

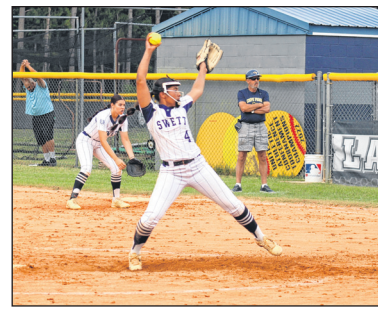
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THE ROBESONIAN

Serving Robeson County Since 1870

Wednesday, June 10, 2026 • Issue 44, Volume 157

robsonian.com

A Fresh Perspective

Local NEWS

\$2.00

City projects discussed at Lumberton board meeting

Michele Chavis
The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — Projects including the Lumberton Police Department, downtown revitalization and sewer improvements were among the items discussed in Monday's Lumberton City Council meeting.

Lumberton Chief of Police Michael McNeill requested and gained approval of a \$46,345 grant from the Bulletproof Vest Partnership for the use of 45 female bulletproof vests and 55 male bulletproof vests.

Downtown Development Coordinator Sarah Beth Ward requested the reduction of Elm Street to a one-lane road. The consideration for the additional parking will "enhance the economic vitality of downtown," said Ward.

The switch of Elm to a one-way street will accommodate parking at an angle between First and Second streets. The motion was approved.

Cory Walters, interim public works director, proposed the idea of contracting out the cleaning of residential sewers. Currently, Public Works is working to catch up with the backlog of 63 homes that need sewer cleaning services.

Council approved the contract that is to go to TNH Locklear, LLC for \$1,000 per clean-out for a total of \$63,000.

The water main on Cherokee Street between Carolina Avenue and Rozier Street has failed. The Public Works department has made several attempts to

See CITY | 10A

From renderings to reality



The exterior of the Robeson Career and Technical Education Center.

Photos courtesy of PSRC

Robeson CTEC takes shape ahead of opening in August

Jessica Sealey
For The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — Each day, renderings continue to come to life as crews work diligently on the Robeson Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC), steadily moving the project toward its anticipated August opening.

The Center will serve as a hub for innovation, skill-building and career readiness, aligning educational opportunities with the evolving demands of the workforce in Robeson County and beyond. Robeson CTEC will replace the current Robeson County Career Center and house Career and Technical

Education Programs along with the newly constructed Robeson Planetarium and Science Center.

"We are nearing the closeout phase of the project. This would include testing, commissioning, final inspections, and punch lists," said Randall Bishop, who serves as Project Manager with Metcon.

Crews could be seen installing vinyl graphics on various walls inside the building and paving the parking lot in early June. As more equipment arrives and the opening date draws closer, workers will remain busy installing, testing and inspecting equip-

ment, completing final finishes and preparing the facility to welcome students and staff in the 2026-2027 school year.

Training is underway for the planetarium's projection system with trainers traveling from Japan to Robeson County to ensure the state-of-the-art system is ready to deliver an immersive educational experience for students and visitors.

Programs available in the new center will include the new Drone Technology, Culinary Arts and Mechatronics programs along with Welding, Automotive Technology, Drafting Engineering, Computer Engineering, Network



The front entrance of the Robeson Career and Technical Education Center.

Engineering, EMT, Graphic and Webpage Design, Carpentry, Masonry, Plumbing and Electrical. The Robeson Planetarium and Science Center will include a planetarium space, lobby and makerspace where students can participate

in engaging science lessons and hands-on STEM activities.

Timeline

Sitework began in the summer of 2023, following the Sept. 2022

See CTEC | 10A

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TODAY'S FORECAST
90/70 – Sunshine and a few clouds with a thunderstorm in spots in the afternoon

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B SPORTS

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



Murder suspect charged after missing woman found dead

Staff report

LUMBERTON — A joint investigation by the Robeson County Sheriff's Office and Lumberton Police Department has resulted in the arrest of a Lumberton man after a missing woman was found deceased, RCSO said Friday.

On Wednesday, Nancy Ellen Lowery, 68, of Lumberton was reported missing by family members.

Information obtained during the investigation led detectives to an area near Seventh Street Road, John Henry Lee Road, and Highway 41 North east of Lumberton.

As the investigation progressed, investigators located Lowery's vehicle, which had been burned in a cemetery near Highway 41 North and Moore's Lane, east of Lumberton.

Reported Missing Woman Found Murdered
Anthony Ray McDonald
* First Degree Murder
* First Degree Kidnapping
* Larceny of a Motor Vehicle
* Altering/Destroying Evidence
* Arson




See SUSPECT | 10A

Image courtesy of RCSO

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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 robesonian.com. Obituaries can be submitted to robobits@cmpapers.com.

RCSO investigating fatal shooting during domestic violence incident

Staff report

ST. PAULS — The Robeson County Sheriff's Office Homicide Division is investigating the death of a man who was shot during a domestic violence incident.

On Saturday, at approximately 7:41 a.m., deputies responded to the 800 block of Mary C. Road, west of St. Pauls, regarding a domestic disturbance. The initial 911 call reported that an individual had forced entry into a residence after intentionally damaging the property by driving a vehicle into the home's porch.

During the response, deputies were advised that a person had been shot.

Upon arrival, deputies located Ross A. Highcrest Sr., 41, of Pembroke, deceased at the scene.

Upon the completion of the investigation, the findings will be presented to the Robeson County District Attorney's Office for review.

The Robeson County Sheriff's Office Homicide Division is investigating the case.

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

Lumbee Tribe holds Veterans Stand Down



The Lumbee Tribe Veterans Stand Down was held on Saturday in Pembroke, as veterans received goodies, health screenings, employment assistance, housing/shelter assistance, assistance with veterans benefits and lunch. Pictured, veterans receive free haircuts as part of the event.

Two veterans greet each other at Saturday's Lumbee Tribe Veterans Stand Down in Pembroke.

Photos courtesy of Lumbee Tribe

Robeson jobless rate unchanged in April

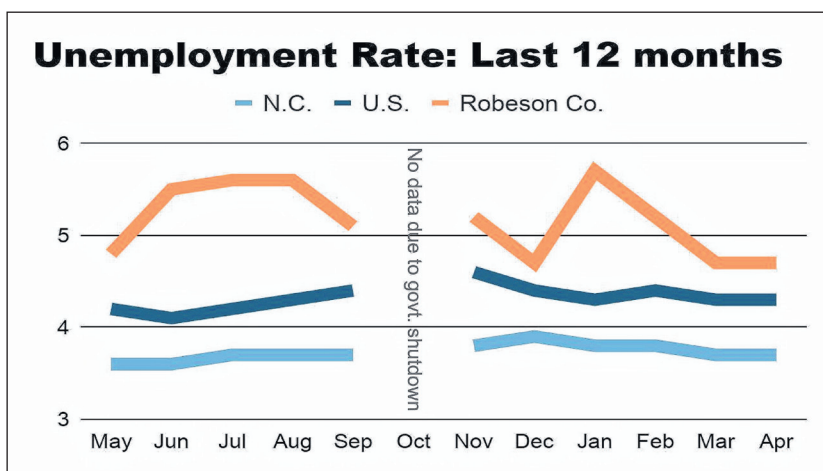
Staff report

ROBESON COUNTY — The unemployment rate in Robeson County remained unchanged in April at 4.7%, according to data released last week by the N.C. Department of Commerce.

Robeson's rate was also 4.7% in March, dropping from a 5.2% mark in February and a 5.7% mark in January. The 4.7% rate is 0.1% more than the jobless rate from April 2025, which was 4.6%. These rates are not seasonally adjusted, the department said.

The county's workforce did shrink by just over 500 workers in April; the workforce was 43,531 in April after it was 44,078 in March. Of those, 41,499 are employed, which is more than 500 less than the 42,023 employed in March. The number of unemployed individuals also saw a slight decrease, however, from 2,055 in March to 2,032 in April.

While Robeson's rate remained unchanged, surrounding counties saw a decrease in the unemployment rate in April. Bladen County's rate dropped from 4.8% to 4.6%; Columbus County dropped from 3.9% to 3.8%; Cumberland County dropped from 4.4% to



Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

4.3%; Hoke County dropped from 4.4% to 4.3%; and Scotland County dropped from 4.8% to 4.6%.

The Fayetteville Metropolitan Statistical Area, which includes Robeson County, also saw a slight drop in April, from 4.4% to 4.3%.

North Carolina's jobless rate remained 3.7% in April and the U.S. rate was also unchanged at 4.3%.

Statewide, the unemployment rate decreased in 57 counties in April, increased in eight and remained unchanged in 35. Hyde County had the highest rate at 5.7%, with Currituck County the lowest at 2.7%.

Compared to the same month in 2025, rates have decreased in 38 counties, increased in 44 and remained unchanged in 18.

The number of workers employed statewide decreased in April by 26,598 to 5,081,937, while those unemployed decreased by 4,827 to 180,636. Since April 2025, the number of workers employed statewide decreased 34,578, while those unemployed decreased 2,905.

The Department of Commerce's next update is scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, when statewide figures for May will be released.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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.
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!
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.

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.

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.

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Photos by Johnny Andrews | UNC Chapel Hill

UNC Chapel Hill Chancellor Lee H. Roberts, left, is greeted by UNC Pembroke Chancellor Robin Cummings Friday at Lumbee Hall on the campus of UNC Pembroke.

UNC Chancellor Roberts visits Pembroke

Staff report

PEMBROKE — Lee Roberts, chancellor of UNC Chapel Hill, visited Pembroke on Friday as part of a tour of eastern North Carolina.

Roberts' visit included stops at UNC Pembroke and the Lumbee Tribal Housing Complex.

At UNCP, Roberts met with UNCP Chancellor Robin Cummings and toured the Museum of the Southeast American Indian.

Visiting the Lumbee Tribe, Roberts met with tribal and community leaders. Tammy Maynor, the Tribe's director of governmental affairs, discussed Tribal housing and agricultural projects, and Channing Jones, CEO of Lumbee Holdings, discussed economic development with the chancellor.

Roberts' tour last week also included stops in Morehead City at the UNC Institute for Marine Sci-



UNC Chapel Hill Chancellor Lee H. Roberts, left, and UNC Pembroke Chancellor Robin Cummings, center, listen to museum director and curator Nancy Chavis during a tour of the Museum of the Southeast American Indian Friday on the campus of UNC Pembroke.

ence; in New Bern for a kayaking trip to discuss research and at a local library to discuss AI literacy; in Wilmington to meet with city leaders and tour the USS North

Carolina battleship; at Fort Bragg and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base for tours of each base; and in Kinston to visit the TransPark airport.



Kellie Blue, right, Robeson County manager and incoming chair for the UNC Board of Governors, speaks with UNC Chancellor Lee H. Roberts during his visit to the Lumbee Tribal Housing Complex Friday in Pembroke.



UNC Pembroke Chancellor Robin Cummings, left, and UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor Lee H. Roberts walk outside of the Museum of the Southeast American Indian Friday at UNC Pembroke.

UNCP's Jonathan Ricks earns national honor for impact on future counselors

Mark Locklear
UNCP

PEMBROKE — Jonathan Ricks believes the most effective counselors see people not as problems to solve, but as individuals with strengths, experiences and the capacity to grow.

That philosophy has guided his work with graduate students in The University of North Carolina at Pembroke's Counseling department for nearly a decade, shaping how future school counselors, play therapists and clinical mental health professionals serve children, families and communities across the region.

Now, Ricks' commitment to empathy, authenticity and human connection has earned national recognition.

Ricks, associate professor and program director for School Counseling and Play Therapy in UNCP Counseling, recently received the Humanistic Counselor Educator/Supervisor Award from the Association for Humanistic Counseling. The award was presented during the organization's annual conference in New Orleans.

The national honor recognizes counselor educators who demonstrate a clear humanistic philosophy through teaching,



Courtesy photo | Via UNCP

Jonathan Ricks accepts the award from Bogusia Skudrzyk, president-elect of AHC during the annual conference May 29-30, 2026 in New Orleans.

advising, supervision and mentoring while making a positive impact on the development of students and new professionals in the counseling field.

Ricks believes the award reflects the values that have shaped his career as a counselor and educator.

"It is important to me to see my students as whole people instead of just as students or counselors in training," Ricks said. "The award recognizes my beliefs and my emphasis on genuine relationships, empathy, authenticity and respect for people. Those qualities are really at the heart of the counseling profession, but also counselor education and supervision."

Since joining the faculty in 2017, Ricks has taught graduate students in school counseling, play therapy and clinical

mental health counseling while helping prepare future professionals to address the growing mental health needs of schools and communities throughout southeastern North Carolina.

Among his greatest sources of pride is watching students from the region return to serve the communities they call home.

"I'm proud that I have had a part in preparing counselors and play therapists to work in schools and communities," Ricks said. "I am prouder that they are students from our region, learn and work hard and grow, then return to serve our region. It gives me the drive to continue to support and do what I do."

Tracy Mulvaney, dean of the School of Education, said Ricks exemplifies the department's commitment to preparing

highly skilled counselors.

"This national recognition is a reflection of Dr. Ricks' unwavering commitment to his students and the counseling profession," Mulvaney said. "He leads with empathy, authenticity and a genuine desire to help others grow. His impact extends far beyond the classroom, as he prepares future counselors to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children and families across our region."

Ricks views the award as a reflection of the people who have contributed to his professional journey.

"I was honored to receive the award, especially on a national level," he said. "But I was even more excited that it puts UNCP, my students and my colleagues out there to show that we are doing great things and training professional counselors at our university."

Ricks hopes students leave his classroom remembering one lesson.

"I want them to remember the counseling skills and theories," he said. "But most importantly, I want them to remember that when they are with a student or client, they are one human connecting with another human — and that connection is what matters most."

Duke Energy granted \$28.4M for NC coal plant

Christine Zhu
ncnewsline.com

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Trump administration is giving Duke Energy a \$28.4 million grant to upgrade a coal plant in North Carolina.

Person County's Roxboro plant is one of 13 projects across the country selected to receive grant funding from the U.S. Department of Energy, the agency announced last week. It's intended to bolster domestic coal mining, support baseload power generation and improve energy infrastructure.

"This funding supports previously planned critical upgrades that help ensure we can continue delivering reliable power to our North Carolina customers while keeping costs as low as possible," Kendal Bowman, president of Duke Energy's utility operations in North Carolina, said in a statement.

The grant signifies the administration's commitment to coal power, in which it's investing \$525 million nationwide to streamline production. It also reaffirms the move away from clean energy sources like wind and solar.

