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LUMBERTON HS

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THE ROBESONIAN

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A Fresh Perspective

Local NEWS

\$2.00

UNCHSE partners with RCCCC to improve care

RCCCC director calls partnership 'revolutionary' for rural health care

Morgan Casey
Border Belt Independent

LUMBERTON — UNC Health Southeastern is partnering with the nonprofit Robeson County Church and Community Center in an effort to improve health care access.

Physicians in residency training will work alongside Robeson County Church and Community Center employees and volunteers to "gain a more complete picture of the realities many patients face outside the clinical setting," said Lori Dove, UNC Health Southeastern's senior vice president and chief operating officer.

"That understanding can help inform more practical care planning, stronger patient education and better coordination between medical care and community support services," she said.

Robeson is one of the least healthy counties in North Carolina. Many external factors contribute to the county's poor health, according to County Health Rankings & Roadmaps.

The county has some of the highest rates of poverty and unemployment in North Carolina at over 27% and 4.7%,

respectively, federal and state data show. While Medicaid expansion drastically increased the number of residents with health insurance, about 12% of the county was uninsured as of 2024, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Food insecurity is also a major issue across southeastern North Carolina. Robeson County has one of the highest rates of food insecurity at 28.4%, nearly double the state average of 15.4%, according to the N.C. Cooperative Extension.

Dove said residents and fellows will be exposed to Robeson County Church and Community Center's "community-based education, outreach, and care coordination efforts related to chronic disease prevention and management."

While Dove said a list of activities and service models is still being developed, physicians could be involved in the nonprofit's free health clinics or its distribution of health care supplies. Robeson County Church and Community Center also runs a food pantry and diaper bank and offers utility assistance

See UNC | 7A

Spinning into summer



Yerimyah-EI Darden, 2, of Lumberton, plays with his father, Marcus Suggs, on the playground Tuesday at the Dr. Raymond B. Pennington Athletic Complex in Lumberton.

Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

Task Force operation nets 40 citations

3 arrested on felony drug charges

Staff report

RED SPRINGS — The Southeastern North Carolina Violent Crime Task Force conducted a detail last Thursday in Red Springs, which resulted in 40 warnings, citations and/or arrests through the two-hour event.

- Citations included:
- One count of possession of ecstasy
 - One count of possession of suboxone
 - One count of possession of hydromorphone
 - Three counts of conspiring to sell or deliver oxycodone
 - One count of possession of oxycodone with the intent to sell or deliver
 - One count of maintaining a drug vehicle

- One count of destruction of evidence
- Three counts of possession of marijuana
- Two counts of possession of drug paraphernalia
- One count of failure to appear
- One count of outstanding warrant for resisting a public officer
- One count of possession of spirituous liquor where such possession or consumption was not authorized
- One count of consuming malt beverage on premises with only an off-premise permit
- One count of open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle
- Three counts of revoked driving
- Three counts of expired registration
- Three counts of inspection violation
- One count of failure to maintain lane
- One count of fictitious registration

- Six counts of speeding
- One count of vehicle lighting violation
- One count of seatbelt violation
- One count of unlicensed driver
- One count of improper display of license plate

Among these citations, three individuals were arrested on felony drug charges after a traffic stop during the task force operation. Due to the totality of circumstances on the traffic stop, a K9 was requested to do an open-air sniff on the vehicle.

A vehicle search was conducted after the K9 gave a positive alert. Officers located 85 oxycodone pills, a bulk of U.S. currency, and other drug paraphernalia. All three individuals inside the vehicle were arrested and transported to the Robeson County Detention Center.

See FELONY | 7A

Pembroke board refuses road closures

Victoria Sanderson
The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — The Pembroke Town Council decided against closing any of the town's rail crossings during its monthly meeting on Monday.

The potential closings were due to a request from the North Carolina Department of Transportation

for a construction project. However, the board deemed that the closures would have more negative consequences for the town's residents than they would benefit. The decision was unanimous.

Additionally, the board approved a request from Mandy Jones to open and operate a car wash and detailing business on the parcel at

202 West Third Street.

The board will hold one more budget workshop before approving the budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year. The workshop will take place before the town's July meeting, which has been moved up to Monday, June 22.

Contact Victoria Sanderson at vsanderson@robsonian.com.

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B SPORTS

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EDITOR'S NOTE

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

PSRC announces weekly Summer Meal Pick-Up Program set for July

Jessica Sealey
For The Robesonian

LUMBERTON— The Public Schools of Robeson County will once again provide nutritious meals to children throughout the summer through its weekly Summer Meal Pick-Up Program beginning July 1, 2026.

The program offers weekly meal boxes containing breakfast and lunch items for eligible children ages 1-18. Families may register to receive meals at one designated pick-up location throughout the duration of the program.

Weekly meal distributions will take place in July with pick-up available from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the following dates:

- Wednesday, July 1 (adjusted due to the Independence Day holiday week)
- Thursday, July 9
- Thursday, July 16
- Thursday, July 23
- Thursday, July 30

Families may select one of the following meal distribution sites:

- Fairmont Middle School
- Oxendine Elementary School
- Parkton Elementary School
- Rex-Rennert Elementary School
- Rowland Norment Elementary School
- St. Pauls Middle School
- Union Chapel Elementary School
- Union Elementary School

To participate, families must complete a separate registration form for each child by visiting robeson.k12.nc.us. Children may only be registered at one meal distribution site, and multiple site pickups are not permitted.

Parents or guardians of children with food allergies who wish to request an alternate meal option should contact Crystal Hunt at crystal.hunt@robeson.k12.nc.us.

The program helps ensure children continue to have access to healthy meals while school is out of session and supports student wellness throughout the summer months.

Families are encouraged to complete the registration form as soon as possible to ensure participation in the program.

For additional information, please 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.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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 at St. Alban's Lodge at 600 North Elm Street, is free and open to the public. Please RSVP by June 4 by contacting Blake Tyner at 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 two 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!

Sean Mills Performs at Your Pie Pizza - 7 p.m., June 4: Come out and enjoy the beautiful music of Sean Mills while enjoying fresh-made pizza and cold beer.

Taste of Jamaica Watermelon Festival - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., June 6: A celebration of Jamaican heritage and culture. Held in Maxton, this event will have free watermelon, live music, and cornhole and horseshoe tournaments. Event will be held at Rob Henderson Memorial Park.

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 it is recommended 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 present LIVE at 6 pm. Join the FUN!

Senior Ms. Lumbee Pageant, 6:30 p.m., June 19: Senior Ms. Lumbee Pageant is being held at the Givens Performing Arts Center on the UNCP campus. A signature event during Lumbee Homecoming. The winner will serve as an ambassador for the Lumbee people throughout the upcoming year and help promote cultural awareness.

awareness.

Rennert Alive After Five, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., June 19: The Town of Rennert will be hosting their Alive After Five concert on Friday, June 19. There will be fun for the whole family. There will be entertainment, food trucks and activities for the children. Located at the J. Morgan E. McRae Town Square on Rennert Road.

Fourth of July Celebrations, 10 a.m., July 4: The Town of Rennert will host their annual July 4th parade on Saturday, July 4. The parade will begin at 10 am, followed by Gospel Music from Project Commission, with games, fun, cook-offs, a watermelon-eating contest, bingo, basketball and cornhole tournaments. Fun for the entire family. This year, we will have an America's 250 Decorative Contest, so decorate your best floats and enter them in the parade. Prizes will be given to the top three floats. Contact our Town Hall at 910-843-2162 for more information.

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.

FROM THE LEGISLATURE

Harris responds to federal probe into Cabarrus schools

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Mark Harris (R-NC8) released the following statement after the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights

opened an investigation into Cabarrus County Schools' compliance with Title IX.

The investigation follows reports alleging that the district permitted male students to access restrooms and locker rooms designated for female students and failed to adequately respond to reports of sexual harassment. As a recipient of



Harris

federal financial assistance from the Department of Education, the district must comply with Title IX.

"When students walk through the doors of their school, the last thing they should have to worry about is their safety in bathrooms and locker rooms," said Harris. "It should go without saying that these intimate spaces

must remain private. The reports my office received from Cabarrus County Schools are deeply disturbing and should concern every parent. After bringing these reports directly to the Department of Education, I am grateful for Secretary McMahon's quick action and for treating this matter with the seriousness it deserves. As this investigation moves forward, I will continue standing up for the young

women in my district and fighting to ensure their civil rights are upheld. Our daughters must be protected, and they should be able to trust their school leaders to defend them, not turn a blind eye."

President Donald Trump, on the first day of his second term in 2025, signed an executive order which stated the policy of the federal government to recognize two sexes, male and female, and order agencies to enforce sex-protective laws.

On April 10, Harris sent a letter to McMahon after receiving reports of biological males entering girls bathrooms in multiple schools in his district; Harris also spoke directly with McMahon on multiple occasions in May, including in a congressional hearing. Harris' staff also attended a Cabarrus County school board meeting last month and read Harris' statement.

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

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Lumberton FFA celebrates student achievement, earns top-3 chapter recognition in state

Candace Grimsley

For The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — The Lumberton High School FFA Chapter recently celebrated another successful year during its annual Awards Banquet held at the Southeastern Agricultural Center. Approximately 275 members, parents, sponsors, alumni, school officials and community supporters attended the event to recognize the accomplishments and leadership of FFA members throughout the 2025-2026 school year.

The evening featured special guest speaker Josiah Saravia, who inspired members with a message centered around leadership, service and personal growth through FFA.

Lumberton FFA Chapter earns top-3 recognition in North Carolina

During the ceremony, the chapter proudly announced that the Lumberton FFA Chapter has been selected as a Top 3 Chapter in North Carolina through the National Chapter Award Program and will be recognized during the 97th North Carolina FFA State Convention this June.

The Lumberton FFA Chapter continues to provide students with opportunities to develop leadership, personal growth, career readiness, and agricultural skills while positively impacting their school and community.

Greenhand and Chapter Degree recipients recognized

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of Greenhand Degrees to 31 first-year FFA members. The Greenhand Degree recognizes students who have demonstrated knowledge of FFA history, creed, motto and agricultural education while becoming active participants within the chapter. The Star Greenhand Award, presented to the most outstanding first-year member based on participation and involvement, was awarded to Brayden Paterson.

Chapter Degrees were also presented to deserving members who demonstrated continued growth and participation within the organization. The Star Chapter Award, recognizing the most outstanding Chapter Degree

recipient, was awarded to Esmeralda Pedro Cuevas for her exceptional leadership, competition success and dedication to the chapter.

Seventeen members received the prestigious State FFA Degree, the highest degree awarded at the state level by the North Carolina FFA Association. Recipients included Ethan Gray, Luke Britt, Liseth Diaz Cedano, Bryson Hester, EmmaLeigh Higgins, Jarrett Hunt, Nathan King, Timothy Lowery, Trevin Lowry, Kayleigh McRae, Kaylan Stewart, Tehya Strickland, Russell Wilcox, Tagen Wilcox, Cole Wilkerson and Davis Williams. The State Degree recognizes members who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, participation, community service and success in their Supervised Agricultural Experience programs.

Members earn prestigious state and American FFA Degree designations

The chapter also celebrated major accomplishments in agricultural experience programs. Chase Lowry was recognized as a top-three finalist in the state for the State Star Placement Award, one of the highest honors in North Carolina FFA recognizing excellence in agricultural employment and work-based learning experiences.

Three chapter members were also recognized for earning the American FFA Degree, the highest degree awarded by the National FFA Organization. Recipients included Isaac Simmons, Brittlyn Stubbs and Shaun Henderson. Fewer than 1% of FFA members nationwide earn this prestigious honor.

The Honorary Chapter Degree was presented to Herman Carmichael, LHS staff member, for his continued support and dedication to the Lumberton FFA Chapter and its members.

