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A Fresh Perspective

Local NEWS

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Chris Stiles | The Robesonian
Robeson County Commissioners Wixie Stephens, right, and David Edge, left, exchange comments during Monday's Board of Commissioners meeting in Lumberton.

Edge addresses social post as backlash persists

Chris Stiles
The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — Robeson County Board of Commissioners Chairman David Edge addressed a recent social media post and the public backlash that has followed with comments at the end of Monday's board meeting.

Edge gave what he called a defense of himself and his character, explained his intentions and expressed "regret" for the "disruption" caused by the situation in his 10-minute remarks.

Edge's comments came at the end of the meeting; earlier in the meeting, three individuals from Concerned Citizens for Better Government (CCBG) presented, condemning the post and asking the board to remove Edge as chairman. CCBG members also held signs with messages such as "resign," "Edge must go" and "no integrity"

during Edge's remarks. In late April, 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 ever took a shot at him." He deleted the post in "less than a day" — saying Monday that he did so at the request of Commissioner Faline Dial, who nodded affirmatively — and posted an apology a short time later.

Edge began Monday's remarks by saying he's gotten messages "that you would not want to hear" about his mother, father and daughters over the last two-plus weeks.

He continued by saying "I am not a racist," describing his experiences working alongside people of all races and backgrounds growing up on a farm in Cumberland County and as a

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John Oxendine, left, and the Lumbee Ambassadors lead the grand procession during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration Saturday in Pembroke.

Photos by Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

Once-in-a-lifetime celebration

Thousands commemorate Lumbee Tribe's federal recognition

Chris Stiles
The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — The Lumbee Tribe's event commemorating its federal recognition may have physically been within the campus of UNC Pembroke on Saturday. But the celebration, in a way, stretched nationwide. Members of the tribe and its allies traveled to Pembroke from as far away as Washington state as several thousand enjoyed music, food, a powwow, a drone light show and more during the day-long celebration.

"We came down for this today, because in the history of the tribe, this is historic, this is as big as it gets," said Ed Sturkey, a member of the Lumbee Tribe who lives in Akron, Ohio. "The fact that the federal government finally did right by the Lumbee is huge. ... This finally coming full circle, it's a great day. My mother's long gone to heaven, but as an homage to her, my aunts that were all Lumbee — it has a lot more meaning to me than what it started out to be. I enrolled in the tribe and it's my intention that it'll be a big part of my life moving forward, my children's lives, my siblings' lives."

While Sturkey spent the day making new friends within the community of his heritage, others said the celebration provided an opportunity to reconnect with old friends, comparing

the event to Lumbee Homecoming.

"I've really enjoyed being able to socialize and seeing people I haven't seen in a while, fellowshiping," said Mary Locklear, of Pembroke. "It's almost like the Fourth of July."

"(It's) community," said Sharkell Swett, of Pembroke, who wore a t-shirt that said "Lumbee Indian" and had just purchased a leopard-print "575" t-shirt from the Tribe's merchandise truck. "Seeing people I haven't seen in a long time, and just looking at everybody's face knowing that now, celebrating that we've been federally recognized, just looking at the smiles on their faces."

Five months after the tribe's federal recognition was signed into law on Dec. 18, 2025, the event reinforced the joyous reaction felt by many in tribal territory and beyond.

"It's been years of sacrifice from our ancestors," said Mary Locklear, who livestreamed much of the event's core program at home before coming to campus later in the day. "I feel like we're standing on their shoulders. It's a joy, and it's something that my children and grandchildren can now look to, can look forward. ... I think it's going to provide a lot of opportunities for our people, education, health; I think

See TRIBE | 9A



A participant dances at a powwow during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration Saturday in Pembroke.



U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis, left, presents Lumbee Tribal Chairman John Lowery, right, with the roll call vote tally from the Senate's passage of the National Defense Authorization Act, which included the Lumbee Fairness Act, on Dec. 17, 2025, during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration Saturday in Pembroke.



The Drowning Creek drum group performs at a powwow during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration Saturday in Pembroke.

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High 93, Low 67 – Sunny and hot; possible danger of dehydration and heatstroke while doing strenuous activities

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B SPORTS

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OBITUARIES

RENA ELAINE SWEENEY



Rena Elaine Sweeney, 87, of Wilmington, died on Wednesday, March 11, 2026.

She was born on Dec. 5, 1938, near Vicco, Kentucky to the late Elihue and Minerva Thomas.

Rena grew up in the Appalachian Mountains. A coal miner's daughter, her spirit of independence, was absorbed from that wild place and its people. She

married a fascinating military man, Boyd Gray Sweeney. Together they lived the gypsy life of a military family, moving from coast to coast more than once.

Rena graduated from the University of California with a B.S. in Social Work. She was a social worker in Robeson County and the Director of the Willie M. Program.

Rena was loving, patient, and fun. She cultivated a light and joyful attitude and spread that to family and coworkers.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her sister Ramona Evangeline Vining and a grandson Dalton Thomas Griffith.

Surviving are her children, Lesa Sweeney Griffith (Stephen), Jonny Renee Sweeney, Seth Thomas Sweeney (Terri), and Boyd Gray Sweeney Jr. She was "Nana" to her grandchildren, William Minnich Lide, Thomas Grey Sweeney, Thomas Wells Lide, Ian Jackson Sweeney, Tyler Renee Griffith, Cadey Elaine Sweeney and to her great-granddaughter, Darcy Grey Sweeney.

The family will receive friends and loved ones prior to the service on Thursday, May 21, 2026, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Floyd Memorial Chapel, 809 East Fifth Street in Lumberton. Following the visitation, a memorial service will be held at 6 p.m.

In lieu of flowers Rena would be delighted if you sent support to the Robeson County Animal Shelter, at rchsociety.com

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



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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!

Shibori Indigo Dyed Scarf Class, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., May 30: The Robeson Art Guild is hosting a workshop for learning how to use indigo dye to create a one-of-a-kind scarf. Other items may be acceptable for dying, so visit the website listed below for more details about the workshop. The fee is \$58 for members of the Guild and \$65 for nonmembers. Seating is limited to 12, so register early.

One Year Anniversary Celebration, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., May 30: Congratulations to Cakes So Good Bake Shop as they celebrate their FIRST anniversary. Free hotdogs are available all day long and \$1 cupcakes. A business built on Faith, fueled by passion and grateful for the loving support of the community is giving back. Visit and enjoy this

delightful celebration. **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.

Revisiting the Revolution in Robeson, 6 p.m., June 8: Historian and Storyteller, Blake Tyner, is honoring America's 250th Anniversary by presenting "Revisiting the Revolution in Robeson", an event of storytelling of some of the history of Robeson County. The event is free and open to the public. Please RSVP by June 4th by contacting Blake Tyner at Blake@blaketyner.com or 910-837-5504.

Hairspray, 7 p.m., June 10: Hairspray, winner of eight Tony Awards, including Best Musical, is a family-friendly musical, piled bouffant-high with laughter, romance and deliriously tuneful songs. Hairspray is a musical based on John Waters' 1988 film about a teenager named Tracy Turnblad who dreams of dancing on a local TV show in 1962 Baltimore.

Tickets: Individuals \$30, Seniors (60+) and Military \$27. Students \$15. Group discount rates of \$25 each for groups of 10 or more when purchased in advance are available by contacting the box office.

Wet Felting Class, 12

p.m. to 4 p.m., June 13: The Robeson Art Guild is hosting a wet felting class with instructor Annette Zeller. Participants will learn the wet felting process and create 2 colorful one-of-a-kind wallets. Space is limited to 12 participants. The fee for the class is \$58 for members and \$65 for nonmembers. Register early by following the RAG weblink listed below.

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.

Memorial Day 'Click It or Ticket' campaign reminds drivers to buckle up

Staff report

RALEIGH — As Memorial Day travelers hit North Carolina roads for the unofficial start of summer, state and local law enforcement agencies are reminding everyone to buckle up for every trip, every time.

The Governor's Highway Safety Program's annual Memorial Day "Click It or Ticket" campaign began Monday and runs through May

31. The statewide initiative combines public awareness efforts with increased law enforcement patrols aimed at encouraging seat belt use and reducing preventable crash deaths.

"Wearing a seatbelt remains one of the simplest and most effective ways to protect yourself in a crash," said GHSP Director Mark Ezzell. "Taking just a few seconds to buckle up can

save your life and the lives of others in your vehicle."

During last year's enforcement campaign, law enforcement officers issued 4,762 citations for people not wearing the proper restraints. In 2024, more than 460 people were killed and 1,027 others seriously injured because they were not wearing seat belts or child safety seats.

Throughout the campaign, drivers can expect increased enforcement of North Carolina's seat belt law across the state.

Law enforcement officers will be working to ensure drivers and passengers are properly restrained, especially during the busy holiday travel period.

The Memorial Day holiday historically marks one of the busiest travel weekends of the year, bringing heavier traffic to highways and local roads statewide. Officials encourage drivers to plan ahead, avoid distractions, obey speed limits and make safety a priority behind the wheel.

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FROM THE LEGISLATURE

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee releases BUILD America 250 Act

WASHINGTON — House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Highways and Transit Chairman David Rouzer (R-NC7) issued the following statement Sunday after the Committee released its bipartisan, five-year surface transportation reauthorization bill that invests in America's roads, bridges, transit, rail transportation and highway and motor carrier safety programs.



Rouzer

"Our nation's infrastructure is the silent engine of American productivity, and it cannot afford to sit idle," said Congressman Rouzer. "The BUILD America 250 Act brings commonsense fundamentals back to the forefront, strengthening our roads, highways, and bridges while ensuring the strategic, responsible use of hard-earned taxpayer dollars to get even more projects delivered. This bill is the culmination of years of hard work and input from Members of Congress and the public, including job creators around the nation, to pass a surface transportation bill that meets the fundamental infrastructure needs of the country. I look forward to working with Chairman Graves, Ranking Member Larsen, and my other colleagues on both sides of the aisle to get this critical legislation across the finish line."

The Building Unrivaled Infrastructure and Long-term Development for America's 250th (BUILD America 250) Act emphasizes moving people, goods, and freight safely and efficiently across the country. The bill provides the largest ever investment in America's bridges, focuses on proven surface transporta-

tion infrastructure programs, provides passenger rail investments and reforms, improves rail safety, ensures transportation projects and programs are more efficient, encourages innovation and provides the first ever autonomous commercial motor vehicle framework.

The bill also strengthens the long-term stability of the Highway Trust Fund by ensuring highway users contribute to the maintenance and improvement of our roads. The BUILD America 250 Act injects the Highway Trust Fund with its first new stream of revenue for infrastructure in over three decades. While there is still much to be done to address its solvency, this legislation is a step in the right direction.

To prepare for the BUILD America 250 Act, the Committee spent the last 18 months holding numerous hearings, including several chaired by Congressman Rouzer. The Committee also solicited input, ideas, and priorities for consideration from all Members of the House and infrastructure job creators across the nation — over 11,000 individual policy requests were submitted in total.

The Committee will announce further plans for a legislative markup of the bill, with the ultimate goal of sending legislation from Congress to the president's desk before the current surface transportation authorization expires on Sept. 30, 2026.

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

Fairmont to hold Memorial Day program

Devin Hammonds
The Robesonian

FAIRMONT — The Town of Fairmont will host what Mayor Charles E. Kemp describes as "the finest program in the county" for Memorial Day on Monday at the Heritage Community Center.

The patriotic event, which will take place by the flag at the community center, will mark the 20th anniversary of the program, which began in 2006.

According to the mayor, this year's celebration will focus heavily on student participation. Speakers will include students from the ROTC program, including Cadet Amber Stone. Several students are also scheduled to present a poem as part of the ceremony.

"This program revolves all around students," the mayor said, emphasizing the community's continued support for youth involvement.

Residents of Fairmont and surrounding communities are encouraged to attend the special anniversary celebration and join in honoring the students and the program's two decades of tradition.

"I encourage citizens of Fairmont and surrounding county to join us in celebrating this Memorial Day," Kemp said.

Elsewhere, the town of St. Pauls will host a Memorial Day program at 10 a.m. at the town's Veterans Memorial Park, though details are incomplete at the time of publication.

Devin Hammonds is an intern for The Robesonian.

Border Belt schools say they need more local money to fill budget gaps

Heidi Perez-Moreno
Border Belt Independent

The Robeson County school board is considering asking the county for an additional \$5.5 million, which would bring the total to about \$20.1 million.

The requested increase would include \$2.5 million for custodians, substitute teachers, and school resource officers, Erica Setzer, chief financial officer for Public Schools of Robeson County, said during a finance committee meeting on May 6. She said \$2 million would help fund services for students with special needs, and \$1 million would be used for transportation.

Robeson County ranks last in the state for per-pupil spending, which Setzer said has remained flat for two years.

Tre' Britt, chairman of the county school board, said that's unacceptable.

"This is 100 percent to blame on our county commissioners," Britt said during the finance committee meeting. "That doesn't put us anywhere close to where we need to be."

