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THE ROBESONIAN

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Wednesday, June 17, 2026 • Issue 46, Volume 157

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A Fresh Perspective

Local
NEWS

\$2.00

Hurtt resigns as Red Springs police chief

Chris Stiles
The Robesonian

RED SPRINGS — Red Springs Police Chief Antoinette Hurtt resigned her position on Friday.

Hurtt submitted a letter of resignation to Town Manager Shanelle Harris which was obtained by The Robesonian; Harris also announced the resignation in a press release.

"This decision has not come easily," Hurtt's letter said in part. "I no longer believe I can effec-

tively serve the citizens of Red Springs in the manner they deserve or continue the progress that was being achieved. ... I have learned through over 20 years of law enforcement experience ... organizational success requires trust in leadership, clear delegation of authority and a shared commitment to the broader vision of serving the community."

Lt. Michael Brown will serve as the interim chief until further notice, Har-



Hurtt

Harris

ris said.

"Our focus remains on serving the citizens of Red Springs, maintaining public trust and ensuring that our Police Department continues to operate effectively and professionally," Harris said in a

press release.

Hurtt's resignation comes after controversy over a podcast series which was canceled. After Hurtt began this podcast with Fayetteville City News, Harris canceled the series on June 4, at which time the Police Department was given the option on to continue producing similar content through the Police Department's or the town's Facebook page, "which is allowable under the town's social media

policy and would still promote transparency," Harris said.

Harris expressed concerns regarding the lack of town control over editing and public records with the externally produced podcast. Hurtt was "not satisfied" with the option of an internal podcast, Harris said, and Hurtt is said to have sent multiple emails to Harris asking her to reconsider.

The podcast's cancellation has been publicly criticized on social media

by Fayetteville City News and others.

Hurtt's letter did not directly address the podcast controversy, though one statement in the letter seems to be potentially referring to the situation:

"While accountability is essential, department heads must also be afforded the professional autonomy necessary to make operational decisions that benefit the town and its

See HURTT | 8A



Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

Members of the Robeson County Board of Commissioners applaud after Chairman David Edge, center left, apologized for a recent social media post during Monday's meeting in Lumberton.

Edge apologizes, board chooses not to censure

Chris Stiles
The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — Robeson County Board of Commissioners Chairman David Edge apologized during Monday's board meeting for recently sharing a social media post which some found offensive.

Edge addressed the board room at the start of Monday's regular monthly meeting at the County Administration Building in downtown Lumberton.

"I represent all the

people of Robeson County; I've learned to love the people of Robeson County," Edge said. "It has come to my attention that a statement that I posted have been offensive to several people. I apologize for being offensive to anyone, and I say I'm sorry."

Many in the room applauded at the end of the statement; a few, including Commissioners John Cummings, Tom Taylor and Lance Herndon,

See BOARD | 9A



Tony Wooten | The Assembly via Border Belt Independent

The Robeson County Jail is supposed to hold up to 410 people, but is currently over that capacity.

Crowded jails grapple with Iryna's Law

Michael Hewlett and Sarah Nagem
Border Belt Independent

LUMBERTON — The Robeson County jail, built in the early 1990s, is supposed to hold up to 410 people. As of May, it had a population of 501.

Overcrowding has plagued the jail for months, according to records from the state Department of Health and Human Services. Sheriff Burnis Wilkins said he has had to buy cots and extra blankets because there aren't enough beds.

State inspectors have ordered the jail to reduce its numbers. They noted

after a December report that jail officials were asking other counties to take the overflow of inmates and working with the court system to "expedite low-level cases" to get people released.

But Wilkins told The Assembly and Border Belt Independent he hasn't had much luck. Many other county jails are also full, and Robeson County often has a backlog of court cases caused in part by high crime rates.

Iryna's Law, which the General Assembly passed



Wilkins

last fall, is making the problem worse, according to Wilkins and other officials around the state. Among many things, the legislation restricts pretrial release of alleged

violent offenders and eliminates written promises to appear in court. Since it took effect in December, magistrates and judges are issuing more secured bonds that require defendants to pay cash or put up collateral to be released. That means more people who would have previously been

released are staying in county jails longer.

"There was no funding to help us with anything," said Wilkins, who wants the state to help pay to expand the jail. "We had to continue to work with what we have."

Jail populations fluctuate, and some in North Carolina are chronically overcrowded. Others have seen dramatic spikes over the last five months, according to data from the state Department of Health and Human Services.

The Carteret County jail had 73 inmates in

See JAIL | 9A

Red Springs Rescue Squad given notice to vacate building

Staff report

RED SPRINGS — The Town of Red Springs has given the Red Springs Rescue Squad a notice to vacate its building by July 1.

The Rescue Squad's current building is owned

by the town.

"Because a physical operating address is a critical component of maintaining and restoring emergency service operations, the loss of the facility presents significant challenges for the organization as it continues

efforts to reestablish service capabilities," a press release by Red Springs Rescue states.

A press release from Town Manager Shenelle Harris said that the Rescue Squad has not operated an ambulance since 2001, saying its

current role is as a first responder, which essentially amounts to "first aid, lift assistance and car wrecks."

The Rescue Squad says that it has restored ambulance service twice

See RESCUE | 8A

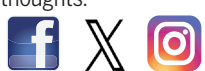
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89/73 – Times of clouds and sun with a thundershower; humid

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EDITOR'S NOTE

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

Fatal stabbing near Red Springs under investigation

Staff report

RED SPRINGS — The Robeson County Sheriff's Office Homicide Division is investigating the death of a man who was stabbed during an argument with a family member.

On Saturday, at approximately 12:00 p.m., Robeson County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to the 800 block of McBridge Road, just east of Red

Springs, in reference to an individual stabbed.

William Dial, 42, of Red Springs was found deceased upon the arrival of the deputies.

The investigation is ongoing. 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.

Gulf Coast system could be season's 1st named storm

David Fischer
Associated Press

MIAMI — A cluster of storms along the Gulf Coast of Texas could become the first named tropical storm of the 2026 Atlantic hurricane season, the National Hurricane Center said.

The storms threatened to bring heavy downpours that could lead to dangerous floods across southern states including Texas and Louisiana. The system was centered Tuesday morning about 65 miles (105 kilometers) southwest of Corpus Christi, Texas, according to a hurricane center advisory.

National Hurricane Center director Michael Brennan said meteorologists are expecting the system to strengthen,

possibly into a tropical storm. But coastal areas of Texas and Louisiana could experience tropical storm conditions this week, even if the system doesn't officially get a name, Brennan said.

"The main hazard with these types of systems is largely the flooding from the heavy rainfall," Brennan said. "And we could see potentially life-threatening flash and urban flooding across the Texas coast eastward into central Mississippi through Thursday. Prolonged rainfall may extend the flood threat into the weekend."

The storm's maximum sustained winds were around 30 mph (45 kph) Tuesday morning, just shy of the 39 mph (63 kph) needed to be named a tropical storm.