Agricultural experience and leadership excellence honored

The banquet also recognized members for participation through the chapter's point system. Throughout their high school careers, students earn points through involvement in Career and Leadership Development Events, conferences, community service, meetings, and



Photo courtesy of PSRC

Lumberton High School FFA students are recognized during their annual banquet.



chapter activities. Students accumulating between 5,000 and 10,000 points earned Bronze Medals, including Trevin Chase Lowry, Ethan Hunt, Russell Wilcox and Tagen Wilcox.

Silver Medals, awarded to students earning between 10,000 and 15,000 points, were presented to Nathan King, Kayleigh McRae and Timmy Woods.

Gold Medals, awarded to members accumulating more than 15,000 points throughout their FFA career, were presented to Liseth Diaz Cedano, Lucas Drennan, Anhaya Munoz, Riley Paterson, Dylan Thomas, Laiken Wilcox and Davis Williams.

Scholarships and special awards presented

The Lumberton FFA Alumni also awarded scholarships to Timothy Lowery, Laiken Wilcox, Lucas Drennan and Russell Wilcox in support of their future educational and career goals.

Additional major awards included the DEKALB

Agricultural Accomplishment Award presented to Chase Lowry. This national award recognizes outstanding scholarship, leadership, work ethic, and dedication to agriculture.

Laiken Wilcox was recognized multiple times throughout the evening, receiving the Outstanding Senior Award, Member of the Year Award and the prestigious Danny Kinlaw Award. The Danny Kinlaw Award recognizes the senior member who accumulated the highest number of points throughout their entire FFA career. Wilcox accumulated more than 65,000 points during her four years in the chapter while competing in 32 Career and Leadership Development Events and earning three State Championship titles.

2026-2027 Officer Team announced

The banquet concluded with the announcement of the 2026-2027 Lumberton FFA Chapter Officer Team:



— President: EmmaLeigh Higgins

— Vice President: Esmeralda Pedro

— Secretary: Kamryn Drayton

— Treasurer: Jace Wilson

— Reporter: Brayden Paterson

— Sentinel: Waylen Wiloughby

"Our banquet is more than just an awards ceremony, it's a celebration of the countless hours, leadership, service, and dedication our members invest throughout the year,"

said Candace Grimsley, who serves as an LHS FFA adviser. "I couldn't be more proud of our students and officers. Watching them grow, achieve their goals, and be recognized for their accomplishments is the highlight of our year. The success of Lumberton FFA is a direct reflection of the incredible young people we have in our program."

Candace Grimsley is a faculty adviser for the Lumberton High School FFA program.

UNCP's Exceptional Braves program develops campus leaders through collaboration

Mark Locklear

For The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — Seventeen UNC Pembroke faculty and staff members recently completed the university's second cohort of the Exceptional BRAVES Leader Program, a year-long professional development initiative designed to strengthen leadership skills, foster collaboration and prepare employees for greater leadership roles across campus.

Hosted by UNCP Human Resources, the program brings together employees from across the university for leadership discussions, networking opportunities and sessions with university and community leaders who share personal insights and experiences.

One of the program's greatest strengths, according to Jennifer Whittington, chair of early childhood and elementary literacy studies in the School of Educa-

tion, was the opportunity to better understand the people and departments that help keep the university moving forward.

"One of the most beneficial takeaways for me was the networking that happened through meeting folks in that program," Whittington said. "There are so many moving parts at the university. It takes all of us. All of us play a role."

Whittington, now in her ninth year at UNCP and finishing her second year as department chair, said the experience helped broaden her perspective as a leader.

"It allowed me to see different perspectives from different leaders," she said. "We don't manage people. We lead people."

Participants heard from a variety of university and community leaders throughout the year, including Chancellor Robin Gary Cummings, UNC Board of Governors member Kellie Blue, and



Photo courtesy of UNCP

Members of the second cohort of the Exceptional BRAVES Leader Program gather with Chancellor Robin Gary Cummings during a celebration at the Chancellor's Residence.

former UNCP Board of Trustees Chair Brig. Gen. Allen Jamerson and former Athletics Director Dan Kenney, as each shared lessons from their leadership journeys.

Kevin Witmore, senior project manager with facilities planning, design and construction, said hearing the different leadership styles and personal stories from speakers was eye-opening.

"One of the most valu-

able lessons is having the opportunity to learn more about your own leadership style, but also it was very informative to hear the experiences that other leaders have had through the years and the lessons they learned," Witmore said. "That was invaluable."

Witmore credited the program with giving him a new appreciation for the university's interconnected nature.

"It was good to see the bigger picture of how this campus operates as a whole," Witmore said. "At the end of the day, having a broader view of campus contributes to the overall success of the university."

Beyond leadership development, participants formed lasting professional connections across divisions and departments. The cohort also created a book club and published a commemorative booklet documenting their experiences in the program. The cohort was recently recognized during a celebration hosted by Chancellor Cummings and First Lady Rebecca Cummings at the Chancellor's Residence.

Angela Revels, assistant vice chancellor for human resources and program co-facilitator, said the program reflects the university's commitment to investing in its employees and cultivating future campus leaders.

"We had another successful cohort filled with

exceptional leaders," Revels said. "The insights and experiences shared throughout the program were invaluable to the participants and continue to strengthen leadership across our campus community."

The second cohort included Nicole Snipes from the Chancellor's Division; Kamina Fitzgerald, Jenna Freeman, Kari Oxendine, Keri Sullivan, Jennifer Whittington and Krystin Woodell from Academic Affairs; Branan Dennard and Ashleigh Windley from Advancement; Gabe Campbell, Liz Cummings, Craymon Strickland and Kevin Witmore from Finance & Administration; Laurel Collins, Amy Cox and Shania McMillan from Student Affairs; and Gordon Byrd from the Office of General Counsel.

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

Editorial

4A Wednesday, June 3, 2026

The Robesonian

HIS VIEW

Do we want to be a one-party state?

When I first registered to vote there wasn't much choice which party I would choose. About 73% were Democrats. The Pitt County Republican Party chair once cracked his party could hold their county convention in the phone booth on the courthouse lawn. They were that few.

Since the early 1900s, North Carolina had been a one-party state. If you wanted to vote in a primary election, a vote that often determined the ultimate winners, you had to be a Democrat — Republicans seldom held primaries. Some old-line Democrats still assert that they did a pretty good job of running our state during their almost 100-year reign. But did they?



Tom Campbell
Contributing columnist

After every decennial national census Democrats would studiously draw legislative and congressional districts, employing gerrymandering to virtually ensure their candidates would win. North Carolina had what was known as a "closed primary system," meaning that the party to which you belonged was the only party ballot you could vote in primaries. That changed in 1986, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that political parties could decide whether their primary elections would be open to voters registered with other political parties. Republicans quickly allowed unaffiliated voters to choose to vote in their primary elections. But the donkey party steadfastly refused to allow unaffiliated registrants to vote in their primaries until it became obvious they were losing voters. Today, unaffiliated voters can choose whether to vote either a Democratic or Republican primary ballot.

Over the years Democrats were perceived as more liberal and Republicans more conservative. In the 1990s, Republicans began winning more elections and in 2010, gained control of both chambers of our legislature. They reinforced those margins when redrawing legislative and congressional districts following the 2010 census. Using computers with specialized geographic information (GIS) and advanced algorithmic modeling they could carve districts so finitely that it had mostly Republicans living on one side of a street and Democrats on the other. They elevated gerrymandering to an art form.

Current voter registrations indicate 30.04% are Democrats, 30.33% are Republicans and 39.64% percent are unaffiliated/independent, according to The Independent Voter Project. But despite the apparent evenness, North Carolina is not a "purple" state, as some assert.

We are about as close to being a one-party state as is possible. In addition to a legislature controlled by Republicans, our congressional delegation has 11 Republicans and 3 Democrats. Our appellate courts are controlled by Republicans and the GOP has control of more local governing elected boards. Except for the 1984, '88 and 2012 elections our governors have been Democrats and the Council of State membership has become evenly split.

It is not the only reason, but a large contributor to our returning to one-party state status is gerrymandered districts without regards for others' opinions. Large numbers of voters are being disenfranchised, violating the "one man, one vote" principle that affirms that one person's vote ought to be equivalent to another's.

There is a new concept for redistricting that should please all but the ultra-partisans, called "proportional redistricting." It is based on election fairness, simplifying the drawing of districts, and participation by more candidates and voters. It might even dampen the independent expenditure groups that too often try to buy elections.

The basic idea is simple. First you determine voting districts based on population or other similar traits. For example, North Carolina has 120 legislative districts for our state House of Representatives. As an illustration, let's redraw the maps into just 12 districts, each with 10 elected representatives, simplifying and eliminating most of the gerrymandering.

During the filing period candidates from each party can run. With 10 seats to be selected we will likely see more competition from within each party. Moderates, conservatives and liberals, minorities and others can offer themselves and give voters more options.

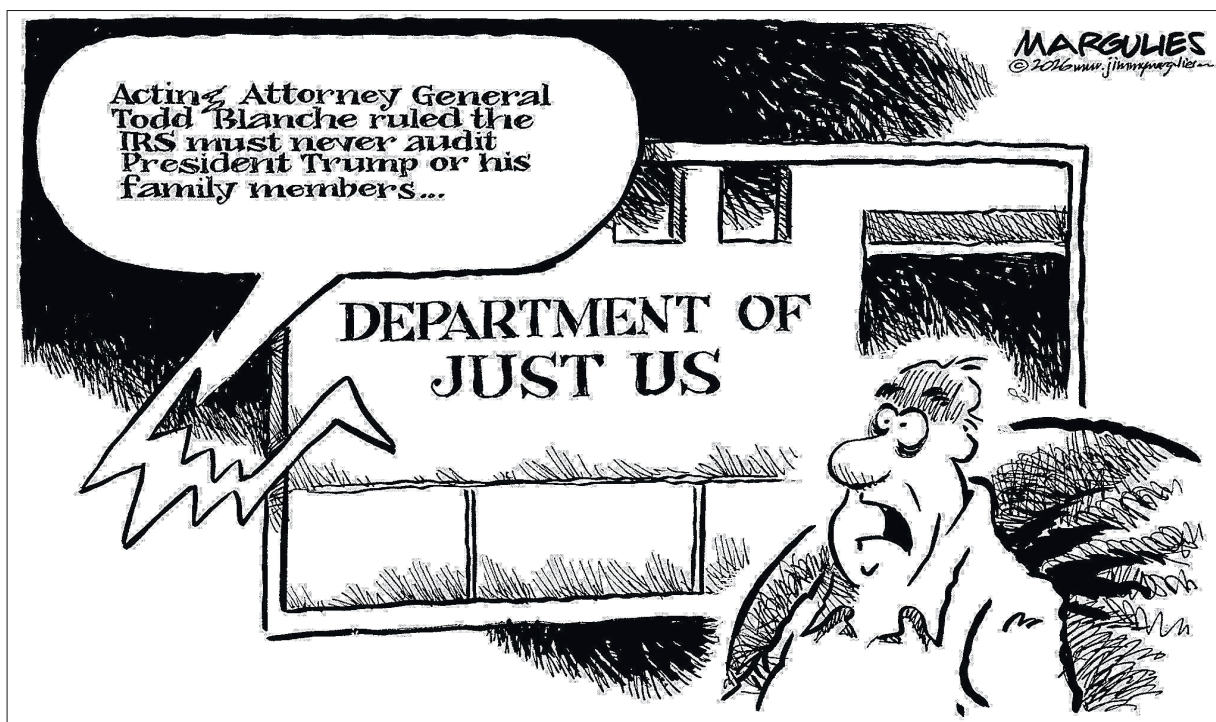
If more than 10 candidates file from either or both parties, some process must be developed to rank the order in which they will appear on the ballot. It could be by holding a primary, allowing party leadership to choose or other options.