If commissioners approve the proposed request, per-pupil spending would increase from \$719.05 to \$861.60, Setzer said.

North Carolina is the only state in the country without a budget, although the state's top Republican lawmakers said last week they reached a deal that cuts taxes and raises teachers' base pay by an average 8%.

Critics have said the delayed budget has hurt counties — and schools.

"I think we need to be really clear that no state budget means that they've given an across

the board cut to every program and service in North Carolina," Alexandra Forter Sirotta, executive director of the NC Budget and Tax Center, said during a town hall in Durham this month, The Indy reported. "They have failed to allow funding to keep up with rising costs."

Federal changes are also a factor. A provision of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act passed some operational costs of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program onto states, which North Carolina has passed on to counties. Bladen County faces more than \$397,000 in new administrative costs for the program, commonly known as food stamps for low-income families.

Rural counties typically have weaker property tax bases than their urban counterparts, which can pose additional challenges to funding services, including local jails, parks and recreation, and schools.

The Bladen County school board is asking the county for an additional \$2.1 million to cover increased costs and gaps in federal and state funding.

The district wants \$11.3 million from the county for the 2026-2027 fiscal year that begins July 1. That's up from the \$9.1 million the county has set aside for schools each of the past three years.

"Costs are rising but the financial side of it is kind of staying flat," schools superintendent Jason Atkinson said during a recent meeting. "It makes for a difficult environment to be in."

But county leaders say they are also struggling to keep up. Commissioners

are considering whether to put a quarter-cent sales tax hike on the November ballot.

"We've cut back on any expenditures that we felt weren't necessary. I'm working on some things with our board so we can cut our own fat," said Cameron McGill, chairman of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners.

As county commissioners across the state work to balance upcoming budgets, they are tasked with addressing schools' needs. The state pays teacher salaries, but counties supplement pay, build schools, and fill budget gaps.

Tensions between county and school leaders sometimes arise; some say the situation is especially pressing this year because money is tight due to federal and state changes.

Bladen County would lose \$496,000 if a proposed one-year moratorium on property tax revaluations becomes law, according to a fiscal impact study. The state Senate recently approved the legislation in hopes of offering relief to homeowners whose property values have skyrocketed. The state House has not taken up its own version of the bill.

Scotland County would lose \$482,000 under the moratorium, the study shows.

The Scotland County school board isn't asking for a big increase in funding from the county. It wants an additional \$186,000 for an activity bus, \$150,000 for three maintenance vehicles, and \$100,000 for athletic programs.

Columbus County Schools is asking for nearly \$11 million for the

upcoming year, up slightly from the \$10.7 million it received this year

Bladen school leaders say they are asking the county for more money to fund hard-to-staff positions, supplement pay for athletic coaches, and give

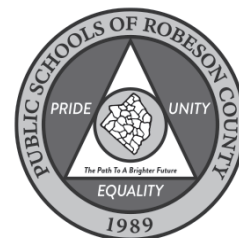
pre-kindergarten teachers bonuses.

Atkinson has said the growth of charter schools is pulling money away from public schools.

Bladen County Schools has been working to cut costs. The school board

voted earlier this year to close East Arcadia School, which has seen declining enrollment.

Heidi Perez-Moreno covers education and more at the Border Belt Independent. She is a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill and previously worked at The Washington Post.



The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA-Part B, Public Law 108.446) Project is presently being amended. The Project describes the special education programs that the Public Schools of Robeson County proposes for Federal funding for the 2026-2027 School Year. Interested persons are encouraged to review amendments to the Project and make comments concerning the implementation of special education under this Federal Program. All comments will be considered prior to submission of the amended Project to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh, North Carolina. The IDEA-Part B Project is open to the public for review and comments during the week of May 28 and 29, 2026 in the office of Tracie L. Hunt, Director of EC Programs located at 100 Hargrave Street Lumberton, NC 28358.

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It Pays to ADVERTISE!

ROBESONIAN EDITORIAL

Lumbee celebration should continue

The event held Saturday by the Lumbee Tribe to celebrate its full federal recognition was of the size and scope of few things seen in recent memory here in Robeson County. Which is exactly as it should have been.

A “once-in-a-lifetime celebration,” as a headline on the front page of today’s newspaper calls it, was an apropos way to celebrate the full federal recognition obtained by the Tribe back in December — something that only happens once, and is the biggest and most transformative event in the history of the Lumbee people. While that event is now a part of history, there is every reason for the spirit of celebration to continue.

Saturday had a little bit of everything. Five current members of Congress and representatives from several ally tribes were among the dignitaries present for the event’s core program, which was three hours long but was not excessive in the context of the moment. This included lessons on the history that led to this moment, on the legislative process that got the Lumbee Fairness Act over the finish line and the Lumbee’s relationship with tribes such as the Catawba, Caddo and Shinnecock, among others.

A powwow showcased colorful regalia, and the prominence of young people in particular in that arena shows that the Tribe’s culture and traditions are in good hands in the coming decades.

Food and craft vendors showcased the culinary and artisanal culture of the Lumbee. And the drone light show provided a unique exclamation point at day’s end, celebrating the Tribe’s history and culture by utilizing the technology of today and tomorrow as a huge crowd oohed and aahed around the pond on UNC Pembroke’s quad.

After Chairman John Lowery said in the days immediately following federal recognition being signed into law that a big celebration would be happening in the coming weeks, some may have been surprised when the May date this celebration was announced. But an event like this took time to plan, and ultimately the Lumbee Tribe and UNC Pembroke should be commended for how well-organized the event was, and how much fun everyone was able to have across campus all day long.

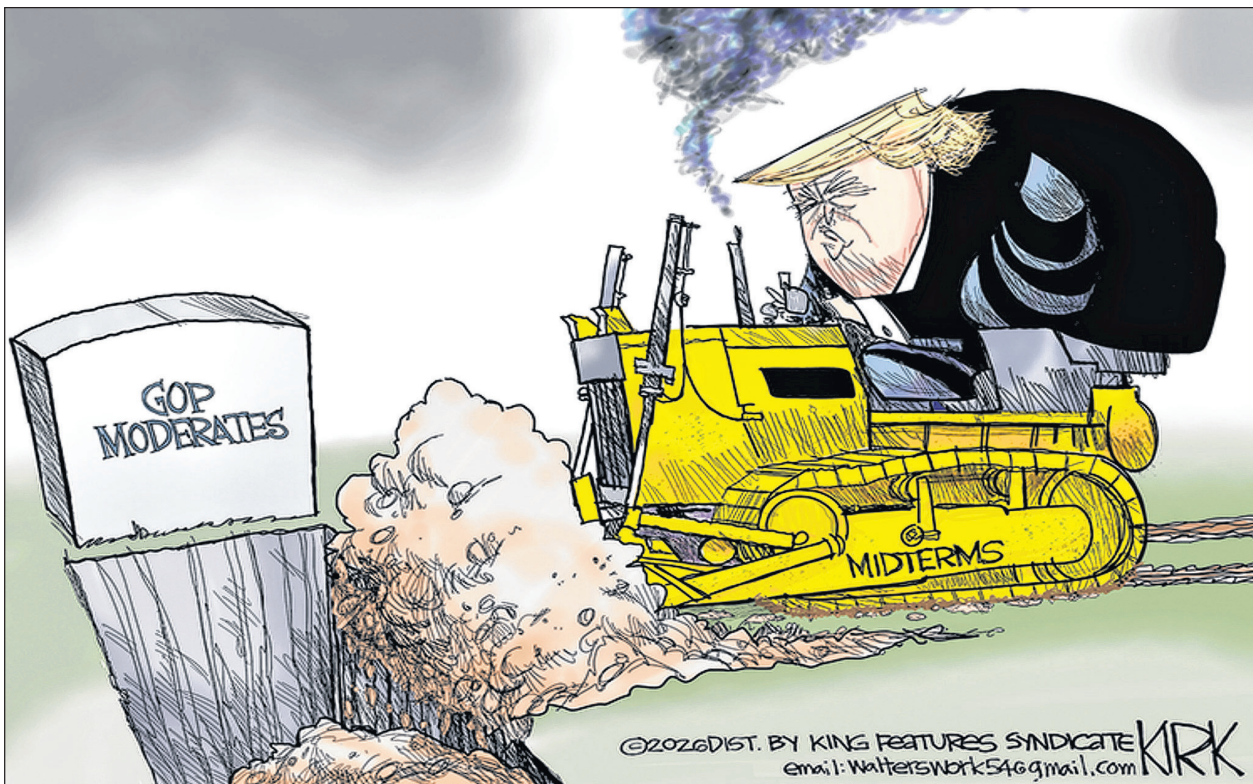
And, after the initial afterglow of recognition has perhaps started to fade slightly for some as the time since Dec. 18, 2025 slowly begins to pass, Saturday provided a reminder of what a joyous moment in time this is for the Lumbee Tribe, one that should continue to be celebrated as the transition into its new reality continues through 2026 and beyond.

To that end, as the June 23 vote on the amendment to the Tribal Constitution to authorize and regulate gaming in tribal territory looms, and as two distinct factions in support and in opposition have formed, Saturday’s event remained mostly free from the politics of that upcoming election. Instead, in a Homecoming-like setting, the Lumbee people came together as one community to commemorate the end of a 137-year quest for federal recognition, and were able to rejoice in that collective achievement while putting aside difference on what the next steps after recognition should be.

As the country that now recognizes the Lumbee Tribe as part of its Native American heritage prepares to celebrate its 250th anniversary this summer, perhaps that can be a lesson for all Americans on how to celebrate in spite of divisions.

Back here in Robeson County, there are major decisions to be made, by the Lumbee people in the gaming amendment vote and Tribal leadership in other matters pertaining to recognition and beyond. These issues undoubtedly bring on differences of opinion — go read social media chatter about the gaming vote, for instance, and you’ll see a lot of that — and that passion is understandable, both because Lumbees care so much about their community and because these are points of great importance.

But as 2026 continues, the Lumbee community needs to ensure that those debates remain secondary to this shared experience of celebration after the recognition that the Tribe fought so long and so hard for finally became a reality.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ROBESON COUNTY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NORTH CAROLINA (State Offices)

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

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

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

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

UNITED STATES (Federal Offices)

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

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

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

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

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

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

White House Switchboard, 202-456-1414.

HIS VIEW

Affordable energy fosters economic growth

RALEIGH — As we compete with other states to attract companies, entrepreneurs and families, North Carolina has many advantages. We have bountiful natural and human resources. Our tax and regulatory systems foster rather than impede investment and growth. In most cases, our infrastructure and public services compare favorably with those of our rivals.

One area of concern, however, is energy. According to a new American Legislative Exchange Council report, North Carolina had the 28th-lowest average retail price for electricity in the country last year. Our neighboring states of Virginia (14th), South Carolina (17th), Tennessee (18th), and Georgia (26th) all had better rankings.

The Tar Heel State fared better on another measure in the ALEC report: motor fuels. In 2025, the average price for a gallon of regular gasoline was \$2.83, the 12th-lowest. Gas prices in South Carolina and Tennessee were lower. Virginia’s and Georgia’s were higher. When I used an American Automobile Association tool to find more-updated figures, I found that as of mid-May, the average price in North Carolina was \$4.16 a gallon, vs. \$4.04 in Georgia, \$4.13 in South Carolina, \$4.16 in Tennessee and \$4.30 in Virginia.

Why are we better off on motor fuels than electricity? One explanation is North Carolina’s renewable-portfolio standard. Even after it was amended to (rightly) include nuclear power as a low-emission source of power, the regulation continues to obligate North Carolinians to pay more for electricity than do consumers in states with more reasonable targets (South Carolina, for example) or no targets at all (Georgia, Tennessee, and other competitors such as Kentucky and Texas).

That’s not only the only variable that matters, however. Florida and Alabama lack renewable-portfolio standards but have higher prices than North Carolina. Utah and Virginia have standards and lower prices. Other regulations, growth rates, economic structure and proximity to sources of lower-cost fuels affect prices, too.

One potential explanation that has gained political traction in recent months is that demand from newly built data centers is driving up electricity prices.

North Carolina isn’t the only state where some localities are trying to slow or halt the construction of data centers. But Thomas Pyle and Daniel Simmons of the Institute for Energy Research say that, so far at least, this explanation doesn’t square with the facts.

“There is no statistically significant correlation between the number of data centers in a state and its current electricity prices,” they concluded in a recent study. In fact, prices in the top 10 states for data centers “are virtually identical to the average across other states. Furthermore, there is no statistically significant relationship between data center concentration and faster increases in electricity rates.” Given the economic benefits of data centers, then, blocking their construction is unwise.

One of my John Locke Foundation colleagues, Jon Sanders, points out that when the General Assembly overrode Gov. Josh Stein’s veto last year to modify North Carolina’s clean-energy goals, it set up households and businesses to save as much as \$13 billion on their electric bills. Future ALEC rankings may find our state improving dramatically while less-responsible states post higher prices.