Dan Crawford, senior director for public affairs at the North Carolina League of Conservation Voters, said using taxpayer dollars to prop up coal is "incredibly dumb and wasteful."

"This follows a bigger payoff to kill clean wind in N.C., and shows the Trump administration only cares about rewarding oil, gas, coal and power companies, not helping ordinary working people struggling to pay their electric bills," Crawford told NC Newsline in a statement. "We should be building more solar and wind, which are cheap, fast and clean, not risking our health and making costs go up for North Carolinians."

"Instead of using taxpayer and ratepayer dollars to prop up aging, polluting coal plants like the 60-year-old Roxboro coal plant in a community already burdened with the toxic legacy of coal, Duke Energy should be pursuing clean, 'no-regrets' solutions like solar paired with battery storage,"

Southern Environmental Law Center senior attorney Munashe Magarira said.

The DOE is using the 1950 Defense Production Act — a Cold War-era measure giving the president emergency authority to control domestic industries — to categorize the projects as crucial to national security.

Earlier this year, President Donald Trump invoked the Defense Production Act to strengthen energy production, transportation and infrastructure. He claimed the country's "aging and constrained" electric grid poses an "increasing threat" to national defense.

"By investing in both coal generation and critical export infrastructure ... the Energy Department is strengthening U.S. energy security, reinforcing strategic supply chains, and advancing American energy dominance," U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright said in a statement.

Person County residents are already grappling with the building of a natural gas pipeline and a massive data center in their community.

North Carolina House lawmakers last week passed legislation tying Duke Energy to fossil fuels until it's able to replace coal and natural gas with nuclear power to ensure there's enough baseload power available in the grid.


Democrats voiced concerns about the availability and reliability of new nuclear power, and said the state should consider renewable energy sources like solar and wind, combined with battery storage.

The GOP majority shut down protests from their colleagues across the aisle.

"Reliable baseload energy generation must stay online," Rep. Dean Arp (R-Union) said during the floor debate. "Critics have offered no other option, only a mandate for an intermediate, intermittent solar and wind, which are not baseload generation."

Senate Bill 730, the "Ratepayer Protection Act," now awaits action in the state Senate.

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HIS VIEW

Paying for poor health

Maybe it was a sign of how poorly news outlets inform us or perhaps it was just because we get bombarded with so much noise, but a significant recent story failed to attract much attention. Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina (BCBS), the state's largest private health insurer, reported it lost \$497 million last year.

The 4.3 million BCBS customers in North Carolina, about one-third of the state's population, know what this means: their health insurance premiums will increase.

Dr. Tunde Sotunde, CEO of BCBS, addressed the loss and spoke to the current state of our healthcare system. "Our system, as it currently exists today, practically is broken. It is too damn expensive. It is so complex, fragmented and inefficient."

He's right. Almost 18% of this country's gross domestic product, about one in every five dollars generated, goes towards medical goods and service. We spend two to three times what other countries spend. Even worse, the U.S. ranks last among our peer group countries in healthcare outcomes such as life expectancy, infant mortality and maternal mortality. Furthermore, our life expectancy has dropped to 76.1 years, the lowest since 1996.

The day after the Blue Cross announcement Wake Med, the private not-for-profit health provider and the one providing the most indigent care in Wake County, announced it was planning to form a "strategic combination" with Charlotte-based Atrium Health.

The reaction was loud and negative. Wake Med's CEO, Donald Gintzig, wrote an op-ed in The News and Observer trying to justify the decision, saying Wake Med is facing "headwinds" and while it is currently in a fiscally sound operating position, "we cannot on our own fund what is needed in the long term, nor do we have the borrowing power over the next 10 to 15 years to rebuild, expand and grow to meet the evolving needs of the community," adding that \$1 billion would be needed to fund renovations to the Raleigh campus.

We've witnessed this consolidation trend for years. Smaller, rural community hospitals struggle to remain financially viable. According to the Sheps Center for Health Services Research at UNC, at least 11 N.C. rural hospitals have closed or converted to more restrictive services. Our state has reportedly one of the highest rates of hospital closures in the nation.

Others have opted to join larger networks. Some treasured hospitals like Mission in Asheville, Presbyterian in Charlotte, Baptist in Winston-Salem, Cone in Greensboro, and New Hanover in Wilmington have done so.

UNC, Duke and ECU's Vidant have taken over some hospitals. Atrium, headquartered in Charlotte, operates more than 40 hospitals in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama. And Novant Health, headquartered in Winston-Salem, has 19 hospitals and 850 healthcare providers in North and South Carolina.

What is a "strategic combination" like Atrium is proposing for Wake Med? Is it a merger, a take-over, a sale or what? We understand that providing healthcare is expensive and growing more so all the time, but is bigger necessarily better?

Opponents of the Wake Med proposal wonder who will be making policy and operating decisions? They fear the loss of local decision-making and increased bureaucracy. The assumption is that larger entities can affect an economy of scale and operate more efficiently, but there are serious questions of this in actuality. The Atrium CEO earned more than \$25 million last year. That money had to come from somewhere. Data confirms that patient costs increase and care for those without insurance suffers. And what about the quality of patient care?

Here's my spin: We've watched community banks swallowed up by regional and then national financial systems. The same is true with the media, transportation and travel, retail, construction and other sectors. Experience demonstrates that bigger is not necessarily better. We lose the sense of community and local participation once enjoyed.

It's time to call a timeout! Our healthcare system is spiraling out of control and is well on the way to bankrupting insurance companies, care providers and you and me. None of the players in this escalating healthcare Armageddon seem willing to sit and agree on needed changes — especially decisions which involve them conceding any of their piece of the pie.

Instead of losing our local hospital identities we should be exploring ways to strengthen them. For instance, insurance companies complain about dealing inflexible large care provider networks, yet they provide reimbursements to them greater than those given to independent hospitals. The same is true with other vendors and suppliers. If ALL hospitals had the same costs and the same reimbursements community hospitals could be more viable.

Until such time as the healthcare players can conclusively demonstrate how you and I benefit from proposals such as the Atrium-Wake Med combination it is time to pause further actions.

We need healthcare solutions, not necessarily larger and more complex entities.

We are tired of paying so much for poor health.

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.



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

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

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

UNITED STATES (Federal Offices)

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

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

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

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

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

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

White House Switchboard, 202-456-1414.

HIS VIEW

Another publication merits happy birthday

In a few short weeks we will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Its approval by the Continental Congress in Philadelphia was a seminal moment not just in American history but in world history — a first-of-its-kind defense of individual liberty and the mission statement of a fateful experiment in civil government designed to restrain rather than embolden political ambition.

As important as the Declaration was, and remains, America's semiquincentennial celebration is about far more than a single document or meeting. It began years ago with national commemorations of such events as the Boston Tea Party and the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. Here in our state, North Carolinians have celebrated the 250th anniversaries of the Edenton Tea Party, the Mecklenburg Declaration, the pivotal battle of Moores Creek Bridge and the Halifax Resolves.

The Declaration of Independence itself was, in fact, just one of at least three documents published over the course of 1776 that helped shape our modern world.

On March 9 of that year, London-based publishers W. Strahan and T. Cadell released *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* by Scottish philosopher Adam Smith. His discussion of supply and demand, the division of labor and the role of prices in coordinating markets became a foundational text in the discipline of economics. And his argument against economic protectionism — which is always and everywhere a conspiracy against the public interest — retains its relevance and power today.

The third document I have in mind was also published in London by Strahan and Cadell. The first volume of *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* debuted on Feb. 17, 1776. The initial run of a thousand copies quickly sold out. So, 250 years ago this week, Strahan and Cadell published a second edition. Other than correcting a few typos here and there, its primary innovation was to distribute the author's copious notes at the bottom of each page, as footnotes, rather than grouping them into endnotes. It was a wise decision, displaying more prominently the author's extensive research and

strengthening the authority of his claims.

That author, Edward Gibbon, later said he was inspired to write the book during a 1764 visit to Rome. After many years, toil on other projects, and service in the House of Commons, Gibbon finally completed the first volume of what would be not only an influential history of ancient Rome but also a model of analysis that countless scholars would emulate and react to over the next two and a half centuries.

In a recent essay for *The Independent Review*, my Duke University colleague and friend Mike Munger argued that Gibbon's *Decline and Fall* employed a "modern method" to present an old conception of human civilization, one not of inevitable social progress but of historical contingency. By chronicling changes over time in the political leadership, military organization, tax policies and cultural practices of the Roman world, he wrote, Gibbon "changed the classic view ('Rome fell because men declined') into what we would now recognize as a social science-based comparative statics argument: 'Rome fell because institutions changed incentives.'"

For Gibbon, the fate of the Roman state comprised far more than an interesting subject for academic study. He wanted to discover and share the causes of the decline and fall of one great empire in part because he wanted his own contemporaries to avoid the same fate. "I am proud of my birth in a free and enlightened country," Gibbon wrote, "and the approbation of that country is the best and most honorable reward of my labors."

While his *Decline and Fall* did not, of course, influence the crafting of the roughly contemporaneous Declaration of Independence, American Founders such as James Madison and John Adams soon became avid readers of the work. When the Constitutional Convention convened in 1787, observed conservative scholar Russell Kirk, "its details were vivid in the minds of the delegates at Philadelphia."

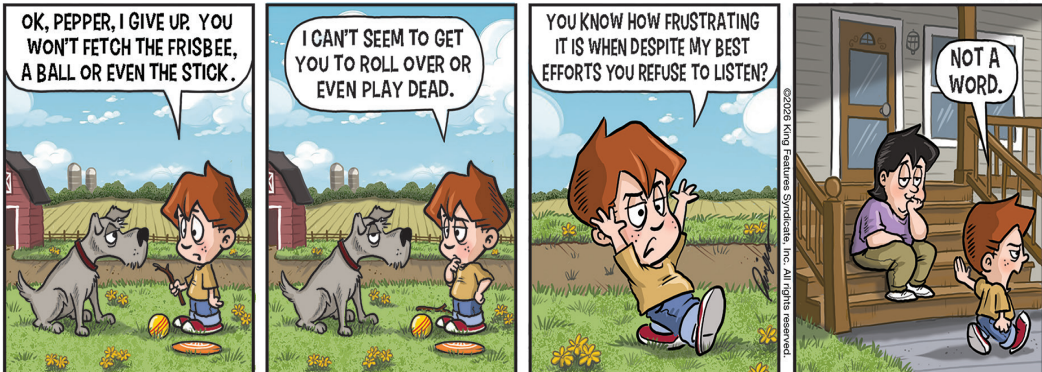


John Hood
Contributing columnist

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

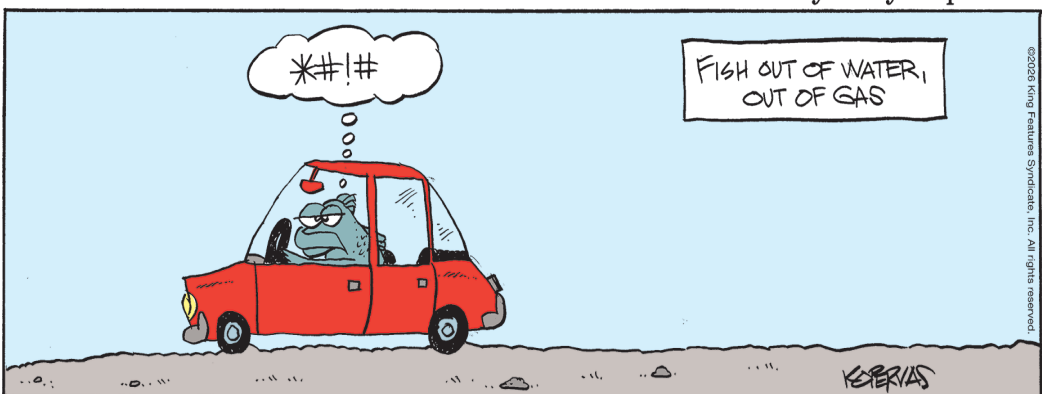
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



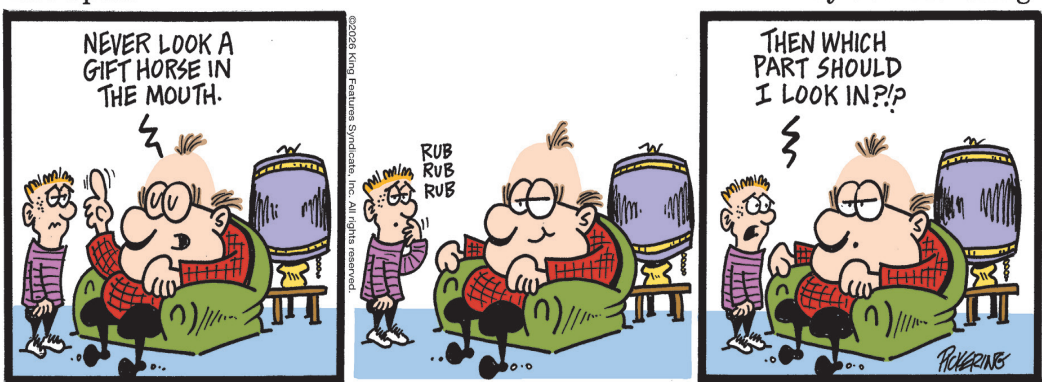
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



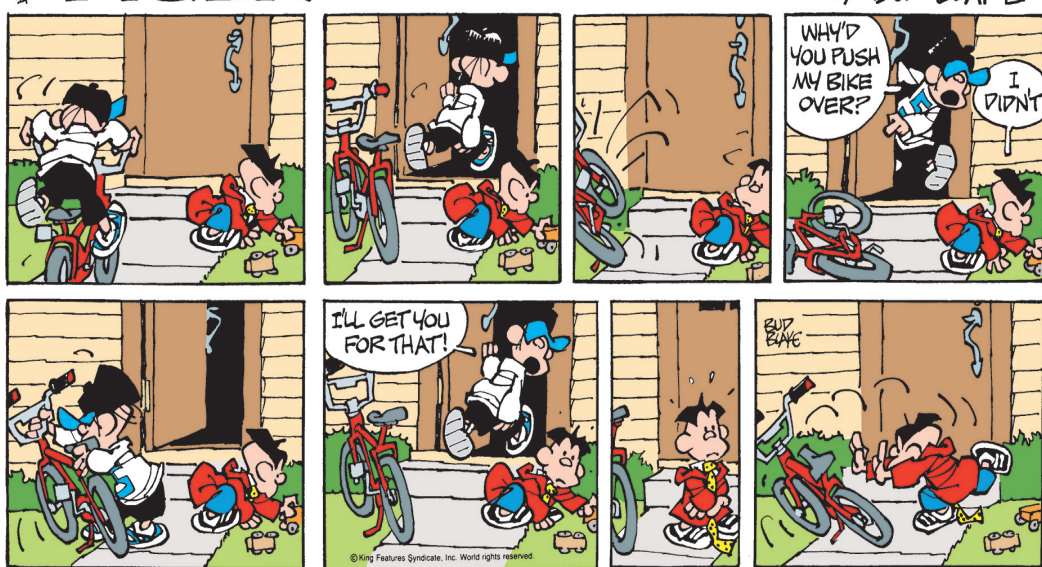
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