On Election Day each voter will be allowed to vote for only one candidate from one party. When the polls close and the votes are tabulated, it is easily determined what percentage of votes went to Republicans and how many to Democrats. Let's presume 60% voted Democrat and 40% Republican. With 10 to be chosen, 6 representatives would be Democrats and 4 Republicans, based on their order of appearance on the ballot.

There are obviously details that need developing, but proportional voting promises to end one party rule, improve governance, simplify elections and encourage greater participation by voters and candidates.

In Lincoln's Gettysburg Address he said we stand for government "of the people, by the people and for the people." If that is true North Carolina doesn't need to be a one-party state.

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

John Simmons, Dist. 1, john.simmons@robeson.k12.nc.us
Melissa Ocean, Vice Chairman, Dist. 2, melissa.ocean@robeson.k12.nc.us

Linda Emanuel, Dist. 3, linda.emanuel@robeson.k12.nc.us
Terry Locklear, Dist. 4, terry.locklear2@robeson.k12.nc.us

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

Crystal Weindel Monroe, Dist. 6, crystal.monroe@robeson.k12.nc.us
Bradley Phillips, Dist. 7, bradley.phillips@robeson.k12.nc.us

Tre' Britt, Chairman, Dist. 8, tre.britt@robeson.k12.nc.us
Kristy Fields, At-Large, kristy.fields@robeson.k12.nc.us

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

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

LUMBERTON CITY COUNCIL, 910-272-1346

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

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

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

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

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

ci.lumberton.nc.us

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

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

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

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

ROBESON COUNTY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NORTH CAROLINA (State Offices)

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

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

Raleigh, NC 27603-5925, 919-715-0875, John.Lowery@ncleg.gov

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

UNITED STATES (Federal Offices)

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

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

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

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

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

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

White House Switchboard, 202-456-1414.

HIS VIEW

When Cherokees made a fateful choice

When I write about America's semiquincentennial and North Carolina's underappreciated role in our country's founding, one of my goals is to make more complicated — and, thus, more accurate — a story all too often confined to a few celebrated pamphlets, a handful of meetings in Philadelphia, and a short list of battles between red-coated British and blue-coated Patriots.

The American Revolution was actually an epic sprawling across multiple decades, regions, peoples, and political factions. For example, Loyalists in North Carolina and elsewhere considered themselves patriotic, too, but assigned their fealty and calculated the costs and benefits of revolt rather differently than the revolutionaries did.

As I have pointed out repeatedly, some of the most consequential military engagements of the Revolutionary War pitted rival militias against each other, or occurred far from the coast of North America, or in some cases involved no American troops of any kind.

Today's subject adds another important layer to the story: interventions by American Indians. They played important roles in the northern, southern, and western theaters of

the war. For our purposes, two tribes deserve special attention. The Catawbas (they called themselves the Iswa, or "people of the river") spoke a Siouan tongue and resided in both Carolinas but at the

height of their power ranged up into Virginia and south into Georgia. Their longtime enemies, the Cherokees (self-described as the Aniywiyia, or "Principal People"), spoke Iroquoian languages and lived in dozens of towns across the western Carolinas, southwestern Virginia, eastern Tennessee, and northern Georgia and Alabama.

When the American colonies rebelled against King George III and Parliament, most Catawbas sided with the rebels. They'd fought alongside their American neighbors before, especially during the French and Indian War. Indeed, no Indian nation fought longer and more valiantly for the American cause than the Catawbas.

As for the more-numerous Cherokees, most began the French and Indian War as allies of the British and Americans but, due to various grievances, switched sides during its final

years. This proved to be a disastrous decision. Now that war had returned to North America, this time between Britain and the rebellious colonists, which side would the Cherokees pick?

There were, in fact, more than two factions. The largest, at least at first, preferred to stay out of the conflict entirely. Its leaders included aged chiefs such as Attakullakulla and his cousin Oconostota who understood the cost of war only too well. But many

younger chiefs, led by Attakullakulla's son Dragging Canoe, yearned to take revenge on the American frontiersmen — and, if possible, take back lands acquired either as a result of the French and Indian War or via treaties Dragging Canoe considered invalid. A third faction, best exemplified by the "war woman" Nanyehi (also known as Nancy Ward), distrusted the British more than the Americans and favored at least friendly relations with the latter, if not active alliance.

British agents traveled north from their base at Pensacola, promising weapons and aid if the Cherokees attacked the rebels. Realizing the danger, two emissaries from

the governor of South Carolina, brothers Edward and Preston Hampton, headed west to make their case. Pro-war chiefs seized the two Americans, confiscated their belongings, and held them captive.

Sometime in April or May 1776, the Hamptons escaped and returned home. Cherokees followed. When the brothers' father Anthony emerged from the house to talk, he was ruthlessly murdered. So were Preston, his wife, and his infant son, the latter bashed against the wall.

Infuriated, a company of militia from Tryon County, North Carolina elected 16-year-old Thomas Howard as their captain and took off after the Cherokees. Guided by a young Cherokee dissident named Skyuka, they caught up with the raiders on June 1, 1776, and encircled their position atop Round Mountain, west of modern-day Columbus. Using subterfuge, they took the Cherokees by surprise and exacted their revenge.

It was only the beginning. Months of fighting followed. And, as before, the choice of pro-war Cherokees proved disastrous.

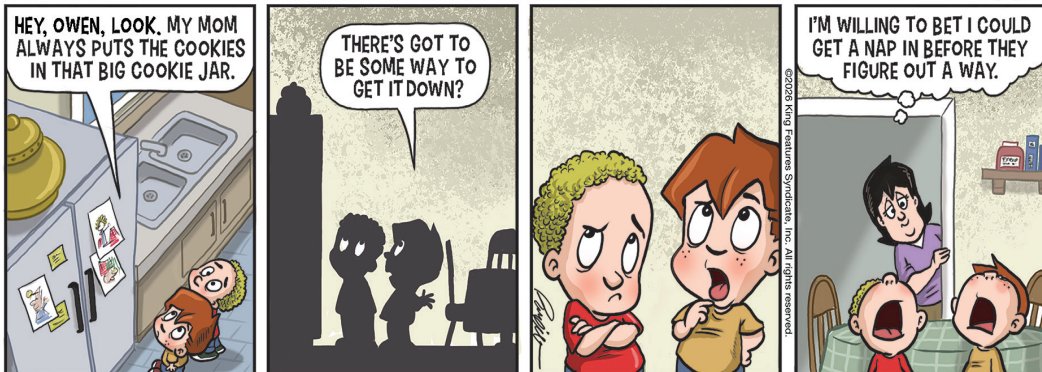
John Hood is a John Locke Foundation board member. His latest books, *Mountain Folk* and *Forest Folk*, combine epic fantasy with early American history (FolkloreCycle.com).



John Hood
Contributing columnist

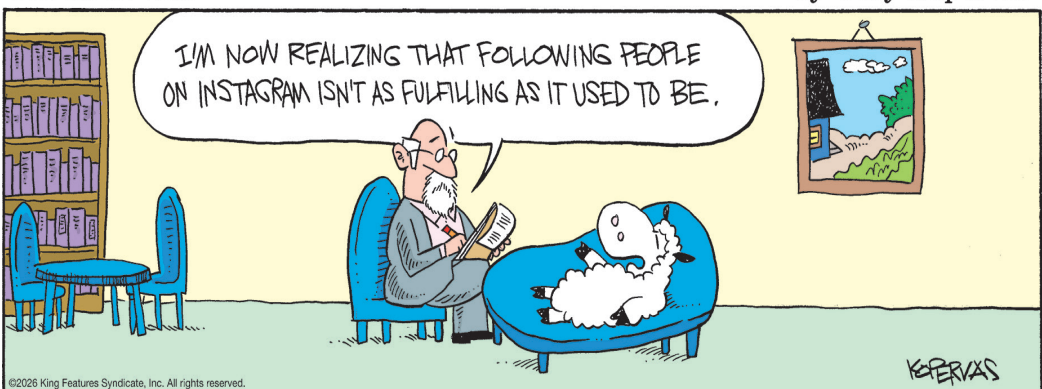
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



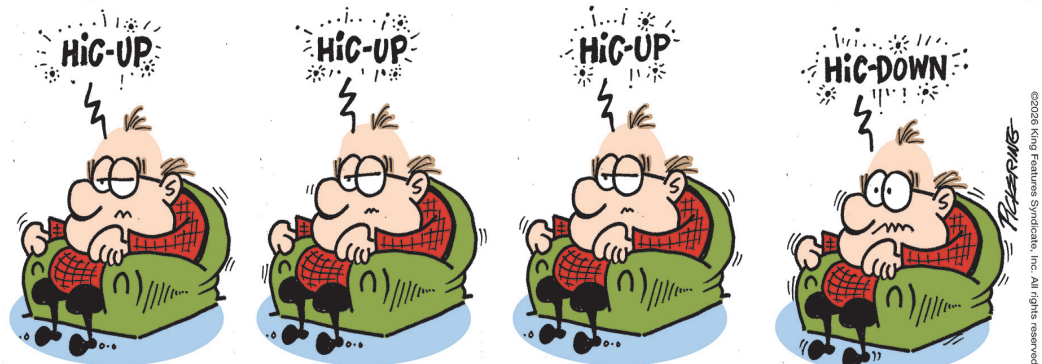
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



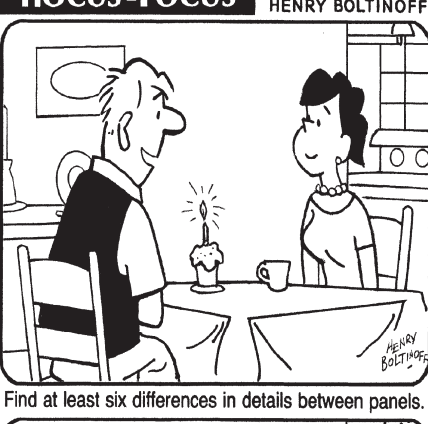
OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Milholland



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



CryptoQuip

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

Clue: V equals C

SNWRAQRKO VWNWRJ
VHTORPTPTC VGETAK KGRXWB
JPAW KIRJJ KPTCJW-IRKOWB
KRPJSHROK: QNEPO KJHHXK.

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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!

