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News 7A

In today's paper

SPORTS:
Lucas on
award-winning
season
Page 1B



THE ROBESONIAN

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robsonian.com

A Fresh Perspective

Local
NEWS

\$1.50

Grant to help fund renovations at C&S Wholesale Grocers

Chris Stiles
The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — A recently awarded \$400,000 state grant will help fund facility renovations and enhancements at C&S Wholesale Grocers, located at 3900 Cold Storage Road west of Lumberton.

“The investment represents continued growth for one of Robeson County’s major employers and further strengthens the county’s manufacturing and distribution sector,” said Chuck Heustess, Executive Director of Robeson County Economic Development. “Projects like this continue to demonstrate that Robeson County is well-positioned for industrial growth and long-term economic investment.”

The funding is part of \$1,657,500 in grants awarded by the N.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority, which fall under the N.C. Department of Commerce. It falls under the Rural Building Reuse Grant category.

C&S Wholesale Grocers will use the funding for facility renovations, infrastructure upgrades, roof replacement, freezer protection improvements and IT/communications enhancements, Heustess said. The facility is about 350,000 square feet.

The project is expected to create 50 full-time jobs, averaging a salary of approximately \$46,700.

“C&S is proud to invest in our operations

and the community that supports us,” said Eric Winn, CEO of C&S Wholesale Grocers. “The transformation of this warehouse represents our confidence in the future of this region and our commitment to creating quality jobs and sustainable growth.”

C&S is a 108-year-old business which serves as a supplier for grocers, supermarkets, chain stores, military bases and institutions. The overall project is an approximately \$5 million investment.

Robeson County Economic Development worked closely with C&S Wholesale Grocers and the N.C. Department of Commerce throughout the grant application process, Heustess said.

“Robeson County sincerely appreciates the support of Governor Josh Stein, the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Sen. Danny Britt, Rep. John Lowery, and Rep. Brendan Jones for their continued advocacy for economic development and job creation in our region,” said County Manager Kellie Blue. “This investment reflects continued confidence in Robeson County’s workforce, infrastructure, and economic potential and will have a meaningful impact on our community.”

Statewide, the seven grants awarded will combine to create 215 jobs, with additional investment in the projects from public and

See GRANT | 8A

NOAA predicts below-normal 2026 Atlantic hurricane season



Image courtesy of NOAA Satellites

A NOAA satellite view of a massive Hurricane Erin churning off the U.S. East Coast on Aug. 20, 2025.

Early preparation essential to staying safe all season

Staff report

MIAMI — Forecasters with NOAA’s National Weather Service are predicting a below-normal hurricane season for the Atlantic basin this year. NOAA’s outlook for the

2026 Atlantic hurricane season, which runs June 1 to November 30, predicts a 35% chance of a near-normal season, a 10% chance of an above-normal season, and a 55% chance of a below-normal season.

The agency is forecasting a total of eight to 14 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher). Of those, three to six are forecast to become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including one to three major hur-

ricanes (category 3, 4 or 5 with winds of 111 mph or higher). NOAA has a 70% confidence in these ranges. An average season has 14 named storms with seven hurricanes,

See HURRICANES | 8A

Fairmont to construct veterans memorial



Contributed photo | Charles Kemp
The Fairmont High School ROTC cadets who performed the presentation of colors at the Fairmont Memorial Day celebration on Monday.

Victoria Sanderson
The Robesonian

FAIRMONT — Mayor Charles Kemp announced that the town of Fairmont will be developing a veterans memorial during the town’s Memorial Day celebration on Monday.

“There are only three things that are very important to me in my current term,” Kemp said. “One is to revitalize Heritage Park, which I’m in the process of work-

ing on right now. The second is to have a youth center, which we’re in the process of making a reality. The last is to place, somewhere appropriate in the town, a marker that will honor all veterans from the Fairmont area, and those who lost their lives in service to our country.”

The memorial, which Kemp plans to have completed by Memorial Day

See FAIRMONT | 8A

PSRC welcomes new family engagement specialist

Jessica Sealey
For the Robesonian

LUMBERTON — The Public Schools of Robeson County recently welcomed a new Family Engagement Specialist to the team.

Gabrielle Dunlap stepped into the role effective May 11 with a host of experience working in areas that support

student learning and youth development. She most recently worked as a Program Assistant/Tutoring Coordinator at the Harnett County Sheriff’s Office Police Activities League Program, where she supported academic enrichment initiatives



Dunlap

and youth-focused programming.

She previously worked as a tutor with Dallas ISD and Fort Worth ISD in Texas, focusing on House Bill 4545 by providing targeted tutoring and supplemental instruction to students affected by COVID-19. Earlier in

her career, she served as Program Coordinator at Reading Partners, where she gained experience in literacy instruction and tutor coaching. She also worked as a Program Assistant for the Empowering Youth & Families Program at North Carolina State University, supporting

See PSRC | 7A

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TODAY'S FORECAST
High 86, Low 69 - Cloudy and humid; occasional rain and a thunderstorm in the morning followed by thunderstorms in the afternoon

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

B SPORTS

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OBITUARIES

WILLIAM BOYLE YORK



William Boyle York, age 80, of Winterville, passed away peacefully on May 21, 2026. Billy was a cherished husband, father, grandfather, and friend. Whether he was known as Billy, Dad or Poppy, his kind spirit and tender heart will be deeply missed.

Billy was born in Lumberton on June 14, 1945 to J.D. and Mary Alice York. Billy graduated from Lumberton High School in 1964 and attended the Fayetteville Technical Institute. After meeting Gail Kelly of Raeford on a blind date on New Year's Eve 1962, they were married on June 18, 1966. Their marriage was the start of a wonderful life together which will be remembered with love on their 60th wedding anniversary next month.

Billy's early career was spent as a draftsman for the State of North Carolina Department of Education in Raleigh and Hayes-Howell Architects in Southern Pines. Billy proudly served his state and country in the North Carolina National Guard from 1966 to 1972. Upon his father's death in 1972, Billy and his brother Donald carried forward the family roofing business, York Roofing Company, based in Lumberton, until its closure. Whether as an independent business owner or serving other companies, roofing was Billy's vocation as he logged thousands of miles across North and South Carolina providing the quality workmanship and expertise that was so important to him.

Billy loved art and the outdoors from a young age and he combined these pursuits in his passion for duck carving and in his retirement years of life, oil painting. Billy also enjoyed playing golf, surf fishing the North Carolina coast, and spending time with his family, including his poodle, Henry.

Billy was preceded in death by his parents, his sister, Bonnie, and his brother, Burke.

Billy is survived by his wife, Gail; daughter, Kelly York Robertson; and his beloved grandsons, Charles Davenport Robertson and Duncan Boyle Robertson, all of Winterville. He is also survived by his brother Donald of Lumberton.

The family wishes to express the deepest gratitude to the staff of Spring Arbor of Kinston and Gentiva Hospice of Kinston. Their care, compassion and love towards "Mr. Billy" were gifts that will always be treasured.

A service celebrating Billy's life will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Greenville, N.C. on May 30 at 11 a.m. The family will receive friends after the service in the Welcome Center. A private interment of his ashes will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Billy's memory to the Dementia Alliance of North Carolina or The Gentiva Foundation.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Hallucinations Prompted by Reality 12 p.m. to 3 p.m., May 27: Red Springs Artspace is exhibiting Hallucinations Prompted by Reality, by Henryk Fantazos. The exhibition is available for viewing until June 17th. The Red Springs Artspace is open to the public on Wednesdays: 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. and Sundays: 2:00 -4:00 p.m. and by texting 910-240-2887 for an appointment.

Artist Choice/ Remembrance Poppy Exhibition, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays: The Robeson Art Guild invites members, friends and visitors to view the Artist Choice/Remembrance Poppy Exhibition. There is always something interesting going on at the Guild House. Wander through the exhibition and stop in the shop for gifts to purchase. The Guild House is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and other times by appointment.

Alive After 5 Concert Series, Band of Oz, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., May 28: The Band of Oz is performing at the Dick Taylor Plaza in historic downtown Lumberton. Some seating is available but is suggested that you bring your own special chair and enjoy some live music, then use that chair for resting after dancing to the beat! Food trucks will be available at 5:30 p.m. for purchasing food and drinks and a DJ will provide music until the Band of Oz performs LIVE at 6 p.m.

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



The Robesonian file photo
The Band of Oz is performs at Alive After 5 on June 6, 2024 in downtown Lumberton. The band is set to perform at this week's Alive After 5 on Thursday.

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 10-14: 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. The show runs from June 10-14 at the Carolina Civic Center.

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.

Alive After 5 Concert Series, The Blackwater Band, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., June 4: The Blackwater Band is performing at the Dick Taylor Plaza in historic downtown Lumberton. Some seating is available. However, if you wish to bring your own chair, please do so. Enjoy an evening outside in the fresh air. Food trucks will be available at 5:30 p.m. for purchasing food while a DJ presents music until the Blackwater Band performs LIVE at 6 p.m.! Enjoy!

Alive After 5 Concert Series - Jim Quick and the Coastline Band, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., June 11: Jim Quick and the Coastline Band is performing at the Dick Taylor Plaza in historic downtown Lumberton! Come dance the night away! Some seating is available, but is recommend that you bring your own folding chair for resting between dances. Food trucks will be available to purchase food at 5:30 p.m. while a DJ entertains until Jim Quick and the Coastline Band presents LIVE at 6 pm. Join the FUN!

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.

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Robeson jobless rate improves 0.5% in March

Staff report

ROBESON COUNTY — Robeson County's unemployment rate dropped by half a percentage point in March, according to data released last week by the N.C. Department of Commerce.

Robeson's jobless rate was 4.7% in March, down from 5.2% in February and 5.7% in March. While some months show a pattern year after year of an increase or decrease in local unemployment, Marches have typically seen either a small improvement or none at all, making this year's data all the more noteworthy.

Robeson's workforce increased by over 100 workers in March; the county had a workforce of 44,078 in the month, following a mark of 43,936 in February. Of those, 42,023 are employed and 2,055 are unemployed, which is nearly 500 less than the 2,518 unemployed in February.

The North Carolina unemployment rate dropped slightly from 3.8% in February to 3.7% in March; in another data release on Friday, the state's rate remained at 3.7% for April. The U.S.

