and asked that the board hold Edge to the same standard. He also pointed to other social media posts by Edge which he said are also inflammatory, saying "I don't see why everybody is surprised" about last week's post.

Steve Taylor, on behalf of Ministers for Justice in Robeson County, connected the Confederate monument's continued presence at the Courthouse to Edge's post.

"What we honor in public shapes who we become in private, so we should not be surprised when harmful words

are spoken by those entrusted with leadership in this county," Taylor said. "The racist trope only echoes the very story we have chosen to elevate at the center of our community."

Cara Pearson, while not directly mentioning Edge, stated her opinion that the statue should be moved to the Robeson County History Museum, saying that being indoors would help to preserve the monument, and that being a focal point within a museum setting would keep it in a prominent location, something that is required by statute should it be moved from the Courthouse property.

"We are not hiding history, we are placing it in a venue specifically designed for the public study and remembering," Pearson said.

The board voted in 2022 to move the Confederate monument to the Robeson County Memorial Park once



Charles Graham, center, speaks during the public comment period in Monday's Robeson County Board of Commissioners meeting in Lumberton.

the park is competed; it is currently under construction at the northern end of downtown Lumberton.

The board did not respond directly to any public comments, which is its standard procedure.

County receives clean audit report

In other business, auditor Wade Greene presented his audit report for the 2025 fiscal year to the board, saying the county's finances are in healthy shape.

"Everything was steadily increasing, you had a good year," Greene said.

There were no instances of non-compliance and no deficiencies in internal control, Greene said.

General fund revenues were over \$214 million, with expenses of over \$187 million, for a net income of about \$27.5 million, Greene said.

The previous year's net income was about \$3.3 million; the sharp increase is largely due to the county receiving some funding for projects that it has not yet spent on those projects, County Manager Kellie Blue told The Robesonian.

The general fund balance available is over \$98 million; the general fund balance available percentage rate is 52.87%. Anything over 30% is considered "excellent" by the Local Government Commission (LGC).

The board also approved the appointment of Corey Hammond to serve on the Town of Pembroke Planning Board; while that is a municipal board, the county gets to pick the appointment as it represents the town's extraterritorial jurisdiction.

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

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Sports

The Robesonian

Wednesday, May 6, 2026 • Section B



Photos by Jacob Husson | The Robesonian

Lumberton's MacKenzie Register (1) and Red Springs' Jennifer Villalba Candelario (12) and Celine Sanchez (2) battle for possession during Monday's game in Red Springs.

Lumberton girls spoil Red Springs' senior day

Register's hat trick leads Pirates past Red Devils

Jacob Husson
The Robesonian

RED SPRINGS — The Red Springs girls soccer team couldn't send its seniors off in style Monday, as the Red Devils lost 6-1 on senior day to visiting Lumberton.

"We're hitting our stride here at the very end of the season," Lumberton coach Ethan Freeman said. "We're playing some of our best soccer right now and it's huge to get a 6-1 win going into our final game of the regular season."

Red Springs' Jurielys Quinones scored the game's first goal with 35:37 left in the first half.

Tuesday's high school baseball and softball first-round playoff results were unavailable at press time. For more, visit robesonian.com or see Saturday's print edition.

With 3:10 left in the half, Lumberton's Brittney Hernandez scored to tie it. The two teams went into halftime tied at one.

The Pirates' Linsi Padilla opened the second half scoring a goal with 34:53 left in the game, putting Lumberton (10-10) up 2-1. Then, Brittney Hernandez gave them an insurance goal with 31:21 to go.

From 25:33 left until 19:55 remaining, the game turned into the MacKenzie Register show as she earned a hat trick in just over five and a half minutes of game time.



Lumberton's Jayla Davis (20) kicks the ball ahead of Red Springs' Genesis Morales Lara (7) during Monday's game in Red Springs.

"I think it's just good, we're trying to push for a playoff win," Register said. "We're trying to get a home game and I just think we played a really good second half and brought a bunch of energy."

Despite the disappointing loss, the Red Devils (7-11) were still proud to honor their seniors as five players are moving

on after this season. "The most important highlight of the night was my seniors," Zarate said. "We have Jennifer (Villalba Candelario), Julia (Amado), Genesis (Morales Lara), Isabel (Alejandro Trejo) and Celine (Sanchez). That was the highlight of the night."