Library set for summer reading program

Devin Hammonds
The Robesonian

ROBESON COUNTY — Summer has arrived, and with it comes the annual Summer Reading Program and Reading Challenge at the Robeson County Public Library, offering a season packed with fun, learning, and prizes for

readers of all ages. The program starts June 15.

This year's program will celebrate dinosaurs, paleontology and archaeology, to inspire community members to visit their local library and discover the joy of reading.

The Summer Reading Challenge is free and open to readers

of all ages. Those who complete the challenge will receive a prize tote filled with themed swag and will also be entered into a raffle for additional prizes.

"Everyone loves dinosaurs. Everyone loves to read. And everyone loves to win free prizes," organizers said. "All you have to do is

read."

Residents interested in participating can visit their local Robeson County library branch for registration information, program schedules and details on how to complete the reading challenge.

Devin Hammonds is an intern for The Robesonian.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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 its 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.

Breakfast on the Farm, 7 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., June 20: Nina's Delights and Double LL Farms Meats have teamed up to extend an invitation to enjoy a delicious breakfast on the farm. Find a special picnic table, enjoy the fresh morning air, and indulge in a made-to-order breakfast. RSVP is recommended and appreciated. 910-258-2621.

Juneteenth Festival, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., June 20: Join the festivities on Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive! Food, music and special surprises are in store. Don't miss the fun celebration. For more info, call 910-624-9659.

90's Party, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., June 20: Rolling back to the 90's and having some fun at the Robeson County Public Library. Admission is free.

Trooper Stien Davis, Jr. Memorial 5K Run, 8 a.m., June 20: Join the group of runners for the Trooper Stien Davis, Jr. Memorial 5K/Walk starting at the Pocket Park in Historic Downtown

Lumberton. Proceeds will benefit his son, baby Stien Davis, III. Master Trooper Stien Davis, Jr., is deceased after a vehicle accident while on duty and employed by the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. The walk/run will be located in the Downtown Lumberton Pocket Park. You can sign up to run or walk at runsignup.com/mastertrooperstien-davis-memorialrun for \$30.

Construction and Farm Equipment Auction, 8 a.m., June 23: Lloyd Meekins & Sons Auction Company is hosting an auction sale of construction equipment and farm equipment. Visit the Facebook page for more information.

Red, White & Blue Revue, 7 p.m., June 26-28: The town of Fairmont proudly presents America's 250th anniversary event starting Friday, June 26 and Sunday, June 28. Each day has a different starting location: Friday at the Fairmont Heritage Center at 7 p.m.; Saturday at Downtown Fairmont for a parade at 10 a.m.; and Sunday at the Fairmont Community Park from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Fairmont is honoring America's birthday, July 4, 1776, with three days of events, including an American Pie Concert featuring live music by several groups. Day 2, the parade starts at 10 a.m. Be prepared to see Queens, decorated golf carts, vehicles, floats, music and more. Day 3: Attend the Fairmont's Fantastic Fireworks show.

57th Lumbee Homecoming, June 26 to July 4: As one of the largest and most anticipated Native American cultural celebrations in the Southeast, this week-long event is rooted in tradition, fellowship and cultural pride. Community members and visitors will experience a week filled with cultural events, a parade, pageantry, family activities, food, crafts, music and opportunities to celebrate the rich his-

tory and vibrant future of the Lumbee Tribe. The Kick-Off Celebration & Fireworks Show, a new event on Friday, June 26, commemorates the first Lumbee Homecoming since the tribe received Federal recognition. Check the LRDA website for the schedule of events and correct times activities begin.

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

ONGOING Children's Storytime — Lumberton, 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays, Robeson County Public Library, 101 N. Chestnut St., Lumberton.

Children's Storytime — Pembroke, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of the month at the Pembroke Library, 413 Blaine St, Pembroke.

Music, Rhymes, and Storytime, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on the third Thursday of each month, Robeson County Public Library, 101 N. Chestnut St., Lumberton.

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

Children's Storytime — Fairmont, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., on the fourth Tuesday of each month, at the Hector MacLean Library, 106 S. Main St., Fairmont.

Children's Story-

time — St. Pauls, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., on the fourth Wednesday at the Annie H McEachern Library, 223 W. Broad St, St Pauls.

Farmers Market: Wednesdays, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.: On Wednesdays, the Robeson County Farmers Market features vegetables grown in Robeson County and neighboring counties. Local craft vendors are welcome additions to the market, and we encourage you to take the time to get to know them. The market is open every Wednesday from 7 a.m. to noon and on Saturdays through November, or until vendors sell out.

Music Jam Session: Bring instruments and songs to The Barn at Risen Farms from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on the first Friday of each month to jam the night away. There might be a dance or two.

Music, Rhymes and Storytime: 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the Robeson County Public Library, 101 N. Chestnut St., Lumberton.

Thursday Music Night at Your Pie: Your Pie Pizza hosts live music every Thursday night.

Flock Swap — Robeson Co. Farmers Market: The Farmers Market will host a Flock Swap from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every third Saturday of the month. The Swap will be held in the adjacent lot, next to Market Street and Water Street. For more information, don't hesitate to contact Marie at robsoniancofarmersmkt@gmail.com.

Lumberton Horse and Tack Auction: The Horse and Tack Auction is held on the first Monday night of each month. Mark your calendars for this recurring event. All events are held at the Southeastern NC Agricultural Events Center in Robeson County.

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Publishes every Wednesday and Saturday eEdition and in print.

If you have a newspaper delivery concern please call weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Prices are subject to change at any time.

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2175 N Roberts Ave., Lumberton, NC 28358
Periodical postage paid at Lumberton, NC

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Robesonian, 2175 N. Roberts Ave., Lumberton, NC 28358-1028

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PSRC orchestra educator honored

Jessica Sealey
For The Robesonian

ROBESON COUNTY — The Public Schools of Robeson County proudly congratulates music educator Emma Rainoff on being selected as the recipient of the 2026 Maxine Swalin Award for Outstanding Music Educator, one of the highest honors presented annually by the North Carolina Symphony.

Rainoff, who serves as an orchestra educator at Lumberton Junior and Lumberton Senior High schools, was honored during an end-of-year meeting with fellow arts educators. NC Symphony representatives, including Jason Spencer, Assistant Vice President of Education & Community Engagement, presented her with the prestigious recognition.

Named in honor of Maxine Swalin, whose fundraising efforts established the Symphony's education concert series more than 80 years ago, the award recognizes exceptional music educators who inspire students through excellence in music instruction and



Emma Rainoff, left of center, and PSRC staff after Rainoff was selected as the recipient of the 2026 Maxine Swalin Award for Outstanding Music Educator.

Photo courtesy of PSRC

advocacy for arts education.

As part of the recognition, Rainoff will receive a \$1,000 monetary award, a visit from a North Carolina Symphony musician or ensemble during the upcoming school year, public recognition at a future North Carolina Symphony concert, and complimentary registration to the 2026 North Carolina Music Educators Association (NCMEA) Conference.

Rainoff beamed with joy as she accepted the

award. She reflected on the excitement the opportunity would bring to her students and shared words of gratitude with the NC Symphony officials present.