Still, Sanders recommends formally converting North Carolina’s carbon goals from mandatory to aspirational while also requiring that any retirement of baseload generation — that is, power not reliant on intermittent sources such as sunshine and wind — be replaced with an equal or greater amount of new baseload generation. In practical terms, that would have power companies replace coal-fired plants with nuclear or natural-gas plants.

Sanders also favors an “Only Pay for What You Get” Act that would allow utilities to recover the costs of new plants only to the extent the electricity they generate is dependable regardless of weather conditions and time of day. Such a policy would “incentivize least-cost and reliable generation,” he wrote, reflecting the fact that “electricity is a basic human need.”

It is that, to be sure, but its affordability is also a critical factor in economic development. We can’t afford to get this wrong.

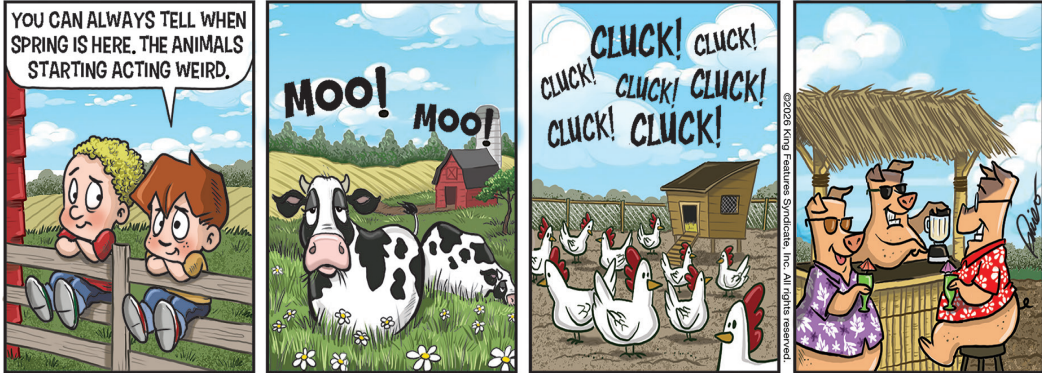
John Hood is a John Locke Foundation board member. His latest books, *Mountain Folk* and *Forest Folk*, combine epic fantasy with early American history (FolkloreCycle.com).

BE A ROBESONIAN OPINION SHAPER

If you can express an opinion in 800 words or fewer — once every three months — you probably have what it takes to be a Robesonian Opinion Shaper. Contact Editor Chris Stiles at cstiles@robesonian.com.

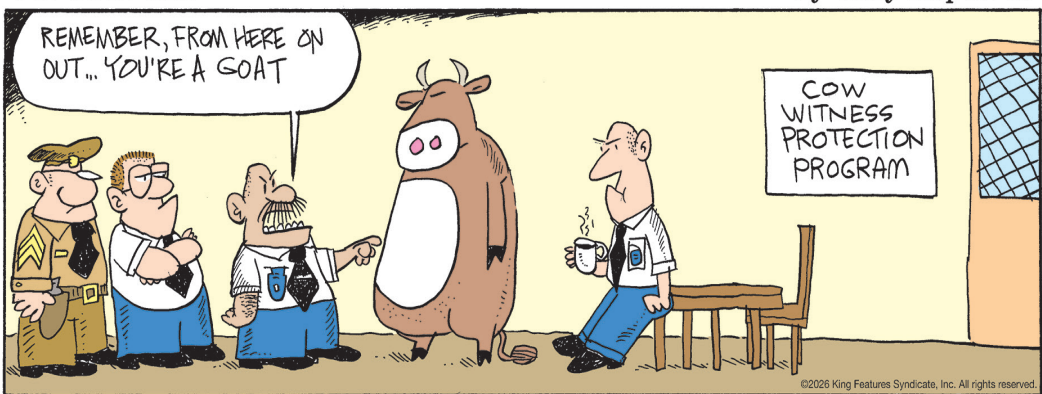
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



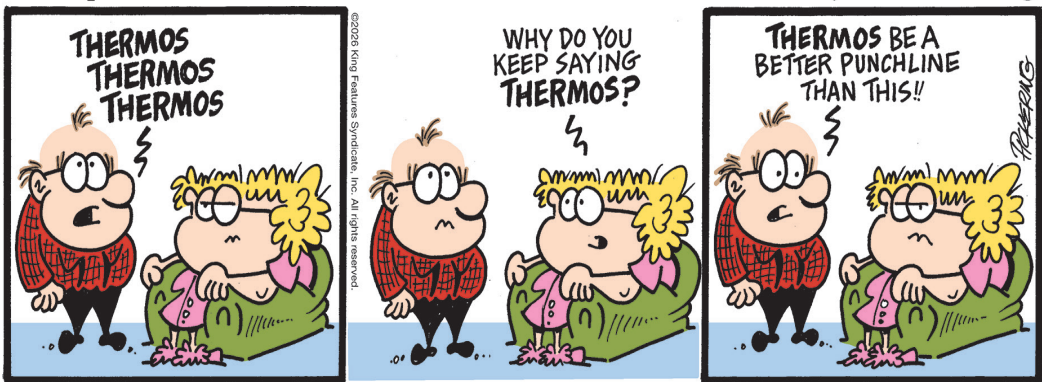
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



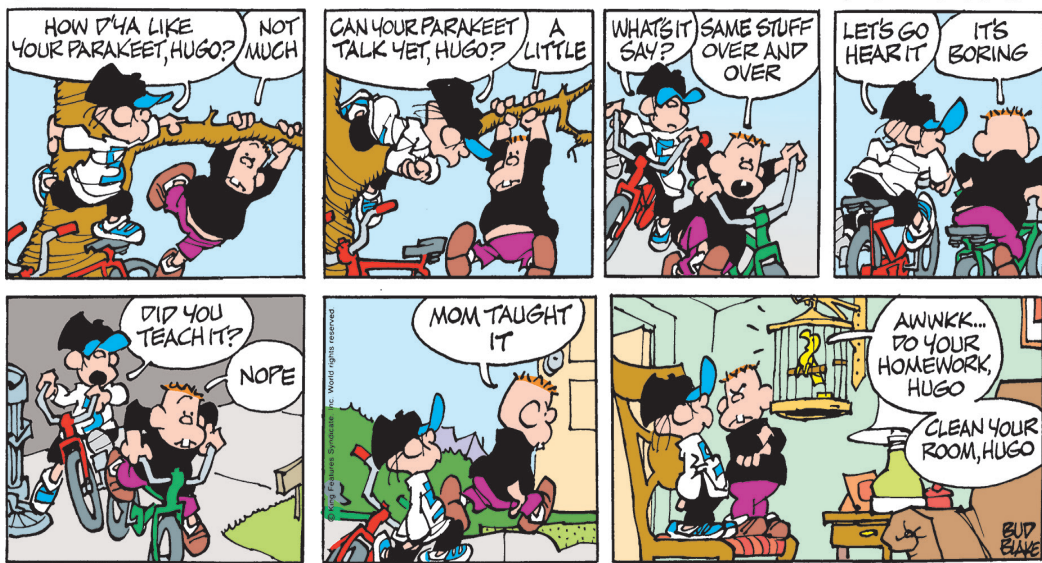
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Millholland



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: V equals G

HX MTFHXN MTDO VTZPF, BQTI

HF IQP APTFI TZNYXI JPNJAP

TDP NCAHVTIPO IN CPI?

ZHXHZYZ BTVPD.

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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!

Ring
MIHC

Mad
NANIES

Plush
EXLUDE

Piece
CELSI

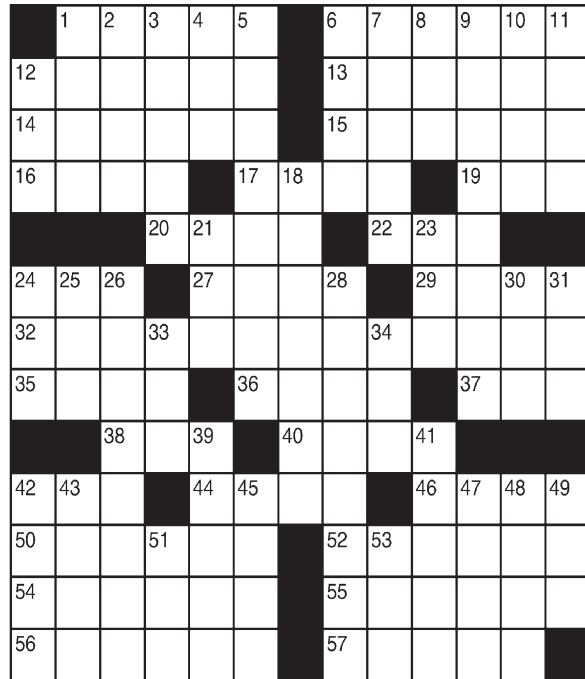
TODAY'S WORD

"Whoever said there's nothing new under the sun never heard your _____ for being late!"

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Detox center
- 6 Gives up
- 12 Swiss metropolis
- 13 Unexpected
- 14 Ingratiate
- 15 Stahl of "60 Minutes"
- 16 Disposition
- 17 "La — Bonita"
- 19 Casual shirt
- 20 Third son
- 22 Capote nickname
- 24 Canine greeting
- 27 Furnace fuel
- 29 Branches
- 32 President of South Africa, 1994-1999
- 35 Pronto
- 36 Monumental
- 37 Half dozen
- 38 Fannie —
- 40 Former Laker Lamar
- 42 Sashimi fish
- 44 Neatnik's nightmare
- 46 Jazzy James
- 50 Legislative group
- 52 Camelot king
- 54 Aerie newborn
- 55 Organize an art show



- 9 Birds of prey
- 10 Duel tool
- 11 Ocular woe
- 12 Tiara jewel
- 18 Rug cleaner
- 21 — friendly
- 23 "Awesome, dude!"
- 24 Navarro of "The View"
- 25 Scale members
- 26 Pink wading bird
- 28 Relaxed
- 30 Roman 1051
- 31 Coltrane's instrument

DOWN

- 1 Nevada city
- 2 Within (Pref.)
- 3 Obeys
- 4 "Selma" director DuVernay
- 5 Male singing voice
- 6 Humpty's perch
- 7 Skip — (flutter)
- 8 Tax-collecting org.
- 9 Aromatherapy spot
- 10 Sgt., e.g.
- 11 Laud of cosmetics
- 12 Paris subway
- 13 Cruising
- 14 Lettuce unit
- 15 Reply to "Shall we?"
- 16 Spring meltdown
- 17 Mild rebukes
- 18 "How — you?"
- 19 Cleric's tunic
- 20 Scamper

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

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

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FiveSpot™

Phonetics

S	O	U	N	D	Coastal inlet
					Hunting companion
					Accord maker
					Keep for yourself
					A hearty green
					Keep track

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.sprouts-puzzle.com

02640

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. FOOD & DRINK: When fish eggs are served as food, what are they called?
2. LITERATURE: Which Dr. Seuss book about trying new foods has a character called Sam-I-Am?
3. GEOGRAPHY: What is the most populated country in Africa?
4. U.S. STATES: Which state's nickname is The Pine Tree State?
5. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What kind of animal produces mohair?
6. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many times does a standard dinner fork have?
7. FOOD & DRINK: In what year was Kool-Aid introduced?
8. TELEVISION: Which animated TV show features a baby named Stewie?
9. MOVIES: What is the name of the character played by John Travolta in "Saturday Night Fever"?
10. SCIENCE: What is a googol?

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EXCUSES

Today's Word

- 3. Deluxe; 4. Slice
- 1. Chime; 2. Insnare

SCRAMBLERS

C	H	A	R	T
C	H	A	R	D
H	O	A	R	D
H	O	N	D	A
H	O	N	D	A
H	O	N	D	A
S	O	U	N	D

Solution

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

In casino card games, what are obligated to bet?
Minimum wager.

CryptoQuip

- Answers
1. Roe
 2. "Green Eggs and Ham"
 3. Nigeria
 4. Maine
 5. Angora goats
 6. Four
 7. 1927
 8. "Family Guy"
 9. Tony Manero
 10. The digit "1" followed by 100 zeroes

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Trivia Answers

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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 DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

OF Robert Easterling DECEASED Clerk's File 26E000169-770 The undersigned having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Robert Easterling, Deceased, late of Robeson County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate to present them to the attorney listed below on or before August 23, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment to the Estate at the office of the attorney listed below.
 May 20, 2026.
 Tamica Hall
 Administrator of the Estate of Robert Easterling
 SABBINA LESHORE CUMMINGS
 ATTORNEY FOR THE ESTATE
 P.O. Box 13
 LUMBERTON, NC 28359
 910-416-2820

5/20 5/27 6/3 6/10 2026

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 MARY CATHERINE LAMBERT TYLER DECEASED
 FILE NUMBER: 26 E 000291-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the estate of MARY CATHERINE LAMBERT TYLER, 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 17th 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 13th day of MAY 2026.

MARY ELIZABETH LOCKLEAR
 206 POLLYS LANE
 MAXTON NC 28364

5/13 5/20 5/27 6/3 2026

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO.: 26CV001924-770

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

ANY AND ALL ASSIGNEES, HEIRS AT LAW AND DEVEISEES OF DAVID HENRY HAMILTON, Owner; and CRYSTAL GRAHAM, GUARDIAN AD LITEM OF ANY AND ALL ASSIGNEES, HEIRS AT LAW AND DEVEISEES OF DAVID HENRY HAMILTON; Defendants.