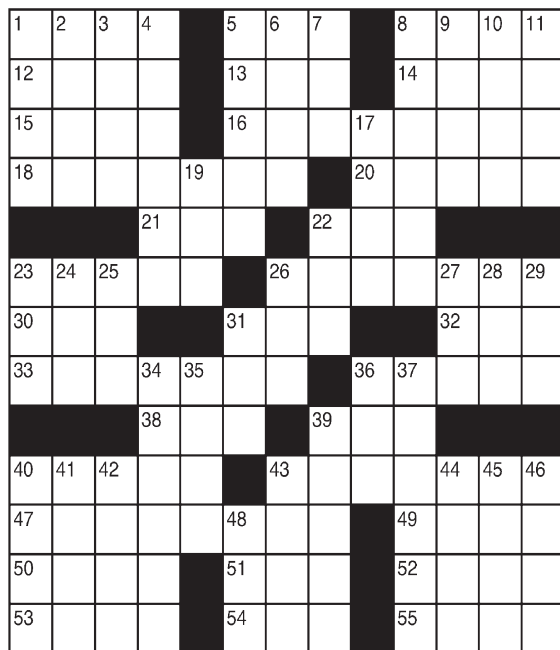
Current **MORNED**
Warning **VACATE**
Crazy **NICAM**
Continue **MESURE**

TODAY'S WORD

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Idle of Monty Python
- 5 Homer's lament
- 8 Grate
- 12 Sprint
- 13 Geological period
- 14 Intro studio class
- 15 Met melody
- 16 Knee cartilage
- 18 Cough drop flavor
- 20 Valerie Harper sitcom
- 21 Light brown
- 22 Fluffy neck-piece
- 23 Strep of "The Post"
- 26 Patching up
- 30 Lab eggs
- 31 Witty one
- 32 Wrigley product
- 33 Proteges
- 36 Accra's country
- 38 Stein filler
- 39 Zadora of "Hairspray"
- 40 Huge success
- 43 H.L. — (The Sage of Baltimore)
- 47 Cites
- 49 Comic actor Danny



- 50 Oklahoma tribe
- 51 Nonsense
- 52 French 101 verb
- 53 Military VIPs
- 54 G.I.'s address
- 55 Marsh plant
- DOWN
- 1 Dutch cheese
- 2 Exceptional
- 3 "The doctor —"
- 4 Talkative
- 5 Fiend
- 6 Pitcher
- 7 Solo in space

- 8 Actress Phylicia
- 9 With the bow, musically
- 10 Poker type
- 11 Galileo's birthplace
- 17 Pressing need
- 19 Actor Linden
- 22 Plead
- 23 Soccer —
- 24 Prior night
- 25 Campaigned
- 26 More, to Manuel
- 27 Polish tennis star Swiatek
- 28 Convent head
- 29 "Today" rival, briefly
- 31 Pint-sized
- 34 Flavors
- 35 K thru 12
- 36 Tom Collins liquor
- 37 Website invader
- 39 Green sauce
- 40 Urban haze
- 41 Apportion
- 42 Shortly
- 43 L-Q bridge
- 44 Designer Spade
- 45 Literary Jane
- 46 Must have
- 48 British singer Rita

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

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

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FiveSpot™

Home entertainment

P	O	R	C	H

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

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

02642

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. TELEVISION: What are the names of the three girls in the animated series "Powerpuff Girls"?
2. GEOGRAPHY: Which ocean lies between Australia and Africa?
3. MATH: What is the Arabic equivalent of the Roman numerals MMXXVI?
4. MUSIC: Who won Best New Artist at the 2026 Grammys?
5. U.S. STATES: Which state is an archipelago?
6. MOVIES: Which classic movie has the tagline, "From the moment they met it was murder"?
7. GAMES: How many basketball players can be on the court at the same time?
8. SCIENCE: What is the heliosphere?
9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is vexillology?
10. HISTORY: Who was the only English king to be executed for treason?

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ADVISOR

Today's Word

3. Mantle; 4. Resume

1. Modern; 2. Caveat

solution

SCRAMBLERS

G	N	I	W	S
G	N	I	W	
O	G	N	R	I
O	N	I	H	R
R	O	I	O	H
H	C	H	O	R
P	O	R	C	H

Solution

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Breakfast cereal
containing chunks shaped like small single-masted sailboats: Fruit Sloops.

CryptoQuip

Answers
1. Blossom, Buttercup and Bubbles
2. Indian Ocean
3. 2026
4. Olivia Dean
5. Hawaii
6. "Double Indemnity"
7. 10, five from each team
8. The Sun's solar winds and magnetic fields create a protective bubble around our solar system
9. The study of flags
10. Charles I in 1649

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

CLASSIFIEDS

LEGALS

NORTH CAROLINA

ROBESON COUNTY

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

BEFORE THE CLERK

FILE NO. 25SP001387-770

IN THE MATTER OF THE FORECLOSURE

OF THE DEED OF TRUST EXECUTED BY

LORI CHARLENE WARRIAX and MICHAEL ANTHONY WARRIAX, a married couple,

Recorded in Book 2393, Page 384,

Robeson County Registry

NOTICE OF

FORECLOSURE SALE

DEED OF TRUST BEING FORECLOSED:

The Deed of Trust being foreclosed is that Deed of Trust executed by LORI CHARLENE WARRIAX and MICHAEL ANTHONY WARRIAX, a married couple, to Jay B. Green, Attorney at Law, PC, Trustee, dated March 14, 2023 and recorded in Book 2393, Page 384 in the Robeson County Registry of North Carolina. RECORD OWNERS OF THE REAL PROPERTY:

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

The sale will be held on June 11, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the door of the Robeson County Courthouse, Lumberton, North Carolina. PROPERTY TO BE SOLD:

The following real property to be sold "sight unseen" together with any improvements is located in Robeson County, North Carolina and is believed to have the address of 318 Haven Rd, Maxton, NC 28364 and is otherwise more particularly described as follows:

See "Exhibit A" attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. Because the legal description is too voluminous or is otherwise an exhibit hereto that will not be published in the newspaper, reference is made to the subject legal description recorded as part of the subject Deed of Trust as described in the case caption of this proceeding and incorporated herein by said reference.

Included is a 2023 TRU manufactured home bearing serial no. CWP055340TNAB.

TERMS OF SALE:

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

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

This date being April 16, 2026

THE GREEN LAW FIRM, P.C.

By: S/ Jay B. Green

Jay B. Green, Attorney at Law

The Green Law Firm, P.C.

Attorney for Trustee

908 E. Edenton Street

Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

Telephone: 919-829-0797

6/3 6/10 2026

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Lumberton will hold its budget workshop on Monday, June 8, 2026, at the hour of 9:00 a.m. at the Lumberton City Hall, 3 rd Floor Conference Room, Lumberton, North Carolina. City Council of the City of Lumberton will also hold its Regular City Council meeting on Monday, June 8, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at the Lumberton City Hall, 3 rd Floor, in the City Council Chambers.

Laney Mitchell-McIntosh
City Clerk
Control Number 1372

6/3 2026

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, or the estate of WILLIAM EDWARD LOCKLEAR, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of August 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 13th day of May 2026 VALERIE HARRIS 195 ADNELL DR MAXTON, NC. 28364

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

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF ROBESON
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
OF Robert Easterling
DECEASED
Clerk's File 26E000169-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Robert Easterling, Deceased, late of Robeson County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate to present them to the attorney listed below on or before August 23, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment to the Estate at the office of the attorney listed below. May 20, 2026.

Tamica Hall
Administrator of the Estate of Robert Easterling
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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Robeson County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, June 15, 2026 in the County Administration Center, 550 North Chestnut Street, in the City of Lumberton, North Carolina. The purpose of this hearing is to consider the following requests:

Case # 2026 - 964055 - Marco Scott & Kimberly Oxendine Philadelphus Twp. District 5. Consideration of a Special Use Permit to allow for the establishment of a Used Car Lot in a Residential Agricultural District (R-A) on a 1.92+/- acre tract more or less, located on 6118 NC Hwy 710; Submitted by Marco Scott & Kimberly Oxendine (Applicant); Marco Scott (Owner); Tax Parcel # 1508-01-00402.

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

THIS the 27th day of May, 2026.

TAMMY S. FREEMAN, CLERK
ROBESON COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS

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

Are your talents going to waste



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LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF ROBESON
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION,
FILE NO: 26CV000931-770.
COUNTY OF ROBESON,

a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina; Plaintiff, VS. ANY AND ALL ASSIGNEES, HEIRS AT LAW AND DEVISEES OF QUESSIE MAE OXENDINE, OWNER, and CRYSTAL GRAHAM, GUARDIAN AD LITEM OF ANY AND ALL HEIRS AT LAW AND DEVISEES OF QUESSIE MAE OXENDINE; Defendants.

GENERAL NOTICE OF TAX FORECLOSURE SALE

Under and by virtue of an order of the District Court of Robeson County, North Carolina, made and entered in the action entitled "County of Robeson vs Any and All Assignees, Heirs At Law and Devisees of Quessie Mae Oxendine, Owner, et al." the undersigned Commissioner will on the 16th day of June, 2026, offer for sale and sell for cash, to the last and highest bidder at public auction, at the courthouse door in Robeson County, North Carolina, in Lumberton at 12:00 noon the following described real property, lying and being the aforesaid State and County, and more particularly described as follows:

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

Owner: Quessie Mae Oxendine, Title Reference: Deed Book 1682, Page 344; PIN No: 04030202003
Tax Account No: 1095143; Property Location: Burnt Swamp Township, Tract 17, Hannah O. Wood, et al., Map Book 44 at Page 85-86. 1.95 acres +/- with easement(s) for the purpose of ingress, egress and utilities. - Vacant Land.

All that certain tract or parcel of land lying about 3.2 miles east of the center of Pembroke, NC, about 1/2 mile northeast of NC Highway 72 West, about 0.35 mile northwest of SR 1516, Genes Road, adjacent to and on the southwest side of Jimmy's Farm Road (45 foot private easement), adjoining Audrey Oxendine (452/42) on the southwest and west, Tract 18 of this Division on the north, Tracts 20 and 21 on the east and Tract 16 on the south containing 1.95 acres more or less.

Granted and Reserved: a 45 foot Private Easement for Jimmy's Farm Road. And being a part of those certain lands as shown in Special Proceedings File 06 SP 0471 in the office of the Clerk of Court of Robeson County. Bearings referenced to Deed Book 1063, page 203. Exempt from Robeson County Subdivision Ordinance under Article V, Section 501, Item f. The above-described tract is subject to all right-of-ways and easements of record.

The sale will be made subject to all outstanding city and county taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above-described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. A deposit of twenty (20) percent of the successful bid will be required. This 21st day of May, 2026.

Edward K. Brooks, Commissioner

6/3 6/10 2026

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

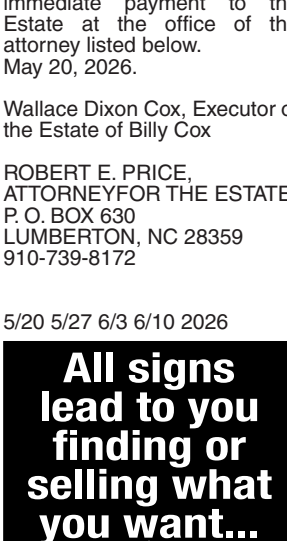
OF BILLY COX, DECEASED
Clerk's File 26E000520-770
The undersigned having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Billy Cox, Deceased, late of Robeson County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate to present them to the attorney listed below 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 attorney listed below. May 20, 2026.

Wallace Dixon Cox, Executor of the Estate of Billy Cox

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

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

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Cary, NC 27511
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5/20 5/27 6/3 6/10 2026

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LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF ROBESON
NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF
TWYLA MARIE HEDGEPEETH
DECEASED
File Number 26E000586-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrator, of the estate of Twyla Marie Hedgepeth, 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 6th day of September, 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 3rd day of June, 2026.

Ashlee Marie Hedgepeth
PO Box 51596
Durham, NC 27717

Attorney
DSR Legal, PLLC
PO Box 51596
Durham, NC 27717
984-206-3939

6/3 6/10 6/17 6/24 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
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

MARKET SOLD With The Classifieds

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Robeson County Board of Zoning Adjustment will hold a public hearing at 5:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, June 15, 2026 in the Robeson County Administration Center, 550 North Chestnut Street, in the City of Lumberton, North Carolina. The purpose of this hearing is to consider the following requests:

Case # 2026-964056- Marco Scott, Philadelphus Township, District 5. Consideration of a Variance of Robeson County Zoning Ordinance Section 3.6 (a) requiring twenty thousand (20,000) square feet minimum required lot area per dwelling unit and Section 3.6 (e) requiring a minimum 30' feet rear yard setback. The purpose for this Variance is to allow for an office building for a proposed used car lot on a 1.92+/- acre tract, more or less, in a Residential Agricultural District (R-A), located at 6118 NC Hwy 710; submitted by Marco Scott (Applicant/Owner). Tax Parcel # 1508-01-00402.