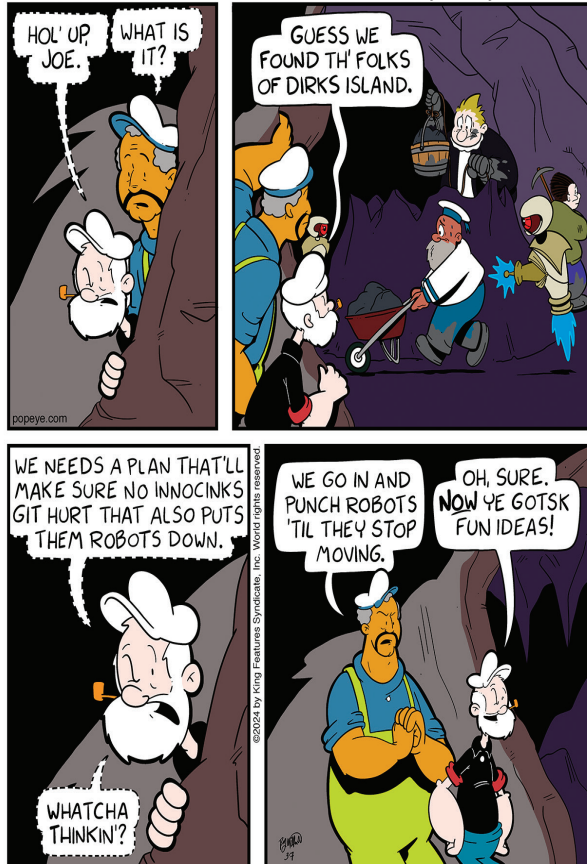
TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



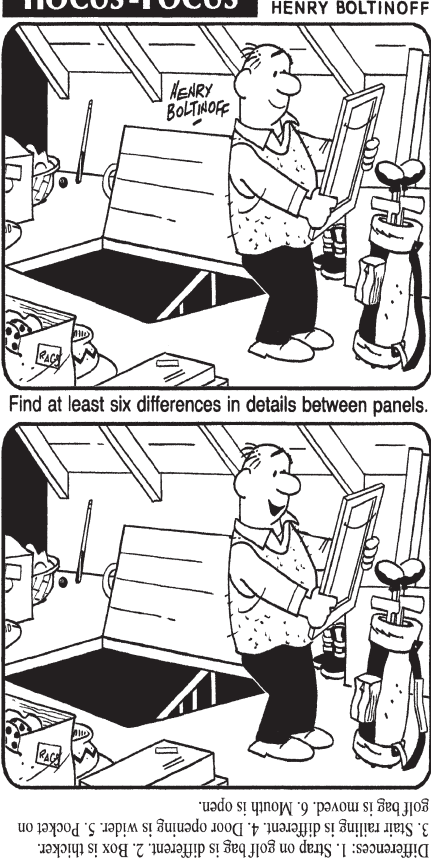
OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Milholland



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY 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: H equals Y

M UBNRQ ICVJYMPRH PBJ
VCIBFFCPQ JOYJ JYMRBV JB
YPHBC CRZC. OC QMQP'J
ZNMJ FC UCRR.

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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!

Part **MOULDE**
Perform **CANTE**
Keen **AGREE**
Lift **SHOTI**

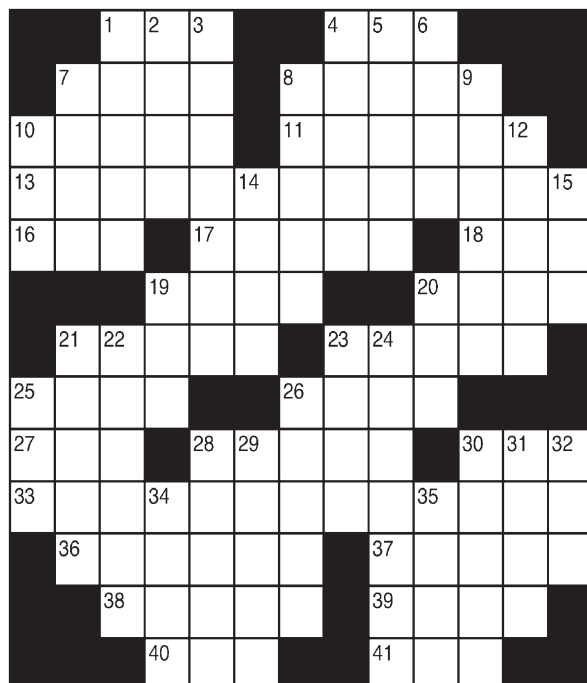
TODAY'S WORD

"Our slow waiter is moonlighting, during the day he's an _____."

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Center
- 4 Solo in space
- 7 Lawn mower brand
- 8 Spoils, with "on"
- 10 Wanderer
- 11 Beethoven's Third
- 13 Time management aids
- 16 Citric beverage
- 17 Got up
- 18 Mosquito barrier
- 19 "— chic!"
- 20 Feel sorry for
- 21 Mom's sister, informally
- 23 "Time in a Bottle" singer
- 25 Impudent
- 26 Owl call
- 27 Solid-rock insert
- 28 Spine-tingling
- 30 Lupino of film
- 33 Commuters' buys
- 36 Turned to mush
- 37 Lounges
- 38 Egypt's neighbor



- 39 Sloth's home
- 40 Ballpark fig.
- 41 Even so
- 10 Secret protecting doc.
- 12 Mountain crest
- 14 Quarry
- 15 Farm pen
- 19 Stick with a kick
- 20 Cauldron
- 21 Greek storyteller
- 22 Faraway orb
- 23 Business abbr.
- 24 Author's payment
- 25 Actress Dawber
- 26 "Papa" of classical music
- 28 Molts
- 29 Traction aid
- 30 Archipelago part
- 31 Editing mark
- 32 Ninny
- 34 Verifiable
- 35 Harboring a grudge

DOWN

- 1 Bro
- 2 Russian river
- 3 Tattoos, e.g.
- 4 Circle dances
- 5 Expiate
- 6 Dresden denial
- 7 Frog's kin
- 8 Apollo's birthplace
- 9 Picturesque

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

- ◆ Moderate
- ◆◆ Challenging
- ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. TELEVISION: Who is the long-time host of the reality show "Survivor"?
2. MOVIES: What is the song playing when the lead characters dance the twist in "Pulp Fiction"?
3. U.S. STATES: The first president, George Washington, was born in which colony that would later become a state?
4. GEOGRAPHY: Which South American country controls Easter Island?
5. MYTHOLOGY: To which mythological character is the Parthenon dedicated?
6. LITERATURE: Which war is the background for Anthony Doerr's novel "All the Light We Cannot See"?
7. MATH: What is the sum of the first five prime numbers?
8. INVENTORS: Which inventor developed more than 300 products from peanuts?
9. MUSIC: Who won Album of the Year at the 2026 Grammys?
10. HISTORY: In what year did U.S. women earn the right to open credit cards in their own names?

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FiveSpot™

Running errands

C	H	A	S	E

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

02643

AUDITOR

Today's Word

3. Eager; 4. Hoist

1. Module; 2. Enact

solution

SCRAMBLERS

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

solution

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

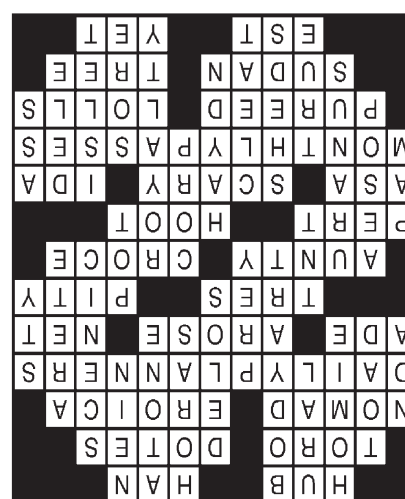
Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

I would certainly not recommend that tailor to anyone else. He didn't suit me well.

CryptoQuip

answer



Solution time: 24 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

1. Jeff Probst
2. "You Never Can Tell," Chuck Berry
3. Virginia
4. Chile
5. The Greek goddess Athena
6. World War II
7. 28 (2 + 3 + 5 + 7 + 11)
8. George Washington Carver
9. Bad Bunny
10. 1974

CLASSIFIEDS

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. Tarnica Hall Administrator of the Estate of Robert Easterling SABBINA LESHORE CUMMINGS ATTORNEY FOR THE ESTATE P.O. Box 13 LUMBERTON, NC 28359 910-416-2820

5/20 5/27 6/3 6/10 2026 PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

The recommended FY26-27 Budget for the City of Lumberton has been presented to the Lumberton City Council, and is available for public inspection in the Office of the City Clerk, Lumberton City Hall, 500 North Cedar Street, Robeson County Public Library; 101 N. Chestnut Street, East Lumberton Resource Center; 1608 E. 5 th Street, and Dr. Robert L. Jones Resource Center; 1408 MLK Drive during regular business hours.

A public hearing on the recommended budget has been scheduled for Monday, June 22, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Lumberton City Council Chambers at the above address. Citizens are invited to make written and/or oral comments to the Office of the City Manager, P. O. Box 1388, Lumberton, NC 28359, no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 19, 2026, the last business day before the hearing or to make comments at the hearing. The budget is scheduled for adoption on June 22, 2026.

T. Wayne Horne City Manager CN: 1373

6/10 2026 Notice of Sale by Sealed Bids

The City of Lumberton shall sell in accordance with N.C.G.S. 160A-268 the following property, all of which is located at 508 Lumbee Street. The property consists of Robeson County Tax Parcel number 324002020. A legal description may be obtained from the City upon request. Bids must be received by Monday, July 13 th , 2026, at 12 noon and may be mailed to Holt Moore, PO Box 1388, Lumberton, NC 28359, or dropped off at the front desk of City Hall, 500 N. Cedar Street. The minimum bid the City will accept for the property is \$3,500, and the property shall go to the highest qualified bidder. A deposit consisting of 5% of the bid must accompany the bid, and the deposit may be paid by a cashier's check, a certified check, or a surety bond; the bid must include the bidder's name and telephone number. The bids will be opened at 2PM on Monday, July 13th, 2026, in the community room on the first floor of City Hall. The City Council will confirm the high winning bid as soon thereafter as possible.

Laney Mitchell-McIntosh Control No. 1881 City Clerk

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



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 Book1063, page 203. Exempt from Robeson County Subdivision Ordinance under Article V, Section 501, Item f. The above-described tract is subject to all right-of-ways and easements of record. The sale will be made subject to all outstanding city and county taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above-described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. A deposit of twenty (20) percent of the successful bid will be required. This 21st day of May, 2026. **Edward K. Brooks, Commissioner**

6/3 6/10 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF James Wilbur Locklear DECEASED 25E001816-770

The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of James Wilbur Locklear, deceased, late of Robeson County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 14th 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 10th day of JUNE, 2026.

James Wilbur Locklear Jr. Administrator 1538 Old Baker Road Maxton, NC 28364

Mark D. Locklear The Law Offices of Mark D. Locklear, PLLC 321 N. Elm Street Lumberton, NC 28358 (910) 739-7327 (910) 739-5560 (fax)

6/10 6/17 6/24 7/1 2026

Legal Notice: A copy of the proposed budget for Trillium Health Resources for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 has been submitted to the Trillium Governing Board and will be available for public inspection from June 1 to June 25, 2026, at the Trillium Health Resources office at 514 E. Main Street, Beulaville, NC 28518. The public hearing on the budget will be held on Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 4:00PM. The meeting location and tele-conference link will be published on the website prior to the meeting (www.TrilliumHealthResources.org).

6/10 2026



LEGALS

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 & TOWN OF MAXTON vs. WILLIE MOSES ALFORD and WILLIE MOSES ALFORD'S SPOUSE, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of WILLIE MOSES ALFORD and WILLIE MOSES ALFORD'S SPOUSE, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, et al, 25CVD000075-770, the undersigned Commissioner will on the 18th 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, Lumberton, North Carolina at 1:00 o'clock, the following described real property, lying and being in Maxton Township, State and County aforesaid, and more particularly described as follows:

In the Town of Maxton, Robeson County, North Carolina, and being all of Lot Number ELEVEN (11) as shown and designated on a map of A. J. COTTINGHAM LOTS, prepared by M. E. Mathews, Registered Surveyor, duly recorded in Book of Official Maps Number 2, at Page 82, Robeson County Registry, to which said reference is hereby wide for a more particular description of said lot, and the same is by this reference incorporated as a part hereof. Subject to restrictive covenants, easements, and rights-of-way of record. Parcel Identification Number: 330603022

The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter. This 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 cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Robeson County Register of Deeds. This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25. This the 28th day of May, 2026.

Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner P.O. Box 25 Trenton, NC 28585

6/10 6/17 2026

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. ALBERT DAVIS and ALBERT DAVIS' SPOUSE, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of ALBERT DAVIS and ALBERT DAVIS' SPOUSE, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, BRIDGETTE DAVIS and BRIDGETTE DAVIS' SPOUSE, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of BRIDGETTE DAVIS and BRIDGETTE DAVIS' SPOUSE, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, et al, 24CVD002056-770, the undersigned Commissioner will on the 18th 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, Lumberton, North Carolina at 1:00 o'clock, the following described real property, lying and being in Rowland Township, State and County aforesaid, and more particularly described as follows:

All that certain lot or parcel of land situated in the Town of Rowland, Rowland Township, Robeson County, North Carolina, and being more particularly described as follows: In the Town of Rowland, Robeson County, North Carolina, and being all of the eastern One-Half (1/2) of Lot Number Five (5) in Block C (now Lot Number 4 in Block B-5 [sic D-5] on the present official map of the Town of Rowland). Subject to restrictive covenants, easements, and rights-of-way of record. Parcel Identification Number: 370602006

The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter. This 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 cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Robeson County Register of Deeds. This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25. This the 28th day of May, 2026.

Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner P.O. Box 25 Trenton, NC 28585

6/10 6/17 2026

LEGALS

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. ANNIE STACKHOUSE A/K/A ANNIE DURANT and ANNIE STACKHOUSE A/K/A ANNIE DURANT 'S SPOUSE, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of ANNIE STACKHOUSE A/K/A ANNIE DURANT and ANNIE STACKHOUSE A/K/A ANNIE DURANT'S SPOUSE, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, et al, 23CVD000967-770, the undersigned Commissioner will on the 18th 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, Lumberton, North Carolina at 1:00 o'clock, the following described real property, lying and being in Orrum Township, State and County aforesaid, and more particularly described as follows:

All that certain tract or parcel of land lying about 2 miles northwest of the center of the Town of Proctorville, N. C., on the southern side of, and adjacent to Paved S.R. 2230, adjoining lands of Jimmy Stackhouse on the west, and other lands now or previously owned by Druid P. Floyd on all other sides and being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pipe in the southern right-of-way line (30 feet from center) of Paved S.R. 2230, said iron pipe being located South 60 degrees 37 minutes East 125.00 feet from the point where the western line of the original tract of which this is a part intersects the southern right-of-way line (30 feet from center) of Paved S.R. 2230, said pipe being the most eastern corner of the Jimmy Stackhouse lot, and runs thence with the eastern line of said Stackhouse lot South 29 degrees 23 minutes West 205.90 feet to an iron pipe, the most southern corner of said Stackhouse lot; thence a new line South 60 degrees 37 minutes East 106.00 feet to an iron pipe; thence North 29 degrees 23 minutes East 205.90 feet to an iron pipe in the southern right-of-way line (30 feet from center) of Paved S.R. 2230; thence with said southern right-of-way line (30 feet from center) North 60 degrees 37 minutes West 106.00 feet to the beginning containing 0.50 acres, more or less. Subject to restrictive covenants, easements, and rights-of-way of record. Parcel Identification Number: 12010302709

The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter. This 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 cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Robeson County Register of Deeds. This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25. This the 28th day of May, 2026.

Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner P.O. Box 25 Trenton, NC 28585

6/10 6/17 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.

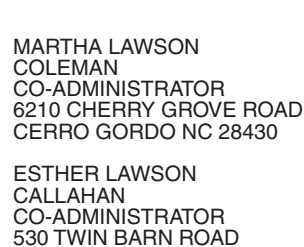
This is the 20th day of MAY 2026.

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

Reach potential buyers! Post your home in the classifieds!



6/10 6/17 2026



LEGALS

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. DAVID EARL BLACKMON and DAVID EARL BLACKMON'S SPOUSE, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of DAVID EARL BLACKMON and DAVID EARL BLACKMON' SPOUSE, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, et al, 25CV001336-770, the undersigned Commissioner will on the 18th 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, Lumberton, North Carolina at 1:00 o'clock, the following described real property, lying and being in Wishart's Township, State and County aforesaid, and more particularly described as follows:

All that certain lot or parcel of land situated in Wishart's Township, Robeson County, North Carolina, and being more particularly described as follows:

All of that certain tract or parcel of land lying about 2.5 miles East of the center of the City of Lumberton, North Carolina, on the Southern side of, and adjacent to Paved S. R.#2104 (7th Street Road), adjoining lands of C. R. Hayes on the South and other lands now or previously owned by Twin State Builders, Inc., on all other sides and being more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING at an iron pipe in the southern or 8th line of the original tract of which this is a part, said pipe being located North 69 degrees 48 minutes West 235.97 feet from the 8th corner of said original tract and runs thence as said 8th line of said original tract North 69 degrees 48 minutes West 174.63 feet to an iron pipe; thence North 10 degrees 36 minutes West 249.87 feet to an iron pipe in the southern right-of-way line (30 feet from center) of Paved S. R. #2104 (7th Street Road); thence as the southern right-of-way line (30 feet from center) of said Paved S. R. #2104 North 79 degrees 24 minutes East 150.00 feet to an iron pipe in said right-of-way line (30 feet from center); thence South 10 degrees 36 minutes East 339.28 feet to the beginning, containing 1.01 acres, more or less. Subject to restrictive covenants, easements, and rights-of-way of record. Parcel Identification Number: 290103013

The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter. This 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 cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Robeson County Register of Deeds. This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25. This the 28th day of May, 2026.

Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner P.O. Box 25 Trenton, NC 28585

6/10 6/17 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF JOYCE ANN BROADWELL DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 26 E 000540-770

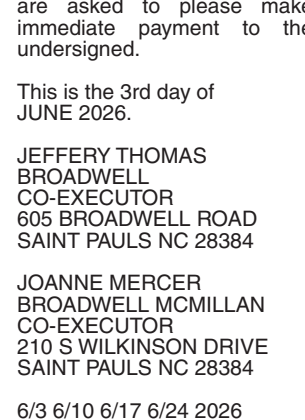
The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the estate of JOYCE ANN BROADWELL, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of SEPTEMBER 2026 or be barred from 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.

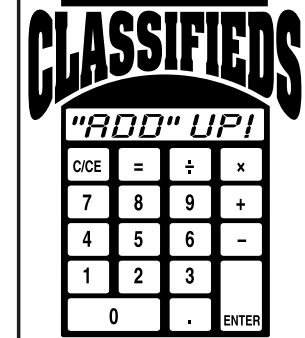
JEFFERY THOMAS BROADWELL CO-EXECUTOR 605 BROADWELL ROAD SAINT PAULS NC 28384

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

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



6/10 6/17 2026



LEGALS

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. DAVID EARL BLACKMON and DAVID EARL BLACKMON'S SPOUSE, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of DAVID EARL BLACKMON and DAVID EARL BLACKMON' SPOUSE, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, et al, 25CV001336-770, the undersigned Commissioner will on the 18th 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, Lumberton, North Carolina at 1:00 o'clock, the following described real property, lying and being in Wishart's Township, State and County aforesaid, and more particularly described as follows:

All that certain lot or parcel of land situated in Wishart's Township, Robeson County, North Carolina, and being more particularly described as follows:

In Wishart's Township, Robeson County, North Carolina, and being all of LOT NUMBER FIVE (5), containing 1.05 acres, as shown and designated on that certain map entitled MAP OF FOUR OAKS SUBDIVISION PREVIOUSLY RECORDED IN MAP BOOK 28, PAGE 48, prepared by John D. Powers, Registered Land Surveyor, and duly recorded on December 11, 1996 in Book of Official Maps Number THIRTY FIVE (35), at page ELEVEN (11), in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Robeson County, North Carolina, to which said map reference is hereby made for a more accurate and complete description of said lots. Subject to restrictive covenants, easements, and rights-of-way of record. Parcel Identification Number: 29010100602E

The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter. This 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 cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Robeson County Register of Deeds. This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25. This the 28th day of May, 2026.

Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner P.O. Box 25 Trenton, NC 28585

6/10 6/17 2026

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. DENO INVESTMENTS, LLC and all possible assigns or successors of DENO INVESTMENTS, LLC or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, et al, 23CVD002375-770, the undersigned Commissioner will on the 18th 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, Lumberton, North Carolina at 1:00 o'clock, the following described real property, lying and being in State and County aforesaid, and more particularly described as follows:

All of that certain lot or parcel of land lying and being in Robeson County, North Carolina, and more particularly described as follows: Being all of Lot 13 in a Subdivision known as, Jed Properties, Inc., as shown on map thereof recorded in Book of Plats 34, page 42, Robeson County Registry, North Carolina. Subject to restrictive covenants, easements, and rights-of-way of record. Parcel Identification Number: 21110202903

The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter. This 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 cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Robeson County Register of Deeds. This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25. This the 28th day of May, 2026.

Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner P.O. Box 25 Trenton, NC 28585

6/10 6/17 2026

CLASSIFIEDS Get Results

LEGLALS

NORTH CAROLINA
ROBESON COUNTY
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
BEFORE THE CLERK
FILE NO. 25SP001164-770
IN THE MATTER OF THE FORECLOSURE
OF THE DEED OF TRUST EXECUTED BY

ANTONIO DWAYNE BROWN (an unmarried person) and MELINDA GAIL WALKER (an unmarried person), Recorded in Book 2185, Page 370, 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 ANTONIO DWAYNE BROWN (an unmarried person) and MELINDA GAIL WALKER (an unmarried person) to Jay B. Green, Attorney at Law, PC, Trustee, dated June 22, 2019 and recorded in Book 2185, Page 370 in the Robeson County Registry of North Carolina.
RECORD OWNERS OF THE REAL PROPERTY:

The record owners 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 are Antonio Dwayne Brown and Melinda Gail Walker.
DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF SALE:

The sale will be held on June 22, 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 140 Jomar Rd, Orrum, NC 28369 and is otherwise more particularly described as follows:
 All that certain lot or parcel of land situated in Orrum Township, Robeson County, North Carolina and more particularly described as follows:

Being all of that 1.62 Acre tract shown as New Lot 2 on that certain map entitled, "Minor Subdivision for Serene Hardin," prepared by Civiltek East, dated February 24, 2014 and recorded in Book of Maps 49, at Page 40, Robeson County Registry, to which said map reference is hereby made and the same is by this reference incorporated as a part hereof.

Together with a 50' wide easement as shown on plat recorded in Book of Maps 49, Page 40
 12040101319: 12040101319

Title to the above described property conveyed to Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc. from Serene Clark a/k/a Serene Renee Hardin and Elizabeth Sexton Hardin by General Warranty Deed dated February 14, 2019 and recorded February 14, 2019 in Book 2165, Page 195 or Instrument No. 2019001207.
 And also being the same premises conveyed to Antonio Dwayne Brown and Melinda Gail Walker by deed from Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc to be recorded herewith.
 Included as part of the real property is a 2018 TRU manufactured home bearing serial number CWP036315TNAB as otherwise more particularly described in a Rider to the Deed of Trust recorded in Book 2185, Page 370, Robeson County Registry.

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 the 13th day of May, 2026.

THE GREEN LAW FIRM, P.C.

By: _____

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

6/10 6/17 2026

LEGLALS

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

LEGLALS

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

Buy & Sell In the Classifieds

LEGLALS

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

LEGLALS

LEGLALS

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. DAVID EARL BLACKMON and DAVID EARL BLACKMON'S SPOUSE, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of DAVID EARL BLACKMON and DAVID EARL BLACKMON' SPOUSE, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, et al, 25CV001336-770, the undersigned Commissioner will on the 18th 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, Lumberton, North Carolina at 1:00 o'clock, the following described real property, lying and being in Whishart's Township, State and County aforesaid, and more particularly described as follows:
 All that certain lot or parcel of land situated in Wishart's Township, Robeson County, North Carolina, and being more particularly described as follows:
 Adjoining the lands of L. H. Caldwell, formerly, Allen, and others. BEGINNING at a stake, L. H. Caldwell's corner, in the south edge of Sassafra Branch at the ford, and running as Caldwell's line South 66-1/2 degrees West 5.89 chains to a stake in said line opposite a ditch; thence to and with said ditch South 23-3/4 degrees East 4.80 chains to another ditch; thence with that ditch North 59-3/4 degrees East 6.61 chains to a stake in Barker's or Allen's line on the bank of a canal; thence with Allen's line North 4l degrees West 4 chains to the beginning, containing TWO AND THREE FOURTHS (2-3/4) ACRES.
 Subject to restrictive covenants, easements, and rights-of-way of record.
 Parcel Identification Number: 290201006
 The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter.
 This 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 cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Robeson County Register of Deeds.
 This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25.
 This the 28th day of May, 2026.

Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner
 P.O. Box 25
 Trenton, NC 28585

6/10 6/17 2026

LEGLALS

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. JONATHAN L. MORTON, AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JEANETTE F. DAVIS or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, MICHAEL D. DAVIS and MICHAEL D. DAVIS' SPOUSE, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of MICHAEL D. DAVIS and MICHAEL D. DAVIS' SPOUSE, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, et al, 23CV0003570-770, the undersigned Commissioner will on the 18th 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, Lumberton, North Carolina at 1:00 o'clock, the following described real property, lying and being in Red Springs Township, State and County aforesaid, and more particularly described as follows:
 Being all of lot no. Ten, in Block A, as shown and designated on a map of Southgate Subdivision, prepared by George T. Paris, RLS, and recorded in Map Book 23, page 41, in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Robeson County, North Carolina, reference to said map and the registration thereof hereby made for greater certainty of description. Subject to restrictive covenants, easements, and rights-of-way of record.
 Parcel Identification Number: 170602029
 The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter.
 This 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 cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Robeson County Register of Deeds.
 This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25.
 This the 28th day of May, 2026.

Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner
 P.O. Box 25
 Trenton, NC 28585

6/10 6/17 2026

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. 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

6/10 6/17 2026

The undersigned having qualified as Administrator, 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

6/10 6/17 2026

6/10 6/17 2026

Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner
 P.O. Box 25
 Trenton, NC 28585

6/10 6/17 2026

LEGLALS

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. G3 FINANCIAL, LLC and all possible assigns or successors of G3 FINANCIAL, LLC or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, et al, 24CV0001149-770, the undersigned Commissioner will on the 18th 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, Lumberton, North Carolina at 1:00 o'clock, the following described real property, lying and being in State and County aforesaid, and more particularly described as follows:
 Lying and being about 2 miles east of the Town of Pembroke, N.C., east of but not adjoining S.R. No. 1567, bounded on the west by Otis Jernigan's 2.0 acre tract, on the north by J.T. Hunt, on the East by Ivone Bullard and on the south by a ditch and Samuel R. Locklear. Beginning at a stake in a ditch, said ditch being the southern line of the tract of which this is a part, said beginning point being the southeastern corner of a 2.0 acre tract heretofore conveyed to Otis Jernigan and is duly recorded in Deed Book 505, at Page 87, Robeson County Registry, said beginning point being located North 66 degrees 35 minutes East 592.52 feet from the original southwestern corner of the tract of which this is a part and runs thence along the eastern line of said 2.0 acre lot to and along a ditch North 3 degrees 16 minutes East 353.82 feet to a stake at the intersection of another ditch, being the northeastern corner of the 2.0 acre tract and in the southern line of J.T. Hunts 3.0 acre tract, and is duly recorded in Deed Book 19-1, at Page 06, Robeson County Registry, thence along the southern line of said 3.0 acre tract North 70 degrees 32 minutes East 143.90 feet to the southeastern corner of said tract, thence a new line South 3 degree 49 minutes 58 seconds East 325.02 feet to a stake in the original southern line, said line being a ditch, thence along said line South 66 degrees 35 minutes West 193.96 feet to the beginning, containing 1.22 acres.