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

TO: ANY AND ALL ASSIGNEES, HEIRS AT LAW AND DEVEISEES OF DAVID HENRY HAMILTON, Owner; and CRYSTAL GRAHAM, GUARDIAN AD LITEM OF ANY AND ALL ASSIGNEES, HEIRS AT LAW AND DEVEISEES OF DAVID HENRY HAMILTON; Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action, and notice of service by Publication begins the 6th day of May, 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: David Henry Hamilton, Title Reference: Deed Book 677, Page 009, PIN No: 101803003, Tax Account No: 14310003, Property Location: Lumberton Township, Hestertown Rd. Lots 6-9 of Map Book 5 Page 45 - Division 1 of Troy Musselwhite Farm.
 In Lumberton Township, Robeson County, North Carolina, on the east side of the Old Creek Road, and the west side of Old Hayeswood Street: Being all of Lot Numbers Six (6), Seven (7), Eight (8) and Nine (9), as shown and designated upon a map entitled, "Division No. 1 of Troy Musselwhite's Farm at Hestertown", prepared by L.T. Bryan, under date of February 7, 1942, and recorded in Book of Maps No. 5 at page 45, Robeson County Registry. AND BEING Lots Nos. 6, 7, 8, and 9, a portion of the lots conveyed from Joe Hardin to Roy Junious Hunt by deed dated December 7, 1977 and recorded in Book 424 at Page 56 of the Robeson County Registry.

This property is subject to all Right of Ways and Easements of record.

This the 1st day of May, 2026.
 Edward K. Brooks
 Attorney for Plaintiff
 State Bar No. 32602
 550 N. Chestnut Street
 Lumberton, NC 28358
 910-671-3060 x7353

5/6 5/13 5/20 2026

Public Notice

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA-Part B, Public Law 108.446) Project is presently being amended. The Project describes the special education programs that Southeastern Academy Charter School proposes for Federal funding for the 25-26 school year. Interested persons are encouraged to review amendments to the Project and make comments concerning the implementation of special education under this Federal Program. All comments will be considered prior to submission of the amended Project to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh, North Carolina. The IDEA-Part B Project is open to the public for review and comments during the week of June 1-5, 2026 in the office of Mrs. Karen Jacobs, Director of EC Programs located at 12251 N Hwy 41 N. Lumberton, NC 28358.

5/20 5/23 5/27 2026

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Information Technology and Computer Support Services / HACL-2026-040:

Proposal Due Date: **June 2, 2026 at 02:00pm.**
 Proposal Documents can be located at: <https://www.lumbertonhousing.org/bids-solicitations-rfps>
 Contact: Steven Harrell at: 910-802-4437 or sharrell@lumbertonhousing.org

5/20 5/27 2026



LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

OF BILLY COX, DECEASED Clerk's File 26E000520-770 The undersigned having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Billy Cox, Deceased, late of Robeson County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate to present them to the attorney listed below on or before August 24, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment to the Estate at the office of the attorney listed below.
 May 20, 2026.

Wallace Dixon Cox, Executor of the Estate of Billy Cox

ROBERT E. PRICE,
 ATTORNEY FOR THE ESTATE
 P. O. BOX 630
 LUMBERTON, NC 28359
 910-739-8172

5/20 5/27 6/3 6/10 2026

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

26CV001897-770

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

ANY AND ALL ASSIGNEES, HEIRS AT LAW AND DEVEISEES OF THERESA RENEE HAMILTON, Owner; and CRYSTAL GRAHAM, GUARDIAN AD LITEM OF ANY AND ALL ASSIGNEES, HEIRS AT LAW AND DEVEISEES OF THERESA RENEE HAMILTON; Defendants.

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

TO: ANY AND ALL ASSIGNEES, HEIRS AT LAW AND DEVEISEES OF THERESA RENEE HAMILTON, Owner; and CRYSTAL GRAHAM, GUARDIAN AD LITEM OF ANY AND ALL ASSIGNEES, HEIRS AT LAW AND DEVEISEES OF THERESA RENEE HAMILTON; Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action, and notice of service by Publication begins the 6th day of May, 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: Theresa Renee Hamilton. Title Reference: Deed Book 517, Page 255. PIN No: 101803004. Tax Account No: 14930000. Property Location: Lumberton Township, Hestertown Rd. Lots 10-13 of Map Book 5 Page 45 - Division 1 of Troy Musselwhite Farm.
 Being Lot Numbers Ten (10), Eleven (11), Twelve (12) and Thirteen (13) in Division Number One (1) of the Troy Musselwhite Farm at Hestertown, according to a Map or Plat of said division as made by L.T. Bryan, Surveyor, on February 7, 1942, and which map or plat is fully registered in Book of Official Maps Number Five (5) at page Forty-five (45), Robeson County Registry; reference to said map or plat is hereby made for a more complete and particular description of said lots.

Being the same property described in Deed dated July 12, 1982, from Lee Roy Hamilton and wife, Leatha H. Hamilton to Theresa Renee Hamilton (Book 517 Page 255), and in Deed dated May 23, 1979, from W.D. Reynolds and wife, Evelyn M. Reynolds to Lee Roy Hamilton and wife, Leatha H. Hamilton (Book 455 Page 159), as appears of record in the Robeson County, North Carolina, Registry.

This property is subject to all Right of Ways and Easements of record.
 Plaintiff seeks to extinguish any and all claim or interest that you may have in the property. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty days after the date of the first publication date, being forty days after May 6th, 2026 or by June 15th, 2026, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.
 This 29th day of April, 2026.
 K. Robert Davis
 Attorney for Plaintiff
 State Bar No. 22911
 550 N. Chestnut Street
 Lumberton, NC 28358
 910-671-3060 x7353

5/6 5/13 5/20 2026

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION 25CV004188-770

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

ANDRE ALLEN WHITE, Plaintiff,

VS.

NATASHA PAOLA CRUZ, Defendant.

TO: NATASHA PAOLA CRUZ

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

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

This the 6th day of MAY, 2026

GRAHAM LAW FIRM, PLLC
 Crystal L. Graham
 Attorney for the Petitioners
 PO Box 965
 Lumberton, NC 28359
 910.735.2876 Telephone
 910.735.2879 Fax

5/6 5/13 5/20 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political

Subdivision of the State of North Carolina; Plaintiff,
 VS.

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION

NOTICE OF HEIRS OF GLORIA JOYCE MCDOWELL MCLAURIN HENDERSON (DECEASED: 06.14.1999) AND HUSBAND, EARL CURTIS HENDERSON (DECEASED: 11.09.2014,) CITY OF LUMBERTON, NORTH CAROLINA, LIENHOLDER AND FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION, UNIDED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA,) LIENHOLDER,))

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

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

HEIRS OF GLORIA JOYCE MCDOWELL MCLAURIN HENDERSON (DECEASED: 06.14.1999) AND HUSBAND, EARL CURTIS HENDERSON (DECEASED: 11.09.2014,) CITY OF LUMBERTON, NORTH CAROLINA, LIENHOLDER AND FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION, UNIDED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA,) LIENHOLDER, AND If they be deceased then their legal representatives, heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown,) resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved corporations, who might have or claim any right or title to the property which is the subject of this action; Defendants.

Pursuant to the requirements of G.S. 105-375(c)(4)b, notice is hereby given to: HEIRS OF GLORIA JOYCE MCDOWELL MCLAURIN HENDERSON (DECEASED: 06.14.1999) AND HUSBAND, EARL CURTIS HENDERSON (DECEASED: 11.09.2014,) CITY OF LUMBERTON, NORTH CAROLINA, LIENHOLDER AND FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION, UNIDED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA,) LIENHOLDER, AND If they be deceased then their legal representatives, heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown,) resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved corporations, who might have or claim any right or title to the property which is the subject of this action; Defendants.

that a judgment of foreclosure will be docketed against the property described below on or after June 20, PARCEL DESCRIPTION PARCEL #323102010 Lot 22 Block B South Side Urban Renewal, Section 3 540 Spruce Street, Lumberton NC

0.170 acres +/- Ranch Dwelling listed on property in average condition, grade C Execution will be issued on the judgment, and the real property will be sold as provided by law. The tax lien, including interests and costs, may be paid before the judgment is docketed and at any time thereafter as allowed by law.
 Robert Conner, Robeson County Tax Administrator

5/13 5/20 2026



5/20 5/23 2026

LEGALS

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

FILE NO.: 26CV002030-770 COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina; Plaintiff,
 VS.

GARRET LOCKLEAR AKA GARRETT LOCKLEAR, LIFE ESTATE AND SPOUSE, IF ANY, AND FLOYD TEMPLE CHURCH NUMBER ONE, REMAINDERS, Owner; and CRYSTAL GRAHAM, GUARDIAN AD LITEM OF GARRET LOCKLEAR AKA GARRETT LOCKLEAR, LIFE ESTATE AND SPOUSE, IF ANY, AND FLOYD TEMPLE CHURCH NUMBER ONE, REMAINDERS; Defendants.

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

TO: GARRET LOCKLEAR AKA GARRETT LOCKLEAR, LIFE ESTATE AND SPOUSE, IF ANY, AND FLOYD TEMPLE CHURCH NUMBER ONE, REMAINDERS; Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action, and notice of service by Publication begins the 13th day of May, 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: Garret Locklear AKA Garrett Locklear, Life Estate and Spouse, if any, and Floyd Temple Church Number One, Remainders. Title Reference: Deed Book 1165, Page 316. PIN No: 101803015. Tax Account No: 1247546. Property Location: Lumberton Township, East Side S.R. #2202. 1.14 Acres +/-.

Lying and being in Lumberton Township, Robeson County, North Carolina, about 2 miles south-east of the City of Lumberton, about 135' East of Secondary Road No. 2202, East of and adjoining Hayeswood Street (20' R/W) and bounded by the R.A. Phillips Estate lands on the East, lands of Sarah Cromartie and Hester Chapel Baptist Church on the North and lands of Ida Floyd on the South.

BEGINNING at an iron axle on the edge of Hayeswood Street, northwest cor. orig. tract and runs as said Street S19-15' E 215.5' to an iron pipe, Ida Floyd's cor.; thence as Floyd line N71-41' E 427.3' to an iron pipe in Phillips line; thence as said line N5-10' W 17.5' to an iron stake; thence N84-00' W 477.0' to the BEGINNING containing 1.14 acres, more or less.

Being a part of the lands conveyed to Leroy Hamilton and wife, Letha Hardin Hamilton by Deed recorded in Book 19H at Page 49, in the Robeson County Registry.

The above-described property is subject to all Right of Ways and Easements of record. Plaintiff seeks to extinguish any and all claim or interest that you may have in the property. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty days after the date of the first publication date, being forty days after May 13th, 2026 or by June 22nd, 2026, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.
 This 8th day of May, 2026.
 Robert Davis
 Attorney for Plaintiff
 State Bar No. 22911
 550 N. Chestnut Street
 Lumberton, NC 28358
 910-671-3060 x7353

5/13 5/20 5/27 2026



LEGALS

Public Notice The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA-Part B, Public Law 108.446) Project is presently being amended. The Project describes the special education programs that Paul R Brown Leadership Academy proposes for Federal funding for the 2026-2027 School Year. Interested persons are encouraged to review amendments to the Project and make comments concerning the implementation of special education under this Federal Program. All comments will be considered prior to submission of the amended Project to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh, North Carolina. The IDEA-Part B Project is open to the public for review and comments during the week of May 25, 2006 to May 28, 2026 from 8:00am-2:00pm. in the office of Mrs. J McDowell the Director of E C Programs located at 1300 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Elizabethtown, NC 28337,

5/20 5/23 2026

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political

Subdivision of the State of North Carolina; Plaintiff,
 VS.

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION))

THOMAS LANE, LIFE ESTATE AND TYANNA ROSE CLARK,) REMAINDER, AND))

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

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

THOMAS LANE, LIFE ESTATE AND TYANNA ROSE CLARK, REMAINDER, AND))

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

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

THOMAS LANE, LIFE ESTATE AND TYANNA ROSE CLARK, REMAINDER, AND))

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

that a judgment of foreclosure will be docketed against the property described below on or after June 20,

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION PARCEL #081904177 and PARCEL #081904178 West Howellsville Township, Lots 81 and 82, Littlefield Acres Subdivision, MB 28 @ Page 130

236 Littlefield Acres Loop 0.46 acres +/- each lot Singlewide mobile home one property listed in average condition, grade C Execution will be issued on the judgment, and the real property will be sold as provided by law. The tax lien, including interests and costs, may be paid before the judgment is docketed and at any time thereafter as allowed by law.
 Robert Conner, Robeson County Tax Administrator

5/13 5/20 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF JAMES RAY LAWSON DECEASED
 FILE NUMBER: 26 E 000486-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the estate of JAMES RAY LAWSON, 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 24th 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.