Case # 2026-964970- Cedric A. Baldwin, Back Swamp Township, District 2. Consideration of a Variance of Robeson County Zoning Ordinance Section 3.6 (d) requiring a minimum 15' feet side yard setback. The purpose for this Variance is to allow for the placement of a single-family dwelling on a 0.46+/- acre tract, more or less, in a Residential Agricultural District (R-A), located at 426 Turkey Branch Rd; submitted by Cedric A. Baldwin (Applicant/Owner). Tax Parcel # 0219-03-011.

Case # 2026-965383- PSRC Board of Education, Pembroke Township, District 3. Consideration of a Variance of Robeson County Zoning Ordinance Section 8.6 (a)(3) stating that a sign/marquee for churches and schools may be allowed provided they do not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet (4x8) in area, eight (8) feet in height and shall be a minimum of fifty (50) feet from the center of the highway. The purpose for this Variance is to allow for the placement of a one hundred fourteen (114) square feet (8.5x13.5) in area, eight foot eight inches (8.80) in height sign on a 37.19 +/- acre tract, more or less, in a Residential Agricultural District (R-A), located on 569 E. Livermore Drive; submitted by PSRC Board of Education (Applicant/Owner). Tax Parcel # 1417-01-00208Y.

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

THIS the 27th day of May, 2026.

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

6/3 6/10 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF ROBESON
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
AND DEBTORS OF
HOPE DEANNER
CARROLL BENTON
AKA HOPE DEANER
CARROLL BENTON
DECEASED
FILE NUMBER:
25 E 002072-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the estate of HOPE DEANNER CARROLL BENTON AKA HOPE DEANER CARROLL BENTON, 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 7th day of SEPTEMBER 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 3rd day of JUNE 2026

RICHARD MACK BENTON II
2116 E 7TH ST
LUMBERTON NC 28358

6/3 6/10 6/17 6/24 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF ROBESON
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
AND DEBTORS OF
MARY CATHERINE
LAMBERT TYLER
DECEASED
FILE NUMBER:
26 E 000291-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the estate of MARY CATHERINE LAMBERT TYLER, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 17th day of AUGUST 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This is the 13th day of MAY 2026.

MARY ELIZABETH
LOCKLEAR
206 POLLYS LANE
MAXTON NC 28364

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

Strickland named to CCBS Board of Directors

Staff report

FAYETTEVILLE — Carolina College of Biblical Studies (CCBS) has announced the appointment of Steve Strickland to its Board of Directors.

Strickland currently serves as the director of missions for the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association in Pembroke. He is faith-

fully working alongside pastors and churches to strengthen ministry partnerships, encourage biblical leadership and support the advancement of the gospel throughout the region.

A dedicated servant leader with a passion for biblical education and ministry



Strickland

development, Strickland earned both his Master of Divinity (M.Div.) and Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degrees from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest.

"We are honored to welcome Dr. Strickland to the CCBS Board of Directors," said

Bill Korver, president of CCBS. "His ministry experience, leadership within the local church community, and commitment to equipping disciples for faithful service will be a tremendous asset to our mission."

As a member of the Board of Directors, Strickland will help support the college's mission of equipping disciples of Christ

for a lifetime of servant leadership through biblical higher education.

CCBS has remained committed for more than five decades to providing Christ-centered, biblically grounded education that prepares students for ministry, missions, counseling and Christian leadership opportunities around the world.

Felony

From page 1A

Lester Farrington, 70, of Red Springs, was arrested and charged with conspiracy to sell/deliver a Schedule-II controlled substance; possession of a Schedule-II controlled substance; possession with intent to manufacture/sell/distribute a Schedule-II controlled substance; two counts of trafficking opium or heroine; maintaining a vehicle/dwelling place for a controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; and an improperly attached registration plate. He was given a \$500,000 secured bond.

Bennie Henderson Jr., 60, of Red



Farrington



Henderson



Callahan

Springs, attempted to destroy drug paraphernalia by placing it in his mouth and crushing it with his teeth. He was arrested and charged with conspiracy to sell/deliver a Schedule-II controlled substance; alter/steal/destroy criminal evidence; and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was given a \$10,000 secured bond.

Glenda Callahan, 54, of Red Springs, was arrested and charged with conspiracy to sell/deliver a Schedule-II

controlled substance. She was given a \$5,000 secured bond.

The task force is comprised of the Lumberton, Red Springs, Pembroke, St. Pauls, Parkton, Maxton, Fayetteville, Spring Lake and Hope Mills Police Departments, the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation, the N.C. Alcohol Law Enforcement Division, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, and N.C. Department of Probation and Parole.

The task force was formed to combat violent crime and to address drug and weapons violations in municipalities in Robeson and Cumberland Counties.

Anyone with information regarding an investigation is asked to contact the Red Springs Police Department at 910-

843-3454. CrimeStoppers information can also be submitted electronically by visiting fay-nccrimestoppers.org and completing the anonymous online tip sheet.

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

For additional information, contact Red Springs Police Chief Antoinette Hurtt at 910-843-3454 or ahurtt@red-springs.org.

UNC

From page 1A

and other resources to people in need.

"In rural healthcare, effective care often depends on understanding not only a patient's diagnosis, but also the barriers that may affect access, adherence, and long-term health outcomes," Dove said. "When physicians build that understanding during training, they are often better equipped to practice effectively and build lasting connections in rural communities."

Robeson County Church and Community Center said in a Facebook post that a formal partnership with the health system was almost a decade in the making. UNC Health Southeastern selected

the nonprofit because of its long history in the region and community trust, Dove said.

Once fully realized, Robeson County Church and Community Center's director, Brianna Goodwin, believes the partnership "will be revolutionary for health care access in rural areas."

The partnership was made possible through \$198,000 from the University of North Carolina System's Rural Residency Medical Education and Training Fund. The system gave over \$6.4 million to 17 universities, health systems, and nonprofits in April to expand or establish new rural health care workforce training programs.

Recruiting physicians to rural areas is difficult, partially because of lower pay and fewer resources, according to the National Rural Health Association. Expanding rural training opportunities

increases the chance that physicians will practice in these areas. Doctors who spent at least half of their residency training in rural areas were five times more likely to practice there, according to a 2022 study published in the Journal of Graduate Medical Education.

UNC Health Southeastern has two of North Carolina's 12 rural residency and fellowship programs. State health officials plan to use funding from the federal Rural Health Transformation Program to increase rural residency and fellowship programs by 2031.

The UNC System's Rural Residency Medical Education and Training Fund also provides \$8 million annually to help hospitals start, maintain, and expand programs. UNC Health Southeastern received \$232,000 to establish new cardiology and sports medicine fellowship programs as part of the fund's

April allocation.

Partnering with Robeson County Church and Community Center could help UNC Health Southeastern retain its residents and fellows once they complete their programs by deepening their connection to the community and showing the impact they can make, Dove said.

"We see this as an opportunity to better prepare physicians for rural practice, deepen our connection to the community, and support more coordinated, patient-centered care across Robeson County and the surrounding area," Dove said.

Morgan Casey covers health care in southeastern North Carolina for The Assembly Network. She is a Report for America corps member and holds a master's degree in investigative journalism from Arizona State University. You can contact her at morgancasey@borderbelt.org.

LEGALS
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 JOYCE ANN BROADWELL DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 26 E 000540-770

The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the estate of JOYCE ANN BROADWELL, 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 7th day of SEPTEMBER 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 3rd day of JUNE 2026.

JEFFERY THOMAS
BROADWELL
CO-EXECUTOR
605 BROADWELL ROAD
SAINT PAULS NC 28384

JOANNE MERCER
BROADWELL MCMILLAN
CO-EXECUTOR
210 S WILKINSON DRIVE
SAINT PAULS NC 28384

6/3 6/10 6/17 6/24 2026

LEGALS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF JOYCE CAMPBELL GRANT DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 26 E 000557-770

The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the estate of JOYCE CAMPBELL GRANT, 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 7th day of SEPTEMBER 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 3rd day of JUNE 2026.

ROY CHARLES GRANT II
5205 MCLEOD ROAD
LUMBERTON NC 28358

6/3 6/10 6/17 6/24 2026

Public Budget Hearing

The recommended FY 2026-2027 Budget for the Lumberton Tourism Development Authority, (LTDA) dba the Lumberton Visitors Bureau (LVB) has been presented to the LTDA Board and is available for public inspection at the LVB office, 3431 Lackey Street Lumberton, NC during regular business hours.

A public hearing on the recommended budget has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 2:00pm during the regular LTDA Board meeting. Citizens are invited to make written and/or oral comments to the LTDA Board Chair, 3431 Lackey Street, Lumberton, NC 28360, no later than 10am on the date of the hearing or to make comments at the hearing. The budget is scheduled for adoption on June 17, 2026.

Any person may request an accommodation for a disabling condition to attend this hearing by contacting the LVB (910) 739-9999 at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the hearing.

Arnold West
Chairman of the Board
Lumberton Tourism
Development Authority

6/3 6/6 2026

LEGALS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF NOKATOE FRANKLIN HAYWOOD DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 25 E 001729-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the estate of NOKATOE FRANKLIN 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 7th day of SEPTEMBER 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 3rd day of JUNE 2026.

SHQUITA HAYWOOD
3331 BEE GEE RD
LUMBERTON NC 28358

6/3 6/10 6/17 6/24 2026

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

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the estate of TERRY SMITH, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 17th day of AUGUST 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This is the 13th day of MAY 2026.

HAROLD LYNN SMITH
1742 ROZIER SIDING ROAD
SAINT PAULS NC 28384

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

LEGALS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF MABEL DORIS LOCKLEAR DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 26 E 000423-770

The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the estate of MABEL DORIS 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 7th day of SEPTEMBER 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 3rd day of JUNE 2026.

PEGGY L HUNT
120 ETTA DRIVE
PEMBROKE NC 28372

6/3 6/10 6/17 6/24 2026

LEGALS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF DELANO LEE CUMMINGS DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 26 E 000570-770

The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the estate of DELANO LEE CUMMINGS, 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 7th day of SEPTEMBER 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 3rd day of JUNE 2026.

WAYNE CUMMINGS
5799 RENNERT ROAD
SHANNON NC 28386

6/3 6/10 6/17 6/24 2026

LEGALS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF JAMES LEE HUNT DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 26 E 000202-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the estate of JAMES LEE HUNT, 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 7th day of SEPTEMBER 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 3rd day of JUNE 2026.

JUDY H SCOTT
1930 WEST WHITE POND RD
FAIRMONT NC 28340

6/3 6/10 6/17 6/24 2026

LEGALS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF JAMES WILLIAM MELVIN JR DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 26 E 000439-770

The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the estate of JAMES WILLIAM MELVIN JR, 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 7th day of SEPTEMBER 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 3rd day of JUNE 2026.

ROBERT STEPHEN HAGEN
12796 NC HWY 71 N
RED SPRING NC 28377

6/3 6/10 6/17 6/24 2026

Estate Sales

Estate Tag Sale
Dan and Barbara Gola
Residence
8659 NC Hwy East
Lumberton, NC
Fri. June 5th 9am-5pm
Sat. June 6th 9am-5pm
Sun. June 7th 12pm-4pm
Selling entire contents of home, furniture and decorative accessories. 1999 Ford Mustang convertible and 1994 Buick Roadmaster. Both cars are running. Lots of garden items including statuary. See photos at estatesales.net
Sale conducted by:
Bozeman Associates

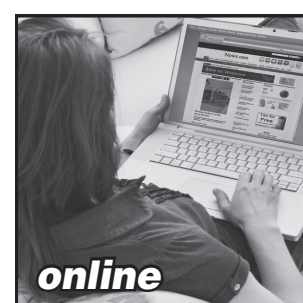
Yard Sale

YARD SALE
4184 Nelson Way
Lumberton NC 28360

Mens Women's and juniors clothing. Dress clothes, jeans, athletic wear. Shoes dress and athletic, women's size 7, men's sizes 10 and 11. House hold items and decor. Hand bags, decorative pillows, candles etc.