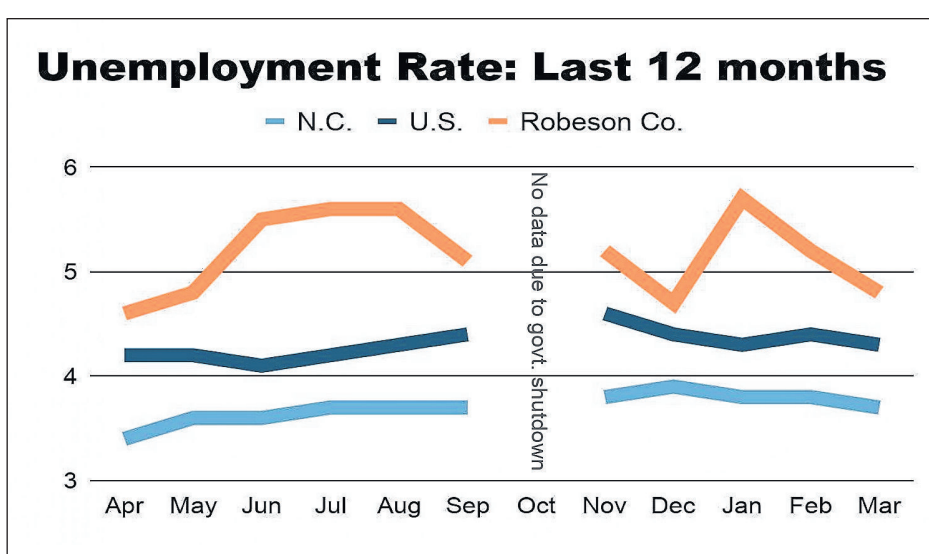
rate dropped from 4.4% in February to 4.3% in March and remained at 4.3% in April.

County rates are not seasonally adjusted. Hyde County had the state's highest rate in March at 8.5% while Stanly and Currituck counties tied for the lowest at 2.8%. All 15 of the state's metro areas saw rate decreases, including the Fayetteville metropolitan statistical area, which includes Robeson County, which dropped from 4.7% in February to 4.4% in March.

North Carolina counties bordering Robeson also saw rate decreases in March: Bladen dropped from 5.3% to 4.8%; Columbus from 4.4% to 3.9%; Cumberland from 4.7% to 4.4%; Hoke from 4.8% to 4.4%; and Scotland from 5.3% to 4.8%.

Year over year, Robeson's jobless rate has improved from 4.9% in March 2025 to the 4.7% rate of March 2026.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 93 counties, increased in five, and remained unchanged in two. All 15 metro areas



Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in March by 31,114 to 5,108,174, while those unemployed decreased by 17,410 to 185,549. Since March 2025, the number of workers

employed statewide increased 10,610, while those unemployed decreased 16,597.

It is important to note that employment estimates are subject to large seasonal patterns; therefore, it is advisable to focus on over-the-year changes in the not seasonally adjusted estimates.

Scam alert: Callers posing as deputies, demanding payment of 'fine'

Chris Stiles
The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — When Carolyn McCormick of Lumberton got a phone call recently, she says had a strange feeling about it. But she listened to the call, which was said to be from Robeson County Sheriff's Office deputies and informed her that she had, allegedly, missed two court dates in Wilmington, each resulting in a \$5,000 fine. She was directed to remain on the line and drive to an address in Lumberton to pay that fine.

Fortunately, McCormick's suspicions prevented her from going to that address; when her daughter arrived at her house, she told McCormick to hang up the phone, and she did. The call was a scam.

"I didn't budge from my house. I

had a feeling things were not right," McCormick said. "But they were pretty convincing."

Among the things said in the phone call were that she could not tell anyone else about the situation or they would be arrested; that she could not get a handwriting analysis on alleged court documents until after she paid the "fines"; and that, when she asked to speak with Sheriff Burnis Wilkins, she was told she could not.

McCormick believes that if she had gone to the address that she was told to visit, she could have been in a very dangerous situation.

"It really frightened me, because I think other older people might not be up to date on how to find the scams online, and not be as informed," McCormick said. "There's a lot of people that wouldn't know about it. But the police,

I've been told, will never call you like that."

The Robeson County Sheriff's Office reiterated that fact in a recent social media post, saying: "Law enforcement will NEVER contact you by phone and demand money or payment for a civil or criminal matter."

In the event of receiving such a call, the post encouraged the public to hang up anytime that:

- You are told to stay on the phone and travel to a specific location.
- You are asked to purchase gift cards, Bitcoin or any form of money.
- You are threatened with arrest if you don't pay immediately.

Additionally, text or photo messages claiming to be from the N.C. Department of Motor Vehicles threatening to suspend your license, or demanding payment to avoid a suspended license

or criminal charges, are also a scam; these have been circulating often in recent weeks.

The public is encouraged to report spam calls to the N.C. Department of Justice at 1-877-5-NO-SCAM (1-877-566-7226) or file a complaint at ncdoj.gov/complaint.

As for McCormick, the retired physician is relieved that she did not further engage with the scam, and hopes that her former patients will also be vigilant and avoid falling for them.

"I was thinking about how a lot of my other patients would be the same way as me," she said, "and would be kind of floored by the whole thing, not knowing whether to leave it or hang up on it."

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

FROM THE LEGISLATURE

Budd leads bipartisan group in introducing FARM AI act

WASHINGTON — U.S. Sen. Ted Budd (R-N.C.) led a bipartisan group of his Senate colleagues, including U.S. Senators Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), Jim Banks (R-Ind.), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.), Mike Rounds (R-S.D.), and Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-Del.), in introducing the Fostering Agricultural Research and Modernization through Artificial Intelligence (FARM AI) Act Thursday.

The bill would increase capital for AI projects through U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grants and ensure USDA programs are deployed to educate farmers on the latest AI technologies to advance American production. By investing in agricultural workforce development, this bipartisan legislation will expand access to AI in farming, enabling America's producers to compete more effectively in the global marketplace.

"AI technologies are advancing at a rapid pace, and if we fail to address the barriers of access to AI deployment in agriculture, America's producers will fall behind," Budd said. "Precision technologies have the potential to enhance innovation and productivity in farming and ranching, but outdated USDA programs are holding this potential back from reaching our rural communities. I am proud to be leading the bipartisan FARM AI Act to unlock the untapped potential of AI technology to advance American agriculture."

The Farm AI Act would:

- Add AI Development as a priority research area under the USDA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), enabling more research into AI and workforce development to develop and deploy AI technologies on farms.

- Emphasize AI as an explicit focus for research under USDA's Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority (AgARDA), further expanding AI research for more complex projects.

- Ensure the USDA Extension provides outreach and education to farmers on the adoption and responsible use of AI systems will rapidly increase the productivity and security of rural communities.

- Expand agricultural workforce training to include AI and precision agriculture, funding workforce development and technical training programs in rural communities on artificial intel-



Budd

ligence and precision agriculture to equip the next generation of agricultural workers with the skills needed to adopt and utilize modern farming technologies.

— Nominate a senior official under USDA's AFRI to ensure grants and outreach programs are tailored to include AI development and implementation, along with ensuring USDA collaborates with the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish national AI standards for the agriculture sector.

Budd leads colleagues in introducing legislation to prevent illegal aliens from escaping mandatory detention

Budd led several Senate Republican colleagues in introducing the Detention Authority Clarification Act Thursday, which would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) to make unambiguous Congress' intent that illegal aliens be subject to detention without bond pending removal from the United States. This is in response to split decisions by federal courts across the country about what should already be clear in section 235 of the INA — all who have entered the United States illegally are subject to mandatory detention.

"We are a nation of laws, and those who break these laws by coming to our country illegally must be held accountable for their actions," Budd said. "President Trump has worked hard to reaffirm the integrity of our nation's immigration system, yet hundreds of federal district court judges are allowing illegal aliens to avoid mandatory detention based on a supposed loophole. The Detention Authority Clarification Act would eliminate any doubt by reaffirming mandatory detention for those who have violated U.S. law by entering the country illegally."

The Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, requires the detention of illegal aliens. Previous administrations allowed these illegal aliens to be released on bond. However, the Trump administration now detains these illegal aliens in compliance with the statute and with Congress' intent. Thousands of detained, illegal aliens have filed lawsuits in federal courts challenging the Trump administration's interpretation of the INA, and hundreds of federal district judges have granted their request

for release. Split panels of circuit court judges on the federal courts of appeals have sided with and against the Trump administration, and one such panel of judges deadlocked entirely on this question.

Harris delivers floor remarks in support of the Stopping Indoctrination and Protecting Kids Act

Friday, U.S. Rep. Mark Harris (R-NC8) delivered remarks on the House floor in support of H.R. 2616, the Stopping Indoctrination and Protecting Kids Act, legislation that puts students first by keeping classrooms focused on reading, writing, critical thinking, and other skills they need to succeed instead of political agendas.

"For far too long, our education system has prioritized activism over fundamentals," Harris said. "Parents want their kids to learn how to read, write, solve math problems, and reach their God-given potential. Unfortunately,



Harris

schools across the country have abandoned biological realities in favor of curriculum that's infused with gender ideology, sexual education, and transgenderism.

"This is not education, this is indoctrination.

"What is equally concerning is the effort schools have put into leaving parents out of important discussions regarding their children. Parents have the right to know what their kids are being taught and what is happening to their children in schools.

"That's why I am proud to stand against the indoctrination of our kids and for parents' rights and I strongly urge my colleagues to do the same by joining me in supporting this bill."

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

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HIS VIEW

Budget 'framework' is flawed

Legislative observers who were eager to learn how Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger would function during the legislative short session — his last — may have gotten answers to their questions in the joint announcement that the House and Senate had reached a “framework agreement” on key points of a new budget. Once again, it appears that Berger pretty much got his way.

We say appears because there was nothing more than the announcement on key points. We're told the full budget won't be forthcoming until June and there's no telling what bad ideas will make their way into that document. But we got enough from the May 5 press conference to say that as things now stand it doesn't look promising.

Whoop de doo! Lawmakers finally agreed to give teachers and state employees pay raises. Last year, negotiations stalled when the House proposed a 2.5% increase for state employees and an 8.7% hike for teachers. The Senate had wanted a 1.25% increase for state employees with bonuses over the two years and 2.3% raises for teachers, again with bonuses each year. The “framework” calls for state employees to get a 3% raise and teachers an 8% boost.

When you factor in the cost of inflation over the three years since the last pay increases and the almost hidden revelation that raises would not be paid retrospectively (as is usually the case) but instead would be prospective, meaning increases would only begin in the coming July 1 budget year, the proposals aren't good enough. Teachers and State employees are rightfully grumbling about them. Lawmakers had to make employee pay more attractive because of the increasingly large number of vacancies in vital state positions.

Then there is the income tax issue. A major conflict erupted last year over personal income tax rates after the consensus revenue projections from the Office of State Budget and Management and the legislature's Fiscal Research staff projected a budget deficit if personal tax rates were cut further. Berger boldly stated he didn't think the projections were accurate. Turns out he was correct. The latest estimates, released last week, indicate that because of increased personal income tax collections, capital gains taxes and strong corporate income taxes the General Fund revenues will grow by 3.3% and should generate an increase of \$713 million for the year.