"The entire time I have worked here I have felt like one of the best things I can do for my kids is to get them to see as much of the world as I can," Rainoff said.

"This opportunity allows my students to see professionals doing what they dream of doing. They get to see 'oh this

is a real thing that I can do,'" she said.

The Maxine Swalin Award for Outstanding Music Educator is the highest recognition presented each year by the North Carolina Symphony's Music Educators Program and celebrates an educator whose commitment extends beyond the classroom to create meaningful musical experiences for students and their communities.

"Ms. Rainoff's passion for music education and dedication to her

students make her truly deserving of this distinguished recognition," said PSRC Superintendent Freddie Williamson. "She has enriched the lives of countless young musicians and helped cultivate a lifelong appreciation for the arts. We are incredibly proud of her accomplishment," he said.

Rainoff was nominated for the award by LJHS Principal Jamane Watson and PSRC Arts Supervisor Steven Taylor.

"Ms. Rainoff is a cornerstone of the Lumberton Junior High School music program," Watson said. "Beyond her exceptional teaching, she inspires a love of music in every student she encounters and fosters a sense of community, collaboration, and pride within the orchestra. She consistently goes above and beyond organizing extra rehearsals, mentoring students outside of class, and coordinating performances that connect the school to the broader community."

"Ms. Rainoff transforms lives through music, instilling confidence, discipline, and a lifelong

appreciation for the arts. Her impact extends far beyond the classroom, making her not only an outstanding educator but also a valued leader and role model for students, colleagues, and the community," he said.

Rainoff's selection reflects not only her outstanding teaching but also the continued excellence of music education programs across the Public Schools of Robeson County.

"Ms. Rainoff exemplifies the very best of music education," said PSRC Arts Supervisor Steven Taylor.

"She creates an environment where students are challenged to grow, inspired to perform at their highest level, and encouraged to develop a lifelong appreciation for the arts. Her dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to excellence make her exceptionally deserving of the Maxine Swalin Award for Outstanding Music Educator," he added.

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

Tribe holds Hands & Hearts Powwow



The Lumbee Ambassadors perform during the Tribe's Hands & Hearts Powwow, a disability-friendly powwow, held Saturday at the Lumbee Tribe Cultural Center in Maxton. About 200 people attended the inaugural event. Pictured, from left, are Miss Lumbee Taylor Davis, Teen Miss Lumbee Keely Deal, Junior Miss Lumbee Kyndall Locklear, Little Miss Lumbee Jady Herndon and Senior Miss Lumbee Wendy Chavis Locklear.



Miss Lumbee Taylor Davis, left, greets a participant at the Lumbee Tribe's Hands & Hearts Powwow held Saturday at the Lumbee Tribe Cultural Center in Maxton. Contributed photos | Taylor Davis



An honor song is performed at the Lumbee Tribe's Hands & Hearts Powwow held Saturday at the Lumbee Tribe Cultural Center in Maxton.

FROM THE LEGISLATURE

Budd secures NDAA provisions to strengthen military

WASHINGTON — U.S. Sen. Ted Budd (R-NC), member of the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC), released the following statement after voting in favor of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in committee markup. During the markup process, Senator Budd secured 49 provisions that have advanced to the Senate Floor.

"Investing in our national defense not only ensures our military remains the most lethal fighting force in the world but also drives economic growth and strengthens American manufacturing competitiveness. I am proud that North Carolina leads the nation in military readiness as the strategic hub for several of our nation's largest military installations while also serving as a reliable center for defense manufactur-

ing," said Budd. "As the Senator representing Seymour Johnson Air Force Base and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, I led several provisions focused on rebuilding our defense industrial base to maintain air superiority and preserve American airpower in modern warfare to compete with China. I also fought to secure the funding needed for military construction projects at installations across the state, ensuring our men and women in uniform who come through North Carolina have the best environments to live, work, and train. We've also prioritized strategic funding for counterterrorism efforts in the Middle East, which will bolster defense cooperation with key allies. Above all, this historic NDAA puts our national security first by mak-



Budd

ing critical investments in the men and women who wear our nation's uniform and helping to build the capabilities needed to defend the homeland against evolving threats.

The FY 2027 NDAA includes Budd-led provisions to enhance military airpower by expanding fighter aircraft production, providing financial stability to the defense industrial base, saving taxpayer dollars, recapitalizing aging aircraft with modern fighters, and retaining mid-career Air Force aviators. The package specifically includes provisions from his Airpower Acceleration Act, the Retention Enhancements for Tactical Aircrew Initiative (RETAIN) Act, and the Fighter Aircrew Career Flexibility Act, which Budd led alongside Senator

Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), introduced in April 2026.

It also authorizes \$651 million for military construction projects, which includes funding for planning and design at facilities across North Carolina, including \$13 million for Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, \$135 million for Fort Bragg, \$275 million for Camp Lejeune and \$229 million for Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.

The NDAA establishes funding levels and authorities for the U.S. military and other critical defense priorities, ensuring America's armed forces have the training, equipment, and resources necessary to fulfill their missions.

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

Editorial

4A Wednesday, June 17, 2026

The Robesonian

HIS VIEW

How we've changed in 50 years

Unless you are over 60 chances are good you don't remember much about our nation's 200th anniversary celebration in 1976.

Jim Holshouser was in his final year as governor of North Carolina. A young Jim Hunt had a landslide win as governor and Ronald Reagan upset President Ford in the N.C. Republican primary. Jesse Helms and Robert Morgan were our U.S. Senators. As a part of our state's bicentennial celebration, we buried a time capsule (to be opened at our tricentennial) containing a Bic pen, Salem cigarettes, cellophane tape, razor blades, Leggs pantyhose, Goody's headache power and other objects invented or made in our state.

President Gerald Ford spoke at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. New York's harbor was filled with tall ships, and Queen Elizabeth came from England. There were many community gatherings with parades, picnics and fireworks displays. We were united in celebrating our history and this country.



Tom Campbell
Contributing columnist

Pew Research recently documented how we've changed in the intervening 50 years. The nation has grown by more than 120 million people, but we have also aged; the over 65 population more than doubled from 10% to 18%. The white population has declined from 83% to around 57% today. The percentage of foreign-born residents has more than tripled to almost 15%. And many people moved; the Sunbelt (the South and West) boomed as 6 out of 10 of our 350 million residents now live in those two regions.

Fewer of us are likely to be married (69% to 50%) and the birth rate has declined from 1.74 births per woman to 1.54. Fewer children live in two parent homes. College-educated adults, led by a boom in women graduates, went from 11% to 37% of our population. Poverty has declined but so has the number considered middle class, however the percentage of upper income citizens has increased.

But there are more notable, more significant changes that have occurred over the fifty years, starting with the mood of the country. In 1976, we were optimistic about our nation's future, whereas today we see a widespread crisis of confidence and trust. 59% of us believe America's best days are behind us. 44% are pessimistic about our future; only 28% are optimistic. We are more polarized, more secularized, decentralized and uncivil.