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Scholarship for RichmondCC's 911 program honors French

Staff report

HAMLET — The Richmond Community College Foundation announced the establishment of the North Carolina NENA Endowed Scholarship in memory of Bill Foster French, ENP, CMCP, given by the North Carolina Chapter of the National Emergency Number Association (NC NENA).

This scholarship supports students enrolled in RichmondCC's 911 Communications & Operations degree program. The first program of its kind in the nation, the associate degree was designed to provide a higher education pathway for current and future emergency communications professionals to advance from entry-level telecommunicators to supervisory and executive leadership roles.

Through this perpetual endowment, North Carolina NENA honors Bill French's legacy by helping prepare the next generation of 911 professionals who will serve communities across North Carolina and strengthen the future of emergency communications across the state.

North Carolina NENA (NENA: The 911 Association) is the only non-profit professional organization solely focused on 911 operations, technology, education and policy issues in North Carolina. The association

represents thousands of North Carolina first responders who serve as the critical first point of contact during emergencies assisting individuals in crisis, providing lifesaving instructions and response coordination, and answering more than 7 million emergency calls each year across the state.

Through their collective efforts with the more than 25,000-member national organization, NC NENA ensures that 911 systems are prepared to meet the needs of anyone requesting emergency assistance by developing the industry standards that make the 911 system work, providing training and best practices for industry professionals, supporting responder mental health and wellness, and educating the public and policymakers about 911 and its proper use.

North Carolina NENA's mission is to empower their members and the broader 911 community to provide the best possible emergency response through standards development, training, thought leadership, outreach, and advocacy.

Attending the scholarship announcement on Thursday at the Cole Auditorium was French's sister, Mary Crofton, and his grandson, Tyler French, as well as North Carolina NENA members Travis Essic, TJ Wilkerson, Cassie Sexton, Ashley Warner, Donna



Photo courtesy of RichmondCC
Bill French's grandson, Tyler French, and his sister, Mary Crofton, stand with North Carolina NENA members at the ceremony establishing a scholarship in French's honor.

Wright and Jamison Sears.

The North Carolina NENA Scholarship honors the life and legacy of French, a respected leader in emergency communications who devoted decades of service to public safety in North Carolina. He served in numerous roles during his career, including Telecommunicator for the Robeson County Emergency Communications Center, Assistant Emergency Communications Director, Safety Director, and ultimately the Emergency Communications

Director for the City of Lumberton Department of Emergency Services beginning in 2017.

A U.S. Air Force veteran and lifelong amateur radio operator, French brought extensive operational experience and technical expertise to the field of emergency communications. He was widely respected for his commitment to professionalism within the 911 community and earned the prestigious Emergency Number Professional (ENP) designation and NENA's Center Manager Certification Program (CMCP) certificate, reflecting

the highest standards of professional achievement in emergency communications leadership.

Education and mentorship were central to French's professional philosophy. For many years he served as a part-time instructor at Robeson Community College, teaching Medical Responder, CPR and First Aid courses while helping prepare future public safety professionals. French was deeply involved in civic service, community leadership, and youth mentorship, reflecting a lifelong commitment to developing others

and strengthening the communities he served.

To apply for the North Carolina NENA Endowed Scholarship or other scholarships at RichmondCC, there is only one scholarship form to complete. The scholarship application can be found on the College's website at <https://richmondcc.edu/scholarships>.

There are many ways to give to the RichmondCC Foundation and provide life-changing support to students. Contact Dr. Wendy Kelly Jordan, Associate Vice President of Development, at (910) 410-1807 or wkjordan@richmondcc.edu.

LUMBEE TRIBE ELECTIONS BOARD DISTRICTS AND LOCATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL ELECTION



VOTING DATE : TUESDAY JUNE 23, 2026

Polls will open @ 6:30 a.m. and close @ 7:30 p.m.

D-1 Rowland Police Dept

206 W Main St
Rowland NC 28383

D-2 Southern Spirit Boys & Girls Club

1872 Back Swamp Rd
Lumberton, NC 28360

D-3 Army National Guard

4502 Fayetteville
Lumberton NC 28358

D4 Lumbee Lodge Community Bldg

2715 Philadelphus Rd
Pembroke NC 28372

D5 Two Streams Boys & Girls Club

16 Rosie Dr
Maxton NC 28364

D6 Indian Education (CIS Academy)

818 W 3rd St
Pembroke NC. 28372

D7 Pembroke Library

413 Blaine St
Pembroke NC 28372

D8 Union Chapel School

4271 Union Chapel Rd
Pembroke NC 28372

D9 Four Winds. Community Bldg.

1073 Rennert Rd
Lumberton NC. 28360

D10 Rennert Fire Dept

9896 Rennert Rd
Shannon NC 28386

D11 Hawkeye Sands Appartments

5385 Red Springs Rd
Red Springs NC 28377

D12 Lumbee Heritage Elders Ct

6220 Heritage Lane
Laurinburg NC 28352

D13 Cumberland Co. Assoc.for Indian People

2173 Downing Rd
Fayetteville NC 28312

D14 First Nation Boys & Girls Club

784 Singletary Church Rd
Lumberton NC 28358

D15 Smyrna Fire Dept

2910 Wire Grass Rd
Lumberton NC 28358

D16 Union Elementary School

2547 NC Hwy 710 S
Rowland NC.28383

D17 Queheel V.F.D.

108. E Rockingham Rd
Maxton NC 28364

D18 Red Hill Apts

4972 Red Hill Rd
Maxton NC 28364

D19 Wagram Community Bldg.

2441 Marlboro. St
Wagram NC 28396

D20 Pembroke Boys & Girls Club

120 Youth Dr
Pembroke NC 28372

D21 Soaring Eagle Community Bldg.

422 Norment Rd
Lumberton NC 28360

Sports

The Robesonian

Wednesday, June 3, 2026 • Section B

Alum Sheridan to lead Lumberton football

Former player, assistant promoted to Pirates' head coaching role

Chris Stiles
The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — It's no secret the Lumberton head football coaching position has frequently turned over through the last decade. After moving on from Taurus Baker this offseason, the school hopes an internal hire can provide some stability and continuity for the

Pirates program.

Josh Sheridan, a Lumberton High School alumnus who has been on the Pirates coaching staff for the last four seasons, is the team's new head coach.

"Just being a native of Lumberton, North Carolina, I just feel like it's just a great opportunity," Sheridan said. "With the team and the staff that we



Sheridan **White**

have, it's an opportunity that couldn't be passed up."

Sheridan graduated from Lumberton in 2015, and played college football at UNC Pembroke, graduating in 2020.

"I remember a time growing up as a child, going to the high school

games in elementary school and middle school," Sheridan said. "Just wanting to be a part of that program growing up, now it's just a full-circle moment. I appreciate all the coaches that molded me into the man I am, from Lumberton, so just trying to bring back a lot of that stuff that they instilled in me and pass it on to the players."

"He's a graduate of the program, he's been on staff; it just seemed like the fit we probably should've made all along," Lumberton athletic

director Ted White said. "One of the selling points that sold us on him, he's walked these halls and been successful, going on and getting a degree and playing college football, and exemplifying being a good young man, a role model."

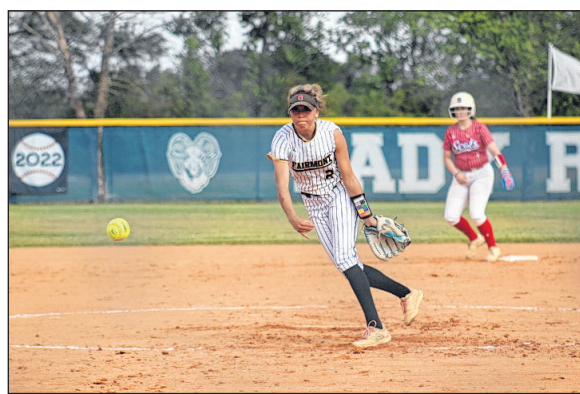
Sheridan was an assistant at Purnell Swett for two seasons before spending the last four seasons on the Pirates coaching staff under head coaches Adam Deese, Dennis McFatten and Baker; Sheridan called the offensive plays the last two

seasons.

"I think that (continuity) is good with the retention of some kids," White said. "I think for the nucleus of what we've got and the positivity that he has for the kids that are coming back, it's going to be easier for the kids coming back."

"I think it'll help out great in the long run," Sheridan said. "We've got some nice seniors that we have returning, and great leadership has taken over this offseason with those

See SHERIDAN | 2B



Mark Moses | Special to The Robesonian
Fairmont's Cecilia Chavis throws a pitch during an April 4 game against Scotland in Pembroke.

Red Devils, Tornadoes earn All-Conference honors

TCC soccer selections also announced

Staff report

ROBESON COUNTY — Several Robeson County athletes made a name for themselves in the spring by making All-Conference teams. This includes athletes from Fairmont and Red Springs in the Southeastern Athletic Conference.

ones was the undisputed star for the Red Springs girls soccer team, finishing with 29 goals and 14 assists, proving to be one of the best players in 4A girls soccer.

The Red Devils' Jennifer Villalba Candelario, a senior ended her final season with two assists. Genesis Morales Lara ended

Girls soccer

Junior Jurielys Qui-

See CONFERENCE | 2B

UNCP to hold youth sports camps throughout summer

Staff report

PEMBROKE — UNC Pembroke will host several sports camps over the summer for young people to enjoy across multiple sports.

More information on all the UNCP camps is available at <https://uncpbraves.com/sports/2016/6/10/sports-camps>.

Boys basketball

UNCP head basketball coach Drew Richards is hosting several camps.

The Drew Richards Basketball Youth Camp will run from Monday, June 8 through Thursday, June 11. It is open to children from kindergarten through ninth grade. Registration is \$120.

On Aug. 5, middle schoolers can participate in the Drew Richards Basketball Middle School Elite Camp for \$60. That is followed by the Drew Richards Basketball High School Elite Camp on August 6 for high schoolers for

\$90. All athletes must pre-register.

For more information, contact assistant coach Noah Katz at 561-670-3639.

Girls basketball

High school girls can participate in Elite Camp I. The cost is \$80 but only the first 40 registered athletes can participate. There is also Elite Camp II being held Aug. 8 with the same cost, also open to the first 40 players.

For more information, contact head coach Kendra Samuels-Eaton at kendra.eaton@uncp.edu.

Football

Multiple Mark Hall Football Camps will be held throughout the summer.

UNCP Prospect Elite Camp will be held Saturday, June 27 at Grace P. Johnson Stadium. The camp begins at 10 a.m. and the cost is \$50.

The Battle of Pembroke 7v7 Tournament

See CAMPS | 2B



Karl DeBlaker | AP Photo

The Carolina Hurricanes' Jordan Staal, right, skates to accept the Prince of Wales Trophy following Game 5 of the NHL's Eastern Conference Finals against the Montreal Canadiens Friday in Raleigh.

Hurricanes' longtime holdovers savor breakthrough to reach Stanley Cup Final

Aaron Beard

AP Sports Writer

RALEIGH — The on-ice celebration was underway for the Carolina Hurricanes after securing their first trip to the Stanley Cup Final in two decades. Rod Brind'Amour hugged and congratulated his players, all while reminding them there was another series ahead.

Then came veteran forward Jordan Martinook.

"All right, Marty, you got us here," Brind'Amour told him.

"One more," Martinook replied, on cue. "Yep, one more."

It took eight seasons under Brind'Amour — the captain on Carolina's Cup winner in 2006 — to punch through an Eastern Conference Final roadblock by closing out the Montreal Canadiens in five games Friday night. So this moment was one to savor particularly for five players — Martinook, captain Jordan Staal, forwards Sebastian Aho and Andrei Svechnikov, and defenseman Jaccob Slavin — who have been here through the pain of three previous exits in this round going back to 2019 in Brind'Amour's debut as head coach.