Lawmakers must have had some advance warning of these new projections when they agreed to allow further decrease personal income tax rates. Beginning July 1, the current 3.99% rate will be decreased to 3.49% and will further drop to 3.45% in 2030-32. That's great news for all of us who pay income taxes, but armed with these positive projections, legislators then ventured into dangerous ground.

They caved into a longtime Berger desire to put a constitutional amendment on the November ballot to cap NC personal income tax rates at 3.5%. Currently the cap is 7%, a more reasonable ceiling. This is nothing but a run-on bill, a measure lawmakers know that voters will eagerly turn out and vote for. But here's the problem. When we passed the current 7% constitutional amendment cap, we had several years' experience with tax rates lower than 7%. We don't have that experience now.

While we hope it doesn't happen, past history shows that sooner or later our robust economy will stumble. How will state leaders generate the revenues needed to keep state functions running if their hands are constitutionally tied? Will they cut vital services? Will they be forced to increase other taxes? Or will they borrow money to pay the bills? It is lousy governance to put future leaders in a box.

But if this amendment is bad, the other three proposed amendments are worse. One would guarantee that North Carolina is a “right to work” state, something that isn't being challenged or needed. Another would guarantee a person's right to farm. And the worst of them all would put a cap on property tax increases our municipal governments can pass.

Property taxes have become a burden for many citizens and there's no question we need to have an open discussion about how best to meet local needs without sudden increases in property taxes. But once again we are tying the hands of city and county leaders and potentially forcing bad future decisions.

Constitutional amendments should be sparingly passed. Only 37 have been approved since 1971. None of these are necessary and are a shameful gimmick.

We haven't seen what else might be included in the rest of the typical 600-plus-page two-year budget, but what we've learned so far isn't a great omen. Lawmakers have had two years to get this right. They need to do better.

Tom Campbell is a Hall of Fame North Carolina broadcaster and columnist who has covered North Carolina public policy issues since 1965. Contact him at tomcamp@carolinabroadcasting.com.



CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF ROBESON COUNTY

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

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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

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

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

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

NORTH CAROLINA (State Offices)

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

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

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, 919-856-4630, or 113 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, 202-733-5821.

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

Denser cities won't rely on transit

RALEIGH — Policymakers can't make any significant headway on housing affordability unless they make it easier for companies to add more inventory more quickly, including the construction of more homes per acre of land. This isn't some abstract theory or ideological claim. It is a relationship confirmed by copious empirical research. Basic laws of supply and demand drive the housing market as they do all others.

North Carolina has already take some sizable strides in the direction of housing abundance, by loosening constraints on construction and speeding up the permitting process. That's one reason our growth engine continues to hum while other sputter. If we keep going, one effect will be steady increases in population density within our fastest-growing cities, suburbs and exurbs.

Does that also mean a significant increase in transit usage? Longtime proponents for public transportation often make this prediction, and I question neither their good intentions nor the superficial plausibility of the claim. But it just doesn't comport with practical experience.

Take Charlotte, for example. It added more residents last year than any other big city in the country. Mecklenburg is North Carolina's densest county, with an average of 2,289 people per square mile vs. 1,484 in Wake, 1,280 in New Hanover, 1,202 in Durham, 977 in Forsyth, 868 in Guilford and 226 for the state as a whole. And, yes, the Queen City has by far North Carolina's most-elaborate transit system, including buses, a rail line and a streetcar line.

Despite all that, transit plays a minuscule — and declining — role in Charlotte's commuting patterns. Ridership was trending downward before the COVID pandemic, then plummeted (as did transit ridership pretty much everywhere). It has yet to recover. Bus ridership in 2024 was 16% lower than in 2019. Rail ridership was an astounding 31% lower.

Elsewhere in North Carolina, transit systems exhibit a range of patterns. Some show modest increases in ridership over the past couple of years. Some show declines. Outside of college towns, however, none carries more than a tiny fraction of daily commuters. In most cases, that percentage is lower than it was a decade ago.

This isn't just a local story. Nationwide, transit ridership generally wiggled within a narrow range of about 750 million to 950 million “unlinked trips” (not unique passengers) a month from the turn of the century until early 2020. After the COVID tumble, it rebounded somewhat but remains significantly below pre-pandemic levels — which were themselves unimpressive, staying relatively flat even as America's population surged.

All other things being equal, greater housing density within North Carolina's urban cores may increase transit usage a little. But North Carolinians will continue to drive, carpool, telecommute and even walk to work more often than they take a bus or train. Indeed, transportation analyst Wendell Cox recently observed that when it comes to accessing as many potential jobs as possible within a half-hour window, bicycling has proved to be superior to transit in most communities across the United States, including those in North Carolina. For non-work trips, as well, few will voluntarily choose transit for errands, shopping, recreation or entertainment.

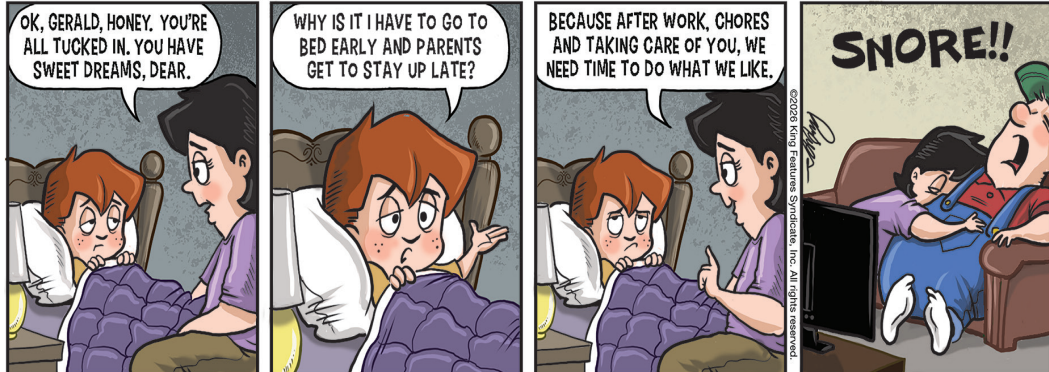
That doesn't mean our cities will or should halt transit service. It can be a vital lifeline for those who can't afford to own a car or are unable to operate one. Being practical about transit should be liberating, not limiting. It should allow policymakers to embrace new technologies such as autonomous vehicles, big data and artificial intelligence to deliver the type and scale of public assistance that satisfy the demands of transit-dependent residents rather than those of transit fantasists.

No, buses and trains will never carry a sizable share of North Carolina travelers. We simply place too high value on automobility for that. And to the extent our cities evolve into denser, mixed-use places, the likely result will be somewhat-shorter commutes by car or foot, punctuated by periods of remote work, rather than a return to the mass transit world of the early- to mid-20th century.

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).

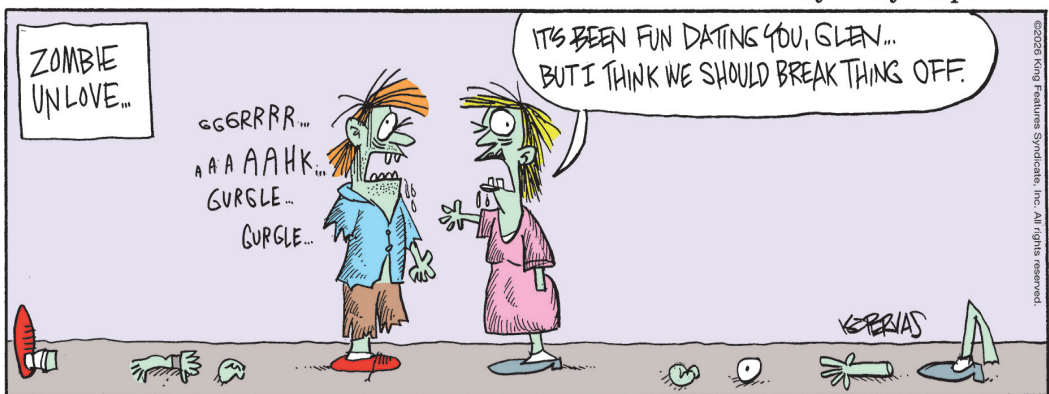
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



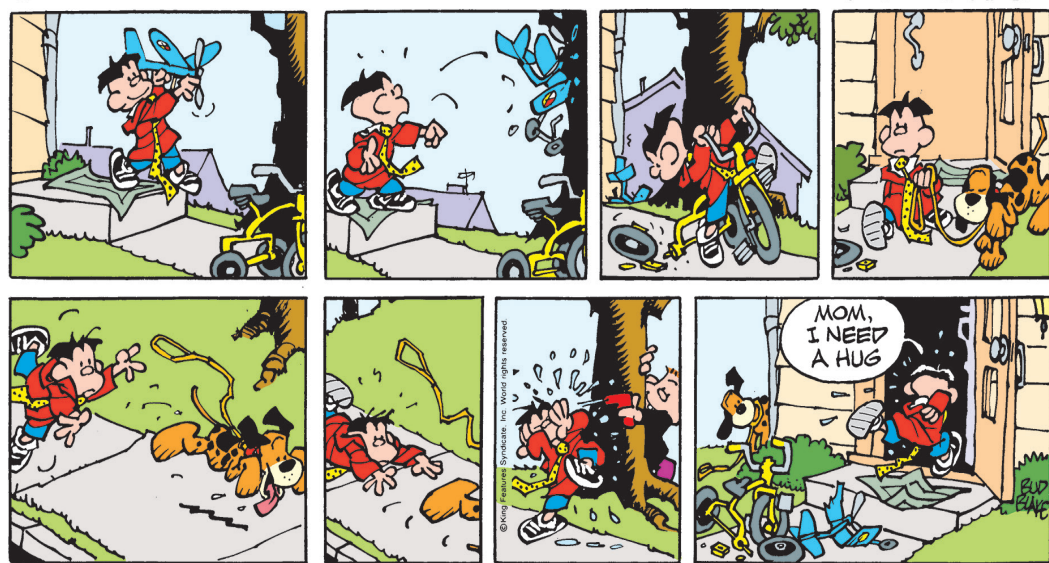
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Milholland



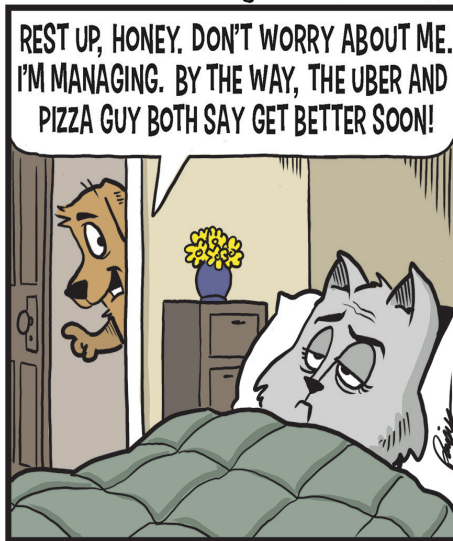
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



CryptoQuip

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

Clue: V equals T

MN VSP PMFSVPPCVS FZPPW
 UPVVPZ SRI VE GP TEZC RX
 R QRZW EN XSRQP, MV TEBUI
 GP R XMFQR XVMFQR.