See SOCCER | 2B

FRIDAY ROUNDUP

Lumberton girls soccer outclasses Red Springs

Staff report

LUMBERTON — The Lumberton girls soccer team took down Red Springs 3-1 Friday in a nonconference showdown, ending Red Springs' two-game winning streak. This was Lumberton's second win in its last three games.

Lumberton's MacKenzie Register, Charley Whitley and Zamyiah Rogers each scored goals for the Pirates (9-10, 2-8 Tri-County) while Brittney Hernandez and Alex Gavaghan both had an assist in the game.

The Red Devils (7-10, 4-4 Southeastern) will host a rematch with Lumberton Monday at 6 p.m. It is the regular-season finale for Red Springs, while the Pirates will have a game remaining Tuesday at Hoke County.

St. Pauls softball dominates Douglas Byrd

The St. Pauls softball team thoroughly defeated Douglas Byrd, winning 18-1 on the road Friday in its regular-season finale. This was the Bulldogs (10-12, 8-2 Eastern Sandhills) second straight win

over the Eagles (5-12, 4-6 ESC) in as many games.

The Bulldogs' Angel Purcell had two hits, four RBIs and three runs scored, while her sister, Amier Purcell had two hits and three RBIs. Anyia Simpson had one hit, three RBIs and two runs scored, while Lejada Romero had one hit, two RBIs and two runs scored. Finally, Baylea Hall had two hits and scored two runs.

Douglas Byrd's Kadence Norton had the team's lone hit, while Savanna Byrd and

Camille Singleton each scored a run.

St. Pauls will play at Southern Guilford in the first round of the 5A state playoffs on Tuesday.

Bulldogs baseball romps Eagles

The St. Pauls baseball team was hungry Friday night, taking a large bite out of the Douglas Byrd Eagles in a 22-8 Eastern Sandhills conference win. This was the Bulldogs' third win in the final four games, as they ended their regular season in

See FRIDAY | 2B

RCC baseball swept to end regular season

Staff report

WINTERVILLE — The Robeson Community College baseball team was swept in a three-game series to finish its regular season at Pitt Community College.

In the opener on Thursday, Pitt earned an 11-1 win in five innings.

RCC (14-37, 13-29 Region 10) was held to three hits in that game, with one each by Lezlie Jackson,

Ayden Wall and Jack Carela. Wall hit a solo home run.

Pitt (30-15, 28-14 Region 10) won a closer matchup in the first game of Friday's doubleheader, 4-3. The Bulldogs scored two runs in the seventh to take the lead and held on for the win.

Garrett Secrist and Nemo Chavis each had two hits for RCC and Secrist scored a run. Davin Roush allowed no earned runs in

five innings pitched, allowing two hits with three strikeouts for the Eagles.

Pitt won the finale 9-2 on Friday, scoring six of its runs over the first two innings after RCC had taken an early 2-0 lead in the first.

Four Eagles had one hit each, including Wall, who hit another home run and had two RBIs. Jackson had a hit and a run and stole two bases.

Braves eliminated from CC baseball tourney by FMU

Staff report

GASTONIA — No. 5 seed UNC Pembroke outhit No. 2 seed Francis Marion but couldn't overcome a seven-run deficit and saw its season come to a close at the hands of the Patriots for the second straight season with a 7-3 loss Saturday in the Conference Carolinas Tournament at Sims Legion Park.

Daniel Stephens had a game-high three hits, including a pair of doubles, for UNCP. Ashton Donathan connected for a two-run homer as part of a 1-4 day at the plate.

Francis Marion got on the board first in the top of the third inning as Zander Buchan walked and eventually came home on a wild pitch, while Charlie Bussey III lifted a two-run shot over the LF wall to make it 3-0. Will Dorrell's sac fly capped off the scoring to stretch the FMU lead to 4-0.

The Patriots (42-11) would tack on two more from RBI singles from Ethan McAnally and Riley Orr, while Logan Davis scored on a wild pitch to make it 7-0.

The Braves (33-18) got on the board as Boone Herman worked a leadoff walk and Donathan followed with a two-run blast to make it 7-2. Stephens doubled and would come on a Jackson Crute RBI fielder's choice to trim the deficit to 7-3.

The Braves fell to 51-80-1 in the all-time series against the Patriots, and have now lost four of the last five matchups with Francis Marion.



Contributed photo | Josiah Oxendine

Josiah Oxendine announced his college decision at a recent ceremony held at Beulah Baptist Church in Rowland.