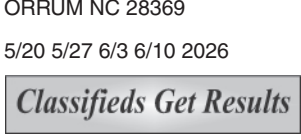
This is the 20th day of MAY 2026.

MARTHA LAWSON COLEMAN
 CO-ADMINISTRATOR
 6210 CHERRY GROVE ROAD
 CERRO GORDO NC 28430

ESTHER LAWSON CALLAHAN CO-ADMINISTRATOR 530 TWIN BARN ROAD ORRUM NC 28369

5/20 5/27 6/3 6/10 2026

5/20 5/27 6/3 6/10 2026



PSRC recognizes May Impact Award recipients

Jessica Sealey
For the Robesonian

LUMBERTON — The Public Schools of Robeson County honored its May Impact Award winners during the May 12 PSRC Board of Education meeting.

“Our recipients exemplify our district’s ‘One Team, One Goal’ motto; these individuals work collaboratively to cultivate a supportive and thriving school environment. As a district, we celebrate and honor these individuals for the powerful difference they make each day,” said Jamal Campbell, PSRC assistant superintendent of human resources.

Certified Employee: Laurent Saint Pierre

The district recognized Laurent Saint Pierre, math teacher at Red Springs High School, as the district’s Certified Impact Award recipient for the month of May.

Red Springs High School Principal Steven Sinclair shared words of praise for Saint Pierre’s impact at the school.

“Mr. Laurent Saint Pierre is an outstanding math teacher at Red Springs High School whose impact reaches both students and staff. He builds strong relationships that foster student confidence and achievement, while also provid-

ing additional support through tutoring beyond school hours. As Math Department Chair, he demonstrates collaborative leadership, supports his colleagues, and promotes a positive team culture. His dedication and service make him highly deserving of the district’s Impact Award,” Sinclair said.

Classified Employee: Karina Zarate

PSRC proudly honors Karina Zarate, secretary at Red Springs High School, as the district’s May Classified Impact Award recipient.

Principal Sinclair said that Zarate “consistently demonstrates professionalism, warmth, and a genuine commitment to students, staff, and families.”

Zarate’s impact extends beyond the school day as she steps into another role, supporting student-athletes as their soccer coach, Sinclair said.

“She creates a welcoming environment, builds strong relationships, and ensures everyone feels valued. In addition to her front office role, she goes above and beyond by coaching Girls Soccer and supporting school initiatives, truly exemplifying the ‘One Team, One Goal’ spirit and making a lasting impact on her school community,” Sinclair said.



Photos courtesy of PSRC
Laurent Saint Pierre, center right, with members of the Public Schools of Robeson County Board of Education and administration as he was honored as the district’s Certified Impact Award recipient at the May 12 board meeting.

District Employees: Erica Setzer and Cole Wilkins

The district also recognizes Chief Finance Officer Erica Setzer and District Technology Specialist Jared Cole Wilkins as Central Office Impact Award recipients.

Campbell praised Setzer for her diligence and dedication to the role.

“Her professionalism, kindness, and unwavering commitment to excellence set a standard for us all. She consistently goes above and beyond to ensure our financial records are accurate, transparent, and well-managed, while keeping district leaders informed and prepared. Her ability to thoughtfully answer



Erica Setzer, center, with members of the Public Schools of Robeson County Board of Education and administration as she was honored as the district’s Central Office Impact Award recipient at the May 12 board meeting.

any question and her warm, approachable demeanor make her an invaluable asset to our team.” Campbell said.

Wilkins was also celebrated for the many ways he supports technology at the district level including support given during school board meeting livestreams.

“His consistent presence at board meetings

and committee sessions ensures that all technology needs are seamlessly supported. Always ready to assist, he approaches every request with professionalism and a welcoming attitude,” Campbell said.

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



Cole Wilkins, center, with members of the Public Schools of Robeson County Board of Education and administration as he was honored as the district’s Central Office Impact Award recipient at the May 12 board meeting.



Karina Zarate, center right, with members of the Public Schools of Robeson County Board of Education and administration as she was honored as the district’s Classified Impact Award recipient at the May 12 board meeting.

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina; Plaintiff, VS. HEIRS OF HIRIAM EUGENE WALTERS (DECEASED: 03.05.2026) AND WIFE, HAZEL JEANETTE RUDD WALTERS (DECEASED: 09.09.2011), AND IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION) NOTICE) If they be deceased then their legal representatives,) heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in) esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown,) resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved corporations, who might have or claim any right or title) to the property which is the subject of this action; Defendants.) Pursuant to the requirements of G.S. 105-375(c)(4)b, notice is hereby given to: HEIRS OF HIRIAM EUGENE WALTERS (DECEASED: 03.05.2026) AND WIFE, HAZEL JEANETTE RUDD WALTERS (DECEASED: 09.09.2011) AND If they be deceased then their legal representatives, heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in esse or en ventral sa mere, known or unknown, resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved corporations, who might have or claim any right or title to the property which is the subject of this action; that a judgment of foreclosure will be docketed against the property described below on or after June 20, PROPERTY DESCRIPTION PARCEL #251102013 Intersection of SR #2225 and SR #2256 7491 S. Creek Road, Orrum NC (0.330 acres +/-) Traditional Dwelling listed on property in below average condition, grade D Execution will be issued on the judgment, and the real property will be sold as provided by law. The tax lien, including interests and costs, may be paid before the judgment is docketed and at any time thereafter as allowed by law. Robert Conner, Robeson County Tax Administrator

5/13 5/20 2026

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 MARK KIMBALL LOCKLEAR DECEASED File Number 26E000294-770

The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the estate of Mark Kimball Locklear, deceased, late of Robeson County, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 23rd 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 20th day of May, 2026.

Crystal Michele Slater 3949 West Carthage Road Lumberton, NC 28360

Attorney Carolina Family Estate Planning 51 Kilmayne Dr, Ste. 200 Cary, NC 27511 919-443-3035

5/20 5/27 6/3 6/10 2026

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

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF WILLIAM EDWARD LOCKLEAR DECEASED FILE NUMBER 26 E 474

The UNDERSIGNED having qualified as Executor, or the estate of WILLIAM EDWARD LOCKLEAR, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 13th 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 13th day of May 2026

195 ADNELL DR MAXTON, NC. 28364

5/13 5/20 5/27 6/3 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF NEAL EDWIN MUSSELWHITE DECEASED File Number 26E000476-770

The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the estate of Neal Edwin Musselwhite, 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 16th 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 13th day of May, 2026.

Neal Anthony Musselwhite 3409 Spartina Ct Raleigh, NC 27606

Attorney George D. Regan, Jr. - Thorp, Clarke & Regan, PA PO Box 478 St. Pauls, NC 28384 910-865-4059

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

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF TERRY SMITH DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 26 E 000422-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the estate of TERRY SMITH, 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 17th 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 13th day of MAY 2026.

HAROLD LYNN SMITH 1742 ROZIER SIDING ROAD SAINT PAULS NC 28384

5/13 5/20 5/27 6/3 2026

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF NEAL EDWIN MUSSELWHITE DECEASED File Number 26E000476-770

The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the estate of Neal Edwin Musselwhite, 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 16th 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 13th day of May, 2026.

Neal Anthony Musselwhite 3409 Spartina Ct Raleigh, NC 27606

Attorney George D. Regan, Jr. - Thorp, Clarke & Regan, PA PO Box 478 St. Pauls, NC 28384 910-865-4059

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

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF JOHNNY MCEACHERN DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 26 E 000435-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the estate of JOHNNY MCEACHERN, 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 24th 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 20th day of MAY 2026.

LORA DENEEN TATUM 1449 BUNGALOW AVE DURHAM NC 27703

5/20 5/27 6/3 6/10 2026

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

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Classifieds GET THE JOB DONE!

Help Wanted General

Robeson Community College Vice President of Instruction/Chief Academic Officer

Robeson Community College seeks a strategic, collaborative, and student-centered leader to serve as Vice President for Instruction/Chief Academic Officer.

Minimum Qualifications:
• Master's degree from an accredited institution in education or a related field; doctorate preferred
• Minimum of five (5) years of progressively responsible leadership experience in academic administration

For a list of duties and to apply, visit www.robeson.edu/hr or contact Human Resources at 910-272-3524.

Deadline for applications: Until filled

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1.75 acres - Cleared and includes shelter Behind 1978 and 1986 North Roberts Avenue, Lumberton Ideal for Business, Storage, Moveable Buildings, or Equipment
CALL 910-638-7220

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Call Chris at 910.738.4702

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

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Lumbee Tribe celebrates federal recognition



Senior Miss Lumbee Wendy Locklear Chavis performs the national anthem during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration Saturday in Pembroke.



Teen Miss Lumbee Keely Deal, Little Miss Lumbee Jadyn Herndon and Junior Miss Lumbee Kyndall Locklear march in a powwow during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration Saturday in Pembroke.

Photos by Chris Stiles | The Robesonian



Hoop dancer Eric Hernandez performs during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration Saturday in Pembroke.



Spectators watch a drone light show during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration Saturday in Pembroke.



Kids shoot basketball during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration Saturday in Pembroke.



The Scuffletown Society drum group performs at a powwow during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration Saturday in Pembroke.



Participants dance in a powwow during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration Saturday in Pembroke.



Tanner Cummings, left, 8, of Pembroke, gets his face painted by Christa Revels, right, during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration Saturday in Pembroke.



Spectators look on during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration Saturday in Pembroke.



Lumbee Tribal Councilman Billy Oxendine and other members of Tribal Council march in the grand processional during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration Saturday in Pembroke.



The Deal Family waves to passersby while performing during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration Saturday in Pembroke.



Two children ride an inflatable slide during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration Saturday in Pembroke.



A drone light show pays tribute to the Lumbee Tribe during its Federal Recognition Celebration Saturday in Pembroke.



Spectators watch video remarks by Donald Trump Jr. during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration Saturday in Pembroke.



Children climb a tree during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration Saturday in Pembroke.

Tribe

From page 1A

it's opened a whole lot of doors."

"It means maybe we can get some help with education for our young people, and medical help for our elders, things like that is what I'm hoping to get out of this," said Kevin Locklear, who arrived at UNCP around 8:30 a.m. and stayed past sunset. "The fellowship (is great); everybody coming along, coming around, talking, seeing families and people that we haven't seen in a long time coming around, getting to meet old friends."

Sturkey enrolled in the Lumbee Tribe in 2023 after researching his family history and "verifying those stories were true"; his origin in the tribe dates back to his great-grandparents. He and his wife, Daphne, traveled from Ohio to attend Saturday's celebration.

"All of the people here have been so kind and so welcoming and just embracing us," Daphne Sturkey said. "Even when he was in the first part of the enrollment, they said 'welcome home.' He was super emotional."

The Christian couple said they enjoyed the gospel music that was part of the celebration, and have discovered how faith-driven the Lumbee culture is.

"The gospel singing, we thoroughly enjoyed, and that intermixed with the powwow, it's just always, from a heritage standpoint, really moving," Ed Sturkey said. "I enjoyed those things, and a collar green sandwich."

The event's core program featured remarks from five sitting members of U.S. Congress, other federal and state officials, representatives from ally tribes and members of tribal leadership.

"We don't know all of our ancestors who worked to get us here. But you know what? We're thankful for them, because they worked to make sure that we got here," Tribal Chairman John Lowery said. "We had God on our side, we had right on our side and we had justice on our side, and eventually we overcame all of (the opposition)."

U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis, who represents North Carolina and was a major contributor to recognition passing the Senate, presented a frame to the Tribe which includes the document tallying the roll-call vote in the Senate on Dec. 17, 2025, along with a handwritten card with the result of the vote that Tillis read on the Senate floor, and two photos from that day.

The Tribe, in turn, presented Tillis with a blank handcrafted by a Lumbee artisan as an appreciation for his role in securing federal recognition.

Tillis gave remarks in which he said his only expectation of the

Tribe in its new era of recognition is to make him proud.

"Make me proud by making sure you reach behind and you bring forth every tribe that deserves the same respect that you now have," Tillis said. "Make me proud by creating a story here that's unlike anyone that's ever followed recognition, one that provides economic opportunities unlike anything children born in this Lumbee Nation have ever been able to experience before. Make me proud by continuing to serve in the military at disproportionately high numbers because you're great patriots. And at the end of the day, make me proud by being sure that you care for the least among you."

As Tillis, who is not running for reelection this year, sees his term come to an end at the end of the year, his documents relating to the Lumbee Fairness Act and federal recognition will be housed in the Jacobson Special Collections Room at UNCP's Livermore Library.

Others from North Carolina's congressional delegation, including U.S. Sen. Ted Budd and U.S. Reps. Mark Harris, David Rouzer and Tim Moore, also spoke during Saturday's program, in addition to a video message from Donald Trump Jr.

Harris, whose district includes much of Robeson County including tribal headquarters in Pembroke, said that recognition remained a "focus" each time he visited Robeson County while campaigning or in office.