We've gone from three TV networks to a world of unbounded sources of information and entertainment. The advent of the internet and the 2007 iPhone, coupled with the ubiquitous adaptation of computers, has opened the world to us. But as our world of information and entertainment expanded, we disengaged, dropping out of churches, civic clubs and community groups. We are lonelier. Almost simultaneously we've forgotten or discarded our manners and respect for others, opting instead for self-expression. It is our First Amendment right to say anything we want to anyone we want using any language we want. Not only do we not like a lot of others, but we don't trust them.

In May, Pew Research reported that we've lost confidence in basic institutions. While 70% professed trust in small businesses, 62% expressed confidence in the nation's military and 52% had confidence in our judicial system, confidence and trust in most other systems dipped below passing. Only 45% trusted the police, 32% the church, 32% the medical system, 29% public schools, 27% the Supreme Court, 30% the presidency, 30% banks, and 10% Congress. Even more worrisome is how we get our news. Only 17% trusted newspapers and 11% had faith in television news.

As we approach the 250th semiquincentennial on July 4 we are far from being united and celebratory about this milestone. The question we ask ourselves is not just how we got ourselves in this state but, more importantly, what will help us climb out of the morass we perceive.

Those of us with some age will remember we have had periods of "malaise" before — The Great Depression; the 70s with Vietnam, Watergate and Nixon; 9/11; and periods of inflation or recession. During all these times a leader emerged to help lift us out of our funk. FDR told us that the only thing we had to fear was fear itself. Ronald Reagan painted a picture of America being a "shining city on a hill." Their optimism, accompanied by our American spirit, helped us restore our vision of being a beacon of liberty, hope and opportunity.

Our biggest problem is leadership.

In a little less than five months we select new leaders. Let us look for candidates who will encourage us, inspire us to better days and exhibit the leadership we need to rise above our current situations.

We need to make good decisions at the ballot box in November.

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.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Concern about amendment, hope for future

As an enrolled citizen of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, I have both serious concerns and profound hope for the future of our people. On June 23rd, 2026 an election will take place for four amendments to our tribal constitution related to the building of a casino in our tribal territory.

My concerns lie in the process that this vote has come about. There has been a significant lack of communication to the

Lumbee people on what the actual amendments are, only a months notice for the biggest change to our landscape in recent history, Facebook misinformation to the nines, a questionable process of acquiring land, and a refusal to directly answer questions from concerned citizens. This is not a democratic process.

As a young Lumbee, I want a future where I know my voice will be heard among all other Lumbee people. I don't

want power centralized at the top and for the rich to get richer while the rest struggle. I want clear communication from tribal government to the people they serve. I want a tribe that is excited to participate in the political process.

And this is where my hope comes in. Although these past few weeks have been full of worrisome updates on the election, it has also been chock-full of people using their voice to demand

better for our tribe. Lumbees with the knowledge and experience to back their claims have compiled into the Lumbees United for Accountability coalition and are actively educating our community. Whatever the outcome of this election is, I'm excited to meet more Lumbee people that are willing to put in work to better our tribe. Learn more about the vote at VoteNoDemandBetter.com.

Tia Hunt

HIS VIEW

Cost curve bends, but not enough

RALEIGH — When it comes to health-care inflation — a major burden for households and businesses as well as the primary driver of federal deficits — even glimmers of good news deserve notice, study and perhaps celebration.

That's why a recent working paper from Harvard University's David Cutler and Lev Klarnet is getting so much attention. It found that as of 2024, medical spending in the U.S. as a share of gross domestic product was 15% lower than projected 14 years earlier, and indeed was only "marginally higher" than in 2010. Compared against the baseline, the gap was roughly \$1 trillion.

Cutler and Klarnet concluded that "the United States has bent the health care cost curve," and in response to the available data fair-minded observers would be obliged to agree.

"Since the advent of systematic data on medical spending in 1960," the authors wrote, "no 14-year period has seen as slow growth of medical spending relative to GDP as was realized over the 2010-24 time period. Similarly, no period since 1970 has seen a lower growth rate of medical spending above GDP growth in the U.S.

relative to other countries than that realized in the 2010-24 period."

Does all this mean that the Affordable Care Act, signed into law by former President Barack Obama in early 2010, did, in fact, make health care more affordable? That's a different claim, one that Cutler and Klarnet, being fair-minded themselves, examined with depth and care.

They and others have noted, for example, that health-care inflation actually began to slow down before the implementation of the ACA, with the likely date "some time between 2005 and 2010." The

first decade of the 21st century featured a wide range of sectoral changes and policy reforms, from industry consolidation and consumer-driven health care (higher cost-sharing by patients coupled with tax-free health savings accounts) to Medicare Advantage, Medicare drug coverage, and program changes within Medicaid and public-employee health plans.

Some parts of the Affordable Care Act accentuated these developments. Others worked against them. Consolidations — hospital systems

getting bigger and absorbing physician practices, insurers owning benefits managers, and the like — were incentivized by the legislation with the goal of creating accountable care organizations (ACOs) to manage services more efficiently. In their analysis, Cutler and Klarnet estimate that higher cost-sharing, more prior authorization by insurers, and the proliferation of ACOs all contributed to the slowdown in health-care inflation — directly by at least 16% and indirectly by a larger amount.

Still, that leaves most of the bend in the cost curve as yet unattributed.

Their preferred explanations include 1) improvements in lifestyle, such as less smoking and more exercise, especially among the elderly and those about to become so; 2) new therapies and technologies that save money over time by reducing surgeries and other expensive procedures; and 3) savings from popular drugs coming off patent protection and economies of scale in producing medical equipment.

Plenty of room for debate. Here's what we can all agree on: while the cost curve did bend a bit,

it wasn't "as much as it could be or will need to be bent," as Cutler and Klarnet put it. Even if health care expenditures grow at a comparably lower rate over the next 14 years, insurance premiums and out-of-pocket expenses will force households and business into difficult tradeoffs. Medicare and Medicaid will bedevil future presidents and congresses. Here in North Carolina, spending needs for Medicaid and the state employee health plan will dominate our own budget debates.

All of which is to say that whatever the net effect of the Affordable Care Act may have been, policymakers can't afford to leave its cost-boosting features intact. They should equalize reimbursement rates for hospitals and non-hospital settings (so that further consolidations don't jack up costs). They should enforce the new Medicaid work requirements and combat fraud more energetically. And in North Carolina, policymakers should promote transparency, competition, and innovation.

A modest bend won't do. Let's flatten the curve.