Oxendine weighs walking on with NC State football

Chris Stiles
The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — Many standout high school athletes try and figure out where they want to play their sport in college, then figure out the academic side from there.

For Lumberton's Josiah Oxendine, the process is just the opposite.

Oxendine recently announced he will attend N.C. State. Now, the quarterback is weighing whether or not to join the football team as a walk-on.

"This decision is an academic decision," Oxendine said. "I look it as a 40-year decision over a four-year decision. I took the offer based on academic monies."

Oxendine played high school football at Dillon in his freshman and sophomore years and at Forest Hills through his junior and senior years before finishing his high school academic work at St. Pauls in January; he will officially graduate from St. Pauls in June. The 6-foot-1, 195-pounder was a combined 32-4 as a high school starting

quarterback.

Oxendine has been recruited by numerous high-major college football programs throughout his high school career.

"I'm very fortunate for all that God's blessed me with when it comes to football," Oxendine said. "I'm just grateful for the opportunity that I've had to play football and to go around the world to camps and visit colleges because of my athletic ability."

But in the era of NIL and the transfer portal, Oxendine wanted more stability when it came to picking which college to attend. Through a combination of academic scholarships, he will have a full ride at N.C. State.

"At this point in the transfer portal cycle of college football, it's more like a one-year deal as players," Oxendine said. "So my decision is more so of a four-year guarantee for this school. But there's a possibility that I could add student-athlete attached to that."

N.C. State's civil engineering program was

See OXENDINE | 2B

Braves' Skidmore breaks another school record

Staff report

DURHAM — UNC Pembroke's Sofia Skidmore broke an outdoor school record for the second time this season to highlight action at the Duke Twilight meet Sunday evening. Skidmore crossed in 2:10.76 in the 800-meter run as the top Division II finisher and took 37th overall at the Division



Skidmore

I-heavy meet. The time broke Erman Jepleting's record from the 2021 season, while also hitting the NCAA Provisional standard time.

Malea Bennewitz turned in a personal-best time of 4:44.39 in the 1500-meter run, finishing fourth among Division-II entries and 76th overall.

Friday

From page 1B

style.

St. Pauls (14-10, 8-2 Eastern Sandhills) started out hot, scoring eight runs in the first inning, five in the second and four in the third. They added one run in the fourth and four in the fifth inning.

Douglas Byrd (6-13, 1-9 ESC) scored one run in the first inning, six in the third and one in the fourth but it was nowhere near enough.

St. Pauls' Cameron McNeil had two hits, two RBIs and two runs scored while Jabryan Calhoun had two hits, three runs scored and an RBI. Tyle Lavoie had a hit, two runs and an RBI while Cailen Mcneil had

three runs scored.

St. Pauls will host Southeast Alamance in the first round of the 5A state playoffs on Tuesday.

St. Pauls girls soccer comes up short against Douglas Byrd

The St. Pauls girls soccer team couldn't make it two in a row against Douglas Byrd, falling 1-0. This was the Bulldogs' fourth loss in their final five games.

Douglas Byrd's Analeia Washington scored the game's only goal, while A'niya Roberts had an assist on the play.

St. Pauls (2-12, 2-8 ESC) ends the regular season with another disappointing loss, while Douglas Byrd (5-13-2, 2-7-1 ESC) can at least say they ended the season on a high note.

available at press time. Red Springs completed its regular season with Monday's loss and awaits a first-round state-playoff matchup next week.

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

Soccer

From page 1B

Lumberton also beat the Red Devils 3-1 on Friday.

Lumberton played at Hoke County on Tuesday; results were not yet

Woods out, Johnson given special exemption for PGA Championship

Doug Ferguson
AP Golf Writer

NEWTOWN SQUARE, Pa. — Tiger Woods is officially out of the PGA Championship. Ditto for Phil Mickelson, who has played only one LIV Golf event this year as he copes with a family health matter and withdrew shortly after the list of 154 players was announced Tuesday for Aronimink Golf Club.

And the big surprise was Dustin Johnson, who was extended one of the special invitations to the PGA Championship next week despite his eligibility running out last year.

"Very excited," Johnson said from LIV Golf Virginia, "I want to play in all the majors. I feel like my game is still good enough to compete with everyone and still can win. The PGA was nice enough to give me an invitation. So yeah, I'm very, very happy and thankful for that."