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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!

Honest: ROMAL
 Reduced: KNURSH
 Village: LATHEM
 Groan: ACKER

Boxed letters: T, O, D, A, Y, S, W, O, R, D

Today's Word: _____

"Tell me, Daddy, how much an hour does a _____ get?"

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Rain-delay cover
- 5 Prattle
- 8 Minn. neighbor
- 12 Declare
- 13 Lab eggs
- 14 "Rule, Britannia!" composer
- 15 "Arrivederci!"
- 16 Dawn
- 18 Airport area
- 20 Upper House
- 21 Fed. workplace monitor
- 23 Director Burton
- 24 9-to-5 work period
- 28 Slightly
- 31 Dos preceder
- 32 — the above
- 34 Equi-
- 35 Boxing match
- 37 The "D" of DST
- 39 ICU workers
- 41 Sent a dupe to
- 42 Barely manage
- 45 Coiffure
- 49 Make a short-term investment
- 51 Last write-up
- 52 Sheltered
- 53 — Angeles

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18				19			20			
			21			22	23			
24	25	26				27	28		29	30
31				32			33		34	
35			36			37			38	
			39			40			41	
42	43					44			45	
46	47	48								
49						50			51	
52						53			54	
55						56			57	

- 54 Maxi's opposite
- 55 GI dining hall
- 56 Permit
- 57 Bygone fliers
- DOWN
- 1 Diplomacy
- 2 Athletic shoe brand
- 3 Bring up
- 4 "Coming Soon" ads
- 5 Sponsored infant
- 6 "Selma" director
- 7 Inlets
- 8 Aslan's land
- 9 Have lofty aspirations
- 10 Gray's subj.
- 11 "Nope" actress
- 17 Wager
- 19 Author Bandle
- 22 Insurance giant
- 24 Name
- 25 Year in Mexico
- 26 "For — Only" (Bond film)
- 27 Kid's storage unit
- 29 Somewhat (Suff.)
- 30 Youngster
- 33 Beagle's bane
- 36 Govt. securities
- 38 Figures of speech
- 40 South, in Spanish
- 42 Dutch cheese
- 43 Curly cabbage
- 44 Towering
- 46 Baseball stats
- 47 Force
- 48 Elevator name
- 50 Fawn's mama

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a female fox called?
- HISTORY: In what year was the first iPhone released?
- MOVIES: What was the first U.S. movie to be rated PG-13?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the southernmost capital city in the world?
- U.S. STATES: Which state is home to the world's largest cave system?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What category of writing are the Hugo and Nebula Awards given for?
- TELEVISION: In what year did the comedy show "Saturday Night Live" debut?
- MATH: What is a polygon with seven sides?
- LITERATURE: What city is the setting for Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet"?
- ENTERTAINERS: Which New Jersey city has a statue of singer Frank Sinatra?

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FiveSpot™

Weather watching

H	O	U	S	E

The always win at the casino

Where to find a beach

Writing without rhymes

Next-best score in a bowling frame

Beseeches

Political division

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.sproutsuzzie.com

02641

HOMEMAKER

Today's Word

3. Hamlet; 4. Creek

1. Moral; 2. Shrunken solution

SCRAMBLERS

P	A	R	T	Y
P	R	A	V	S
S	P	A	R	E
P	R	O	S	E
S	H	O	R	E
H	O	U	S	E

Solution

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

Answer

King Crossword

Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

1. A vixen

2. 2007

3. "Red Dawn," 1984

4. Wellington, New Zealand

5. Kentucky

6. Science fiction and fantasy

7. 1975

8. Heptagon

9. Verona, Italy

10. Hoboken, New Jersey

CLASSIFIEDS

LEGALS

NORTH CAROLINA

ROBESON COUNTY
26 E 365

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS

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

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

This the 6th day of May, 2026.

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

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

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

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 NC Hwy 41 N. Lumberton, NC 28358.

5/20 5/23 5/27 2026

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Information Technology and Computer Support Services / HACI-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, ATTORNEYFOR 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 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

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

Notice Content

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA ROBESON COUNTY IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO. 26CV002204-770 To: **JORGE JIMENEZ MIGUEL.** Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Plaintiff FRANCISCA GOMEZ DE LA CRUZ seeks permanent custody of your minor child. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than FORTY DAYS JULY 6 2026 AFTER RECEIVING 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 27th day of May, 2026. By: Stacy Maynor Godwin, Esq./Maynor Law Firm, PLLC, Attorney for Plaintiff 210 South Main Street Red Springs, NC 28377 Telephone: (910) 227-2177 Email: maynorlawfirm@gmail.com.

5/27 6/3 6/10 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

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, 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; 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

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

LEGALS

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 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 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 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

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

All signs lead to you finding or selling what you want...

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Don't delay... call TODAY!

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

Help Wanted General

**Robeson Community College
Adult Basic Education
Instructor**

Robeson Community College is seeking a dedicated and motivated Adult Basic Education (ABE) Instructor to join our team. The successful candidate will be responsible for planning, organizing, promoting, and teaching the approved ABE curriculum while supporting adult learners in achieving their educational and career goals.

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

Deadline for applications: June 1, 2026

ROBESON COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
5/23 5/27 5/30 2026

Land (Acreage)

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY FOR RENT
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

Want to Rent

ROOMMATE WANTED!
Call Chris at 910.738.4702



RE-ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for the Town of Maxton Town Hall & Police Station Renovation Project will be received by the Town of Maxton until 10:00 A.M. on June 8, 2026 at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bids shall be delivered to:

Town of Maxton
201 McCaskill Avenue
Maxton, NC 28364
Attn: Angela Pitchford

Project Description:

The project generally consists of the construction of an approximately 5,800 square foot addition and renovation to the existing Recreation Center and Police Station facility located in Maxton, North Carolina. Work includes architectural, structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, civil, and associated site improvements.

Complete digital bidding documents and/or questions inquire from:

Lumber River Council of Governments
30 CJ Walker Road
ATTN: Craig Usher
cu@lrcog.org

Bidders must be properly licensed under Chapter 87 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

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

The Town of Maxton encourages participation by minority-owned, women-owned, and historically underutilized businesses (HUBs).

LEGALS

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

The UNDERSIGNED having qualified as Executor, of 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
VALERIE HARRIS
195 ADNELL DR
MAXTON, NC. 28364

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

PSRC educators awarded PRISM Grants

Jessica Sealey
For The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — The Public Schools of Robeson County announced last week that two outstanding educators have been awarded Promoting Innovation in Science and Mathematics (PRISM) grants through the Burroughs Wellcome Fund to support innovative, hands-on STEM learning opportunities for students.

According to the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, “The Promoting Innovation in Science and Mathematics awards enhance the excitement for STEM in the classroom by providing funds for materials, equipment, and supplies related to the implementation of high-quality curriculum and activities in the classroom.”

At Public Schools of Robeson County, Robeson County Career Center educator Christian Chavis and Peterson Elementary educator Kayla Hendrix were selected to receive grant funding for projects designed to spark creativity, problem-solving and real-world learning experiences for students.

Ignite the Circuit: Soldering for Future Innovators

Christian Chavis was awarded a \$4,500 PRISM grant for the project, Ignite the Circuit: Soldering for Future Innovators. The initiative is designed to introduce students to foundational electronics and soldering skills through hands-on STEM learning experiences.

The project will provide students with tools, materials, and guided instruction to safely build and assemble electronic circuits while developing technical confidence, engineering knowledge, and critical thinking skills.

“I am incredibly excited about the impact this grant will have on my students,” Chavis said. “This project will allow students to build real circuits, develop technical skills, and gain confidence working with tools and technology that are typically not introduced until later in their education. I am especially excited to see students take pride in creating something tangible while strengthening their problem-solving and critical thinking skills.”

Chavis added that the opportunity will create engaging, real-world learning experiences that inspire curiosity and

expose students to future STEM career pathways.

Little Sprouts, Big Discoveries: Hydroponics for Young Learners

At Peterson Elementary School, first-grade teacher Kayla Hendrix received a \$4,500 PRISM grant for Little Sprouts, Big Discoveries: Hydroponics for Young Learners.

The project introduces hydroponics systems into first-grade classrooms, allowing students to explore innovative, soil-free gardening methods while learning foundational science concepts through hands-on experiences.

Through the initiative, students will observe plant growth, explore life cycles and nutrition and strengthen environmental stewardship skills. The project also integrates cross-curricular learning by incorporating math through data collection and measurement activities, as well as English Language Arts through writing observations, journaling and speaking activities.

“Receiving the grant is truly an exciting and meaningful moment for me as a teacher,” Hendrix said. “Through

hydroponics, students will build important problem-solving skills, make real-world connections, and engage in hands-on learning that brings science to life in a way that is both engaging and memorable.”

PSRC Superintendent Freddie Williamson praised both educators for their dedication to creating innovative learning experiences for students.

“These grants reflect the creativity and commitment of our educators to provide meaningful, hands-on opportunities that prepare students for the future,” Williamson said. “We are proud of Christian and Kayla for securing these competitive grants and for continuing to inspire curiosity, innovation and excellence in STEM education across PSRC.”

The grant-funded projects align with PSRC’s commitment to preparing students for success through engaging, future-focused learning opportunities that promote innovation, collaboration and career readiness.

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

PSRC encourages students to finish strong during end-of-year testing

Jessica Sealey
For The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — As the school year enters its final stretch, the Public Schools of Robeson County is encouraging students across the district to give their very best effort during upcoming end-of-year assessments.

End-of-year testing will begin soon across the district, with some assessments potentially starting as early as the end of this week based on school and student needs. Parents and guardians will receive notification letters with important testing information, including dates and details specific to their child’s school.

The NC End-of-Grade (EOG) assessments for Math, Reading, and Science in grades K–8 are also scheduled from Tuesday through June 9. In addition, the Grade 3 Read to Achieve Test is scheduled for June 2. NC End-of-Course (EOC) assessments for high school

students are scheduled to take place from June 3 through June 9, 2026.

Testing season provides students with an opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have gained throughout the school year. District leaders are reminding students and families that preparation, confidence and perseverance can make a meaningful difference.