There is reserved an easement 30.0 feet in width running along the southern line of the herein described lot for the purpose of ingress, egress, and regress. Subject to the Right-of-Way Agreement recorded at Deed Book 742, Page 422, Robeson County Registry. Subject to restrictive covenants, easements, and rights-of-way of record.
 Parcel Identification Number: 14080202703

The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter.

This 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 cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Robeson County Register of Deeds.
 This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25.
 This the 28th day of May, 2026.

Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner
 P.O. Box 25
 Trenton, NC 28585

6/10 6/17 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

6/10 6/17 2026

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

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. JONATHAN L. MORTON, AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF MILLARD DIXON INGRAM, ANDREW INGRAM and ANDREW INGRAM'S SPOUSE, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of ANDREW INGRAM and ANDREW INGRAM'S SPOUSE, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, et al, 23CVD003284-770, the undersigned Commissioner will on the 18th 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, Lumberton, North Carolina at 1:00 o'clock, the following described real property, lying and being in Parkton Township, State and County aforesaid, and more particularly described as follows:

All that certain lot or parcel of land situated in Parkton Township, Robeson County, North Carolina, and being more particularly described as follows:

FIRST TRACT:
Adjoining the lands of J.K. Currie, M.J. Johnson Estate and others:

BEGINNING at a stake by gum pointers in the run of Dunn's Marsh and runs South 75 degrees West 9.37 chains to a stake at the head of a small ditch in the field; thence South 9 degrees East 10.87 chains to a stake in the outside line of Currie's tract; thence as that line North 70 degrees East 6.53 chains to a stake near Dunn's Marsh; thence North 3 degrees West 4 chains to a stake with hickory, oak and dogwood pointers; thence East 2.32 chains to a stake and gum pointers in the run of said Marsh; thence up the various courses of the run of said Marsh to the Beginning, containing 8.62 acres, and being the same conveyed to A.A. Wright by J.K. Currie and others, by deed registered in Book 5-W, Page 490, Office of the Register of Deeds of Robeson County.

SECOND TRACT:
In Parkton Township, Robeson County, North Carolina, adjoining the lands of the Lumber Bridge Presbyterian Church and J.K. Currie and Gilbert Wright:

BEGINNING at a corner in the line of Malcolm Johnson land, now owned by Lumber Bridge Presbyterian Church in Dunn Marsh, Gilbert Wright's northeast corner; thence South 75 degrees West with said Gilbert Wright's line 9 chains and 37 links to corner in J.K. Currie's line; thence J.K. Currie's line North 9 degrees West 2 chains to Parkton and Lumber Bridge Highway; thence with said Highway North 77 degrees East 9 chains and 60 links to corner in the run of Dunn's Marsh; thence with the run of said Dunn's Marsh to Beginning, containing one and three quarter acres (1 3/4) acres be the same more or less. Subject to restrictive covenants, easements, and rights-of-way of record.

Parcel Identification Number: 130502008

The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter.

This 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 cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Robeson County Register of Deeds.

This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25.

This the 28th day of May, 2026.

Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner
P.O. Box 25
Trenton, NC 28585

6/10 6/17 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, ROBESON COUNTY
Estate File No. 26E000208-770
NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF

SOPHIA DUNCAN
The undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of SOPHIA DUNCAN, Deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 10th day of 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 4th day of JUNE, 2026.
Jenny Scott, Executrix of SOPHIA DUNCAN Estate, c/o Canady & Canady, Atty's., P. O. Box 7, St. Pauls, NC, 28384-0007

***NOTE TO PUBLISHER OF THE ROBESONIAN
Please publish once a week for four consecutive weeks to include JUNE 10, 17, 24, & JULY 1

6/10 6/17 6/24 7/1 2026



LEGALS

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. LENUUE JR. MOORE and spouse, JENNIFER ANN MOORE, and all possible heirs and assignees of LENUUE JR. MOORE and spouse, JENNIFER ANN MOORE, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, et al, 23CVD001567-770, the undersigned Commissioner will on the 18th 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, Lumberton, North Carolina at 1:00 o'clock, the following described real property, lying and being State and County aforesaid, and more particularly described as follows:

All that certain lot or parcel of land situated in the City of Fairmont, Robeson County, North Carolina, and more particularly described as follows:

That certain lot or parcel of land located on the western side of Davis Street in the Town of Fairmont, adjoining lands now or formerly belonging to L. G. Stanfield and J. A. Pell, Jr. on the south and lands now or formerly belonging to Mrs. Rosa P. Davis on the north and west, the lands hereby conveyed being particularly described as follows: beginning at a stake in the western edge of Davis Street, Stanfield's northeastern corner and runs thence as Stanfield's northern line and beyond, a westerly direction 145 feet to a stake; thence a line parallel with Davis Street a northerly direction, 80 feet to a stake; thence a line parallel with the first line herein, an easterly direction 145 feet to a stake in the western edge of Davis Street, a southerly direction 80 feet to the beginning.

Subject to restrictive covenants, easements, and rights-of-way of record.
Parcel Identification Number: 300502004
The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter.

This 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 cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Robeson County Register of Deeds.

This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25.
This the 28th day of May, 2026.

Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner
P.O. Box 25
Trenton, NC 28585

6/10 6/17 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 Estate at the office of the attorney listed below.
May 20, 2026.

Wallace Dixon Cox, Executor of the Estate of Billy Cox

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

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

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



LEGALS

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. WINFORD OXENDINE A/K/A WINFRED OXENDINE and WINFORD OXENDINE A/K/A WINFRED OXENDINE'S SPOUSE, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of WINFORD OXENDINE A/K/A WINFRED OXENDINE and WINFORD OXENDINE A/K/A WINFRED OXENDINE'S SPOUSE, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, et al, 24CVD001709-770, the undersigned Commissioner will on the 18th 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, Lumberton, North Carolina at 1:00 o'clock, the following described real property, lying and being in Alfordville Township, State and County aforesaid, and more particularly described as follows:

Located about 4.25 miles southeast of Maxton, N.C., being off the West side of SR 1153, being a portion of the lands of Lystra Oxendine, recorded in Deed Book 9-Q, Page 323, Robeson County Register.

BEGINNING at a point in the center of SR 1153, said point being South 15 degrees 15 minutes East 387.4 feet from the intersection of SR 1167 with SR 1153, and bearing with the center of said road, South 15 degrees 15 minutes East, 150 feet to another point in the center of said road; thence, South 74 degrees 45 minutes West, 340.36 feet to a corner in the field; thence, North 19 degrees 30 minutes West, 102.92 feet to the center of a ditch; thence with the center of said ditch, North 67 degrees East 351.2 feet to the beginning, containing one acre. Subject to restrictive covenants, easements, and rights-of-way of record.
Parcel Identification Number: 01030100102

The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter.

This 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 cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Robeson County Register of Deeds.

This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25.
This the 28th day of May, 2026.

Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner
P.O. Box 25
Trenton, NC 28585

6/10 6/17 2026

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

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

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 TALUM
1449 BUNGALOW AVE
DURHAM NC 27703

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

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

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, COUNTY OF ROBESON
NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF LARRY TRENT BROOKS
DECEASED
FILE NUMBER: 26 E 000293-770

The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the Estate of LARRY TRENT BROOKS, 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 14th 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 10th day of JUNE 2026.

LELA BROOKS WOODSELL
299 BROOKS STREET
PEMBROKE NC 28372

6/10 6/17 6/24 7/1 2026

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 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

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, COUNTY OF ROBESON
NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF WILMA JEAN HERRING
DECEASED
FILE NUMBER: 26 E 000542-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of WILMA JEAN HERRING, 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 14th 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 10th day of JUNE 2026.

JACLYN HERRING BENTON
1689 MERCER MILL RD
LUMBERTON NC 28358

6/10 6/17 6/24 7/1 2026

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, Philadelphia 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



Help Wanted General

Robeson Community College
Full-Time Director of Boost Consortium

Robeson Community College is seeking a dynamic and collaborative professional to serve as the Director of the Boost Consortium for the Bladen-Robeson-Sampson region. This leadership position is responsible for coordinating implementation of the Boost model across three partner colleges, supporting student success initiatives through advisement coordination, data reporting, and data analysis.

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

Deadline for applications: June 16, 2026

ROBESON COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
6/6, 6/10, 6/13 2026

Want to Rent

3 BED 2 BATH MOBILE HOME FOR RENT IN FAIRMONT AREA CALL RUTH 910-374-7647

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Call Chris at 910.738.4702

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No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-877-649-1190 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Plus, Military & Seniors get an additional 10% off. Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

Miscellaneous
WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-866-489-0571. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

Miscellaneous
We Buy Houses for Cash AS-IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Call today for your fair cash offer: 1-919-925-6362.

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Get a High Quality, Modern Design bath or shower transformation in as little as One Day. \$0 Down, \$0 Installation, \$0 Payments for 12 months! Call: 1-877-243-7050.

Miscellaneous
Denied Social Security Disability? Appeal! If you're 50+, filed SSD and denied, our attorneys can help! Win or Pay Nothing! Strong, recent work history needed. 877-553-0252 [Steppacher Law Offices LLC Principal Office: 224 Adams Ave Scranton PA 18503]

Miscellaneous
BEHIND ON YOUR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS? Threatened with foreclosure? Denied a loan modification? Let us help! Call the Homeowner Relief Line to speak with a mortgage specialist 844-492-0883

Miscellaneous
Donate your car today, running or not. Support Patriotic Hearts for our Veterans and their Families! Free fast pickup. May be tax deductible. Se habla Español. Call now: 877-317-3360

Miscellaneous
Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-855-869-7055 today!

Miscellaneous
Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material - steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-855-585-1815

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UNCP REACH Fellows turn research into career pathways and community impact

Adrielle Cooper
For The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — Thousands of miles from Pembroke, Sheena Holbrook handed Aboriginal Elder Aunty Rhonda Dixon-Grovenor two baskets crafted by Lumbee artists.

The exchange reflected more than a shared appreciation for art and history. It became a moment of connection between Indigenous communities separated by oceans but linked through storytelling, preservation and cultural memory.

That kind of work is at the heart of UNC Pembroke's REACH program, where students are turning archival research, oral histories and community storytelling into graduate school opportunities, national internships and careers in public humanities work.

Funded by the Mellon Foundation, REACH (Research, Engagement, Action, Community and Humanities) gives students hands-on experience in archival research, digital humanities, public history, cultural preservation and community-based scholarship. Fellows work closely with faculty mentors to develop projects tied to race, identity, labor, language, place and the historical

records that shape how communities are remembered.

This year's projects explored topics ranging from Black religious life and Southern folklore to Indigenous identity, language in North Carolina and the history of desegregation in Caswell County through materials connected to the Federal Writers' Project and Farm Security Administration archives.

For many Fellows, the work has also opened doors to graduate school, internships, teaching and national scholarship.

Among this year's accomplishments:

— Kristin Stowell was accepted into the Master of Letters in Ethnology and Folklore program at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland as well as the Master of Arts in Oral History at Columbia University.

— Sheena Holbrook was accepted into the University of Maryland's Cultural and Heritage Resource Management MPS program. She currently serves as project manager of Indigenous Cultural History and Archives in REACH.

— Mason Schwenneker has accepted a position as a Teach for America corps member and will begin teaching in Colorado Springs in the fall.



Photo courtesy of UNCP
REACH representatives gather with Aboriginal Elder Aunty Rhonda Dixon-Grovenor during the Working-Class Studies Association's annual conference in Sydney, Australia.

He currently serves as project manager of Digital Humanities and Social Media in REACH.

— Anastasia Sinclair was awarded a summer internship with the Library of Congress Manuscript Division in Washington, D.C., and has applied to the Master of Arts in History program at Morgan State University.

— Taliah Hannah received the Outstanding Senior Award in the Department of English, Theatre, and World Languages and will begin a new position with a publishing company in Charlotte.

The Fellow's work culminated earlier this spring during REACH's annual symposium in Livermore Library. The event featured a research poster session, an oral history exhibit highlighting Lumbee veterans, a

poetry reading by Tonya Holy Elk, the 2026 Lloyd Oxendine Artist in Residence, and presentations by REACH Fellows and the Lumbee Warriors Association.

Three people stand together in a conference room, with one person holding a woven basket and another wearing traditional Indigenous-style regalia and holding a second basket.

REACH students present Aboriginal Elder Aunty Rhonda Dixon-Grovenor with two baskets crafted by Lumbee artists during their trip to Sydney, Australia.

The program's reach also extended beyond campus this year. REACH Director Dr. Michele Fazio traveled to Sydney, Australia, with three students and Drs. Christopher Woolley and Ashley Allen, to present at the Working-Class

Studies Association's annual conference. The group delivered a plenary presentation and later led a second session focused on archival research and digital humanities.

"Presenting as part of the plenary panel was an exhilarating opportunity to advocate for Indigenous data sovereignty and share our REACH program's work in the FSA/FWP archives, particularly as it pertains to Lumbee history," Holbrook said. "Meeting Aunty Rhonda and gifting her baskets handcrafted by local Lumbee artisans was a deeply moving moment of cultural connection."

Holbrook said her time in REACH has fostered "a lifelong love for archives, history and cultural resource management."

Stowell, Hannah and Schwenneker also presented with Fazio and other scholars during the annual conference for the Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the U.S., participating in a roundtable exploring ethnicity in Federal Writers' Project archives.

Fazio will continue expanding the program's national impact this summer as a project faculty member and participant selection committee member for

the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for Higher Education Faculty, "New Directions for Research, Teaching, and Public Engagement," which focuses on the Federal Writers' Project.

REACH alumni Holbrook and Schwenneker will co-present with Fazio on the REACH program's learning outcomes and assist scholars with archival research at the Library of Congress in July.

"REACH gives students the tools to see themselves as scholars, storytellers and stewards of history," Fazio said. "Their work shows how archival research can uncover overlooked narratives, strengthen community connections and prepare students for meaningful careers in public humanities."

As UNCP prepares for a new REACH cohort, the accomplishments of current fellows demonstrate the program's growing impact. Through research, mentorship and public engagement, REACH students are building career pathways while helping communities reclaim, preserve and share their stories.

Adrielle Cooper is UNC Pembroke's communications and marketing manager for academic affairs.