The PGA of America held back two spots in case the winners of two PGA Tour events, the Trusti Championship and the Myrtle Beach Classic, are not already eligible.

Scottie Scheffler is the defending champion at the second major of the year, which returns to Aronimink for the first time since Gary Player won in 1972.

Johnson is among 30 players who competed at Aronimink when it hosted the BMW Championship in 2018, when Keegan Bradley defeated Justin Rose in a playoff that didn't finish until Monday because of so much rain.



Mateo Villalba | LIV Golf via AP

Dustin Johnson hits a shot during the third round of LIV Golf Mexico City tournament on April 18 in Naucalpan, Mexico.

The PGA Championship committee is the least transparent in filling the field for its major, with 33 players receiving special invitations.

Most of them came from the top 100 in the world ranking. The PGA Championship strives to have the top 100 and often will go a few places outside the top 100 to make sure no one sneaks in in the final week before the major.

It gave invitations to Andy Sullivan of England (102), Angel Ayora of Spain (103), Keith Mitchell (104), Chandler Blanchet (106) and Billy Horschel (107).

It also has a category of its PGA points list — based on official PGA Tour money earned in the last 12 months — to fill the field beyond the top 70.

Sudarshan Yellamaraju of Canada is the leading player not eligible at No. 80. He becomes the first alternate, with

a reasonable chance of getting in because only four players at the Trusti Championship — Yellamaraju is one of them — are not yet in the PGA.

The alternates all came from the PGA points list.

Woods not playing was expected. He was arrested Feb. 27 on suspicion of DUI and received permission from a Florida judge to seek treatment outside the country. Woods has not played in a major since the 2024 British Open.

Mickelson has not said publicly what he's dealing with at home. His only LIV Golf event was in South Africa in March. He did not play in the Masters.

The PGA of America also awarded a spot to Ian Holt, a two-time winner this year on the Korn Ferry Tour who leads the points list, and Kota Kaneko of Japan from the Federation Ranking of tours around the world. The PGA

Championship takes players from the leading three tours. Kaneko on the Japan Golf Tour was fourth.

Johnson, a former No. 1 player in the world with two majors, has been eligible for every major since the 2009 Masters. He did not play in three of them because of injury or because of taking time away from the game (2014 PGA Championship).

His 10-year exemption from winning the U.S. Open expires after this year. He is not eligible for the British Open, which historically does not offer special exemptions.

Ryder Cup captain Luke Donald of Team Europe received an invitation, which has become a PGA Championship tradition. U.S. captain Jim Furyk is not playing. Vijay Singh, a two-time PGA champion, and 2025 Senior PGA champion Angel Cabrera chose not to play.

Oxendine

From page 1B

ultimately one of the draws to the Raleigh school for Oxendine. His other finalists were Clemson, North Carolina, Pittsburgh and Tennessee.

"I visited N.C. State a bunch and I love the campus, love the people around the community," he said. "I think the major I want to do, which is civil engineering, N.C. State is one of the best in the state and around the whole country."

Whether or not he joins Coach Dave Doeren's program to play for the Wolfpack, Oxendine says he's grateful for the impact football has

had on his life to this point.

"I don't think I'd be where I am without football," he said. "The amount of places I've traveled, things that I've learned from football, the amount of success that I've gotten from football — it's all contributed to my life."

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

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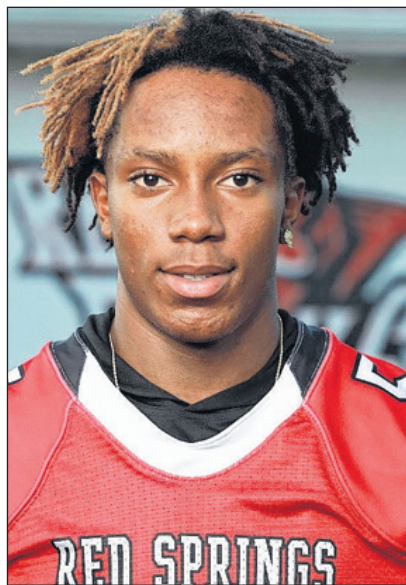
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ROBESON COUNTY ATHLETIC SPOTLIGHT

RED SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL



T.J. ELLERBE
Football, Basketball, Baseball

T.J. Ellerbe may be a UNC Pembroke football signee, but has starred on the diamond this spring for Red Springs. The senior enters the playoffs hitting .464 with 23 runs, eight RBIs, six extra-base hits, and the speed which shines on the football field has also led to 24 stolen bases this spring. An eight-win season to date ties Red Springs' most wins in baseball since 2019.