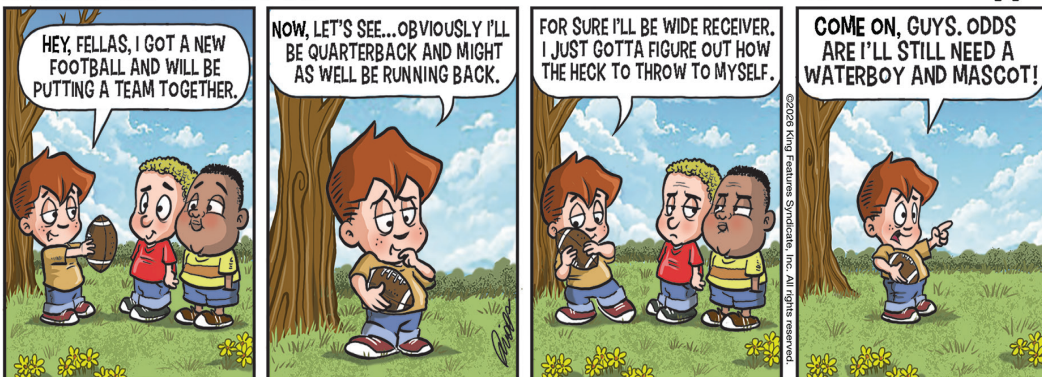
John Hood is a John Locke Foundation board member. His latest books, *Mountain Folk* and *Forest Folk*, combine epic fantasy with early American history (FolkloreCycle.com).



John Hood
Contributing columnist

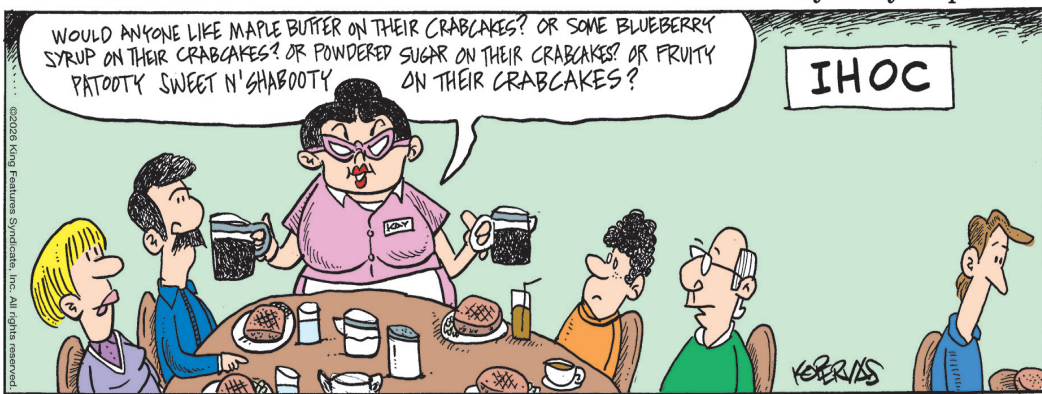
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



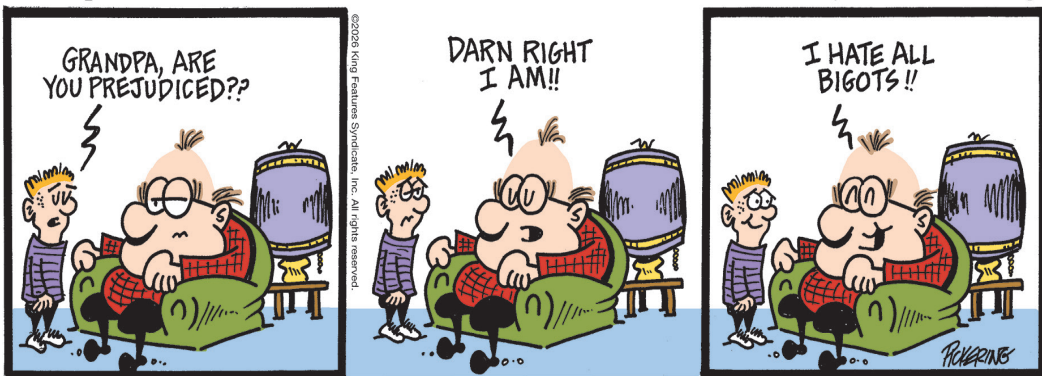
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



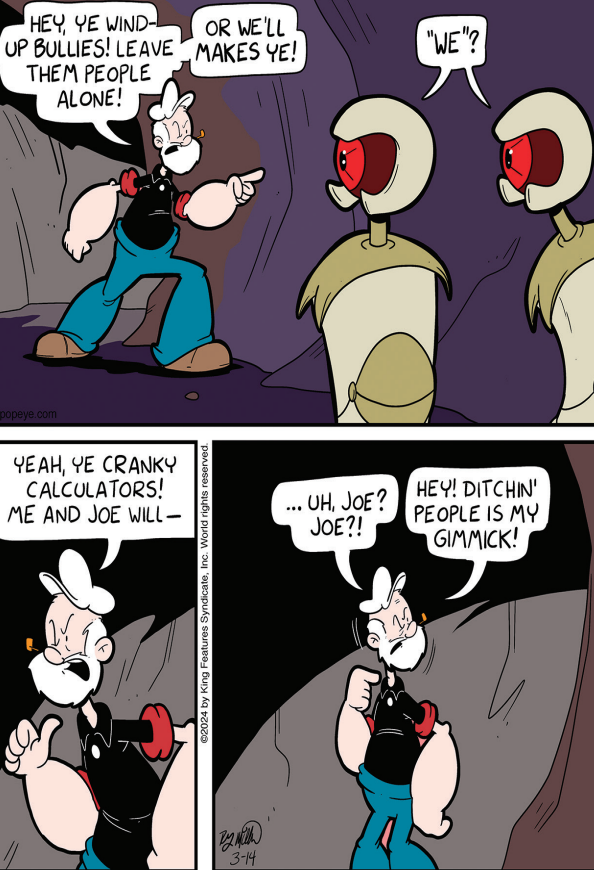
TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Milholland



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



CryptoQuip

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

Clue: E equals F

RE F QFQ BZEBFRIX EBJA

AFYRIO F HRO XPRIY FHJKP

F PFXY, UJN RX RP QJIZ?

NRPUJKP EFPUZB FQJ.

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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!

Force **SUDERS**

Grasp **RENAL**

Increase **AIRES**

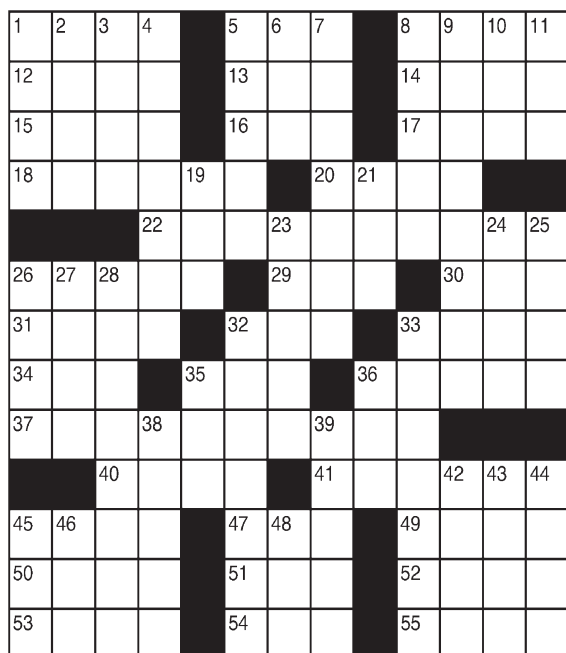
Slew **ADMIYR**

TODAY'S WORD

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Mule, for one
- 5 Unruly group
- 8 Bygone fliers
- 12 Lawman Wyatt
- 13 Stop — dime
- 14 Ornamental jug
- 15 Heart charts
- 16 Business card no.
- 17 Calf-length
- 18 Stop
- 20 Son of Erik the Red
- 22 "War and Peace" author
- 26 Violin stroke
- 29 Cyclades island
- 30 British verb ending
- 31 Subject, usually
- 32 Fellow
- 33 Healthy
- 34 Internet address
- 35 Continent north of Afr.
- 36 Disinfectant brand
- 37 Oscar-winning actress in "The Fighter"
- 40 Arizona tribe
- 41 Prisoner
- 45 Conspiracy
- 47 Corn core