"It's hard to really describe," Staal said as he sat at his locker. "It's been a lot of grinding, a lot of ups and downs. ...

I'm just so happy to be where we're at and just excited for the opportunity ahead."

Assembling a core

Carolina's rise began with Brind'Amour being elevated to head coach in 2018 after seven seasons as an assistant. At the time, the Hurricanes were mired in a nine-year playoff drought.

They haven't missed the postseason since. And the quintet has been there throughout that Brind'Amour-led climb:

— The Hurricanes acquired Staal from Pittsburgh during the 2012 NHL Entry Draft. He won the Cup with the Penguins in 2009 — which included a sweep of the Hurricanes in the Eastern Conference Final when Brind'Amour was still a player — but had toiled through six of Carolina's postseason-less seasons.

— Slavin was a 2012 fourth-round pick who had played three seasons with Carolina before becoming one of the NHL's best defense-first blue liners.

— Aho was a 2015 second-round pick and had played two seasons with Carolina on his way to developing into the Hurricanes' top-line center.

— The Hurricanes acquired Martinook from Arizona days after Brind'Amour took over, adding a player who

would join Staal on a strong checking line.

— And the Hurricanes drafted Svechnikov with the No. 2 overall pick a month after Brind'Amour's promotion, with Svechnikov now a physical fixture on Aho's wing.

Results were immediate. Carolina took out the reigning Cup champion Washington Capitals in a seven-game first-round series, then went on to make an unexpected trip to the Eastern Conference Final before being swept by Boston.

It was a start, both of sustained success and recurring frustration.

'Scar tissue'

The Hurricanes returned to the Eastern Conference Final again in 2023, this time with home-ice advantage against the Florida Panthers. But they were swept again by four one-goal margins, including a four-overtime epic in Game 1.

Then last year, the Hurricanes returned for a rematch that quickly went away. They lost Games 1 and 2 in a performance that frustrated a normally rowdy and exuberant home crowd, fell into an 0-3 series hole and exited in five games.

That dropped Carolina to 1-12 in that round under Brind'Amour, unable to turn years of consistent regular-

season success into a breakthrough playoff moment. It's all part of "scar tissue" Martinook mentioned Friday night, shared by the quintet with Brind'Amour as well as holdovers like assistant coach Jeff Daniels and longtime video coach Chris Huffine.

"They've really grinded out and did it the right way," Brind'Amour said, "and took a lot of, I think, flack for getting this far and not getting past it. Unduly. I don't think that was right, because they played as hard as they could. ... They gave it everything they had, and that's all you can ask."

"We got better this year, we added some pieces that made us better to get us to this point. But as a coach, you watch these guys every day, there's nobody luckier than me to have these guys, the way they approach their business on a daily basis, not just now."

Scaling the obstacle

That was never more on display than against Montreal.

The Hurricanes swept

See CANES | 3B

The result of Game 1 of the Stanley Cup Final between the Carolina Hurricanes and Vegas Golden Knights was unavailable at press time.

Sheridan

From page 1B

guys taking a step in the right direction. So we're just leaning heavily on those guys, them being the voice of the team."

Lumberton was 4-6 last season, the program's most wins since 2016, and reached the first round of the 7A state playoffs. Sheridan is the Pirates' sixth head coach in the last

10 seasons. "We've just to keep stacking days," Sheridan said. "We're not really looking long term right now, we're just trying to come in every day and stack days together, and just pick up where we left off from in spring ball. We're trying to pick it back up during the summer workouts and just keep stacking days."

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

Camps

From page 1B

will be held Saturday, July 11. It begins at 10 a.m. and costs \$250 per team.

Positional camps include quarterbacks and wide receivers/tight ends on Saturday, June 20; linebackers on Friday, July 17; and defensive backs, defensive line and offensive line on Saturday, July 18.

Team camps will be held on Tuesday, June 23; Thursday, July 9; and Monday, July 27.

For more information, contact football@uncp.edu or visit markhall-footballcamps.com.

Volleyball

UNC's volleyball program will hold a Middle School Skills Camp on July 23, open to sixth through eighth graders for \$100.

The Elite Overnight Camp for volleyball is open to high schoolers from July 25-26. It costs \$175 for commuters and \$225 to stay overnight.

For more information, contact assistant coach Sara Parsour at 910-775-4117 or sara.parsour@uncp.edu.

Baseball

UNC's baseball coach Paul O'Neil is hosting five prospect camps from now through November. They are scheduled for Aug. 1, Aug. 22, Sept. 12, Oct. 17 and Nov. 7. They are open to high schoolers and junior-college players, and the cost is \$135 for pitchers only, \$150 for position players and \$175 for two-

way players.

For more information, visit <https://www.playnsports.com/organization/unc-pembroke/>.

Softball

UNC's softball coach Stephanie Graziani hosts the Coach Graziani Athletics Softball Camps.

Prospect camps will be held on June 24 and Aug. 22. The camp costs \$150 for offensive and defensive drills and a live scrimmage, and an additional \$50 option for a pitching/catching add-on is available.

Hitting clinics on June 9, July 15 and Aug. 4; defensive clinics are July 14 and Aug. 4; and pitching and catching clinics are June 9 and July 14. The clinics are each \$50.

For more information visit <https://uncpembrokesoftballcamps.com> or totalcamps.com/shop/EVENT.

Wrestling

Multiple BraveTough Wrestling Camps will be held in mid-June.

Team camp runs from June 13-15 at a cost of \$200 per wrestler.

Technique camp is from June 15-17 and costs \$275 for commuters or \$375 to stay overnight.

Youth camp is also from June 15-17, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. The cost is \$150.

Intensive camp is from June 15-18 and costs \$375 for commuters and \$475 to stay overnight.

For more information, visit johnsonathletic-camps.com or contact head coach O.T. Johnson at 910-775-4116 or othello.johnson@uncp.edu.

Lumbee Games set for Homecoming week

Staff report

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

Wrestling

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

Weigh-ins will be between 10 and 11 p.m. Saturday, June 27 in the Auxiliary Gym at UNC Pembroke's English E. Jones Athletic Center for all weight classes and age groups. The tournament begins at 11 a.m.

Wrestlers will be grouped based on age and ability and every wrestler will compete in two to four matches.

Each match will be judged based on high school rules.

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

There is a \$10 entry fee.

Wrestlers who are 12 and above will compete in three one-minute periods while others will have a

one-minute period, followed by two 30-second periods.

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

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

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

Swimming

Registration for the swimming portion of the Lumbee Games will be Monday, June 29 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. The meet begins at 6 p.m. There is a \$30 fee to enter three events.

The freestyle will be the first race, followed by the backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly.

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

Swimmers in the youngest three divisions will compete in 25-yard races or one pool length while

the older three divisions will swim in 50-yard races or two pool lengths.

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

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

Basketball

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

questions.

Pickleball

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

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

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

Tennis

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

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

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

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

Conference

From page 1B

her final season with the Red Devils with a goal and 18 assists. Her assist totals placed her 12th in 4A and 70th in North Carolina. Both joined Quinones on the All-Conference team.

Sanchez, another senior ended her Red Springs' career with seven goals and 14 assists in her last high school season, also earning an All-Conference nod.

South Brunswick's Meryn Deutsch was named the Southeastern's Player of the Year, while her coach Logan Adkisson was named Coach of the Year.

Baseball

Red Springs' T.J. Ellerbe hit .458 with 24 runs scored and eight RBIs, en route to All-Southeastern recognition while Xzavier Sinclair hit .349 with 12 runs scored and seven RBIs to also earn a nod.

Fairmont's Parker Chavis makes the All-Conference team after posting a 2.17 ERA on the mound

and hitting a home run, scoring 15 runs and stealing 15 bases.

Jayden Hunt led the Golden Tornadoes with a .390 batting average and .513 on-base percentage. He also had a home run and tied for the team lead with 15 stolen bases to be a valuable asset for Fairmont as he also made the All-Southeastern team.

Brylyn Ransom of Fairmont had 10 RBIs and scored five runs en route to earning a selection.

South Brunswick's Harrison Mears earned the Southeastern's Player of the Year award. Connor Grainger was named the league's Coach of the Year; his Whiteville team won the 3A state championship.

Softball

Jamey Quinata made the All-Southeastern softball team for the Fairmont after hitting .537 with 20 RBIs, 16 runs and three home runs.

Cecilia Chavis earned an All-Conference selection after she hit .513 and led the team with 40 hits, 25 runs scored and 20 RBIs, in addition to being the team's best pitcher with a

4.49 ERA.

Layla Hunt hit .372 with 19 runs scored and 16 RBIs for Fairmont and also earned a selection.

For Red Springs, Cabana Wilkins had a .325 average and stole eight bases to earn All-Conference honors, while teammate Bailey Locklear was also an honoree.

Carly Clews of South Brunswick was the Southeastern's softball Player of the Year with a .390 batting average, six home runs and 30 RBIs. She was also an ace on the mound, pitching 28 innings to get six wins and a 1.75 ERA.

South Brunswick's James Pearce won the league's Coach of the Year award after the Cougars were 19-6 overall and 10-0 in conference play.

Tri-County Conference

Girls soccer

The Tri-County Conference also announced its All-Conference selections.

Purnell Swett's Sarah Hunt had six goals and nine assists on her way to a first team All-TCC selection.

Lumberton's Brittany

Hernandez scored 10 goals and tallied 12 assists to earn her place on the first team.

The Rams' Johnna Sampson had nine goals and seven assists to earn a spot on the second team. Fellow Ram Kiley Locklear ended the season with eight goals and four assists and also was named second-team All-Conference.

Purnell Swett's Maryah Locklear had three goals on her way to a second-team selection.

Lumberton's MacKenzie Register had nine goals and three assists and was also named to the All-TCC second team.

Lumberton's Sydney Jones' strong defensive play, plus a goal and an assist earned her an honorable mention.

Taylor Stangle of Terry Sanford scored 33 goals and recorded seven assists to become the Tri-County Player of the Year. Gray's Creek's Richard Jones won the league's Coach of the Year after leading the Bears to a 9-8-2 record.

Terry Sanford's Olivia Terranova recorded four shutouts on her way to being named TCC Goalie of the Year.

ROBESON COUNTY ATHLETIC SPOTLIGHT

LUMBERTON SCHOOL



BRENNAN GRIFFIN
Baseball

Lumberton senior shortstop Brennan Griffin finished his career with another strong season, batting .348 for the Pirates with 20 runs, 16 RBIs, eight extra-base hits and 20 stolen bases. Griffin earned All-County honors for the second straight year and was a second-team All-Conference selection in the Tri-County Conference.

PURNELL SWETT HIGH SCHOOL



SARAH HUNT
Soccer, Basketball

Purnell Swett midfielder Sarah Hunt scored six goals and a team-high nine assists for the Lady Rams soccer team this spring, earning All-Conference honors, and was MVP of the Robeson Cup after the Rams' fifth straight tournament title. She also averaged 1.7 points, 2.5 assists and 3.2 steals per game for the Lady Rams basketball team.

Hamlin storms back from penalty to win at Nashville

Teresa M. Walker
Associated Press

LEBANON, Tenn. — Denny Hamlin looked in his mirror wondering why nobody else went with him when the green flag dropped at the start of the Cracker Barrel 400 on Sunday night.

He said nothing on his radio, instead paying the penalty by going to the back of the field. Then he drove his way back to the front where he outraced Christopher Bell over the last four thrilling laps off a final restart to win at the Nashville Superspeedway.

“Man, what an unbelievable day,” Hamlin said. “Starting first, going to last and back to first.”

This was Hamlin’s second win this year and 62nd of his career, and he wound up leading a race-high 57 laps including the one that mattered most.