FAIRMONT HIGH SCHOOL



CECILIA CHAVIS
Softball

Cecilia Chavis has a hit in nearly half her at-bats for the Fairmont softball team in her sophomore season, with a .493 average entering the state playoffs. She has 15 RBIs, 21 runs, seven extra-base hits and 21 stolen bases. She also has 94 strikeouts in 86 innings pitched with a 4.80 ERA in the circle, and has helped Fairmont to nine wins this season, its most in four years.

Hurricanes overcome penalties, deficit to beat Flyers in OT

Carolina takes 2-0 series lead in second-round series

Aaron Beard
AP Sports Writer

RALEIGH — Rick Tocchet got the response he wanted from his Philadelphia Flyers. Rod Brind'Amour had reason to be frustrated with his Carolina Hurricanes taking too many penalties, disrupting their preferred 5-on-5 rhythm.

And yet, the Hurricanes are still unbeaten in the NHL playoffs, thanks to a comeback from their first deficit of the postseason and a gritty-effort overtime winner from Taylor Hall.

Carolina's 3-2 win Monday night gave the Eastern Conference's top seed a 2-0 lead in the second-round series, coming after an uphill climb with the Flyers getting to their game much more effectively than in the series opener to build some confidence as the series shifts to Philadelphia.

"We don't quit. I think we've shown that all year," said Carolina winger Nikolaj Ehlers, who had a goal and assisted on the tying score in the third period. "If we keep playing the right way and keep putting a lot of pressure on their players, every single shift, we will get back to playing some pretty good hockey and creating a lot of turnovers, a lot of good chances."

"You want adversity. We had that in the Ottawa series as well, because it's going to happen again. And now we know what we need to do for the next time it happens."

Carolina swept that first-round series against the Senators and never trailed. That series started with a home shutout and then a 3-2 double-overtime win in Game 2. The Hurricanes started this series in similar fashion, first with a Game 1 shutout and then another 3-2 win in extra time on Hall's score at 18:54 of OT.

The Flyers host the next two games in the best-of-seven series, with Game 3 set for Thursday night.

The Hurricanes had at least one clear area to clean up: penalties. Carolina



Carolina Hurricanes' Taylor Hall (71) celebrates after his winning overtime goal against the Philadelphia Flyers during Game 2 of a Stanley Cup Playoffs second-round series Monday in Raleigh. Karl DeBlaker | AP Photo

committed eight — two for delay of game for putting pucks over the glass, one for too many men on the ice — and had a steady line of players heading to the penalty box.

The penalty kill was good enough to hold Philadelphia to a 1-for-7 showing Monday, pushing Carolina to 30 for 32 (.938) this postseason. Brind'Amour, however, said the rash of penalties "kills your team, kills your momentum, kills everything."

"We're taking too many," the coach said. "The ones that are self-inflicted for me — the over the glass, little tic-tac ones — you've got to avoid these. Too many men. We've had too many of those here. We've gotten away with it, because we've been able to kill it. But it's not how you draw it up."

As for Tocchet, Monday's loss offered a welcome sign of pushback after Game 1, which left the Flyers coach talking about the need for his players to react quicker against Carolina's aggression and speed, as well as to carry the puck

more into the tough areas of the ice.

"Mentally and physically I just thought we had more energy, and I think we believed that we can compete with this team," Tocchet said.

Philadelphia did that early, with Jamie Drysdale and Sean Couturier scoring in a 39-second span of the first period for the Flyers. And they outshot Carolina 15-8 in overtime to carry that competitiveness to the end despite playing again without injured regular-season goals leader Owen Tippett.

Yet this one ended with Hall hopping to his feet after being knocked to the ice by Denver Barkey as Hall charged toward the crease, then grabbing a loose puck kept alive by Jackson Blake to slip it past Dan Vladar's left skate for the winner.

That pushed Carolina to a 2-0 lead in

a best-of-seven series for the 10th time in the Hurricanes' eight-year playoff run under Brind'Amour. Carolina has won eight of the previous nine, the outlier being a seven-game loss to the New York Rangers in the 2022 second round.