“End-of-year assessments are an opportunity for students to showcase their hard work and growth throughout the year,” said Windy Dorsey-Carr, PSRC’s assistant superintendent of curriculum, instruction and accountability. “We encourage every student to stay focused, believe in themselves, and finish the school year strong. We are proud of the effort our students and staff have put in all year long.”

PSRC encourages students to remember the following testing tips:

— Show what you know.

— Try your best.

— Never leave an answer blank.

— If you don’t know the answer

to a question, skip it and come back to it.

— Get a good night’s rest before the test.

— Eat a healthy, balanced breakfast before the test.

PSRC encourages families to help students prepare by ensuring they arrive at school on time, get adequate rest, and maintain positive routines throughout the testing period.

“Students, confidence is your superpower,” said Debra Dowless, PSRC’s director of curriculum and instruction. “You already have everything you need to succeed. Trust what you have learned, stay focused, and do your very best on each test. We believe in you and are cheering you on every step of the way.”

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

Local students among Richmond Community College spring semester honor lists

Staff report

HAMLET — Richmond Community College has announced its honor lists for the 2026 Spring Semester.

The President’s List identifies students who earn an “A” in all courses and have a 4.0 grade point average while carrying 6 or more semester credit hours, excluding developmental credits.

The Dean’s List includes the names of students who attain a minimum grade point average of 3.50 and earn no letter grade lower than a “B” while carrying 6 or more semester credit hours, excluding developmental credits.

President’s List honorees from Robeson County include: Christasia Bethea, Laura

Brayboy, Alysia Chavis, Hailey Clark, Aulbernie Coleman, Georgia Cooper, Dominique Davis, Christian Emanuel, Betty Hunt, Brittany Hunt, Jennifer Jackson, Alexis Locklear, April Locklear, Natasha Locklear, Skyler Locklear, Nikki Martinez, Quentero Massey, Kalvionna McIntyre, Zoey Neff, Aiyana Oxendine, Courtney Oxendine, Deidra Ransom, Caleb Strickland, Amber Thomas and Denise Troy.

Dean’s List honorees from Robeson County include: Leann Bowen, Brooke Bullard, Patrick Christian, Katlyn Cummings, Trenton Deese, Lacharm Diggs, Duh Lian, Amberly Locklear, Waydan McMillan, Kyera Oxendine and Martina Rogers.

PSRC

From page 1A

youth and their parents or caregivers in strengthening family cohesion. Her background includes experience in education, mentoring and community engagement.

“I have worked with youth and families for about 10 years, serving in roles focused on student support, family engagement, community outreach, and youth development. I have experience working in areas including social-emotional learning, student housing, juvenile justice, 4-H, opioid prevention, literacy and tutoring,” Dunlap said.

“These experiences have allowed me to work closely with students, families, schools and community partners to help create supportive environments that promote student growth and success,” she added.

As Family Engagement Specialist, Dunlap will serve as a vital liaison between schools and families, working to strengthen communication, encourage parental involvement, and support student success through outreach, training and engagement initiatives.

She will also coordinate family engagement programs, develop community partnerships,

provide resources to families and staff and ensure compliance with federal and district requirements.

“Throughout my career, I have learned the value of listening, building trust and approaching challenges with empathy and a solutions-focused mindset,” she said.

“My experiences in areas such as social-emotional learning, family engagement, juvenile justice, student support services and youth development have given me a broader perspective on the barriers some students and families face, as well as the importance of creating supportive systems and opportunities for success,” she added.

Dunlap also shared her goals for the program.

“My goal is to strengthen the connection between home and school so every student can thrive,” she said.

Dunlap looks forward to building connections and relationships with families, schools and stakeholders to support student success.

“I believe strong communication, collaboration, and trust between schools, families and the community are essential to supporting student growth and achievement,” she said.

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

PSRC announces 2026 Summer Meals Program schedule

Jessica Sealey
For The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — The Public Schools of Robeson County Child Nutrition Department has announced the 2026 Summer Meals Program schedule, ensuring children across Robeson County continue to have access to nutritious meals while school is out for the summer.

The Summer Meals Program will provide free breakfast and lunch at multiple school locations throughout the district beginning June 15.

Meal service hours will include breakfast from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and lunch from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please note that meal service will be suspended July 2-3, in observance of the Independence Day holiday. In addition, no meal services will be offered on Fridays during the month of July.

“Summer meals play an important role in supporting the health

and well-being of our students when school is not in session,” said Charlene Locklear, PSRC child nutrition director. “We are grateful for the opportunity to continue serving families throughout the summer months.”

June 15-29 Meal Sites

— Long Branch Elementary
— Magnolia Elementary
— Pembroke Elementary
— Peterson Elementary
— Rosenwald Elementary
— Rowland-Norment Elementary

— St. Pauls Elementary
— Union Elementary
— Lumberton Jr. High

June 15 to July 31 Meal Sites

— Fairmont High
— Lumberton Senior High
— Pembroke Middle
— Prospect Elementary
— Red Springs High
— St. Pauls High
— Purnell Swett High

— W.H. Knuckles Elementary

July 28 – Aug. 14 Meal Site

— L. Gilbert Carroll Middle School

Boxed Meal Sites in July

The following sites will transition to boxed meal distribution during July:

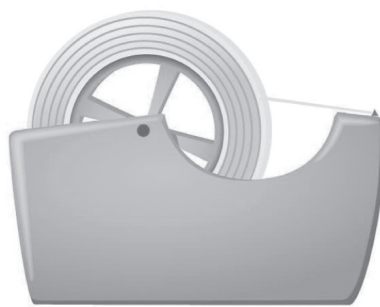
— Rowland-Norment Elementary

— Union Elementary
PSRC encourages families to take advantage of the Summer Meals Program to help students remain fueled, healthy, and ready for a successful new school year.

For additional information about the PSRC Summer Meals Program, families may contact the Public Schools of Robeson County Child Nutrition Department at 910-671-6000.

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

STICK WITH THE CLASSIFIEDS





A cake celebrating the Longley Supply Company's 120th anniversary.



A line of people waiting to get food at the Longley Supply Company's 120th anniversary.



A gift and raffle ticket table at the Longley Supply Company's 120th anniversary.

Longley Supply Co. celebrates 120 years in business

Victoria Sanderson
The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — Longley Supply Co. celebrated 120 years in business on Wednesday.

Founded by Henry E. Longley in 1906, Longley Supply Co. has thrived

over the years, adding locations in several towns and counties outside its flagship store in Wilmington.

Though it first opened its doors in 1946, the Lumberton location quickly outgrew its original location on Second Street and moved to its current location on North Roberts Avenue just 20 years

later.

Chris Faulk, the branch manager at the Lumberton location, has worked for the company for over 30 years and said that the Longley family and the surrounding community have always created a pleasant work environment.

"I never get up in the morning and

dread coming to work," Faulk said. "It's different every day. You hear people say, 'it's the same old grind every day,' but it's not for me. There's something new every day."

Contact Victoria Sanderson at vsanderson@robsonian.com.

Hurricanes

From page 1A

including three major hurricanes.

"With the most advanced forecast modeling and hurricane tracking technologies, NOAA and the National Weather Service are prepared to deliver real-time storm forecasts and warnings," said Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick. "Our experts are integrating cutting-edge tools to ensure communities in the path of storms receive the earliest, most accurate information possible."

"NOAA's rapid integration of advanced technology, including AI-based weather models, drones, and next-generation satellite data will deliver actionable science to safeguard the lives and livelihoods of the American people," said NOAA Administrator Neil Jacobs, Ph.D. "These new capabilities, combined with the unmatched expertise of our National Weather Service forecasters, will produce the most accurate forecasts possible to protect communities in harm's way."

Key factors driving NOAA's forecast

The Atlantic season is expected to be below-normal due to competing factors. El Niño is expected to develop and intensify during the hurricane season, while ocean temperatures in the Atlantic are expected to be slightly warmer than normal and trade winds are likely weaker than average. El Niño conditions tend to support less tropical storms and hurricanes, while warmer ocean temperatures and low winds support a more active year.

"Although El Niño's impact in the Atlantic Basin can often suppress hurricane development, there is still uncertainty in how each season will unfold," said NOAA's National Weather Service Director Ken Graham. "That is why it's essential to review your hurricane preparedness plan now. It only takes one storm to make for a very bad season."

NOAA's outlook is for overall seasonal activity based on large-scale weather and climate patterns. It does not indicate where or when any storms may affect land as that is determined by short-term and variable weather patterns is not a landfall forecast.

"Preparing now for hurricane season — and not waiting for a storm to threat-

en — is essential for staying ahead of any storm. Visit weather.gov/safety and Ready.gov for important preparedness information," added Graham.

New and enhanced communication products this season

— NOAA's National Hurricane Center (NHC) will implement an improved version of the tropical cyclone forecast cone graphic that will now include tropical storm and hurricane watches and warnings for inland areas for the continental United States, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

— NHC will begin testing an experimental version of the tropical cyclone track forecast cone that will capture a greater range of possibilities for the track of the storm by incorporating uncertainties for both direction of movement and timing.

— NHC will provide new products and services for the Hawaiian Islands to include storm surge watches and warnings, and a peak storm surge graphic. These will be publicly available for the main Hawaiian Islands on hurricanes. gov.

Advancements to hurricane analysis and forecasts

— NOAA, in collaboration with the Unified Forecast System community, is testing an experimental high-resolution Seasonal Forecast System that utilizes the latest modeling technology and new methods to assess the evolution of the global ocean-atmosphere system. The system is helping forecasters better simulate tropical storms and hurricanes, and more effectively predict the number of hurricanes and major hurricanes.

— NOAA's Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (AOML) is using machine learning to quality-control data collected from tail

Doppler radar — a specialized radar system mounted on the back of NOAA's "Hurricane Hunter" aircraft. This new method gathers more than 25% more meteorological data than the current method and leads to more high-quality data to support structure and wind analysis by forecasters.

Innovative technologies for this year

— NOAA's Office of Water Prediction high-resolution Flood Inundation Mapping (FIM) services provide emergency managers visualizations of those streets and neighborhoods likely to go underwater. FIM covers 60% of the U.S. population and will expand to nearly 100% by late September 2026.

— For the first time, data from small uncrewed aircraft systems (sUAS) will be integrated into NOAA's hurricane forecast model during the 2026 hurricane season. Scientists from the Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies (CIMAS) and NOAA's Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (AOML) determined that incorporating sUAS data into NOAA's Hurricane Analysis and Forecast System (HAFS) can improve hurricane intensity forecast accuracy by 10%.