- 49 Big-screen format
- 50 — song (cheaply)
- 51 Lincoln nickname
- 52 Zilch
- 53 Swindles
- 54 Dogpatch adjective
- 55 Musician's jobs
- 7 Inflated party prop
- 8 Big rigs
- 9 Fans of pop icon Taylor
- 10 — Talks (online lecture series)
- 11 Lanka lead-in
- 19 Stitch
- 21 Golf's Ernie
- 23 Pageant crown
- 24 City on a fjord
- 25 Holler
- 26 "E Pluribus —"
- 27 Skin opening
- 28 Megaphone's kin
- 32 "Suffs" or "Rent," e.g.
- 33 Cheyenne's state
- 35 Mentalist's gift
- 36 Cariou of "Blue Bloods"
- 38 Smidgens
- 39 Slander in print
- 42 Mine, in Marseille
- 43 Tart flavor
- 44 Alimony recipients
- 45 USMC rank
- 46 Privy
- 48 Japanese sash

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. U.S. STATES: Which state has the most national parks?
2. ANATOMY: Which blood type is considered to be a universal donor?
3. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which three signs of the Zodiac are considered to be Earth signs?
4. ROYALS: What was Queen Elizabeth's favorite dog breed?
5. GEOGRAPHY: Which continent has a mountain range called The Great Rift Valley?
6. MONEY: What is the basic currency of Russia?
7. TELEVISION: Which long-running TV sitcom features a dog named Comet?
8. MUSIC: How many strings does a standard violin have?
9. GAMES: How many title deeds does the Monopoly game have?
10. SCIENCE: What is the main cause of ocean tides?

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FiveSpot™

Aviators' convention?

F	L	O	C	K

Move as a group

Type of acid

Organizes a hose or rope

Trustworthy

A noteworthy Day

Chickens and turkeys

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

02644

UNMARRIED

Today's Word

3. Raise; 4. Myriad

1. Dues; 2. Learn

solution

SCRAMBLERS

S	D	R	B
S	I	R	D
D	L	O	S
S	L	I	C
C	L	I	F
K	L	O	C

Solution

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

Answer

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

King Crossword

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

1. California
2. Type O negative
3. CAPRICORN, TAURUS and VIRGO
4. Coytis
5. Africa
6. The ruble
7. "Full House"
8. Four
9. 28
10. The gravitational pull of the Moon

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Notice to Creditors/Debtors Legal Ad - \$108.50

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Linda Currie - Classified Service Rep | lcurrie@robsonian.com

SRV17678



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 made 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

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

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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. 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

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION NORTH CAROLINA ROBESON COUNTY IN THE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION 26CV002604-770

JEREMY BENSON VS UNKNOWN

TO: UNKNOWN

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you have been filed in the above entitled action. The nature of the relief is to satisfy a possessory lien of \$1000 for towing, storage, and services to a 1997 Chevrolet 1500 by sale of said vehicle which is registered in your name. This case has been assigned to a Magistrate for Hearing on JULY 22 2026 at Robeson Courthouse in Courtroom. You are required to make a defense to such pleading before such date and time or you may appear and defend at said hearing. Upon your failure to do so, plaintiff will apply at the hearing for relief sought.

This 11th day of JUNE, 2026

Jeremy Benson (Attorney) (Party)
208 Sanbryer LN
Maxton NC 28364

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. 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 NOKATOE FRANKLIN HAYWOOD DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 25 E 001729-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of NOKATOE FRANKLIN HAYWOOD, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of SEPTEMBER 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This is the 3rd day of JUNE 2026.

SHQUITA HAYWOOD
3331 BEE GEE RD
LUMBERTON NC 28358

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

LEGALS

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:

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 RUBY LOIS WATSON ROWDY DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 26 E 000405-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of RUBY LOIS WATSON ROWDY, 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 20th 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 17th day of JUNE 2026.

FREDRICK TREMAYNE ROWDY
847 S CHICKEN ROAD
ROWLAND NC 28383

6/17 6/24 7/1 7/8 2026

LEGALS

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 Civiltex 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 mortgagee 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

Buy & Sell In the Classifieds

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 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:

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. 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, 23CVD003570-770, 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

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 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 Sassafras 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

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

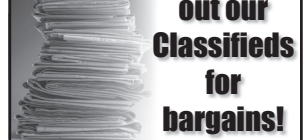
The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter.

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



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. G3 FINANCIAL, LLC and all possible assigns or successors of G3 FINANCIAL, LLC or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, et al, 24CVD001149-770, 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 Ivene 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 JOYCE ANN BROADWELL DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 26 E 000540-770

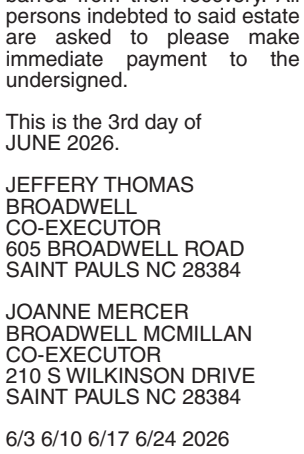
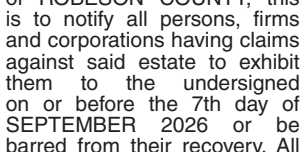
The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the estate of JOYCE ANN BROADWELL, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of SEPTEMBER 2026 or be barred from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

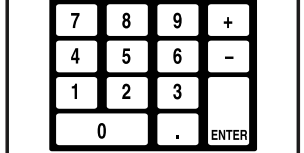
6/3 6/10 6/17 6/24 2026



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



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

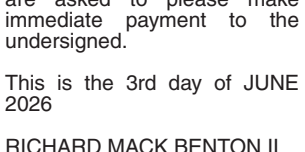
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF HOPE DEANNER CARROLL BENTON AKA HOPE DEANER CARROLL BENTON DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 25 E 002072-770

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



This is the 3rd day of JUNE 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. LENUE JR. MOORE and spouse, JENNIFER ANN MOORE, and all possible heirs and assignees of LENUE 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

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION

IN RE: YESSICA VILASENOR GONZALES, JUVENILE IN RE: ISAI VILASENOR GONZALES, JUVENILE

TO: YENELI GONZALES-CRUZ, RESPONDENT MOTHER ROLANDO VILLASENOR-MARTINEZ, RESPONDENT FATHER

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

For the Court to determine if the above-named minors are abused, neglected, and dependent as defined by N.C.G.S. 7B-101 (15).