Then again, the Flyers became the first NHL team to make the playoffs after being 10 points out with 22 or fewer games remaining, securing Philadelphia's first postseason appearance since 2020. Then the Flyers beat Pittsburgh in six games in the first round.

"Just the belief in the room, I think that really helps," Tocchet said. "The belief in the room of just staying with it. And we've been dead before, and we've climbed out of the grave. We keep hearing we're dead and dead, but the guys won't give up. So that's why I'm proud of them."

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF FAIRMONT

CLOSEOUT OF CDBG-INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS #15-I-3158, #17-I-3608, AND #20-I-3608

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Fairmont will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 6:00 pm, or as soon thereafter as the agenda will allow, at the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center located at 207 South Main Street, Fairmont, NC 28340 relative to the closeout of the Town's Community Development Block Grants 15-I-3158, 17-I-3608, and 20-I-3608 for Infrastructure (CDBG-I).

The original scope of work for the 15-I-3158 grant provided \$97,000 in CDBG-I funds (CDBG) for planning purposes such as grant administration, engineering report, and environmental review and all compliance plans related to the "Brown Street Pump Station Improvements" project in grant 20-I-3608. The low-to-moderate income percentage of the project area is 65.05 percent, and the poverty level for the entire town is 39.8 percent.

The original scope of work for the 20-I-3608 grant provided \$1,903,000 in CDBG-I funds (CDBG) to include the rehabilitation/replacement of the existing Brown Street pump station and the repair/replacement of the associated mechanical bar screen and grit removal systems which transports 100% of the Town's wastewater to the Town of Fairmont Regional WWTP via approximately 51,000 LF of force main. The project will also make improvements to an existing approximately 51,000 LF of discharge force main along NC Hwy 103 by replacing and adding the air valve along this line and provide for the replacement of approximately 800 LF of 18-inch failing gravity sewer outfall. The low-to-moderate income percentage of the project area is 65.05 percent, and the poverty level for the entire town is 39.8 percent.

The FY20 project was amended a first time to include a revised and reduced scope of work which resulted in negotiations with the low bidder. The revised scope of work includes the installation of a new triplex submersible pump station along the route of the existing force main, replacement & addition of air release valves, providing weatherproof shelters for the existing electrical controls and cleaning & coating of the existing conduit exposed in the wet well and valve vault at the Brown Street pump station. The existing electrical and pump control components will remain in service as they were planned for replacement in the original scope of work. In addition, the revised scope of work will include replacement of the existing Brown Street generator but incorporate use of the existing automatic transfer switch instead of a complete replacement of both components. The wet well and valve vault rehabilitation at the Brown Street pump station are not included in the revised project scope. The proposed benefit will remain unchanged at 65.05 percent low-to-moderate income.

The FY20 project was amended a second time to include revisions to the previously approved scope of work. The revised scope of work includes the purchase of a new two-ton hoist and frame (approximately \$32,000) and an autodialer (approximately \$2,000) for the new intermediate pump station located at 16619 NC130 Hwy E, Fairmont, NC. The Town does not currently have a means of removing the proposed pumps from the pump station when necessary for maintenance. In addition, the proposed pumps are too heavy to be safely removed with a typical davit crane. The addition of the autodialer, or some means of remote monitoring, is required by NCDEQ. The addition of the proposed auto-dialer is the most cost-effective solution that meets NCDEQ requirements. The amended scope of work does not require additional grant funds. The proposed benefit will remain unchanged at 65.05 percent low-to-moderate income.

The Town received additional grant funds provided by the FY17 program. The original scope of work for the 17-I-3608 grant provided \$500,000 in CDBG-I funds (CDBG) to include mobilization and materials for the pump station and additional grant administration activities. The overall project includes installation of a new triplex submersible pumps station along the route of the existing force main, replacement & addition of air release valves, providing weatherproof shelters for the existing electrical controls and cleaning & coating of the existing conduit exposed in the wet well and valve vault at the Brown Street pump station, and replacement of the generator at the Brown Street Pump Station. The LMI for this project is 65.05%.