— NOAA's Weather Prediction Center launched the experimental Urban Rain Rate Dashboard, a customizable, real-time tool that shows the probability of extreme rainfall a week in advance for more than 60 U.S. cities.

NOAA also issued seasonal hurricane outlooks for the eastern Pacific and central Pacific hurricane basins, with both anticipated to have active seasons. The 2026 Atlantic seasonal outlook will be updated in early August, ahead of the historical peak of the season, which typically extends from mid-September through October.

TOWN OF RED SPRINGS

Mayor Edward Henderson Mayor Pro
Tempore Ronnie Patterson Commissioner
Murray McKeithan Commissioner Caroline
Sumpter Town Manager Shanelle B. Harris

Commissioner Chris Edmonds
Commissioner Ellion D. McQueen
Commissioner Duron Burney
Town Clerk Barbara McColl



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 Commissioners

Attest:

Barbara McColl, Town Clerk
Publish in Robesonian Newspaper:

May 23, 2026
May 27, 2026

217 South Main Street · P.O. Box 790 · Red Springs, NC 28377
(910) 843-5241 / (910) 843-4248 (fax) · www.redsprings.org
"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."



Contributed photo | Charles Kemp

The Fairmont Golden Ambassadors at Monday's Memorial Day celebration.

Fairmont

From page 1A

2027, will be designed by a team of veterans and members of Gold Star families in Fairmont, or families impacted by the loss of an immediate family member in active duty. Those interested in serving on the design committee should contact Kemp at either 910-628-9766 ext. 215 or 910-740-0277.

Kemp said this memorial has been a dream of his for the town since the 1980s, when his mentor, Wiley Taylor, brought him to Georgetown and he saw the memorial on its Riverwalk.

"I told Mr. Wiley

that we needed to do something like that, and maybe put up a marker on the grounds up near the museum," Kemp said. "He got sick and passed away, and some of the others disbanded with their ideas, so I've carried this idea for 40 years."

The Memorial Day celebration also included several presentations from the town's youth, including the Farmers Festival Queens, the Fairmont Golden Ambassadors Jack Tyner, Halle Bethea, Caden Miller, Luke and Wade Odom; Amber Stone, Jerome Chestnut, and cadets from the Fairmont High School ROTC.

Contact Victoria Sanderson at vsanderson@robsonian.com.

Grant

From page 1A

private sources totaling approximately \$41 million and creating 189 additional jobs, a press release said.

"Investing in rural infrastructure unlocks opportunity," said Gov. Josh Stein. "When we strengthen rural North Carolina, we empower local economies, we connect our people to critical services, and we ensure that no matter where someone lives, we offer them a fair shot at success."

"North Carolina has the second-largest rural population in America," said N.C. Commerce Secretary Lee Lilley. "These grants are critical to strengthening the economic competitiveness of our state from Murphy to Manteo and are direct investments in the long-term vitality of every rural community."

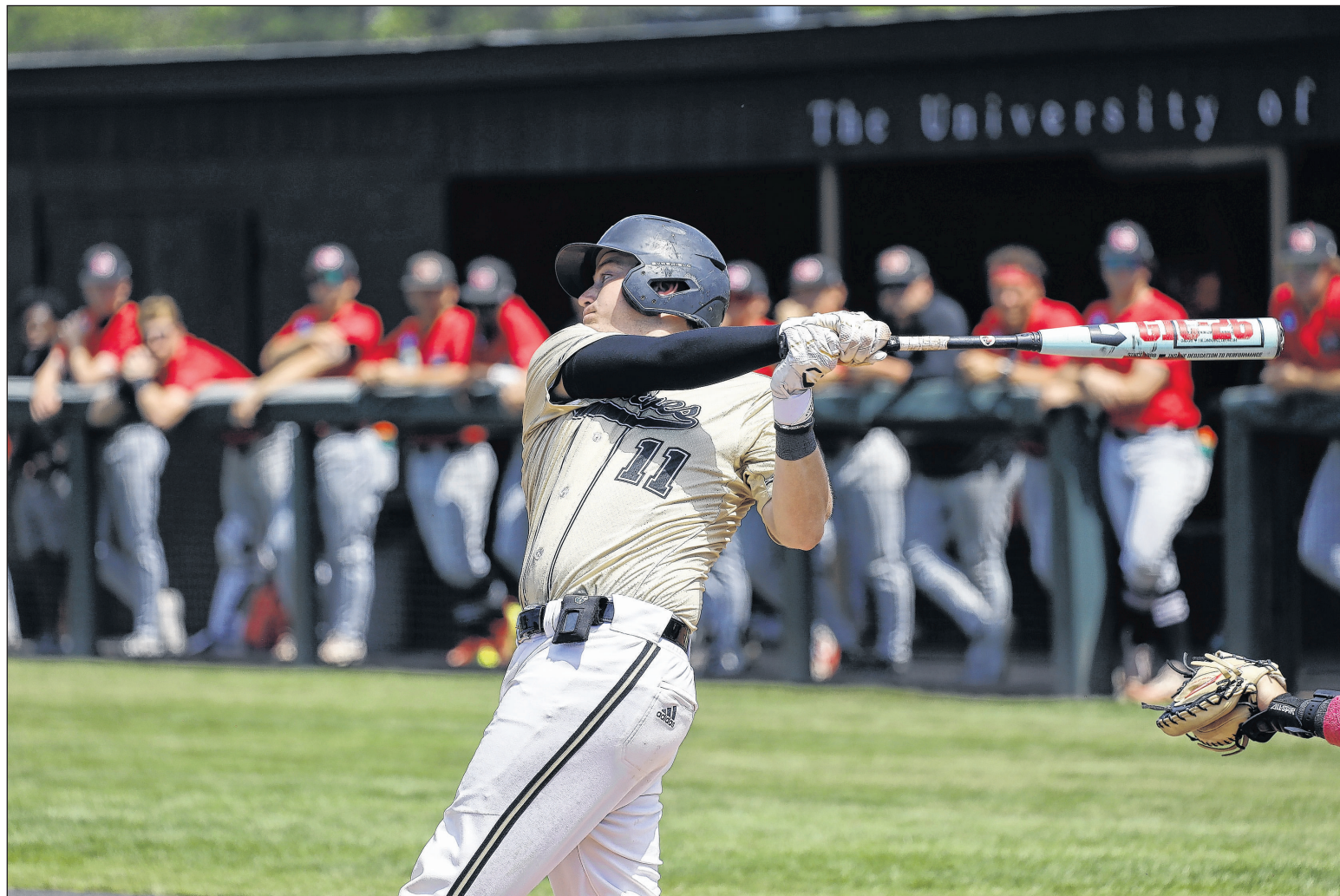
The Building Reuse Program provides grants to local governments to renovate vacant buildings, renovate and/or expand buildings occupied by existing North Carolina companies, and renovate, expand, or construct health care facilities that will lead to the creation of new jobs.

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

Sports

The Robesonian

Wednesday, May 27, 2026 • Section B



UNC Pembroke's Landon Lucas swings at a pitch during an April 11 game against North Greenville in Pembroke. Lucas was named a first-team All-American by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association.

UNCP Athletics

One of America's best

Braves' Lucas reflects on All-American season

Jacob Husson
The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — Red-shirt senior third baseman Landon Lucas of the UNCP Braves baseball team has been named to the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) Division II All-American First Team. This is the first time a UNCP player has achieved this honor since Trey Jacobs in 2018.

"It means a lot," Lucas said. "It was cool to come back stronger from injury and bring happiness to UNCP. With that said, I see it more as a team accomplishment." Lucas was one of nine Conference Carolinas baseball players who received this honor with five other players on the first team. He is also the 38th Brave to be named an All-American in the last 19 seasons.

This season, Lucas gave UNCP its first player with 20 home runs and 20 doubles in a season since 2015 when Collins Cuthrell achieved this. "I feel like he really dedicated himself and made some adjustments to improve his batting average and home run totals this season," UNCP coach Paul O'Neil said. Perhaps the senior's

most impressive stretch was the weekend series at Southern Wesleyan on Feb. 27-28. In the series sweep, he went 10-for-14 with a home run, three doubles and eight RBIs, earning Conference Carolinas Player of the Week honors. Lucas finished second in hits and fifth in home runs and RBIs in Division II.

LANDON LUCAS

UNC Pembroke
NCBWA first-team
All-American
Average: .419
Games played: 50
Hits: 88
Doubles: 20
Triples: 3
Home runs: 20
RBIs: 76
Runs: 62
On-base pct: .462
Slugging: .829
OPS: 1.291

See LUCAS | 2B

OT goal sends Canes to 2-1 lead over Habs

Associated Press

MONTREAL — Andrei Svechnikov scored at 14:06 of overtime and the Carolina Hurricanes defeated the Montreal Canadiens 3-2 on Monday night to take a 2-1 lead in the Eastern Conference Final.

Shayne Gostisbehere and Taylor Hall scored in regulation for Carolina. Frederik Andersen made 11 saves.

"You're seeing that the rust is off," said Hall, whose team had 11 days off following the second round of the playoffs. "We're feeling good about playing hockey again."

Mike Matheson and Lane Hutson scored for Montreal, which got 35 stops from Jakub Dobes.

Game 4 in the best-of-seven series is Wednesday at the Bell Centre.

After a back-and-forth overtime, Hutson turned the puck over in the neutral zone. Montreal had time to recover, but Svechnikov took a pass from Seth Jarvis up high and fired a shot through traffic for the winning goal.

"Can't get it back,"

See HOCKEY | 4B

Suarez earns emotional Coke 600 victory

Steve Reed
AP Sports Writer

CONCORD — When Daniel Suarez was struggling to make his name in auto racing, he would often get phone calls from Kyle Busch offering words of encouragement and urging him to keep working.

That made his crown jewel Cup Series victory Sunday night all the more special.

Suarez benefited from a crucial pit call, then caught a break from Mother Nature to win the rain-shortened Coca-Cola 600, capping an emotional day in which the racing world remembered the late Busch.

Suarez became the first Mexican-born driver to win the Coke 600. It was his third Cup Series win and first since 2024.

The victory was especially emotional for Suarez, who previously raced for Kyle Busch Motorsports.

"Kyle, he was special," Suarez said as he teared up. "I was doing this for Kyle, for (his wife) Samatha, for (his child) Brexton and Lennix and for all of his family."

A non-factor for most of the race, Suarez gambled and took two tires

See SUAREZ | 3B



Lumberton Jr. High's Bryson Brooks was named as the Robeson County Runner of the Year at the middle school boys track championships on May 18 in Red Springs.



The Lumberton Jr. High boys track team celebrates after winning the county championship on May 18 in Red Springs.