"You know better than anybody, it's been through setbacks, through delays, through years of being told to wait — you never gave up. Your elders kept the dream alive. Your families kept the faith. Your leaders kept pushing. And through it all, the Lumbee Tribe never lost sight of what this day would be," Harris said. "Today we celebrate a victory that was carried across generations. Most importantly, this recognition affirms what the Lumbee people have always known: your story matters. Your culture matters. Your contributions to North Carolina and to the United States of America matter."

Representatives from the Shinnecock, Caddo and Catawba tribes also spoke, as each showed solidarity with the Lumbee and excitement that its federal recognition became reality.

Bobby Gonzalez, the chairman of Caddo Nation, revealed that as his tribe has been doing research to document histories within some family cemeteries in its territory in Oklahoma, it found an unexpected Lumbee connection in an Exendine Cemetery.

"We never knew where that name came from until we started



Reggie Brewer, center, leads the grand entry at a powwow during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration Saturday in Pembroke.

Photos by Chris Stiles | The Robesonian



A drone light show pays tribute to the Lumbee Tribe during its Federal Recognition Celebration Saturday in Pembroke.



Arlinda Locklear, right, waves to the crowd as she is honored with a resolution by Tribal Speaker Alex Baker, left, during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration Saturday in Pembroke.



U.S. Reps. David Rouzer, left, and Mark Harris, right, share a laugh during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration Saturday in Pembroke.

talking to Ms. Nancy (Strickland Chavis) and the Lumbee," Gonzalez said. "I found out there was a Lumbee that went to (school) and played football with Jim Thorpe ... and the Exendine that played was actually an Oxendine, and that Oxendine was actually a Lumbee who actually went to school with our people. We found out that whole Exendine family comes from the Lumbee."

State officials, including Lumbee member Pam Brewington Cashwell, state secretary of natural and cultural resources, also gave remarks, and Cashwell read a letter from Gov. Josh Stein. Federal officials from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, including Jarrod Lowery, a former state representative for Robeson County and the brother of Tribal Chairman John Lowery, also spoke.

The Tribe also

recognized several notable individuals, with tribal resolutions honoring Arlinda Locklear, Aaron Thomas and Jarette Sampson, among other recognitions.

"I want to remind us that the Lumbee people did not become a tribe when the federal government recognized us," Tribal Speaker Alex Baker said. "Federal recognition did not create who we are; it acknowledged what we've always known. We have always been an Indian people, and we've always had leadership, order, responsibility and self-governance among us."

The last word belonged to Larry Townsend, a former member of Tribal Council and longtime Lumbee advocate.

"If you're not at the table, you're on the menu," Townsend said. "That's where we've been, folks. We have



Larry Townsend speaks during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration Saturday in Pembroke.

opportunity now due to the work of Sen. Tillis and others, and our chairman, and the Terry Sanfords, and the Aaron Thomases, and many other people."

While the program was the centerpiece of the early afternoon, a powwow was held in the late afternoon hours. Colorful regalia filled the arena as numerous individuals danced,

played drum songs and chanted as the celebration continued.

Once the sun set over Pembroke, the day concluded with a drone light show, with custom designs that included "Lumbee Tribe," "The Era of 575," and an image of Henry Berry Lowrie, among others.

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

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THE ROBESONIAN

County

From page 1A

business owner in Robeson County since 1976.

“Over the past few weeks, many county residents, friends and long-time customers have reached out to express their support and to affirm that they have never known me to be racist,” Edge said. “Some have known me for more than five decades, and their confidence in my character means a great deal to me.”

Edge, who represents District 6 encompassing northern Lumberton, Saddletree and Rennert, noted that his election in 2010 marked the first time a Republican was elected to the board since Reconstruction.

“I understand that political disagreements can be intense, and I recognize that some individuals may strongly oppose my positions or my party affiliation,” Edge said. “However, I know recent efforts to discredit me are driven more by political motivations than by facts, that is a shame. I remain committed to serving the residents of Robeson County with integrity. The residents in my district can take me out of office. ... I ask them, if you don't want me to do

that, to take me out (of office).”

Edge said his intention in making the controversial post was “to comment on political hostility and violence,” adding that another post he shared about several presidents and national leaders who were injured or killed by gun violence “was basically making the same statement.” The post was just days after the shooting at the White House Correspondents' Dinner attended by President Donald Trump.

“I regret that this situation has caused disruption within the county and among its leadership for given them something to improperly use, that's what it was. I believe disagreements should be handled professionally and privately whenever possible to maintain unity and public trust,” Edge said.

He finished by stating apologies to Robeson County for “the two commissioners who blew this out of just a simple post,” seemingly referring to the contempt publicly shown by both Dial and Commissioner Wixie Stephens; Stephens took exception to that statement.

“Your post came to my page and you wanted an opinion, and I gave you my true opinion, and my opinion was I lost respect for you,” Stephens said. “And the reason I said I lost respect for you, Mr. Edge, is because I am the one that helped you get elected to that seat, I promise you. It was very



Robeson County Commissioner David Edge, center, recognizes teachers for completing the Talking Trash anti-littering program with their students during Monday's Board of Commissioners meeting in Lumberton.

disrespectful. I didn't do it to hurt you, but you asked for an opinion, and I gave it to you. ... It was very distasteful and it was very racist to me.”

While Monday's meeting did not include a public comment period, as the board hears public comments in its first meeting of each month and did so in its May 4 meeting, CCBG was a late addition to the agenda, allowing three of its members to speak.

John Campbell, a pastor and former school board member who is CCBG's chairman, reiterated his comments from the May 4 meeting requesting the board to remove Edge as its chairman, strip him of committee assignments and issue a formal censure.

“We're not here to cancel a person, but we are here to counsel a standard,” Campbell said. “If we do not hold the high-

est office in this county to a professional standard, we cannot expect it from anyone else.”

Steve Taylor, a home missionary, said the issue was larger than simply one social media post, adding he wishes Edge no ill will, but that “the harm must end.”

“The issue is whether Robeson County will accept leadership that traffics in humiliation, racial contempt and division,” Taylor said. “Words matter, because words shape communities; public speech forms public culture. When leaders speak with contempt, they give others permission to do the same.”

Charles Graham, a former state representative, stated his concerns that the controversy could hamper growth in the Robeson County community.

“Often times we may not agree on certain policies, but we should all agree racist remarks should not be tolerated from our leaders,” Graham said. “This publicity is moving Robeson County, a majority-minority county struggling economically and on many issues, in the wrong direction.”

While the potential removal of Edge as



Attendees hold signs encouraging Commissioner David Edge to resign during Monday's Board of Commissioners meeting in Lumberton.

chairman was a theme of CCBG's presentation, County Attorney Robert Davis said later in the meeting that the board's rules of procedure, adopted in 2021, state that its chairperson, who serves a one-year term, “shall not be removed from the office of chair unless he or she becomes disqualified to serve as a member,” for reasons such as the individual moving out of the district they were elected to serve.

Teachers rewarded for Talking Trash

Edge also honored 15 local teachers as part of Talking Trash, an anti-littering education program being taught in the Public Schools of Robeson County.

Edge helped spearhead the program after he was first elected to the county

board, as UNC Pembroke, Robeson Community College and PSRC partnered to develop the material, he said.

“It was an hour-long program to teach the kids what trash does for the community, and what it does to hurt the community,” Edge said.

Out of about 600 teachers countywide who completed the program with their classes, a drawing was held for 15 of them to be given a \$200 debit card to be used for classroom supplies, which is funded by a \$3,000 allocation from Edge's discretionary funds.

The board's next meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Monday, June 15.

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

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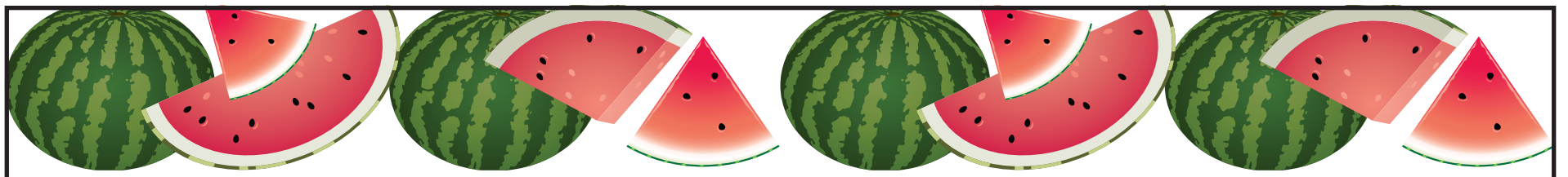
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Sports

The Robesonian

Wednesday, May 20, 2026 • Section B

SPRING ALL-CONFERENCE AWARDS



Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

Lumberton's Jaelyn Hammond swings at a pitch during an April 24 game against Purnell Swett in Pembroke. Hammond was named Tri-County Conference Player of the Year.

Pirates' Hammond earns TCC Player of the Year honors

Staff report

ROBESON COUNTY — Performances by some of Robeson County's best high-school athletes were recognized as the Tri-County Conference, which includes Lumberton and Purnell Swett, and the Eastern Sandhills Conference, including St. Pauls, announced All-Conference awards for spring sports.

All-Conference awards for the Southeastern Athletic Conference, including Fairmont and Red Springs, are not yet available.

Softball

Lumberton's Jaelyn Hammond was named TCC Player of the Year after an exceptional season, hitting .544 with 39 runs scored and 27 RBIs. She was a vital reason why the Pirates went 11-3 at home this season, and her 49 hits set a new program single-season record.

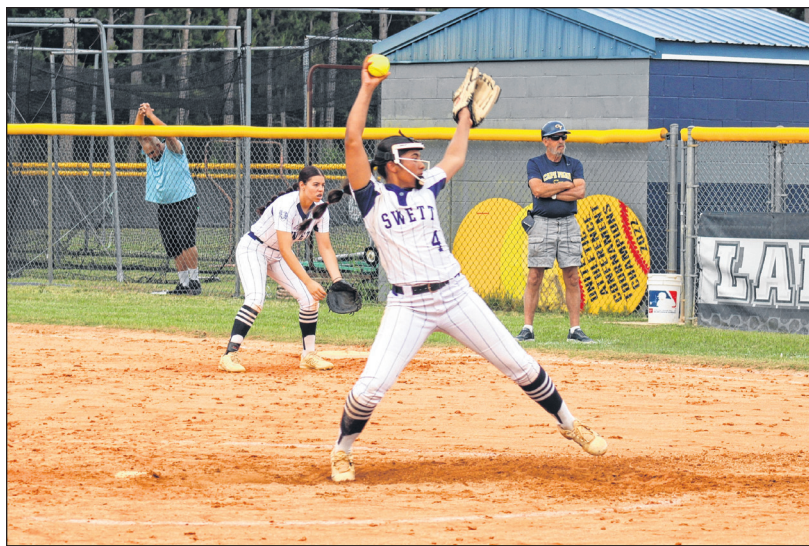
Hammond had an incredible season all-around but she really left her mark on the basepaths, swiping 30 bases, 22 more than the Pirates' next-best baserunner.

Purnell Swett's Kamryn Locklear was named Tri-County Co-Pitcher of the Year with a 0.89 ERA for the season. Offensively, she also led the Rams in batting average (.551), runs (34) and hits (43).

Lumberton's Ava Hanna and Charleigh Talton both had tremendous seasons as Hanna broke the single-season school record with 18 doubles, and each earned first-team All-Conference selections.

The Pirates' Olivia McLamb and Kinsley Martin all made the second team, as well.

Lumberton's Macy Jones, Norah



Jacob Husson | The Robesonian

Purnell Swett's Kamryn Locklear throws a pitch during a May 8 second-round 7A state-playoff game against Cape Fear in Pembroke. Locklear was named Tri-County Conference Co-Pitcher of the Year.

Johnson and Jayla Hunt were honorable-mention selections.

Purnell Swett softball has four Tri-County first-team selections in Angel Chavis, Nylah Johnson, Lanna Haggans and Jayla Graham. Chavis finished the season with a .478 batting average, .493 on-base percentage and two home runs while Nylah Johnson had a .423 average, 23 RBIs and 13 runs scored.

Haggans ended the season with a .457 average, 34 RBIs and 24 runs scored while Graham hit .434 with 25 runs and 18 RBIs.

Purnell Swett's Braci Woods, Chloe Chavis and Shaniya Lewis all received second team All-Tri County honors while Zaylee Hunt and Sonata Oxendine were honorable mentions.

In the Eastern Sandhills Conference, St. Pauls' Aniya Simpson was named Pitcher of the Year after earning eight wins in the

circle with 61 strikeouts.

The Bulldogs' Angel Purcell, Amier Purcell and Baylea Hall each earned first-team All-Conference honors. Angel Purcell hit .653 with 17 home runs, 60 RBIs, 43 runs and 10 stolen bases.

Amier Purcell hit .362 with 13 RBIs and 30 runs and Hall hit .362 with 17 RBIs and 27 runs.

The Bulldogs' Samantha Vargas and Lejada Romero earned second-team selections.

Baseball

St. Pauls baseball featured five players who earned All-Conference honors in the Eastern Sandhills.