The purpose of this public hearing is to review the expenditures and activities that have been accomplished through the Town's CDBG Infrastructure Grants (15-I-3158, 17-I-3608, and 20-I-3608). All activities have been completed, and the Town is in the process of closing out the grant. Total CDBG-I expenditures for the project are as follows:

CDBG-I Project 15-I-3158	
Administration:	\$72,000.00
Environmental Review:	\$12,500.00
Engineering Report:	\$12,500.00
CDBG-I Project 20-I-3608	
Administration:	\$39,599.00
Sewer:	\$1,745,254.00
CDBG-I Project 17-I-3608	
Sewer:	\$483,000.00
Administration:	\$17,000.00

Citizens will be given the opportunity to provide oral and written comment on the Town's use of CDBG funds. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend. For additional information or to submit written comments, please contact or send to Jennifer Larson, Town Clerk for the Town of Fairmont at (910) 628-9766. Persons with disabilities or who otherwise need assistance should contact Jennifer Larson, Town Clerk at (910) 628-9766 or for hearing impaired persons, 1-800-735-2962, by 48 hours prior to the Public Hearing date. Accommodations will be made for all who request assistance with participating in the public hearing.

This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Jennifer Larson, Town Clerk at (910) 628-9766 or at Fairmont Town Hall, 421 South Main Street, Fairmont, NC 28340, for accommodations for this request.

Esta información está disponible en español o cualquier otra lengua a petición. Entre en contacto con por favor la Jennifer Larson, Town Clerk (910) 628-9766, Fairmont Town Hall, 421 South Main Street, Fairmont, NC 28340, para las comodidades para esta petición por lo menos 48 horas antes de la audiencia.

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Yankees broadcast legend John Sterling dies at 87

Ronald Blum
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — John Sterling, the ebullient radio broadcaster known for extravagant, individualized home run calls and shouting “these Yankees win!” after each of New York’s victories, died Monday. He was 87.

Sterling had a heart attack and bypass surgery this winter and had returned to his home in Edgewater, New Jersey, where he was cared for by health aides. He died of complications Monday at Englewood Hospital, according to his former wife, Jennifer.

“John Sterling breathed life and excitement into Yankees games for 36 years while wearing his passion for baseball and the Yankees on his sleeve,” the team said in a statement. “He informed and entertained generations of fans with a theatrical and unapologetic style that was uniquely his own. John treasured his role as the voice of the New York Yankees, and his enthusiasm for the art of broadcasting perfectly complemented our city and our fans. The symmetry between John and his audience was both undeniable and magical, and his signature calls will resonate for as long as we put on pinstripes — especially after every Yankees win.”

Starting during down years with Dallas Green and Bucky Dent in the dugout and Don Mattingly trying vainly to push the Yankees back to glory, Sterling entertained fans through the dynasty days of Derek Jeter and



Bill Kostroun | AP File Photo

In this Sept. 25, 2009 file photo, New York Yankees broadcaster John Sterling is sitting in his booth before a game against the Boston Red Sox at Yankee Stadium in New York. Sterling died Monday at age 87.

Mariano Rivera and into the Aaron Judge era.

During a game against Boston on June 10, 2023, Sterling was hit by a foul ball off the bat of Boston’s Justin Turner, said “Ow! Ow! Ow! It really hit me. I didn’t know if it was coming back that far,” and without pause continued his game commentary.

“He brought that New York theater to the ballpark,” Judge said. “He was almost a kid up there in the broadcast talking about the game.”

Sterling called 5,651 games — 5,426 in the regular season plus 225 postseason — including 5,060 in a row from September 1989 through July 2019. He retired

in April 2024 just after the season’s start, citing fatigue, then returned to broadcast Yankees games during the 2024 postseason.

“One of a kind,” Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. “The soundtrack for so many New Yorkers and Yankee fans over the years.”

Boone pays tribute to Sterling’s mellifluous baritone at the start of each postgame celebration.

“My coaches look at me like I’m nuts,” he said. “I don’t even know if they know what I’m doing, but as soon as that final out is made and I go I get up to shake players’ hands I go: ‘Ballgame over! Yankees win! These Yankees win!’”

Sterling’s call for a player’s home run became as treasured a part of a Yankees identity as an initial set of pinstripes or a championship ring. As rookies prepared for debuts and former opponents arrived in trades, fans speculated how he would label the newcomer’s first longball.

From “Bernie goes boom! Bern, baby, Bern!” for Bernie Williams, to “It’s a Jeter jolt!” for Derek to “It’s an A-bomb from A-Rod!” for Alex Rodriguez, “The Giambino!” for Jason Giambi and “A thrilla from Godzilla!” for Hideki Matsui, Sterling created personal stamps resonating from the clubhouse to

the bleachers.