Photos courtesy of PSRC

LJHS wins middle school boys track title

Staff report

LUMBERTON — Some of Robeson County's fastest middle schoolers came out to compete at the PSRC Boys Track Championship on Monday, May 18 in Red Springs. This provided excitement to the community as the school year nears its end.

Lumberton Junior High won the event with 59 points and South Robeson Intermediate came in second place with 53 points. Pembroke Middle School scored 47 points to place third.

Bryson Brooks from Lumberton Jr. High was named the county's

middle school Runner of the Year.

Brooks won the 1600-meters with a time of 5:28.35 while Red Springs' Ivan Cruz finished in 5:37.35 to place second. South Robeson's Braylon Little placed third in 5:44.66.

Kymani from Orrum won the boys 100-meter dash with a time of 11.56 while Travaughan McAllister from Lumberton finished in 11.79 seconds to finish second. Jazyon from Lumberton finished third in the race with a time of 11.87.

South Robeson came away victorious in the

See TRACK | 2B



The South Robeson Intermediate boys track team takes a photo after finishing second at the county championship on May 18 in Red Springs.

Track

From page 1B

4x200-meter relay, finishing in 1:42.09 while Orrum was second with a time of 1:43.6. Magnolia Middle placed third with a time of 1:46.6.

Lumberton won the 4x100m relay, finishing in 48.89 seconds. Orrum finished in 51.2 seconds to come in second while Prospect placed third with a time of 50.2 seconds.

Lumberton's R.J. won the 400-meter dash on the boys side with a time of 58.64 seconds while Gentry from Magnolia came in second place with a time of 58.71. Finally, Jaythan from Magnolia finished third with a time of 1:01.68.

Jaythan Locklear from Pembroke Middle was victorious in the 800-meters with a time of 2:31.32 while Tyriq from Lumberton was second, finishing in 2:34.38. Red Springs' Angel Acosta took third in 2:39.80.

In the boys 200-meter dash, Jeremiah from South Robeson won with a time of 25.07 seconds. Pembroke Middle's Payden Jacobs came in second with a time of 25.14 while Brandon Chavis from Prospect finished in 25.49 seconds to place third.

Magnolia came out on top in the 4x400m relay, finishing in 4:12.89. South Robeson crossed the finish line after 4:19.02 to come in second while Littlefield placed third with a time of 4:34.51.



AJ Mast | AP Photo

Felix Rosenqvist, of Sweden, pumps his fist as he celebrates after winning the Indianapolis 500 Sunday at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Rosenqvist savoring spoils of Indy 500 victory

Michael Marot
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Felix Rosenqvist's long-awaited Indianapolis 500 victory lap started sinking in quickly.

After gulping the traditional swig of milk and dumping the rest over his head Sunday, the winner of the closest race in Indy 500 history started making the winner's rounds. He spent two hours answering questions in his fire suit before heading to another photo shoot. Then there was a short celebratory night before hitting the early morning television shows, enduring additional photo shoots and, yes, Monday night's annual postrace dinner where he'll find out how much money he won.

Never mind that there's another race next weekend in Detroit.

But the 34-year-old Swede who endured so much heartbreak at Indianapolis and in IndyCars wasn't about to start complaining. No, he was too busy savoring the spoils of victory.

"I can sit here for 24 hours and do this, whatever you want," Rosenqvist said with a smile. "It's funny, someone asked me to sign their beer bottle a minute ago and writing Indy 500 winner was like, it kind of struck me that I've done it. I still feel like it's a dream. I feel like I could wake up at any point and it's like, 'Oh, it's race day, we haven't run yet.' I still hope I don't wake up."

Rosenqvist probably didn't get much shut-eye Sunday night and not just because his newborn daughter, Stella, is less than a month old.

This was the moment Rosenqvist's family dreamt about from the moment it started scraping

together money for his karting career.

While he barely remembers the effervescent, guitar-playing Kenny Brack becoming the first Swede to win "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing" back in 1999, he does remember his father telling him how great Brack was and how great a victory it was for the country.

Twenty-three years later, Marcus Ericsson replicated Brack's feat on Indianapolis Motor Speedway's 2.5-mile oval. Ericsson celebrated his 500 win by taking the iconic Borg-Warner Trophy on tour across his home country, which has a population of less than 11 million.

The Meyer Shank Racing driver isn't sure if that will be in the plans this time, but he was grateful for Ericsson welcoming him to the club.

"I'm pretty proud to be one of three Swedish (winners), which is a pretty small nation in the grand scheme of things, to have won the biggest race in the world," he said. "(Marcus) came up to me when we were drinking the milk in victory circle and he said I earned it, that I deserved it. That meant a lot to me."

Rosenqvist certainly earned his place in history with his unforgettably daring move — hurtling down the front straightaway behind David Malukas on the final lap, making a perfectly timed swing outside, catching a tow and edging his car across the yard of bricks, barely ahead of Malukas.

The victory margin of 0.0233 seconds was even smaller than Al Unser Jr.'s 0.043-second victory over Scott Goodyear in 1992, and even in the moment, Rosenqvist understood the significance of

what happened.

"I thought I was second, to be honest. I was like, this is — this sucks, now we're second in the 500," said Rosenqvist, who made his fifth straight start in the top nine and placed fourth twice in the previous four years. "I thought I didn't have it, and then I shifted up, and it was just kind of sucking up to David, and it was just enough to get me over the finish line, half a foot ahead of him. You can't even dream up that stuff. It was just so cool. I'll watch it a million times."

But before Rosenqvist became a winner here, he was there in the shoes of Malukas and Pato O'Ward — two-time Indy runner-ups who have been unable to bask in their own milk bath. Rosenqvist's advice: Never give up.

"That's what I've done," he said. "If you're knocking on the door, it will happen."

This year, it did thanks in part to this first-time father understanding that there's more to life than racing. His wife, Emille, and his new daughter helped him learn that lesson heading into the biggest race of the IndyCar season, and one day, when old enough, Stella will see her father's image on the trophy and understand what he did and how she helped.

And, to Rosenqvist, that will be the sweetest victory of all.

"It's funny because if you go to our house, we don't have any pictures of racing, you wouldn't know I'm a race car driver because I tried to separate work and home," he said. "But I think, yeah, this kind of changes that. I hope she'll be proud of it, and for her to be our little lucky charm for the rest of her life."

Lucas

From page 1B

He also pitched 30 innings for the Braves this season, striking out 33 batters and going 1-1 with a 5.10 ERA.

O'Neil also commented on what Lucas brings to a clubhouse as a teammate.

"He's a great guy and a good teammate," O'Neil said.

He thinks team camaraderie was critical to his success this season.

"Hanging out with the guys and knowing they had my back helped me succeed," Lucas said.

In Lucas' two seasons at UNCP, he compiled

a .369 batting average, 30 home runs and 131 RBIs.

Lucas also took a moment to talk about his future plans.

"I'm going to tryout for the Savannah Bananas," he said. "Without (UNCP coach) Paul O'Neil, I wouldn't be here."

As Lucas' college career comes to a close and a potential future with such a fun, family-friendly team in the Savannah Bananas on the way, his future seems bright. One thing is for sure: He made his mark at UNCP.

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

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ROBESON COUNTY ATHLETIC SPOTLIGHT

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JOSH BROOKS
Baseball, Basketball

St. Pauls catcher Josh Brooks made a big impression in his freshman year, batting .492 for the Bulldogs with 20 RBIs, 30 runs scored and 14 extra-base hits, including three home runs. He also stole nine bases, compiled a .992 fielding percentage behind the plate, and pitched five innings, striking out five. Brooks was named Robeson County Player of the Year.

LUMBERTON HIGH SCHOOL



ARIANA ALFORD
Track

Lumberton's Ariana Alford finished sixth in the 400-meters in 56.94 seconds at the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 7A state championships, held May 15 in Greensboro. She reached states by finishing fourth at the 7A Central Regional in 58.17 seconds. Alford set an AAU meet record in the 800-meters earlier this year, running the race in 2:24.80.

Racing world remembers Busch in Charlotte, Indy

Steve Reed & Michael Marot
AP Sports Writers

CONCORD — NASCAR CEO Steve O'Donnell honored Kyle Busch's widow, Samantha, and the couple's children, Brexton and Lennix, before the start of the Coca-Cola 600 on Sunday in an emotional speech.

Standing on the frontstretch at Charlotte Motor Speedway, O'Donnell looked directly at the Busch family and said, "Samantha, I want you to know that this sport stands with you, and that you and your children are NASCAR family forever. And Brexton and Lennix, your dad loved you with all his heart. Everyone gathered here, everyone behind you, everybody watching on TV, and all those people up in that grandstand are your family — and we've got you."

Tears rolled down Samantha Busch's cheek as she wrapped her arm tightly around 11-year-old Brexton, an aspiring racer. Both wore black T-shirts that read "Battle of the Busches" from a short-track race in which Brexton and Kyle Busch competed against each other last year.

Busch's older brother and former Cup Series champion, Kurt, and his parents, Tom and Gaye, also attended the tribute.

"Kyle Busch is NASCAR," O'Donnell added. "He was one of a kind and there will never be another."

A moment of silence followed.

Auto racing's biggest day became a Memorial Day weekend tribute to Busch from Indianapolis to CMS.

Busch died Thursday at 41 after severe pneumonia progressed into sepsis, resulting in rapid and overwhelming complications according to a statement released by his family, and his loss sent shockwaves through the motorsports world and beyond.

Charlotte Motor Speedway honored the two-time Cup Series champion with a large, black No. 8 and his signature on the frontstretch grass and a photo on the videoboard.

The U.S. Army Golden Knights car-



Matt Kelley | AP Photo

A decal is displayed on Denny Hamlin's car in honor of late driver Kyle Busch prior to Sunday's Coca-Cola 600 in Concord.

ried Busch's flag prior during pre-race festivities. Each of the 39 cars in field carried Busch's decal. On the pace lap, the cars formed the missing man formation.

The speedway's public address system and the television commentators went silent on the eighth lap of the race.

On Saturday night, Layne Riggs celebrated his Trucks Series win at Charlotte by imitating Busch's traditional bows to the crowd after the race, and Ross Chastain did the same after capturing the rain-shortened O'Reilly Auto Parts race. Daniel Suarez, who once drove for Kyle Busch Motorsports in the Truck Series, repeated the gesture during an emotional celebration after winning the rain-shortened Coca-Cola 600 late Sunday.

"When you think race car driver and what that person should be like, Kyle Busch is probably one of the first that

comes to your mind on the type of racer he was," Cup Series driver Joey Logano said.

Fans at CMS arrived in droves Sunday with shirts that read "Rowdy" and "KFB."

Earlier in the day at the Indianapolis 500, Dale Coyne Racing changed the font of Romain Grosjean's No. 18 car to replicate the font the two-time Brickyard 400 winner used during his 14 seasons with Joe Gibbs Racing in his No. 18 car.