SPECIAL REPORT

Who's next? Firearm violence sowing doubt in rural NC

Matthew Sasser
State Affairs Pro NC

RALEIGH — Rep. Garland Pierce says he has attended too many funerals in Scotland County.

Four teenagers in his district died from gun violence during the 2024-2025 school year. More disturbing for the pastor is the apparent sense of resignation.

"The young people, I don't want to say they get immune to it," Pierce told NC Insider/State Affairs. "The church is jam packed with young people who realize there's no coming back. Their worlds are shattered. There's hopelessness on their face. Their wondering in their mind, 'Who's next?'"

The 72-year-old pastor at Bright Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church said schoolyard taunts that used to end in fist-fights in his day now end with bullets.

"These young people, they arm themselves for the threats of 'I'm going to get you, I'm going to kill you,'" he said. "The thing about the threats now is they follow through. That's the difference. So what are you going to do? What ends up happening is the mentality of 'Tried by 12 or carried by six.' It's your choice. It's unreal."

Eurekus Pate, president and founder of Youth Against Gun Violence of Scotland County, was inspired to form a mentoring community following the loss of his wife to gun

violence in 2009. Over the last 17 years, Pate said firearm violence has gotten worse in his community of nearly 34,000 residents.

"It's a choice that those young adults are choosing to carry those guns," Pate said. "We can only teach when they're in our presence — but a split second decision can change everything."

The problem has surfaced in concrete ways recently. In March, a gun was found inside a student's car at Scotland High School. A magazine to the firearm was found on the student during a routine entry check. In a separate incident, a 13-year-old was shot in a drive-by in the early morning on Blakley Road a few weeks later.

"That's the answer to young people who are involved in that type of gun violence. They just want to bring an end to it," Pierce said. "That's the mentality in their heads."

As the Legislature gets through the short session, one area of immediate concern for Pierce is the House's pending override of Senate Bill 50, the Freedom to Carry Act, which allows anyone 18 and older to carry concealed handguns without a permit or training.

"Grandmama used to always say, 'If you carry a gun, someone will make you use it,'" said Pierce, the only Democrat in the House representing any county

between Charlotte and Wilmington.

Spike in firearm homicides

North Carolina experienced a statewide wave of firearm homicide beginning in 2019 that peaked in 2021 and has steadily declined, according to a Criminal Justice Analysis Center report released last month.

But between 2020 and 2024, rural areas with populations between 10,000 and 50,000 had the highest rate of firearm homicide. A trio of rural counties in the eastern half of the state — Hertford, Robeson and Scotland — had higher rates of firearm violence per capita than any urban county.

While Charlotte and Greensboro account for the largest raw counts of firearm violence, their per-capita rates were significantly lower than those of the three rural counties. Major urban counties recorded less than 12 firearm homicides per 100,000 residents, while the three highest rural counties had homicide rate ratios of over 25.

The report found that youth ages 20-24 face the highest rates of firearm violence along with an elevated risk for suicide via firearm. A majority, 51%, of firearm homicides take place in the home,



Pierce

and 54% involve a handgun.

A cluster of northeast counties alongside the Virginia border have experienced some of the highest rates of firearm violence. That hotbed is concentrated across the districts of Rep. Bill Ward, R-Pasquotank, a former patrol commander with his local Sheriff's Office.

"This is just destroying families and the youth population," Ward told NC Insider. "It's exasperating. Back in the day, we settled our disputes on the schoolyard with fists. Now, it's gotten to 'Don't disrespect me or I'm going to put a cap in you.'"

There have been four shootings involving youth in his small town so far this year, Ward said. Some initiatives to stem the increase in youth violence have been launched, but it's not enough to address the root causes, Ward said.

More parent involvement is imperative, but there's also a lack of attention on rural communities at the state level, Ward said.

The contrast with how the Legislature responded to high-profile urban violence isn't lost on rural lawmakers. Following the fatal stabbing of Charlotte light rail passenger Iryna Zarutskia in August, the General Assembly grilled Charlotte and Mecklenburg leaders on the state of crime and public safety during lengthy Oversight hearings. The Legislature subsequently passed Iryna's Law in September, which toughened pretrial release conditions for violent offenders. Gov. Josh Stein signed it into law in October.

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CTEC

From page 1A

ribbon cutting ceremony at the site. However, the project has been more than a decade in the making, with PSRC CTE Director Herman Locklear recalling that the first plan and renderings were produced in 2012.

As materials and equipment arrive in the coming weeks and staff continue to take part in training, anticipation continues to build for the community and for PSRC staff.

“We are very excited about the process of seeing these renderings come to life. It has been such an amazing experience to watch these professionals work and to see their expertise in the design and construction of this building,” said PSRC Chief Communications Officer Jessica Sealey.

The district plans to host a grand opening ceremony and tours of the building in August.

“We will release more information related to these event dates as the project progresses completion,” Sealey said.

As the facility moves closer to welcoming students and visitors, those overseeing the project say collaboration, problem-

solving and careful planning have been key to keeping the project on track.

“As with all construction projects, surprise obstacles can cause delays. Me and my team strive daily to remove those obstacles and figure out ways to push the project forward. With that said, our current schedule shows us completing before the first day of school,” Bishop said.

Impact

Spanning nearly 110,000 square feet, the new Career and Technical Center will offer dynamic learning environments, including collaborative workspaces and a Learning Commons area. These modern spaces are designed to simulate real-world work settings, helping students develop the technical and soft skills that employers are seeking.

“From the thoughtful design of our architects at SFL+a Architects to the work of Metcon, this state-of-the-art facility is built to last and to make an impact that will forever change Robeson County,” Sealey added.

By equipping students with hands-on experience, industry-recognized credentials and pathways to certifications, this facility will serve as a critical talent pipeline for local



Photos courtesy of PSRC
The exterior of the Robeson Career and Technical Education Center.



The exterior of the Robeson Career and Technical Education Center.

industries — attracting new businesses and supporting economic growth in Robeson County for decades to come.

“There is a real shortage of skilled trades professionals across North Carolina, and that demand continues to grow,” Bishop said. “This facility represents an investment in our future workforce. The students who walk through these doors will help build the future of Robeson County.”

The Center will house 15 classrooms and four industry labs. These labs will provide industry partners with opportunities to train students, helping to develop a skilled workforce and prepare future employees.

“By aligning educational opportunities with industry demands, we can better equip students

with the skills, knowledge and experience needed to succeed in today’s workforce. As a result, graduates will be better prepared for high-demand careers and we anticipate a significant positive impact on our county’s economic growth and development,” said PSRC CTE Director Herman Locklear.

The project reflects PSRC’s commitment to addressing the growing need for a highly skilled workforce by preparing students for high-wage, high-demand careers while helping to close North Carolina’s educational attainment gap. This effort aligns with statewide workforce and education goals that highlight the need for increased credential and degree attainment by 2030.

According to myFu-

tureNC, the statewide goal is to “have 2 million North Carolinians aged 25-44 hold an industry-valued credential or postsecondary degree by 2030.”

“Robeson CTEC will be a beacon of opportunity for our county, state and region when it comes to educational attainment,” said PSRC Superintendent Freddie Williamson.

“The skills, knowledge, and credentials our students gain through this center will empower them to make meaningful contributions wherever their careers take them. We know that this center will be a catalyst for preparing the next generation of leaders and skilled professionals,” he added.

Funding

The \$87.2 million Robeson CTEC project is being made possible

through a combination of state, county and local funding sources. Funding includes \$62 million from the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund, \$2.5 million from the Robeson County Board of Commissioners, \$2.5 million from Public Schools of Robeson County, and \$5 million allocated by state legislators, including Sen. Danny Britt, to replace the planetarium and science center destroyed during the Hurricane Matthew. The remaining \$15.2 million will be jointly funded by the county and the school district, each covering half.

For more information about Robeson CTEC or the planetarium, visit robeson.k12.nc.us.

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

City

From page 1A

fix the problem by replacing the points on the water main, all of which keep failing.

Council approved the water main’s total replacement, and the contract has been awarded to TNH Locklear at a total of \$37,150.

Council approved a regionalization program for the city of Lumberton to receive sewer services from Bladenboro. Lumberton will then take over the operation of the Bladenboro Wastewater

Treatment Plant.

City honors retirees, Pride in Lumberton recipients

City Council honored retiree Vernon Johnson for 26 years of dedication and service as captain of the Police Department’s investigative division.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Currie and Ms. Cheryl Revels all received the Pride of Lumberton Award for Precinct 3. The Pride of Lumberton Award is presented to individuals that demonstrate the values and spirit of the community through dedication and service, and Councilman John Carroll recently began giving the award

for residents who have especially made their residence stand out.

“We would like to thank the recipients for making their properties look outstanding,” Carroll said.

Litter in Lumberton

Rob Price thanked the city for their continued cooperation in trying to clean up the litter along Lumberton roads and highways. However, the Department of Transportation was not as eager to participate.

“The NCDOT has asked that I not pick up litter because they could be held liable if I get hurt,” said Price. Price offered solu-

tions to help assist in minimizing the amount of trash on the roadways. He posed a idea for a volunteer pick up crew from around the area or a “spring clean” program where citizens pick up one kitchen sized garbage bag each.

Extensions

Deputy City Manager Brandon Love requested a “no cost” extension for two projects. The Five Mile Branch property will be used to expand the Lumberton Loop Trail system and was initially projected to be finished this month. However, the council approved an extension until Aug. 10. Upgrades include paved parking lots and sidewalks, new water and sewer infrastructures and new trailhead construction.

An extension for the Meadow Branch, located near Jerry Giles Park, that will include roadway modifications and flood mitigation measures with-

in infrastructures was also approved through Jan. 27 at no additional cost.

City Planning

ArTriel Kirchner, city planning director, addressed Council about considering the issuance of a special use permit for an electronic gaming center on Fayetteville Road.

The request was denied because of failure to comply with city code requirements for the distance away from other structures and for not meeting parking space requirements.

Council went on to approve a request to amend the Recreational Vehicle Parks and Campgrounds ordinance. This approval will include revisions to dimensional requirements, occupancy and adding a subsection for violations.

Also approved was an update on the ordinance pertaining to temporary screening materials. This update prohibits

fabric, chain link, fence slats and other material that is not typically associated with fencing.

ABC Board Members

ABC board members Alexis Jacobs and Richard Pait were approved to each be reappointed for an additional three-year term. The new term will end in June 2029.

CRF Distributions

The following allocations of Community Revitalization Funds were approved:

- \$300 for the Lumberton Juneteenth Celebration, which will run from June 18-21.
- \$250 for Gridiron Camp at Lumberton High School, a free football camp hosted by local NFL players Vonta Leach and Jordan Waters.
- \$200 for the Greater Chrysolite Church for Vacation Bible School.

Michele Chavis is an intern for The Robesonian.

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Suspect

From page 1A

Investigators arrested Anthony Ray McDonald, 37, of Lumberton after a foot pursuit near his residence.

McDonald has been charged with:

- First-degree murder
- First-degree kidnapping
- Larceny of a motor vehicle
- Arson
- Altering, destroying, or stealing evidence

McDonald is currently being held without bond at the Robeson County Detention Center.

“Nancy Lowery did not deserve to lose her life in such a tragic and senseless manner,” said Robeson County Sheriff Burnis Wilkins. “Not the outcome we hoped for, and

while nothing can undo the pain and heartbreak her family and friends are now facing, I am grateful for the collaborative efforts of the multiple law enforcement agencies that worked tirelessly to bring this investigation to a successful conclusion. On behalf of the Robeson County Sheriff’s Office, we extend our deepest condolences and prayers to the family and loved ones of Nancy Lowery during this difficult time.”

The investigation remains ongoing. It is being led by the Robeson County Sheriff’s Office Criminal Investigations Division.

The Nash County Sheriff’s Office and Robeson County Sheriff’s Office Aviation divisions assisted with the investigation.

Anyone with information related to this case is asked to contact the Robeson County Sheriff’s

Office at 910-671-3100.

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

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

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Sports

The Robesonian

Wednesday, June 10, 2026 • Section B

RCC softball looks to 'shock a lot of people' next spring

Jacob Husson
The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — It's a new beginning for Robeson Community College as their inaugural softball season is set for next spring. The new era is exciting for locals yearning for more sporting events and provides young women with another athletic outlet at the college level.

"It's really exciting because we have a bunch of good players coming in," RCC coach Jai Deese said. "It'll be fun watching them play together."

Players on RCC's inaugural softball team will enroll at the school this fall. The Diamond Eagles baseball program just completed its first season this spring, and now the softball team is set

to join it in the 2026-27 school year.

Lumberton's Jayla Hunt and Leea Wilkins are among those who will represent the Diamond Eagles on the softball field, providing local athletes that fans have been watching for years.

In three seasons at the varsity level, Hunt hit .294 with two home runs, 58 runs batted in and 33 runs scored. Wilkins was on the varsity team all four years and hit .297 with 60 runs scored and 30 RBIs.

"(Hunt and Wilkins) will be gamechangers for the community and for themselves," Deese said.

Cuthbertson's Emma Jarrett, East Columbus' Jenna King, Jack Britt's Hay-



Deese

lee Lamb, Whiteville's Kensley Wyatt and Gray's Creek's Brielle Blue round out the remaining roster so far, in addition to pitcher Journey Wilbourn, who attended Jackson North Side in Tennessee.

King was a dominant force at East Columbus, hitting .436 with 158 runs scored and 109 RBIs in her four-year high school career. She'll look to continue that success with the Diamond Eagles and develop a fanbase in Robeson County as a result.

It's always a challenge getting your team going in its first year of existence, but Deese feels optimistic about their chances.

With a group of quality players pre-

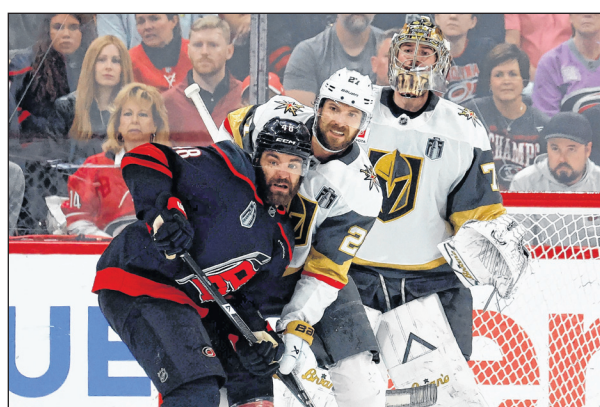
paring to play in the spring, the Diamond Eagles are excited to get started.