You will further take notice that the undersigned will appear before the Juvenile Court of Robeson County forty (40) days or more after this first date to such pleadings by said time, upon your failure to do so, the undersigned will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

If you are indigent, you are entitled to court appoint counsel. You may contact the Robeson County Clerk of District Court, Juvenile Division and request counsel.

This the 12th day of June, 2026

Jose A. Coker
N.C. Bar No. 28478
The Charleston Group
Attorneys for Robeson County
Department of Social Services
Post Office Box 1762
Fayetteville, NC 28302-1762
Telephone No.: (910) 485-2500
Telecopier No.: (910) 485-2599

6/17 6/24 7/1 2026

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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. 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 WINFRED 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 Alfordsville 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 TWYLA MARIE HEDGEPEETH DECEASED FILE NUMBER 26E000586-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrator, of the estate of Twyla Marie Hedgepeth, deceased, late of Robeson County, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 6th day of September, 2026, or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 3rd day of June, 2026.

Ashlee Marie Hedgepeth
PO Box 51596
Durham, NC 27717

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

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

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

Rescue

From page 1A

since 2021, each for periods of approximately six months, even as it does not currently provide that service.

Robeson County revoked Red Springs Rescue's EMS franchise agreement in 2025; the county has an ambulance stationed in Red Springs 24/7 and also has the ability to send ambulances from Pembroke or St. Pauls if needed, the release said. The town would have to increase taxes in order to provide its own EMS services, Harris said.

The Rescue Squad said in its press release that, since Robeson County EMS provides ambulance service in the community, its concern is not directed

at county EMS, but towards "preserving and strengthening local emergency response resources that can support the community during emergencies, disasters, motor vehicle accidents, search operations, and other incidents where additional trained personnel and equipment are needed."

The town took control of the Rescue Squad's building in 2021 after the organization defaulted on a loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the release said.

"The only understanding between Rescue and the town in July of 2025 is for Rescue to cut the grass at the building and at the Farmer's Market across the street at a comparable level to the town performing the same act," Harris'

release said.

Since Dec. 2025, Harris has tried to contact the Rescue Squad to discuss its finances, the release said, and has not received a response.

Harris has offered for the Rescue Squad to become a town department, both in March of this year and during budget discussions in May. However, that would require the Rescue Squad to dissolve its own board.

The Rescue Squad sent Harris a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on June 3 that it would not dissolve its board; last Wednesday, Harris sent the Rescue Squad a notice to vacate the building.

"Rescue 6 was presented an option to become a town department, to have

paid staff, and/or to receive call pay for its volunteers — all to which Rescue 6 responded 'no,'" Harris' press release said.

The Rescue Squad says its MOU came after it "made several organizational and leadership changes and continued negotiations with town leadership," and outlined a "potential partnership structure," with the intention that town administration could "modify or counter any provisions that they believed needed adjustment"; it was not a "final demand," the organization said, and "specifically invited revisions, modifications and counterproposals." Furthermore, the Rescue Squad says it "demonstrated a willingness to consider operating under the guidance of and

oversight of the Town of Red Springs if an agreement could be reached that protected the interests of both the town and the organization."

After initially negotiating for a short-term agreement, the Rescue Squad says it expanded its proposal to a five-year agreement "to demonstrate our long-term cooperation, stability and rebuilding trust" between the parties. But no counterproposal was made by the town, and instead the notice to vacate was delivered.

The Rescue Squad said that, through its history, it has faced funding and staffing challenges; while that has, at times, "affected the organization's ability to sustain operations ... those challenges did not stop efforts to rebuild," it said, adding that its

finances have improved in recent years.

"Today, the Rescue Squad is in a stronger financial position than it has been in years and has been preparing for a new chapter under new leadership focused on accountability, growth, and restoring services to the community," the Rescue Squad said.

The Rescue Squad will now look to figure out what its next steps will be as it continues operations.

"The Rescue Squad remains committed to finding solutions that serve the best interests of the citizens of Red Springs and surrounding communities," it said. "Leadership continues to seek constructive dialogue and opportunities for collaboration that will strengthen emergency response services and public safety."

Hurttt

From page 1A

citizens while implementing strategies designed (to) achieve internal organizational objectives," Hurtt said. "Over time, it has become apparent that the leadership philosophy and the

administrative structure under which I operate are no longer aligned."

Hurttt has served in the position since Jan. 5.

"Chief Hurtt was chosen to lead the department due to her standout personality and hopes that she could boost morale of the department, which has had a lot of transition in recent years. Chief

Hurttt accomplished boosting the morale of the department and the community during her brief time. ... The town appreciates Chief Hurtt's service and contributions during her tenure and wishes her success in her future endeavors."

"Over the course of my short tenure, I have worked diligently to build meaningful

connections with the citizens of Red Springs, increase public engagement and demonstrate that modern law enforcement extends far beyond enforcement alone," Hurtt said in her letter. "Through outreach efforts, public engagement and increased accountability, I believe significant progress was being

made toward those goals. More importantly, the amazing citizens of Red Springs responded positively because they recognized that these efforts were sincere and that their Police Department was striving to be a true partner within the community."

Hurttt, a Robeson County native and member of the Lumbee

Tribe, has previously worked as a N.C. State Highway Patrol officer, detective and N.C. general instructor, while also previously serving with the Johnston County Sheriff's Office and in law enforcement agencies in Hope Mills, Hamlet and Spring Lake.

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

LEGALS

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

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the estate of JAMES LEE HUNT, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of SEPTEMBER 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This is the 3rd day of JUNE 2026.

JUDY H SCOTT
1930 WEST WHITE POND RD
FAIRMONT NC 28340

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

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

LEGALS

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

The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the estate of JOYCE CAMPBELL GRANT, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of SEPTEMBER 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This is the 3rd day of JUNE 2026.

ROY CHARLES GRANT II
5205 MCLEOD ROAD
LUMBERTON NC 28358

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

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 WODELL
299 BROOKS STREET
PEMBROKE NC 28372

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

LEGALS

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

The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the estate of MABEL DORIS LOCKLEAR, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of SEPTEMBER 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This is the 3rd day of JUNE 2026.

PEGGY L HUNT
120 ETTA DRIVE
PEMBROKE NC 28372

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

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF PRISCILLA CHERRY DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 21 E 000244-770

The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the estate of PRISCILLA CHERRY, 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 20th 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 17th day of JUNE 2026.

JOHNNIE CHERRY
5208 SIMMONS DRIVE
LUMBERTON NC 28360

6/17 6/24 7/1 7/8 2026

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF THOMAS LEE ROWDY DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 25 E 001624-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of THOMAS LEE ROWDY, 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 20th 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 17th day of JUNE 2026.

FREDRICK TREMAYNE ROWDY
847 S CHICKEN ROAD
ROWLAND NC 28383

6/17 6/24 7/1 7/8 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF WILLIAM DOUGLAS MITCHELL DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 26 E 000623-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the estate of WILLIAM DOUGLAS MITCHELL, 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 20th 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 17th day of MAY 2026.