The 45-year-old Hamlin

wound up racing side-by-side with his Joe Gibbs Racing teammates Bell and Chase Briscoe making it three-wide before Hamlin took the lead down the backstretch to win by 0.115 seconds in his No. 11 Toyota.

“Well, that’s why on the last lap, I committed to just run the bottom,” Hamlin said.

Team co-owner Heather Gibbs said watching the teammates race so hard was like kids on a family vacation swatting at each other in the backseat. But she said they raced cleanly.

“We want them to race for the win,” Heather Gibbs said. “That’s what they do, and it makes us proud.”

Hamlin, who won at Las Vegas and also the All-Star race at Dover, pulled within 97 points of Tyler Reddick in the season standings.

Reddick finished sixth.

The race started 80 minutes late after rain delayed NASCAR’s Cup Series for a second straight week. The wait was worth it with a record 31 lead changes among a record 15 leaders. The race also featured 12 cautions at the 1.33-mile, D-shaped oval that is NASCAR’s largest concrete track.

Bell finished second for a second straight race ahead of Briscoe. Ricky Stenhouse Jr. was fourth, and Shane Van Gisbergen rounded out the top five.

“I had the best car on the race track ... and we had the lead on the restart,” Bell said. “I got a great push from Denny on the restart, and I didn’t win the race.”

Hamlin now is one Cup victory away from matching his one-time teammate Kyle Busch, who died May 22 at 41. Busch is ninth all-time



Camden Hall | AP Photo

Denny Hamlin celebrates after winning Sunday's NASCAR Cup Series race in Lebanon, Tenn.

with his 63 Cup victories, and Hamlin said he certainly aspires to get there.

“It just shows how good he was for so long,” Hamlin said. “I saw the

stats online where we ran together 500 and some races, and he finished ahead of me 10 more times than I beat him in the same equipment.”

The series will be at

Michigan International Speedway this week where Hamlin will be trying to win for a second straight year and continue his winning streak.

Littlefield recognized for best middle school sports



Contributed photo | Tony Chavis

The Littlefield Middle School athletic department was recognized for having the Public Schools of Robeson County’s best middle school sports for the 2025-26 school year. The Hornets won county championships in girls basketball, softball, girls track and wrestling and finished second in girls soccer. Pictured, from left, are baseball and boys track coach Jake Graham, girls soccer coach Jamie Glotzbach, girls track and girls basketball coach Jasmine McBride, award presenter Tony Chavis, athletic director and volleyball and softball coach Nick Baffaro, boys soccer coach William Jennings, cheerleading coach Stacy Britt, football and boys basketball coach Kissiphor Brunson and wrestling coach Lauren Little.

Canes

From page 1B

Ottawa and Philadelphia in the first two rounds, securing an 11-day between-rounds break — the longest in the playoffs in more than a century. They emerged with a horrid start against the Canadiens, who pounced for four first-period goals in a 6-2 win that harkened back to past conference-final troubles.

Instead of stumbling, the playoff-tested Hurricanes ascended.

Nikolaj Ehlers gave them a 3-2 overtime win in Game 2. They won Game 3 by the same OT score on Svechnikov’s road winner, with Aho screening Jakub Dobeš at the top of the crease. And they got to their smothering game Staal

likened to a “machine” from there, winning 4-0 on the road before Friday’s 6-1 home win.

That made Carolina the first team to reach the Stanley Cup Final with only one loss since 1983, according to SportRadar, and first to do so since the league went to best-of-seven series in all four post-season rounds in 1987.

Now comes a date with Vegas for the Cup, a rare new experience for Carolina’s holdovers in this long run.

“I feel like it was more maybe you guys talking about, ‘Oh, this is the Eastern Conference Final, can’t go past it,’” Aho told reporters in the locker room afterward. “I thought the room was definitely very confident in what we can do. But yeah, it feels good to play for the Cup now.”

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STICK WITH THE CLASSIFIEDS

Wemby vs. the Knicks: Marquee matchup awaits in NBA Finals

Tim Reynolds

AP Basketball Writer

SAN ANTONIO — The marquee outside of Madison Square Garden in December 1949 once promoted the following event, which was happening a couple of days later: “Geo Mikan vs Knicks.”

Not “Minneapolis Lakers vs. Knicks.” Just George Mikan. The NBA’s first one-of-a-kind big man.

It feels like history repeating itself now. The NBA Finals start Wednesday, with the San Antonio Spurs facing the Knicks for the title. And the marquee for this series — in San Antonio, in New York, in Paris and countless other points around the globe — may as well say “Wemby vs Knicks.”

Victor Wembanyama keeps stepping onto bigger and bigger stages. The latest version of the NBA’s one-of-a-kind big man — a title once held by the likes of Mikan, Bill Russell, Wilt Chamberlain, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Shaquille O’Neal — will have all eyes on him in this series, and probably for every game he plays for the rest of his life. He’s not “on the way” to superstardom. He’s there. And this series is giving him his first chance at putting champion on his resume.

“This is the best basketball on the planet that’s being played right now,” Wembanyama said after San Antonio won Game 7 at Oklahoma City to capture the Western Conference title. “And the crazy thing is ... I want to do that 15, 20 more times. Let’s hope it doesn’t become an addiction. Maybe it is already.”

It may as well be an addic-

tion. San Antonio is clearly addicted to him.

There’s no Major League Baseball in San Antonio, no NHL team, no NFL team. As far as big-time pro sports go, it’s the Spurs and nothing else. And those who drive five minutes in any direction in this city will see the proof.

School’s out in San Antonio. It’s summer. The city’s public library was buzzing Monday, and a few kids just happened to be noticing a new display not far from the front desk. “Read Like Wemby,” it said, and it featured five books that Wembanyama has been known to read in the past. An Instagram account — wembybooks — starting posting images of him with books, local media in San Antonio caught on and the library came up with an idea.

“We want to make sure people have access to those and people can read them,” said Scott Williams, the marketing manager for the San Antonio Public Library. “And so, we thought, ‘Let’s do a display and let’s do a book list and make sure that people can easily find what Wemby’s reading so that they can read it too.’”

The results? “The interest has been huge,” Williams said. “Ultimately, we’re looking at two things. We want people to pay attention to the library, we want people to come here and notice us, and we want people checking out these books and reading. It’s been a success on both fronts.”

So, Wemby gets people reading.

He also gets people to visit seafood restaurants — even when they’re closed.

Rudy’s Seafood isn’t open on



San Antonio Spurs forward Victor Wembanyama, center, walks over to Spurs fans as he holds his MVP trophy and celebrates after Game 7 of the NBA’s Western Conference Finals Saturday in Oklahoma City. Tony Gutierrez | AP Photo

Monday. In a 15-minute span Monday afternoon, four cars showed up. They weren’t there for lunch. They were there to see the Spurs murals — current players and coaches are featured, alongside a freshly re-painted Gregg Popovich, a newly added George Gervin and Manu Ginobili, among others.

Mark and Christina Lerma have family in San Antonio, but they live in Nebraska. They’re not going to the NBA Finals — ticket prices are way too high — but they headed to Rudy’s to pay homage to their favorite team. Mark was wearing a newly acquired Spurs NBA Finals hat and Wembanyama jersey; Christina was dressed all in black and showed off

video of a Spurs dress she was wearing on Sunday.

They’ve loved the Spurs forever. And Wembanyama, as one might guess, has quickly acquired a special place in their fandom.

“He’s dominant,” Mark Lerma said. “He changes the game.”

They proudly pointed out that Wembanyama has been to the restaurant to see the tribute to the Spurs, which has been up for years and gets updated as needed.

“A lot of people stop and do selfies,” said Roland Ramirez, who owns the restaurant. “They’re doing graduation pictures with the backdrop. It’s pretty nice for the community. You know, the Spurs are pretty big right now here in San Anto-

nio.” He has met Wembanyama in the past and was blown away by how he carries himself.

“The first vibe I got off of him was he was just very humble,” Ramirez said. “He talked to my wife ... he was very humble with everybody. You could see all the emotion he had when he won the Western Conference finals and the crying, he’s just a very emotional guy, very humble, very, very nice guy. That’s what people are really feeding off. He’s humble, but he’s hungry for a championship. And when he gets on the floor, he’s a whole different monster.”

He’s different. Just like Mikan was 77 years ago. Wemby vs. the Knicks. A marquee matchup awaits.

Browns trade 2-time DPOY Garrett to Rams

Joe Reedy, Greg Beacham and Kyle Hightower

AP Sports Writers

LOS ANGELES — Myles Garrett finally got his wish — to be a part of a consistent winning team instead of one in perpetual rebuilding.

The Cleveland Browns traded the two-time AP NFL Defensive Player of the Year to the Los Angeles Rams for pass rusher

Jared Verse and three draft picks in a blockbuster deal on Monday.

Garrett was the unanimous choice for Defensive Player of the Year last season after he had 23 sacks and broke the NFL single-season record. He is expected to report to the Rams’ facility on Tuesday and have a news conference to discuss the trade.

Garrett’s addition

marks the first time the reigning AP NFL MVP and Defensive Player of the Year will be teammates. Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford won his first MVP award last season.

General manager Andrew Berry was able to make a deal after the Browns and Garrett agreed to modify the contract and defer option payments over the 2026-

28 seasons in March. The first payment of around \$10 million was due on March 28, but was moved to near the start of the regular season.

Garrett demanded a trade at the end of the 2024 season, but signed a four-year contract extension last March with a total value of \$204.8 million that made him the highest-paid non-quarterback in NFL history. The contract also included a no-trade clause.

Berry had long said that Garrett would play his entire career in Cleveland, but Garrett’s lingering frustrations over the franchise’s direction and the chance to start anew meant it was time to move on.

Cleveland is 8-26 the past two years after making the playoffs in 2023.

“As discussions intensified we were stuck at a legitimate crossroads: do we hold on to a truly generational player who has become the identity of our team, or do we make the difficult decision that we think is best for the organization over the long run?,” Berry said after the trade was announced.

The Browns get Verse — the 2024 AP NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year — a 2027 first-round selection, a second-round

pick in 2028 and a 2029 third-round selection.

Owners Dee and Jimmy Haslam said in a statement that they met with Garrett on Saturday to discuss the trade.

“Trading Myles was never our intent, but we also recognize that certain opportunities demand serious consideration, and we believe this is the right move for our team. Adding a young defensive star like Jared Verse, along with valuable draft assets, are necessary to strengthen a talented young core and align with the youth of our team,” the Haslams said.

Eagles trade WR Brown to Patriots

A.J. Brown is leaving a frustrating experience in Philadelphia for a reunion in New England with his first NFL coach.

The Eagles traded the star receiver to the Patriots on Monday, putting a cap on the long-rumored deal.

The Eagles said they will receive a first-round pick in 2028 and a fifth-round pick in 2027 for the three-time Pro Bowler.

The trade comes after a frustrating 2025 season for Brown in Philadelphia, in which he had grown dispirited with an Eagles offense that played uninspired football

at times while the team failed to defend its Super Bowl title.

Brown played under Vrebel for three seasons after being drafted by the Tennessee Titans in 2019.

Brown, 28, quickly rose to the top receiving option in Philadelphia after being traded by Tennessee to the Eagles in 2022.

He had back-to-back Pro Bowl seasons his first two seasons with the Eagles, catching 88 passes for 1,496 yards and 11 touchdowns in 2022 and 106 passes for 1,456 yards and seven TDs in 2023.

He earned a Super Bowl ring during the 2024 season, but began to grow unhappy last season as the Eagles offense stagnated — leading to a change at offensive coordinator following a wildcard playoff loss to San Francisco last season.

It led to an increase in chatter about the potential for a trade heading into this offseason. It didn’t happen during April’s NFL draft likely because the Eagles would have had about \$43 million in dead cap money for 2026 compared to about \$16 million this year and \$27 million next year if traded after June 1.

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