With a new era set to begin in the spring, softball fans throughout Robeson County can find joy that they now have a team to root for at the junior college level. With Deese excited to stun viewers by outperforming expectations, the Diamond Eagles could spark fan interest early and often.

"I think we'll shock a lot of people," Deese said.

Deese didn't want to make any predictions in terms of record but did say she expects her team to outperform the typical expectations of a first-year program.

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



Karl DeBlaker | AP Photo

Carolina Hurricanes' Jordan Martinook (48) battles for position with Vegas Golden Knights' Shea Theodore (27) in front of goaltender Carter Hart (79) during Game 2 of the Stanley Cup Final Thursday in Raleigh.

Canes experience baby boom amid Stanley Cup run

Aaron Beard
AP Sports Writer

RALEIGH — The on-ice celebration was underway for the Carolina Hurricanes, ticket in hand for their first Stanley Cup Final in two decades.

But defenseman Jalen Chatfield had to bolt. Like, right now. He had just found out his wife, Drew, went into labor shortly before the Hurricanes' Eastern Conference Final clincher. He quickly showered and changed, then hopped in an unmarked police car for a blue-lights-on rush to the hospital.

"Everything was good, yeah, I made it on time with a couple of hours to spare," Chatfield said of son Rhodes. "He was born at like 2 a.m., so, perfect."

Chasing the Cup is pressure enough for the Hurricanes and the Vegas Golden Knights in a chaos-filled series with nightly multiglobal comebacks and two overtime finishes. Throw in a life-changing event at home while fumbling with diaper changes or a baby crying through sleep-interrupted nights — and, well, there's a lot going on at the moment.

Three Hurricanes players have welcomed babies in these playoffs since early May. Multiple members of the Golden Knights are preparing for deliveries of their own this month, offering the potential of adding to the postseason baby boom amid the sport's biggest event that could go until June 17 if there is a Game 7. Vegas led the series 2-1 going into Tuesday night's Game 3, the result of which was unavailable at press time.

"It's going to be a lot of great stories to talk about," said Vegas center Nic Dowd, whose wife, Paige, is due for their third child this month. "Having a new baby and trying to win a Stanley Cup, I'm going to compartmentalize those things. They're different than each other, but definitely exciting and stressful. The biggest challenges in life are going to have the best rewards."

A playoff whirlwind

That was clear watching Hurricanes defenseman K'Andre Miller after closing out Montreal in the Eastern Conference Final on May 29.

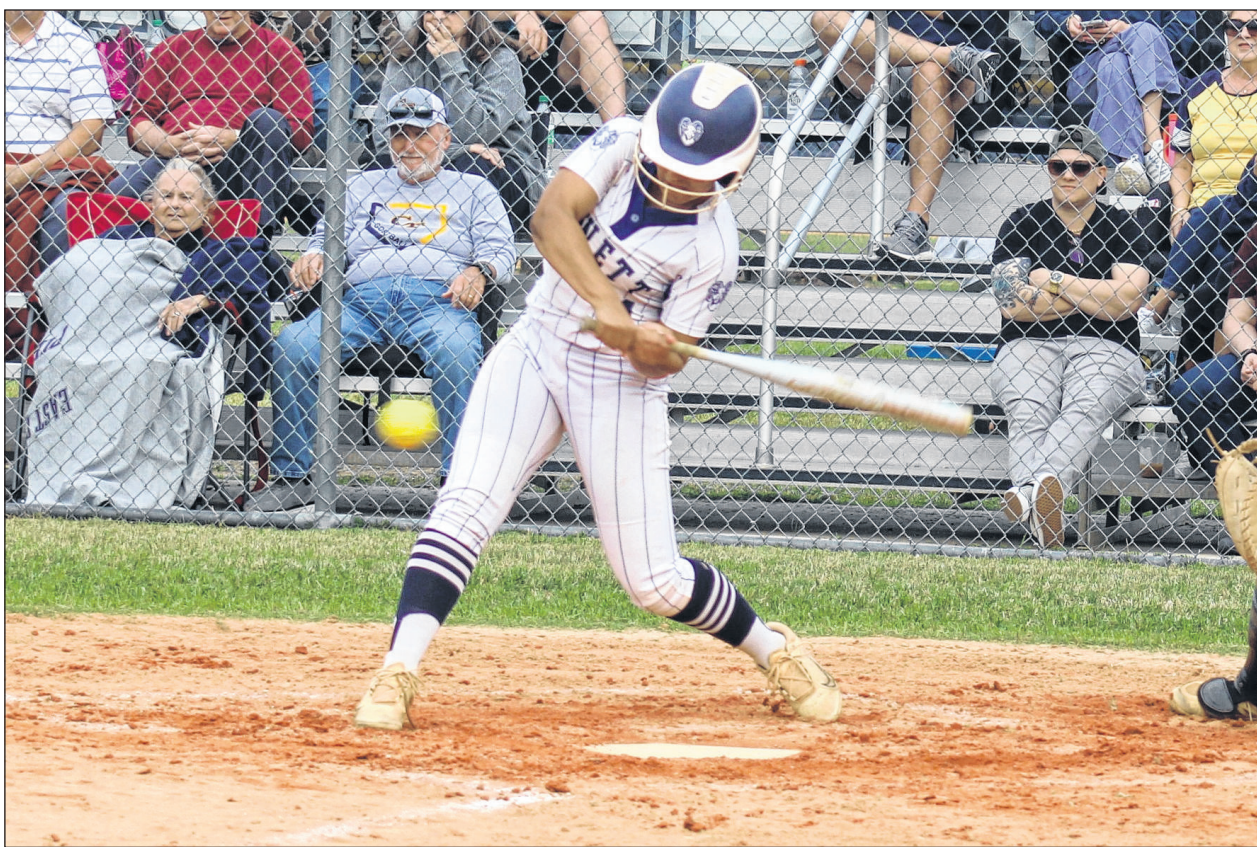
Nearly four weeks earlier, Miller and girlfriend Addison Clark had welcomed son Kashon, hours before Miller logged nearly 21 minutes of ice time in the 3-0 win to open Round 2 against Philadelphia. Fast forward to the night Chatfield rushed to the hospital, and there were viral videos of a teary Miller sitting on the bench afterward, holding Kashon and shaking his head between deep breaths in an emotional moment.

Or there's the story of a frenetic 36 hours for teammate Sean Walker, one sure to be repeated at family gatherings for years.

After the Hurricanes beat the Flyers in a road in Game 3, Walker got a 1 a.m. call from wife Taylor back in North Carolina. It was time. Her water had broken, and their first child was on the way. Walker quickly called team services manager Mike Brown for help getting

See HOCKEY | 2B

ROBESON COUNTY ALL-AROUND FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR



Jacob Husson | The Robesonian

Purnell Swett's Kamryn Locklear swings a pitch during a May 8 second-round 7A state-playoff game against Cape Fear in Pembroke. Locklear was named Robeson County All-Around Female Athlete of the Year.

Rams' Locklear shows all-around excellence

Purnell Swett 3-sport star named Robeson County All-Around Female Athlete of the Year

Jacob Husson
The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — Kamryn Locklear approaches sports with humility, but showed all year she was a force to be reckoned with. Despite being soft-spoken, the Purnell Swett junior proved all year that she was at the top of the food chain in local sports, winning Robeson County All-Around Female Athlete of the Year.

"It feels amazing," Locklear said. "I don't even know what to say."

Even if she doesn't know what to say, her performance across three sports has said enough.

Locklear dominated in softball at the plate, hitting .551 with a .624 on-base percentage, with 15 RBIs and 34 runs scored, stealing 10 bases in the process. She also dominated in the circle, going 7-1 with a 0.89 ERA and 38 strikeouts en route to being named Robeson County Co-Pitcher of the Year alongside Rams teammate Braci Woods. She was a key part of a Robeson County Shootout championship, earning the walkoff hit in the championship game, and a third-round 7A state playoff appearance for the Rams.

She also made a giant leap forward in basketball, putting up 10.1 points, 3.4 assists, 3.4 rebounds and 3.5 steals per game. That was a drastic improvement from 5.5 points, 2.4 rebounds, 1.2 assists and 1.1 steals last year, earning her Robeson County Most Improved Player honors.

"Kam is just that athlete who will go above and beyond in everything she does," Purnell Swett softball and girls basketball coach Amy Lancaster said.

Locklear didn't want to take all the credit for herself crediting her teammates for making things easier. She also was quick to give her coaches credit for making her experience more enjoyable.

"The coaches made it fun," Locklear said. "I never had to dread going to practice. All my teammates succeeded so they made it easy to focus on getting better."

Coaches complimented Locklear's leadership abilities, praising her as an essential team member.

"(Kamryn's) just a natural leader," Lancaster said. "She just does what you ask her to do and does it well."

Beyond the natural leadership abilities, Lan-



Photos by Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

Purnell Swett's Kamryn Locklear takes a shot attempt during a Jan. 27 game at Lumberton.



Purnell Swett's Kamryn Locklear, left, passes the ball during an Oct. 10, 2024 match at Lumberton.

caster also praised Locklear for being consistently optimistic, regardless of how things were going.

"She remains positive at all times," Lancaster said. "She turns everything into a positive."

In volleyball, Locklear was named to the All-County team as the libero after recording 35 aces and 270 digs. She was a bright spot for the team while they struggled to a

6-17 record.

"(Kamryn) can do just about anything I ask her to do on the court," Purnell Swett volleyball coach Kali Carter said. "She's very headstrong, too."

Like in softball and basketball, Carter complimented her leadership abilities saying she was an asset to the team from a morale standpoint.

See LOCKLEAR | 2B

Locklear

From page 1B

Locklear helped motivate her teammates all season long, providing an extra boost to the entire team.

“Her confidence helped the other players and she was very motivated out on the court,” Carter said.

Locklear is a vital piece of the puzzle as Purnell Swett volleyball looks to improve next season. As she looks to be an All-County player again, she wants to be a factor in the team improving in her senior season.

Carter is excited to see what Locklear can do in her senior season as they try to take a step forward.

“I’m excited to see how far she can go next year,” she said.

In the five-year history of the Robeson County All-Around Female Athlete of the Year award, Locklear is the fourth Purnell Swett athlete to win the award, joining Chloe Locklear (2022), Nyla Mitchell (2023) and Adisyn Bland (2025). Lumberton’s Alona Hanna won the award in 2024.

Locklear’s quiet confidence carried her to dominant performances in softball, basketball and volleyball. She’ll look to carry that through to even more success individually and for her teams as a senior.

As summer begins, Locklear has proven herself to be one of Robeson County’s top athletes. Time will tell if she can end her high school career on another high note.

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

Wembanyama takes over in Game 3 of Finals

Stephen Whyno
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — Victor Wembanyama sat in Manhattan’s Gramercy Park on Sunday and drew the statue of 19th-century Shakespearean actor Edwin Booth.

Turns out, it was the perfect mind-clearing activity that helped him shake off his miss at the buzzer in Game 2 and take over Game 3 of the NBA Finals, preventing the San Antonio Spurs from getting pushed to the brink of elimination.

“I really tried to relax,” Wembanyama said. “The playoffs is like a whirlwind. It’s hard to put your head out of the water, and sometimes it’s like I don’t even (have) to watch the game back, by the way. I just need a little time off, let my brain cool down and recover — recover as much for the body as for the mind.”

Wembanyama made the first two shots he attempted on Monday night on the way to scoring 32 points in a 115-111 victory over the New York Knicks. He had nine points in the first five minutes, including an alley-oop on the first basket of the game and a dunk on the next possession.

Spurs Coach Mitch Johnson said getting the ball to Wembanyama inside was not a strategy different from any other game.

“We never told Victor don’t shoot an open 3-point shot, even if it’s early in the game,” Johnson said. “We wanted to put pressure on the paint and the rim.”

Wembanyama was a force on both ends of the court, especially late when it mattered most.

After delivering the pass to Keldon Johnson for his layup that tied the score at 76 with 5:38 left in the third, Wembanyama hit a 3-pointer from 29 feet out to put the Spurs ahead. He scored the first basket of what turned into a dominant fourth quarter, including six free throws.

“Wemby played great,” Knicks coach



San Antonio Spurs forward Victor Wembanyama (1) dunks as New York Knicks center Karl-Anthony Towns (32) looks on during Game 3 of the NBA Finals Monday in New York.

Yuki Iwamura | AP Photo

Mike Brown said. “He had probably seven lob dunks because we didn’t follow attention to detail and try to take that away.”

With four minutes left and the Knicks looking to stage another comeback, the 7-foot-4 big man from France surged to block what looked to be an easy layup by Landry Shamet.

Wembanyama finished with eight rebounds, six assists and three blocks in what was close to a must-win situation. No team has fallen behind 3-0 in the finals and come back to win the series.

“I don’t think any of us are surprised or expect anything different than a strong performance and him being on his front foot in terms of being in attack mode,” Mitch Johnson said.

Teammates were not at all worried about Wembanyama in the aftermath of the 22-year-old star clanking a shot off

the rim that would have been the Game 2 winner. Johnson said his recommendation was to shoot again, and he it made clear the Spurs want the ball in Wembanyama’s hands at important moments.

Before the game, Brown said of containing Wembanyama, “You hope you can make him work at the end of the day, and you hope he misses some shots.”

Wembanyama missed seven shots from the floor, going 11 of 18 and silencing the crowd that at one point directed a vulgar chant his way. Asked if he was becoming the latest New York villain, he quipped: “I guess. I’m nowhere near Trae Young level, though.”

He could surpass the longtime Atlanta Hawks and now-Washington Wizards guard as soon as Game 4 on Wednesday, when Wembanyama gets the chance to help the Spurs try to even the series in Game 4 back at Madison Square Garden.

Hockey

From page 1B

an immediate flight home — with Walker FaceTiming with his wife during his trek — and made it in time for daughter Quinn’s arrival.

“The baby gods were on my side for that one,” Walker said.

The next day, he ate his pregame meal at the hospital cafeteria, then flew back to Philadelphia, arriving about four hours before puck drop of the sweep-clinching win on May 9. The good news was the Hurricanes had an 11-day gap between series, the longest in the playoffs in more than a century, for the Walker-Miller D-pair to settle in a bit as first-time dads.

Walker savors those weeks as a special time in a still-unfolding adventure. As the Cup final began, his wife’s mother was in

town in an “all hands on deck” effort on the home front. Teammates had been jumping in, too, by dropping off a steady stream of meals or something as simple as coffee along the way.