The Bulldogs' first-team recipients include Joshua Brooks who finished the year with a .492 batting average, .595 on-base percentage and three home runs.

Lucas, Locklear each earn another All-Region selection

Staff report

PEMBROKE — Postseason accolades continued to roll in as UNC Pembroke baseball standout Landon Lucas earned Division 2 Conference Commissioners Association (D2CCA) All-Region Honors, the organization announced Monday.

The selection marked the 15th time in the last 18 full seasons that the Braves have been represented on the All-Region squad. It is also the 11th time in the last 13 full seasons the Black & Gold have had a first-team selection.

After being named to the first team last year at the utility/pitcher position, Lucas was selected as the first-team third baseman this season.

Lucas becomes the first player in program history to be named D2CCA first-team All-Region in back-to-back seasons.

Lucas finished the year with a .419 (88-for-210) batting average, 20 doubles, three triples, 20 home runs, and 76 RBI, becoming the first Brave to reach the 20 double-20 home run mark since Collins Cuthrell in 2015. The Blythewood, S.C. native tallied at least one hit in 45 of 50 games, and tallied 26 multi-hit games, 24 multi-RBI games, and three multi-home run games. Lucas was named Conference Carolinas Player of the Week in March after going 10-14 with three doubles, a home run, and eight RBI in the series sweep at Southern Wesleyan. Lucas finished the regular season ranked in the top five in Division II in four categories, including second in hits and fifth in home runs and RBI.

With his selection to the first team, Lucas will now transition to the D2CCA All-America ballot.

Lucas also earned Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) All-Southeast Region First Team honors last week.

Locklear earns second All-Region honor

Chloe Locklear added another postseason award to her resume on Monday afternoon when the red-shirt junior was named to the Division 2 Conference

See REGION | 2B



Tony Gutierrez | AP Photo

San Antonio Spurs forward Victor Wembanyama leaves the court after winning Game 1 of the NBA's Western Conference Finals Monday in Oklahoma City.

Inside Wemby's big Game 1 night

Tim Reynolds

AP Basketball Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — The numbers deserve a deeper look: 41 points, 24 rebounds, three blocked shots.

Take a bow, Victor Wembanyama. That's a conference finals debut like none other in the NBA's 80-year history.

The San Antonio star did everything — and a whole lot of it — in the Spurs' 122-115 double-overtime Game 1 victory over Oklahoma City to open the Western Conference finals on Monday night. He dunked, he flexed, he screamed, he posed for teammates.

Of course, all he cared about was that the Spurs won.

"The relentlessness is built as well," Wembanyama said. "First of all, the first thing is physical ability, getting stronger as the years go on. And the mental toughness, you have to have it all the time. Yes, it takes a toll, but we will rest in July."

Note that phrase — "we will rest in July." It's May. If the Spurs play in June, it'll be in the NBA Finals. That's clearly the hope and if you listen to Wembanyama, it's clearly his plan as well.

"He has a rare desire to step into every moment that's in front of him," Spurs coach Mitch Johnson said. "And I think he has showed in his three years, in a lot of different situations, with a lot of different circumstances, that he's going to attack those moments. Doesn't mean they'll always work out for him or be

See WEMBY | 2B

Pirates cheerleading standout signs with Campbell

Jacob Husson
The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — Lumberton's Maddie Hammond will bring her fire and enthusiasm for sports to the college level. She will be cheerleading for the Campbell Fighting Camels.

"The team is very homey," Hammond said in response to what made this the right decision for her, "Everyone is very

nice."

The hospitable atmosphere should make Hammond's transition to the next level a bit easier.

In its early days, Campbell's cheer squad was an all-female sideline pep team meant to energize crowds and support Campbell's athletic teams.

Hammond's upbringing definitely contributed to her taking up



Jacob Husson | The Robesonian

Lumberton High School cheerleader Maddie Hammond signs to the cheerleading team at Campbell during a ceremony Monday in Lumberton.

See CHEER | 2B

Rangers' Gore leaves game with muscle tightness

Associated Press

DENVER — Texas Rangers left-handed starting pitcher MacKenzie Gore left Monday night's game at Colorado after one inning because of muscle tightness in his back.

Gore's ailment occurred on the same day that the Rangers placed shortstop Corey Seager on the 10-day injury list because of lower back inflammation.

Gore, a Whiteville native, got up gingerly after diving to field a slow roller to the third base side, although it was not immediately clear if that play

contributed to his injury. He remained in the game and got the next two outs, but did not return for the bottom of the second inning.

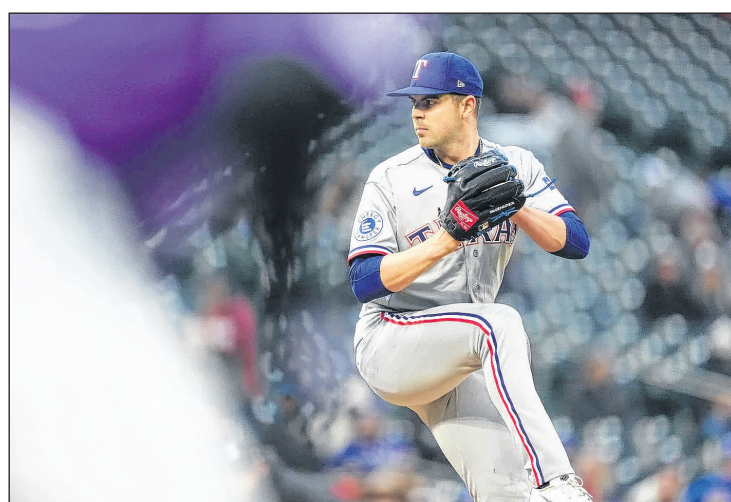
Acquired from the Washington Nationals in an offseason trade, the 27-year-old Gore was 3-3 with a 4.50 ERA in nine previous starts this season for the Rangers.

Seager, 32, did not play in last weekend's three-game series against Houston and his placement on the IL is retroactive to Friday. The two-time World Series MVP was mired in an 0-for-27 slump that included 11 strikeouts before the injury.

Seager — in the fifth season of a \$325 million, 10-year deal — is batting .179 with seven homers, 20 RBIs and a team-high 22 runs over 42 games this season.

The Rangers promoted utility player Michael Helman from Triple-A to take Seager's place on the roster. Helman, 29, is playing in the big leagues for the first time this season after hitting .232 with five homers and 20 RBIs for the Rangers last season.

Seager is eligible to return to the active roster next Monday when the Rangers begin a seven-game homestand.



David Zalubowski | AP Photo

Texas Rangers pitcher MacKenzie Gore works against the Colorado Rockies in the first inning of Monday's game in Denver.

Cheer

From page 1B

cheerleading in high school.

"I came into high school dancing and decided to try cheering," Hammonds said. "I came to love it so now here I am."

Coach Lisa Stewart who took over the program in the 2010s reorganized the team by making it co-ed.

Now, under the tutelage of coach Stephanie Fox, partakes in traditional gameday cheer, as well as competitive routines.

Hammond will be evaluated based on her gameday performance, overall appearance, athletic appeal, tumbling,

stunts and jumps as a Campbell cheerleader. She will need to maintain correct motion technique, tight motions gameday showmanship and a loud voice at the next level if she wants to retain her spot on the team.

She kept it simple when asked what she was most excited for heading into college saying that cheerleading is the whole reason she's excited for college.

Hammond will fulfill her college cheerleading dream in the fall as she will both support Campbell's teams from the sidelines and try to aid the cheer squad to strong performances in competitions.

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

TCC

From page 1B

Tyler Lavoie was named to the team with a .381 batting average and a .552 on-base percentage while Cameron McNeill made the team with a .373 batting average and a 1.56 ERA on the mound.

Malikah Locklear also made it for the Bulldogs, with a .368 average, .489 on-base percentage, 12 runs scored and nine RBIs. Finally, Jabryan Calhoun had a .317 average, .423 on-base percentage with 22 runs and 16 RBIs.

Calen McNeill and Dominik Forbes both made second-team all-conference with the Bulldogs. Calen finished the season with a .309 batting average, 28 runs scored and 20 RBIs while

Forbes hit .323 with 12 runs and six RBIs.

St. Pauls honorable mentions on this list include Antonio Arnold and Parker Baker. Arnold hit .214 with nine runs and three RBIs while Baker had a .273 average, 19 runs and eight RBIs.

In the Tri-County Conference, Purnell Swett and Lumberton were both well-represented.

The Rams' Mason Brewer hit .325 with a .438 on-base percentage, 23 runs and 16 RBIs to receive first team Tri-County honors while Grayson Brooks received second-team honors with a .474 on-base percentage, 21 stolen bases, 27 runs and a .457 slugging percentage to make the second team.

The Rams' Joseden Oxendine had seven stolen bases to go along with 12 runs scored and 12 RBIs to make the sec-

ond team, too.

Conley Jacobs was the only player on the honorable mention list for Purnell Swett with a .311 average, 23 runs scored and 20 RBIs.

Lumberton's Brody Stueck, Brennan Griffin and Manny Alba all received second-team all-conference honors for their efforts. Stueck finished the season with a .333 average, 14 RBIs and four runs scored. Griffin hit .342 with 20 runs and 16 RBIs. Finally, Alba hit .359 with 15 runs and eight RBIs.

Boys tennis

Lumberton had three first-team All-Tri-County tennis players in Lucas Drennan, Landon Walters and Ian Hall. Gibson Caulder and Nick Lawson both made the second team while Lathan Hunt and Noe Juarez Hernandez both received honor-

able mentions.

St. Pauls Eladio Santos, Jovani Rosas and Isack Portillo all made the Eastern Sandhills All-Conference second team.

Girls Soccer

St. Pauls' Goalie Camberlin Hernandez received second team all-conference honors in the Eastern Sandhills conference while Ashley Garcia received an honorable mention.

Tri-County All-Conference selections were not yet available at the time of publication.

Boys Golf

Lumberton's Jesse Pittman and Purnell Swett's Logan Locklear have each been named second-team All-Conference in the TCC in golf.

Both advanced to the state championship, where Locklear finished tied for 16th and Pittman was tied for 43rd.

Region

From page 1B

Commissioners Association (D2CCA) All-Southeast Region team.

The announcement marks 11th season that the Black & Gold has had a student-athlete honored on the D2CCA All-Region team. However, Locklear is the first student-athlete to pick up the nod since 2022.

Locklear becomes the first player since 2021 to earn All-Region honors

from two organizations after she was named to the National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-Region (NFCA) team last week.

A product of Purnell Swett High School, Locklear picked up second-team All-Region honors after hitting .368 on the season. A native of Pembroke, Locklear started in all 46 games and drove in 48 runs. The redshirt junior added six doubles, a pair of triples and 10 homers during the season, while registering 195 defensive putouts this season.

Wemby

From page 1B

exactly the outcome that he wants, but he has some rare God-given ability. He puts in even more work and preparation into maximizing that and his disposition and mentality and approach is reflected at times in the way he handles those moments."

Poor Dylan Harper. All the Spurs guard did in Game 1 — as a rookie — was have 24 points, 11 rebounds, six assists and seven steals. He joined Magic Johnson as the only rookies with 15 points, five assists and five steals in a conference finals game.

That's a monster night. And Wemby overshadowed that as only a 7-foot-4 man can.

A look inside the night that was for Wembanyama:

41 points, 24 rebounds

At 22, he's the youngest to do that in NBA playoff history, seven months younger than Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was when he had a 46-point, 25-rebound game in 1970.

He's the second-youngest to have such a game in the NBA, including regular season. Bob McAdoo had a 45-point, 25-rebound game as a 21-year-old in 1973.

A 10th 40-point game

The big games just come with more regularity now for Wembanyama. He now has 10 games of 40 or more points in his career. Of those, five were in his first 2 1/2 seasons — and the last five have come in the last three months.

A career-best in rebounds

The 24 rebounds topped his previous career-best of 23 rebounds, done on his 21st birthday — Jan. 4, 2025, against Denver. Since that was in the regular season, it'll still be generally considered his "career-high" and the playoff one will stand on its own.

12 free throws

The 12 free throws made (he was 12 for 13) matched his second-most makes from the line in any game as a pro. He had 16 in a loss to Denver last month. The 12-of-13 effort was one of his best from the line during his NBA career; he was 12-for-12 against Phoenix in March and 16-for-17 in that game against the Nuggets in April.

The last word

"He's one of a kind." — Harper, on Wembanyama.

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ROBESON COUNTY ATHLETIC SPOTLIGHT

ST. PAULS HIGH SCHOOL



JAKHI PURCELL
Track, Football, Basketball

St. Pauls senior Jakhi Purcell was part of the Bulldogs' 4x100 team which finished fourth in 43.35 seconds at the NCHSAA 5A state championship last Friday. Purcell is a Winston-Salem State signee for football as a defensive back after starring as a two-way player for the Bulldogs, twice earning All-County honors, and he also played basketball for St. Pauls, earning All-County honors as a senior.