Then came the opening prayer, in which Busch was mentioned by name. And on lap 18, race officials lit up the scoring pylon next to pit lane with Busch's name, his birth year and 2026.

Even with the pageantry of Indianapolis' big IndyCar race, Busch, who had a record 234 victory across NASCAR's three national series, was never far from the thoughts of people in the city that

dubs itself the "Racing Capital of the World."

"It's desperately sad. It's also one of those things where you try not to think about it or let it in because you've got so much to do, you can't let yourself get emotional," Katherine Legge said. "But honestly, racing has lost one of the greatest drivers, in my opinion, of all time. If you look back at the history and just — he was a legend."

As Indy held its biggest race of the year, those who knew or competed against Busch raced with a heavy heart.

"How can you not be in shock over the situation?" two-time Indy winner Josef Newgarden said. "I think it just puts into perspective how fragile life is. You just don't know. Makes me think of his kids, to be honest with you. Gosh, I feel terrible about — I have two sons now. That's the thing that breaks my heart."

Suarez

From page 1B

during a late pit stop, then held off Christopher Bell and Denny Hamlin on restarts before the race was called when the sky opened up and rain drenched the track shortly before midnight Eastern time.

NASCAR quickly made the decision to call the race with 27 laps remaining.

Bell finished second; Hamlin was third.

The two Joe Gibbs Racing teammates had a chance to catch Suarez on the two restarts, but couldn't clear his No. 7 Chevrolet.

"It's a bummer," Bell said, who won the rain-shortened 2024 Coca-Cola 600. "It wasn't meant to be today. That's 2026 for us."

Hamlin said he was "just a little unlucky."

"The 20 car (Bell) and us were just really battling because we knew whoever could clear him (would win the race)," Hamlin said. "We were really good all day. We just didn't get to see it through."

The race came just three days after Busch's death sent shockwaves throughout the motorsports world and beyond. The 41-year-old Busch died after severe pneumonia progressed into sepsis, resulting in rapid

and overwhelming complications, according to a statement released by his family.

The two-time Cup Series champion and winner of a record 234 races across NASCAR's three national series had become unresponsive while practicing in a Chevrolet simulator Wednesday, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because no details were released by the family.

Busch's family attended the race and NASCAR CEO Steve O'Donnell told them they are part of the NASCAR community and "we got you."

NASCAR and CMS honored Busch with his No. 8 and signature on the frontstretch grass and a highway billboard near the main entrance of the track. The U.S. Army Golden Knights carried a Busch flag prior to the race and each of the 39 cars in field carried a small, black No. 8 decal. Kyle Larson won the first stage race. Hamlin won the second stage and Bell the third.

Crashing out

Defending champion Ross Chastain crashed out when Ricky Stenhouse Jr. clipped his car in Turn 2 with 81 laps remaining in the race.

Connor Zilisch and Austin Cindric only made it 52 laps before getting caught up in a crash. Cin-

dric got turned around and Zilisch came crashing in to the side of his No. 2 Ford, ending both drivers' day.

Chase Elliott, a two-time winner this year, hit the outside wall and ping-ponged into the inside wall on Lap 90. That car was beyond repair and he finished 37th.

"I was trying to make something happen and I stepped over the line," Elliott said.

Replacing Busch

Austin Hill, a regular driver in the O'Reilly Auto Parts Series for Richard Childress Racing, took Busch's spot in the race and finished 26th. He drove the No. 33 car after RCR temporarily retired the No. 8 until



Matt Kelley | AP Photo

Daniel Suarez celebrates in victory lane after winning the Coca-Cola 600 Sunday in Concord.

Busch's 11-year-old son Brexton is ready to drive. Austin Dillon, went

behind the wall with damage to the front of his car with 56 laps to go, ending any hope of an emotional win for RCR. He finished 32nd.

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Knicks sweep Cavs, reach first Finals since '99

Joe Reedy
AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND — Karl Anthony-Towns had 19 points and 14 rebounds, OG Anunoby scored 17 and the New York Knicks routed the Cleveland Cavaliers 130-93 Monday night to complete a four-game sweep of the Eastern Conference finals and advance to the NBA Finals for the first time since 1999.

Landry Shamet scored 16 off the bench while Mikal Bridges and Jalen Brunson had 15 apiece for the Knicks, who became the fourth team to have an 11-game winning streak during their postseason run. The last to do it was Golden State, which had a 15-game run en route to its second title in three seasons in 2017.

All but one of the Knicks' wins have been by double digits, with an average margin of victory of 23.7 points.

"I feel like the word 'hope' has been gone from the New York Knicks name for a long time and for me to be part of this team that revives hope is something special," Towns said.

The Knicks pulled their starters with 7:47 remaining and a 35-point lead as their large contingent of fans loudly chanted "Knicks in four!" New York fans easily outnumbered Cleveland fans as die-hard celebrity fans director Spike Lee, comedian Tracy Morgan and actor Timothée Chalamet and his girlfriend, Kylie Jenner, made the trip.

"Our guys played great. You're in the conference finals and score 65 points off of offensive rebounds and fast break points. I don't know if I've seen that at this point of the year. We wanted to push the pace," coach Mike Brown said.

The Knicks dominated in second-chance points, outscoring the Cavaliers 32-5. They also had a 33-9 advantage in fast break points.

New York will play the defending champion Oklahoma City Thunder or San Antonio Spurs in the finals. The Western Conference finals is tied at



Sue Ogrocki | AP Photo

New York Knicks center Karl-Anthony Towns (32) shoots during Game 4 of the NBA's Eastern Conference Finals against the Cleveland Cavaliers Monday in Cleveland.

two games apiece with Game 5 to be played in Oklahoma City on Tuesday. The Thunder or Spurs will have homecourt advantage when the finals start on June 3 because of a better regular-season record.

This will be the Knicks third appearance in the finals since winning their last title in 1973. They lost in seven games to Houston in 1994 and in five to San Antonio in 1999.

Knicks legends Walt "Clyde" Frazier and Patrick Ewing presented the Bob Cousy Trophy to the Knicks on the court.

It is the 15th time since the NBA-ABA merger in 1976 that a coach has reached the finals in his first year with a team. The Knicks hired Brown after parting ways with Tom Thibodeau after they reached the Eastern Conference finals last year, but lost in six games to Indiana.

It will be Brown's second trip

to the finals as a coach. His last trip was with Cleveland in 2007.

The Knicks have won all three of their clinching games during the playoffs by at least 30 points. They routed the Atlanta Hawks by 51 in Game 6 of the first round (140-89) and then defeated the Philadelphia 76ers by 30 (144-114) in Game 4 of the second round to complete a sweep.

Brunson was named the MVP of the series after averaging 25.5 points and 7.8 assists.

Donovan Mitchell had 31 points for Cleveland, which was swept in a postseason series for the first time since the 2018 NBA Finals against Golden State.

"They're playing better basketball. You got to give them credit. They're on a heater. I don't want to detract from what we've done, but sometimes you've got to give the other team credit," Cleveland coach

Kenny Atkinson said.

Mitchell scored the Cavaliers first eight points as they jumped out to an 8-2 lead. Cleveland led for most of the first six minutes before New York took control.

Evan Mobley's putback dunk gave the Cavaliers a 17-14 advantage before the Knicks scored nine straight points.

A floater by Mitchell got Cleveland within 30-26 with 2:12 remaining in the first quarter when New York went on a 20-0 run over a five-minute span. The Knicks were 8 of 14 from the field, including four 3-pointers. The bench scored 15 points, including a pair of 3-pointers by Shamet. The seventh-year guard was 11 of 12 from beyond the arc during the series.

Cleveland was 0 for 9 from the field during its drought, including missing all three shots from beyond the arc, and committed four turnovers.

The Knicks led by as many as 29 in the first half and were up 68-49 at halftime. It was the fourth time this postseason the Knicks were up by at least 19 after 24 minutes.

Knicks already had four players in double figures in the first half. Towns had a double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

New York's largest lead was 45 points in the fourth quarter.

James Harden, who finished with 12 points but was 2 of 8 from the field, lamented Cleveland's missed opportunities. Besides not making open shots throughout the series, the Cavaliers blew a 22-point lead in the fourth quarter in Game 1 before losing 115-104 in overtime.

"Yes, it was 4-0, but we didn't give ourselves a chance. Genuinely, I think we are the better team. But series wise we didn't show it," he said.



Christinne Muschi | The Canadian Press via AP

Carolina Hurricanes' Andrei Svechnikov (37) celebrates with teammates Jaccob Slavin (74), Jalen Chatfield (5) and Jordan Martinook (48) after his overtime goal to win Game 3 of the NHL's Eastern Conference Finals against the Montreal Canadiens Monday in Montreal.

Hockey

From page 1B

Hutson said. "I thought we played a pretty good game. I feel like that stuff can happen and usually you can get through the shift. Unfortunately, we didn't."

Canadiens coach Martin St. Louis thought his team could have handled the sequence better in its own zone.

"I didn't love the play, but whatever," he said. "It's what's next, and we didn't do what's next. We didn't get the job done."

After earning a 3-2 overtime victory at home Saturday that looked a lot more like their relentless style following a discomfited 6-2 loss

in Thursday's opener, the Hurricanes came out flying and took the lead at 8:24 of the first period when the puck popped into the slot for Gostisbehere to fire in off the left post past a diving Dobes.

"He's competing back there every night and giving us a chance," Montreal forward Cole Caufield said.

The Canadiens, who topped the Tampa Bay Lightning and Buffalo Sabres in a pair of seven-game matchups to make the conference finals despite a combined 2-4 record at home, tied it at 15:28.

Carolina, the East's top seed coming off sweeps of the Ottawa Senators and Philadelphia Flyers, pushed back less than a minute later when Hall

shoveled home his own rebound from in tight past Dobes as the winger was falling to the ice at 16:22.

Montreal, which registered just 12 shots on goal in Game 2, evened things up on a power play at 4:43 of the second period.

"Be nice to be up 2-1, but we're not because of me," Hutson said. "It's frustrating."

Hutson, who became the fourth defenseman in franchise history with at least 15 points in a single postseason, has been a focus for the Hurricanes on the physical side through three games.

"Probably their most important player and if he has the puck, I'm going to try and make some contact and prevent him from getting up the ice," Hall said.

The Canadiens lost two in a row for the first time in these playoffs. They now have to quickly turn the page.

"This whole experience, it's part of our learning," St. Louis said of his young group going up against the battle-tested Hurricanes. "There's always learning and failure. We lost tonight. We'll learn from it. That team over there is a good team, very mature. I don't know if we can match their maturity."

"But we're gonna have to elevate."

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