“There was so much food, I kind of lost who all brought over everything,” Walker chuckled. “The support’s been amazing. It’s a family and everyone’s really showed that for us.”

Teammate Eric Robinson understands well. He and forward Sebastian Aho welcomed babies during last year’s run to the East final.

“The coolest part is you get to experience two of the best moments of your life kind of happening at the same time,” Robinson said.

What’s ahead?

That’s a feeling multiple Vegas players experienced around their 2023 Stanley Cup run. It could happen again.

Joining Dowd, captain Mark Stone, Jack Eichel, Noah Hani-

fin and Shea Theodore — who had the Game 3 winning goal in double overtime Saturday — are playing for the Cup while preparing for baby arrivals.

Theodore’s wife, Mariana, is due this month with their second child “very shortly” after the series; they don’t know if it’s a boy or a girl.

“My wife is handling it amazing,” Theodore said. “I think especially when you’re in a playoff grind, there’s just some days where I’m not available. So she’s been handling everything so good, she’s been really good with it.”

Hanifin’s wife, Monique, is carrying a girl.

“It’s probably more stressful for my wife, to be honest,” Hanifin said before Game 1.

“She’s at home going through it all, but we have a lot of family in town right now, just kind of with her, which is huge.

... Hopefully everything goes smoothly and we can win and celebrate a new baby at the end

of June.”

Stone’s wife, Hayley, delivered a daughter shortly before that 2023 run. She’s due again for an arrival that could come during this series.

“I guess my wife will be the telling tale of that one,” Stone said.

Unforgettable days

Chatfield’s wife reached out to Brown’s assistant to say she had gone into labor with the couple’s second child shortly before Game 5 of the East final against the Canadiens. But she didn’t want them to let him know until afterward.

So Brown told Chatfield after the traditional post-series handshake line. Chatfield joined the team photo with the Prince of Wales trophy, then bolted.

“It was a special night for me, to be able to win the Eastern Conference Final and then shoot to the hospital,” Chatfield said. “My adrenaline was still going. It was a very confus-

ing moment: I just went from celebrating with the guys to rushing out and being in a quiet hospital room, getting ready to have a baby. But there was no other way I’d rather have it. It was special and one of the best nights of my life.”

Hurricanes coach Rod Brind’Amour has observed it all from a different perspective. He has coached his son Skyler in a handful of Hurricanes games the past two seasons and he has watched players in the locker room grow from rising prospects to veterans with growing families, figuring out life with a new baby.

“It’s supposed to be a little crazy,” Brind’Amour said last month.

That’s particularly true in this Cup final, on and off the ice.

“To be able to get these moments already with our new children is so special,” Walker said. “Obviously, they won’t really remember it at all. But we will.”

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PURNELL SWETT HIGH SCHOOL



ANGEL PURCELL
Softball

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.

Korda wins US Women's Open for 2nd straight major

Greg Beacham
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — Although Nelly Korda is deep in one of the most dominant seasons in recent golf history, her first U.S. Women's Open title still hung on the rim of the 18th hole at Riviera for one heart-stopping moment.

Her 2 1/2-foot putt to win caught the left edge, and it toured half the circumference of the hole while the gallery watched in disbelief. When it finally fell amid an outburst of gasps and roars, Korda put her hand over her open mouth before she laughed at the absurdity of her sport.

"It's even sweeter, especially with that ice cream swirl on the last hole," the world's top-ranked player said.

This trophy was the cool treat Korda wanted more than anything: She won the 81st U.S. Women's Open on Sunday for her second consecutive major victory, holding off Charley Hull and Gaby Lopez by one shot.

The 27-year-old Korda claimed her fourth major overall with a steady 2-under 69 in the final round — but only after her second putt on the 18th came perilously close to a spin-out that would have forced a three-way playoff. When it dropped, Korda had her fourth LPGA Tour victory already from a season in which she also has three second-place finishes in just eight starts.



Nelly Korda reacts after winning the U.S. Women's Open Sunday in Los Angeles.

Ashley Landis | AP Photo

She finished at 8-under 276 and celebrated with a tear-streaked face after sharing the lead with multiple competitors throughout the windy finale of the first Women's Open ever held at this venerated 100-year-old country club in Pacific Palisades.

This victory was nothing like Korda's major win at The Chevron Championship in April, when she streaked away from the field. Korda was seven shots off the lead after the opening round before fighting her way back to a third-

round co-lead, and she never separated from Sunday's competitive pack at Riviera — but she was the only one among the top seven finishers without a bogey on the back nine.

"I didn't feel my best on the back nine," Korda said. "I had a lot of emotions swirling in my stomach, (but) it's a dream come true. I've dreamt about this moment since I was a little girl."

Korda said she'll remember her 9-foot birdie putt on the 17th meant much longer than her frightening final shot

because it broke her out of a four-way tie for the lead with Lopez, the hard-charging Hull and three-time major champion In Gee Chun.

"I don't really throw out fist pumps too often, but I did this weekend," Korda said. "I threw out a double fist-pump on that (17th) hole, because I knew what it meant."

The champion made just three birdies and a bogey Sunday, playing steadily and comfortably with her improved competitive mentality. Korda has stressed positivity and steadiness after her inexplicably winless 2025.

And after the hair-raising finish, Korda claimed the \$2.5 million winner's share of this Open's record \$12.5 million purse.

"This week was definitely a grind," Korda said. "I don't even feel like I had my B game. I was just grinding out there, and that's what I guess major championships are all about, right? It doesn't matter if you have your B or C game. You have to be there mentally."

Korda fended off excellent final rounds from England's Hull and Mexico's Lopez, who both narrowly missed out on their first major victories. Hull finished second at a major for the fifth time in her career.

Chun finished two shots back at 6-under 278, while third-round co-leader Sei Yeung Kim carded a 1-over 72 to finish at 279.

Poston loses 4-shot lead, wins playoff at Memorial

Doug Ferguson
AP Golf Writer

DUBLIN, Ohio — J.T. Poston says he is not a quitter and it was time to prove it Sunday at the Memorial.

When he walked to the 14th tee at Muirfield Village, he was trailing for the first time since the 17th hole Friday. The four-shot lead he had at the start of the final round was gone. He was 3 over for the day as everyone was charging. The tournament was slipping away.

Poston delivered three birdies over the next five holes, the last one an 8-iron to 7 feet on the 18th hole with tournament host Jack Nicklaus watching a wild affair unfold. That forced a playoff with Ryan Gerard, and Poston won on the second extra hole when Gerard missed a 6-foot par putt.

"I needed to play the last five holes really well," said Poston, a Hickory native. "I knew I was going to be shaking Mr. Nicklaus's hand walking off 18 no matter what, and I want to be proud of the effort when I did. So just to do it the way that I did ... is a dream come true, and something I'll certainly carry with me the rest of my career."

Nicklaus was certainly impressed, and at times



J.T. Poston shakes hands with Jack Nicklaus after winning the Memorial Tournament Sunday in Dublin, Ohio.

Sue Ogrocki | AP Photo

could relate.

For all the late fireworks — that included a five-way tie for the lead late in the afternoon — key to the biggest win of Poston's career was the 17th hole.

Poston was in deep rough and chose to lay up short of the creek, hitting wedge to 12 feet. Gerard holed a 40-foot birdie putt to take the lead. Poston had to make par to stay within one shot, and he poured in the par to set up his big finish.

"After Ryan made his putt, that made that putt honestly a little easier," Poston said. "I knew exactly what I needed to do."

Nicklaus, who has

made a few clutch putts in his career, concurred.

"He had to make it," Nicklaus said. "I think sometimes when you have to make a putt, you find yourself in that position that you say, 'Well, I don't have any choice, I got to make it.' So yeah, I think by and large those are easier, actually."

Nothing felt easy on this day, starting with 33 holes on one of the PGA Tour's most demanding courses, with Poston knowing he could be facing 36 holes of U.S. Open qualifying on Monday.

He built the four-shot lead Sunday morning over the final 13 holes of the storm-delayed third round. That was gone in

12 holes, and he trailed after the 13th hole of the fourth round.

Wyndham Clark, Tommy Fleetwood and Sam Burns were charging. Gerard wasn't going anywhere, playing rock-solid until one mistake on the final playoff hole — a three-putt from 55 feet.

"I know there were a lot of people kind of tied for the lead at one point coming down the stretch, and I felt like I stepped up and executed golf shots that I wanted to execute," said Gerard, who closed with a 4-under 68. "Just stings a little bit."

Poston's birdie on the final hole of regulation gave him a 72. They fin-

ished at 12-under 276.

The perks went beyond the \$4 million prize.

Poston earned a spot in the next three majors with one great week. He moved to No. 39 in the world ranking, meaning he will be added to the U.S. Open field a week from Monday. He captured the one British Open spot available at the Memorial, and he gets in the Masters next year.

"I told myself in the playoff that this is my U.S. Open qualifier," Poston said. "I want to play in the majors. I want to play in the big events. This is a huge boost of confidence for me and my game and knowing that I can compete in those and play in those. Just thrilled to get it done."

Fleetwood drilled a fairway metal to 5 feet for eagle on the par-5 15th

to briefly take the lead.

Clark birdied the 16th hole to share the lead.

Burns was never too far behind. All of them were at 11 under heading to the final few holes.

Clark closed with two pars for a 67. He wound up alone in third, one shot out of the playoff.

Fleetwood hit into the rough with his first three shots on the 17th and had to scramble for bogey. He shot 68. Burns also missed the 17th fairway, and his next shot tumbled back down the rough and settled on the bridge over a small creek. He hit that to 40 feet, and his long par putt peeked into the cup and somehow stayed out. A 10-foot birdie putt on the 18th narrowly missed. He shot 69 and tie for fourth with Fleetwood.

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Hamlin ties Busch with 63rd NASCAR Cup win

Associated Press

BROOKLYN, Mich. — There were no boos for Denny Hamlin after this winning burnout at Michigan International Speedway.

Holding a black No. 18 flag out the window, the Joe Gibbs Racing star celebrated his 63rd career victory by smoking the tires of his No. 11 Toyota down the straightaway in honor of Kyle Busch, his late teammate whom he tied for ninth on the all-time win list in the NASCAR Cup Series.

“Truthfully, I had to outlive him to tie him,” said Hamlin who radioed “We love you, KB” on his victory lap. “He was an amazing teammate. He taught me so much at tracks like this. I just can’t say enough.”

It was the second consecutive victory for Hamlin and his second consecutive win at Michigan, where he celebrated last year by taunting fans who booed him.

But there were only raucous cheers from the front-stretch grandstands Sunday as Hamlin jogged up to the flag stand to get the checkered flag while still carrying his Busch tribute flag.

Busch drove the No. 18 from 2008-22 for Gibbs, teaming up with Hamlin for a NASCAR-record 523 races. Busch’s death on May 21 rocked the NASCAR industry, which was already grieving over the offseason deaths of Greg Biffle and his family in a plane crash. Hamlin’s father also died in a Dec. 28 house fire.

Noting that Hall of Famer Ned Jarrett also died last week, Hamlin dedicated his third win this season to Busch and his family.

“The offseason, it was rough for me, and it was rough for the NASCAR family,” Hamlin said. “Just an unbelievable feeling to be able to strap in every week, and I don’t take it for granted, this opportunity that I’m in. I just love we’re making the best of it.”

Just like last week’s win at Nashville Superspeedway, when the Joe Gibbs Racing car started on the pole position but was penalized for jumping the start, Hamlin qualified first at Michigan but dropped to the back at the green flag because of a penalty for unapproved adjustments to his No. 11 Toyota.

Hamlin patiently worked his way to the front over 400 miles. He took the lead for good on a three-wide pass during a restart with 38 laps remaining, sweeping into first around Spire Racing teammates Daniel Suarez and Carson Hocevar, a home-state favorite.



Denny Hamlin honors Kyle Busch with a flag after winning Sunday’s NASCAR Cup Series race in Brooklyn, Mich.

Paul Sancya | AP Photo

Hamlin won by 11.110 seconds, his widest margin of victory in Cup and the largest win at Michigan since June 1991.

“This Joe Gibbs team just keeps giving me amazing race cars,” Hamlin said. “This Toyota was just amazing. And at the last run there, it just hammered down. It had a few good restarts, and then once we got to the lead, I was going to lay it out.”

Erik Jones (another Michigan native) finished second after also starting from the rear for unapproved adjustments. Bubba Wallace was a season-best third, followed by Kyle Larson and Hocevar, who notched his best Michigan finish.

“I don’t think anyone was going to contend with Denny at the end,” Larson said. “He was flying.”

Crash causes red

The race was stopped with 51 laps remaining to repair a damaged SAFER barrier after a hard crash involving Christopher Bell and Chase Elliott.

During a restart on the 148th lap, the drivers were running side by side for second. Elliott’s No. 9 Chevrolet

bobbled and skidded up the track into Bell’s No. 20 Toyota, which shot into the outside wall at the 2-mile oval where speeds top 200 mph.

The impact with Bell’s Camry severely deformed the SAFER barrier, which is comprised of steel and foam to absorb energy in wrecks. A red flag was displayed for 20 minutes to fix the damaged section of the barrier.

Both drivers climbed from their cars and walked to an ambulance for a trip to the track’s infield care center. Team owner Joe Gibbs said after the race that Bell had wrist and ankle injuries that would need to be evaluated this week.

Elliott patted Bell on the shoulder and apologized for the wreck before they entered the ambulance.

“I’m fine; it was totally my fault,” Elliott said. “I feel really bad for Bell, just taking him out. I was trying to run on the bottom and make use of our fresh tires and at least get to second and hopefully stay side by side with him. I got in there and got free and thought I was going to spin and was committing to spin out, and as soon as I started to commit to spinning, it just hooked up

and hooked a right. Unfortunately, it sent Christopher into the wall super hard, and then me shortly there behind.

“Just racing really hard. I felt like that was kind of a turning point in the race. We needed to make something happen. I stepped over the line again and paid for it. ... I just told him I’m sorry. Obviously, it was not on purpose.”

Rough rookie season

A nightmarish debut season in the Cup Series continued for Connor Zilisch, who crashed twice in the first eight laps and finished last in the 37-car field. The Trackhouse Racing driver has finished outside the top 30 the past three races and is still seeking the first top 10 of his rookie campaign.

“I was really loose, but it’s just unfortunate,” Zilisch said. “Another short race for us. We’ll go try and get them at Pocono next week.”

Up next

NASCAR will make its lone trip this season to Pocono Raceway on June 14. Chase Briscoe won last year to earn his first victory with Joe Gibbs Racing.



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