LUMBERTON HIGH SCHOOL



GISELLE LEACH
Track, Volleyball, Basketball

Lumberton's Giselle Leach finished in fourth place in the shot put at the 7A track & field state championship last Friday with a score of 36 feet, 6.25 inches. Leach was also fourth at the 7A Central Regional. This completes a sophomore year in which she was Robeson County Co-Player of the Year in volleyball, alongside teammate Ava Hanna, and was an All-County basketball selection.

Rai leans on humble roots, hard work to become a major champion

Doug Ferguson
AP Golf Writer

NEWTOWN SQUARE, Pa. — Aaron Rai stood straight with his arms behind his back, perfect posture, as he waited to be introduced as the latest — and among the most remarkable — winner of the PGA Championship.

Next to him on a small table was the Wanamaker Trophy, big and silver and shiny.

Rai couldn't resist a quick glance at the 27-pound trophy and all those names.

Jim Barnes won the first two PGA Championships in 1916 and 1919, and there had never been another winner from England until Rai won at Aronimink on Sunday. And there was Tiger Woods, once a mythical figure on VHS tapes to a young boy growing up in Wolverhampton.

"We used to watch them a hell of a lot, probably two, three times a week, if not more," Rai said of the tapes of Woods winning U.S. Amateurs and his early feats as a pro. "I just remember being in awe just watching all of the things that he could do."

"So, yeah, to have my name even with him on this trophy is incredible, really."

Practically everything about Rai's victory Sunday was incredible.

He was among 22 players separated by four shots going into the final round, a logjam the likes of which the PGA



Carolyn Kaster | AP Photo
Aaron Rai, of England, celebrates after making a long birdie putt on the 17th green during the final round of the PGA Championship Sunday at Aronimink Golf Club in Newtown Square, Pa.

Championship had never seen. He was just another name on the leaderboard midway through the final round, three shots behind and coming off two bogeys in three holes.

What followed was the stuff of major champions — seven consecutive one-putt greens, including a 40-foot eagle on the par-5 ninth that turned his fortunes. He was 6 under over the last 10 holes. The last time anyone did better to win a major was Jack Nicklaus in the 1986 Masters.

Rai's first love as a boy was Formula 1 and he dreamed of being a driver. He certainly drove like one on the back nine,

zooming into the lead, leaving behind the likes of Rory McIlroy and Jon Rahm, Xander Schauffele and Cameron Smith, Justin Rose and Justin Thomas.

Now he takes his place in golf history as a major champion, his fifth career win worldwide that moves him to a career-best No. 15 in the world.

"Everyone playing in the field this week has a great journey to be able to share," Rai said. "And I'm no exception to that."

His stands out.

He wears two gloves because that's what he did as a kid to fight off the cold English winter. Rai has a work ethic that rivals anyone, regardless of the

temperature.

How many major champions — or any elite player — has plastic iron covers? For Rai, it's a reminder of his roots. He once said his father sacrificed to buy the nicest golf clubs and then would clean the grooves with baby oil after his son was done playing. Rai has left the iron covers on since then "to remember where I came from and to respect what I have."

He never got teased because he didn't spend much time around other junior golfers. Rai said only when he was about 12 did he graduate to starting the hole on the forward tee box instead of the fairway. That was the idea of his father to get him in a place where making par didn't feel so impossible.

"I didn't really mix with a lot of other junior golfers, which didn't give me a perspective of what was normal," he said. "So I think he kind of sheltered me to be able to develop in a way that made sense for me, in a way that I guess was a little bit unique with two gloves, with iron covers."

"By the time he probably allowed me to play more club golf ... I felt like I was strong enough in why I did certain things to be able to continue to move that forward. I knew the reasons why I do them. I believe in the reasons why I do them."

It's all about respect, and the greatest respect he showed was to Aronimink.

Rai figured there were too

many players — too many stars — on the leaderboard for him to worry about. And Aronimink, with its wildly contoured greens and tough pins, required so much focus that he didn't have energy for anything but the next shot.

The performance was worthy of a major champion.

Rahm couldn't make enough putts for birdie. McIlroy couldn't handle the par 5s (he played them even for the week). Alex Smalley and Matti Schmid couldn't avoid the key mistakes. That left Rai to finish strong for a 65 to win by three over Rahm and Smalley.

There was a lot of disappointment to go around, but also joy for the winner. Rai is enormously popular with his peers, and it was evident.

"You won't find one person on property who's not happy for him," McIlroy said.

Schauffele referred to him as an "all-world gentleman."

But this isn't just about being a nice guy. Golf is loaded with those. Schauffele still remembers a late summer night in Scotland when he and his caddie went out for a putting contest. There was Rai at 9 p.m., and when he finished, the Englishman was off to the gym.

"Rarely do you feel like people work way harder than you," Schauffele said. "That's what it's about to be a major champion. You put the work in when nobody's looking. Super pumped for him."

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF RED SPRINGS
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Notice is hereby given that the Red Springs Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing to consider the following Zoning Map Amendment(s):

1. Zoning Map Update for the Town of Red Springs

The public hearing will be conducted on:

**Tuesday, June 2, 2026
Time: 7:00 p.m**

Location:
On the second floor of the Red Springs Town Hall located at **217 South Main Street, Red Springs, NC 28377**

Anyone wishing to speak in support or opposition of the proposed Zoning Map Update may speak during the public hearing.

Town of Red Springs Board of Adjustment

Attest:
Barbara McColl, Town Clerk
Publish in Robesonian Newspaper:

**May 20, 2026
May 23, 2026**

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Lumbee Games set for Homecoming week

Staff report

PEMBROKE — The 2026 Lumbee Games will be held during the week of Lumbee Homecoming. All ages of boys and girls are welcome to compete.

Wrestling

Registration for wrestling will be held between 10 and 11 a.m. However, you are encouraged to preregister by fax the Friday before at 910-521-6540 or by emailing ot.johnson@uncp.edu.

Weigh-ins will be between 10 and 11 p.m. Saturday, June 27 in the Auxiliary Gym at UNC Pembroke's English E. Jones Athletic Center for all weight classes and age groups. The tournament begins at 11 a.m. Wrestlers will be grouped based on age and ability and every wrestler will compete in two to four matches. Each match will be judged based on high school rules.

Those who place first, second and third will receive custom Lumbee Games medals.

There is a \$10 entry fee. Wrestlers who are 12 and above will compete in three one-minute periods while others will have a one-minute period, followed by two 30-second periods.

If overtime is needed, it will be one minute, followed by a 30-second tiebreaker.

The wrestler's age needs to be verifiable checks should be made payable to the Lumbee Regional Development Authority (LRDA).

Call O.T. Johnson with questions at 910-775-4116 or email him at ot.johnson@uncp.edu.

Swimming

Registration for the swimming portion of the Lumbee Games will be Monday, June 29 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. The meet begins at 6 p.m. There is a \$20 fee to enter three events. The freestyle will be the

first race, followed by the backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly.

Boys and girls are divided into six age groups. Swimmers aged six and under will only compete in the freestyle while eight and under, 10 and under, 12 and under, 14 and under and 15 and over will be eligible for any event.

Swimmers in the youngest three divisions will compete in 25-yard races or one pool length while the older three divisions will swim in 50-yard races or two pool lengths.

Age should be verifiable. USA swimming rules apply and checks should be made payable to LRDA.

Call Oscar Roverato at 910-775-4629 or 910-574-6393 if you have questions.

Basketball

There will also be a 3-on-3 basketball tournament with a \$30 fee for a team of three on Friday, July 3. It costs \$35 to

register four players.

Register at the door or mail to UNCP Campus Recreation-Jones Center c/o Tony Chavis P.O. Box 1510.

For both men and women, there will be several age groups with 11-12 year olds, 13-14, 15-17, 17-19, 20-29 and people over 30 all competing in their own divisions.

Registration is from 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. on July 3 with games starting at 10 a.m.

Everyone is guaranteed two games. Other rules will be provided at check in.

The top three teams in each division will receive custom medals.

Call Tony Chavis at 910-521-6808 or email him at chavist@uncp.edu with questions.

Pickleball

On Thursday, July 2 at 5 p.m., there will also be a doubles pickleball tournament at the UNCP pickleball courts. The deadline to register is also

5 p.m.

There is a \$10 fee for each participant and checks should be made payable to LRDA. You may register by emailing Tony Chavis at chavist@uncp.edu or by phone at 910-521-6808.

Players will be divided by age group. Contact David Leek at 910-521-6808 or email him at orioles2@msn.com or chavist@uncp.edu.

Tennis

There will also be a tennis doubles tournament and Thursday, July 2 at 5 p.m. will be the registration deadline.

You can register with Tony Chavis at chavist@uncp.edu or by phone at 910-521-6808. You can also contact David Leek at orioles2@msn.com to register.

There is a \$10 tournament fee for each participant and checks should be made out to the LRDA.

Please bring your own tennis balls to play. Players will be grouped by age.

Hamlin beats Briscoe for 2nd NASCAR All-Star win

Associated Press

DOVER, Del. — In the debut of the All-Star Race at Dover Motor Speedway, the Monster Mile lived up to its billing as one of NASCAR's most treacherous tracks.

Even for winner Denny Hamlin, surviving Dover was a high-wire test for the \$1 million prize.

Rebounding from a qualifying spin to start from the pole position, Hamlin steered clear of trouble on Sunday for his second NASCAR All-Star

Race victory. He led the final 30 laps and outduled Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Chase Briscoe while avoiding the eight caution flags that involved 23 of 36 drivers in the field, which was inverted after the first 75-lap segment.

"It makes it a lot easier when you've got a car this fast," said Hamlin, whose No. 11 Toyota led a race-high 103 of 200 laps in the last segment. "We strive to be No. 1, and we did it today. It really challenged us to have to

go through traffic, but I definitely like the invert. Obviously, it caused some chaos there and took out some good cars, but overall, it's a typical All-Star Race when that stuff happens."

Briscoe finished 0.887 seconds behind Hamlin with a No. 19 Toyota that was heavily damaged in a practice crash Saturday.

"It was obviously a really fast car," Briscoe said after his career-best second in the All-Star Race. "I'm just proud of our group. I knocked the

wall down in practice, and we basically rebuilt the whole car. So for them to be able to just get the car back to where it was competitive, it says a lot about the guys."

It's the third consecutive win on the 1-mile oval for Hamlin, who won points races at Dover in 2024 and last year. He also started from the pole when he won the All-Star Race in 2015 at Charlotte Motor Speedway. At 45, Hamlin became the second-oldest winner of the All-Star Race after Mark Martin (who was 46 in 2005).

Erik Jones, who was involved in a nine-car crash to end the first segment, completed a top-three sweep by Toyota, followed by Austin Dillon and rookie Connor Zilisch.

Several crashes during the first two 75-lap segments collected more than half the 36-car field. There were 19 drivers locked into the 200-lap dash for \$1 million, but Chase Elliott and Ross Chastain still were eliminated because their cars could not be repaired, and backups weren't allowed.

The field was narrowed to 26 cars for the final segment. Kyle Larson, Ryan Blaney, Kyle Busch, Brad Keselowski, Bubba Wallace and Christopher Bell started the last stage with cars that were damaged and slower than the rest.

Larson retired from the race with 60 laps remaining because of a power steering failure.

By winning an online fan vote, Daniel Suarez advanced to the final segment with a damaged car and finished four laps down.

Untimely exits

Elliott, voted eight times as the most popular driver in the Cup Series, was knocked out after his No. 9 Chevrolet was caught in two wrecks during the first segment.

"It was pretty wild," said Elliott, the 2020 Cup Series champion and 2020 All-Star Race winner. "I hate to get caught up in that. I knew better. I saw it getting crazy. I should have bailed."

Chastain was eliminated in a three-car crash on the sixth lap of the second segment.

"Bummer, because we thought we executed that first stage really well," Chastain said. "We weren't passing anybody, but we were able to maintain, which has not been the case for this downforce package. The car drove a lot better, so a lot to look forward to if we can take another step like that."

Early crash

The event got off to a fiery start with a Lap 2 crash that involved three former All-Star Race winners. The wreck was triggered by Roush Fenway Keselowski Racing driver Ryan Preece, who came down the banking in Turn 1 and made contact with Todd Gilliland.

Larson, a three-time All-Star Race winner, hit the wall in his No. 5 Chevrolet after colliding with Gilliland's No. 34 Ford. The pileup also included past All-Star winners and series champions Blaney and Elliott, as well as Daniel Suarez, John Hunter Nemechek and Michael McDowell.

Preece's No. 60 Ford made a heavy impact with the outside wall, causing the rear end to erupt in flames. Preece climbed out unscathed and was quickly seen and released from the track's infield care center.

"I'm fine, I seem to take big hits," said Preece, who was involved in a memorable rollover in the August 2023 race at Daytona. "I don't know what happened. But if it was anything, it was probably just too close on my part to go into Turn 1 and just got sideways. So if it was my fault, I'm sorry."

Preece later took the blame in a social media post.

Up next

The Coca-Cola 600, the longest race of the season, will take place May 24 at Charlotte Motor Speedway. Chastain is the defending race winner (and is seeking his first victory since).

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