“It wasn’t meant that way. I just happened to do something for Bernie Williams. He hit a home run and I said, ‘Bern, baby, Bern!’ And it kind of mushroomed from there,” Sterling said at the time of his retirement. “But it never was intended for every player, because, frankly, I’m not smart enough to do something for every player. But I did the best I could, and it’s amazing what started out as — became so big.”

“I did say ‘A-bomb from A-Rod!’ when he hit a home run and I did say: ‘Robbie Canó, don’t you know,’ and I think those were pretty good,” Sterling said of calls for Rodriguez and Robinson Canó.

Suzyn Waldman, his broadcast partner for his final two decades, had no advance word of the home run calls.

“Sometimes I’d have to turn the sound off because I’d be laughing so hard,” she said Monday. “Players started to come to him and said: ‘I want one.’ Remember Nick Swisher? He called him once Jolly Old Saint Nick. And up comes Swisher to the back of the plane and said, ‘I don’t like that. I’m not Jolly old Saint Nick.’ That’s where Swishalicious came from.”

He also was known some viral bloopers: home run calls on balls that were caught, catches that weren’t, fair balls that were foul and other

foibles. Waldman said criticism stung.

“John had no guile,” she said. “He didn’t understand it when people were mean to him because he could never be mean to anybody.”

Waldman and current Yankees television broadcaster Michael Kay placed flowers on home plate during a tribute before Monday night’s game against Baltimore, and stadium organist Ed Alstrom played Broadway show tunes — Sterling’s favorite — throughout the game. New York players had “JS” stitched on the backs of their caps and the Bleacher Creatures included Sterling in their start-of-game Roll Call.

When Judge homered in the first inning, Kay called the action on the YES Network using Sterling’s exclamation: “A Judgian blast! Here comes the Judge!”

Born Josh Sloss on July 4, 1938, Sterling grew up in Manhattan and left college to work for radio stations. He had wanted to be a broadcaster since hearing “The Eddie Bracken Show” in the 1940s.

“I didn’t want to be Eddie Bracken. I wanted to be the guy who says: ‘Live from Hollywood!’” Sterling said. “And I knew that maybe a year or two later, but before puberty I knew I was going to be on the air. And it really helped me because I didn’t worry about school, because I knew what I was going to do. And it was a good thing because I was a terrible student — terrible.”

He started his radio career in 1960 at a station in Wellsville, New

York.

“I was preparing this all my life. It was easy,” he said. “I could always open my mouth and talk.”

Sterling cited Mel Allen, Russ Hodges and Jim Karvelas as influences. He wound up joining Allen in the history of memorable Yankees broadcasters along with Red Barber, Phil Rizzuto, Bill White and Frank Messer.

Sterling announced the NBA’s Washington Bullets and Morgan State football in his early years and gained notoriety for shrieking “Islanders goal! Islanders goal!” during the hockey team’s games from 1975-78. He broadcast for the NBA’s Nets from 1975-80.

Sterling’s first connection with the Yankees was during WMCA pre-game radio talk shows from 1971-78. He moved to Atlanta and worked for the Braves from 1982-87 and Hawks from 1981-89 before switching to the Yankees, where he replaced Hank Greenwald.

“I was his update person on WFAN in 1987 and he was doing a talk show,” Waldman said. “He stood up and he cupped his hand over his ear and he talked standing up for four hours and I said this must be a really interesting person and he could talk about anything. ... He also was a pretty nasty talk show host. People think it was nasty then — John would really yell at people and call them stupid.”

Sterling was seldom in the clubhouse and dressed in Brooks Brothers suits even though he was on the radio. A voracious reader, he would peruse a few pages during between-innings breaks.

He partnered with Jay Johnstone (1989-90), Joe Angel (1991), Michael Kay (1992-2001), Charley Steiner (2002-04) and Waldman (2005-24). Sterling and Waldman were inducted into the New York State Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2016.

He was married to the former Jennifer Contreas from 1993 to 2004. In addition to her, he is survived by triplets Bradford, Derek and Veronica, and daughter Abigail.

Sterling was proud of his unique style.

“Harry Caray told me some years ago,” he recalled in 2024 of the famous Chicago Cubs and White Sox broadcaster, “and he says, ‘John, all the guys are great. We just have different styles.’ And no one has a more different style than I have.”

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