NEIL D MITCHELL
2438 LOCKLEAR RD
PEMBROKE NC 28372

6/17 6/24 7/1 7/8 2026

LEGALS

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

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, Attys., 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

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Jail

From page 1A

May 2025. The number was up to 146 last month, although the facility's capacity is 117.

Jails in Wake and Mecklenburg counties have seen significant overcrowding this year. Wake County's main jail was below its capacity of 1,094 inmates in the first few months of 2025. This year, the jail has blown past that number, with 1,170 inmates as of last month. Both counties have announced they are opening up long-closed detention facilities to make room.

Wake County District Attorney Lorrin Freeman partly blames the new law.

"I think it's still early to draw any complete conclusions, but we certainly have seen what appears to be an increase in our jail population that correlates to the effective date of Iryna's Law," she said.

Limited resources

The legislation passed last year is named for Iryna Zarutka, a 23-year-old refugee from war-torn Ukraine who was stabbed to death on a Charlotte light rail train in Aug. 2025. State and federal investigators charged DeCarlos Brown with her death, and he could face the death penalty if convicted. But forensic psychologists have twice found Brown mentally incompetent to stand trial. A competency hearing in the case is set for June 9.

Surveillance video of the brutal killing went viral, reaching all the way to the White House. Republicans have used the case as a political cudgel against

Democrats, particularly U.S. Senate candidate and former N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper, painting them as soft on crime.

State Republicans pitched Iryna's Law as a way to keep violent criminals off the streets, and both chambers of the General Assembly passed the bill within 48 hours of each other last September. Gov. Josh Stein, a Democrat, signed it into law days later.

Republicans argued that tough-on-crime laws would have kept Brown imprisoned and prevented Zarutka's death. But as The Assembly previously reported, it's not that clear-cut. Before the stabbing, Brown, who had a documented history of mental illness, had been arrested in Jan. 2025 for allegedly misusing the 911 system. The magistrate released him on a written promise to appear in court. Even if Brown had been locked up, he still would have been freed long before that fateful day on the light rail. The maximum sentence he faced was 45 days in jail.

Freeman said she understands the importance of public safety, but the law should allow defendants an opportunity to demonstrate in a court hearing that they should be released on bond. That has been difficult in Wake County.

"We are already struggling from a lack of resources among prosecutors, public defenders, court time," she said. "The reality of developing mechanisms by which people's conditions of release can be considered has been very challenging and will continue to be challenging."

Angelica McIntyre, the chief district court judge

in Robeson, said the county doesn't have enough space in its courthouse or jail to process the increasing number of people held who can't afford to pay a secured bond.

"Any time we get new legislation that requires a change for everybody," she said, "it's important that we have resources there to support that change."

Adrian Cox, budget director for Mecklenburg County, said the county has increased funding by \$5.3 million this year to sustain jail operations in response to the rising jail population. The jail so far has also seen a \$1 million surge in food costs.

Cox said many factors have contributed to rising costs, including the simple fact that inmates are staying longer.

Mecklenburg Sheriff Garry McFadden, who was unavailable for an interview, has previously blamed Iryna's Law for overcrowding at the county's main detention center, where the inmate population has surged to more than 2,000 within the last six months. McFadden was an early critic of the law, saying in December that he had already seen an 18% increase in the jail population over the previous year.

"I think they should have taken into consideration that we are already dealing with this," McFadden told television station WCNC. "Come to us and say, 'How can we better manage this?'"

Forsyth County is facing similar issues, County Manager Shontell Robinson said. In May, Forsyth County commissioners approved a contract



McIntyre

amendment for Armark Correctional Services, which provides food at the Forsyth County Detention Center. County officials cited Iryna's Law as one of the main reasons the jail popula-

tion has averaged between 900 and 950 inmates in 2026. County officials had anticipated a population between 800 and 850, according to county documents.

Officials in Guilford County also cite Iryna's Law for rising jail populations. The population at the Greensboro jail, one of two in the county, increased 16.5% over the last six months. The High Point jail experienced a nearly 13% increase over the same period. Bria Evans, a spokesperson for the sheriff's office, said more people are remaining in custody who would ordinarily be released on a written promise to appear in court. Evans said that has placed higher demands on facility operations, staffing, housing, food services, and medical resources.

Eddie Madden, who served as Columbus County manager until June 1, said during a commissioners meeting last month that Iryna's Law is just the latest legislation that has "unintended consequences at the local level." The county expects to lose \$600,000 in the upcoming fiscal year because it will no longer have jail space to rent to federal agencies that pay a per diem rate to house people held on federal warrants, Madden said.

Defending the law

Eddie Caldwell, executive vice president of the

N.C. Sheriffs' Association, has strongly supported Iryna's Law and said that it has little to do with the rising number of inmates in some counties' jails. He said he has not heard any complaints from sheriffs and that any number of factors could have contributed to rising jail populations.

He said one major factor is the backlog of people who need to be transferred to state prisons to serve their sentence. There are about 1,200 of those inmates waiting in jails, Caldwell said.

He also said that many magistrates and judges stopped setting low bonds for violent offenders in reaction to Zarutka's death, not the law.

Many counties have overcrowding, Caldwell argued, because elected officials failed to properly prepare for a higher number of inmates. They should have expanded or replaced existing jails, he said.

Told that some sheriffs and county officials have cited Iryna's Law in interviews and public statements, Caldwell responded: "I suggest you call each one of those sheriffs or managers and ask them to provide you with the data analysis that they've done to attribute their situation to Iryna's Law."

Republican legislators still defend the law.

"Too many innocent lives have been taken by repeat offenders who should have never been allowed back on our streets," a spokesperson for House Speaker Destin Hall said.

Senate Leader Phil Berger did not respond to a request for comment.

Involuntary commitments

A provision of Iryna's Law that does not go into effect until Dec. 2026 requires more people charged with crimes to undergo involuntary commitment proceedings. The N.C. House passed legislation this month directing state officials to recommend ways to improve the process by which judges can order someone experiencing a mental health crisis to be evaluated by medical professionals. The bill calls for the state Department of Health and Human Services and the N.C. Sheriffs' Association to study whether telehealth could be used as a way to administer initial evaluations.

Hall's spokesperson said the new law will help provide some relief. "The changes in Iryna's Law were intended to do just that—ensure that people accused of serious violent offenses receive greater judicial scrutiny before being released."

Wilkins, the Robeson County sheriff, agrees that violent offenders should not be released back into the community. Two of his deputies were shot and injured in 2023 while trying to arrest a man charged with murder who cut off his ankle monitoring device after being released on bond.

But, Wilkins said, his jail would need to double in size to accommodate more inmates.

"If everyone would just straighten up and not get in trouble to come to jail, you wouldn't have to worry about it," he said. "But for those that decide that they just want to be a repeat offender and keep coming back, I've just got to have more space."

Board

From page 1A

gave a standing ovation.

"Hopefully we can have a board that can be united, as it has in the past," he continued a moment later. "There's been enough said about it and I hope it can stop at this point."

Edge also addressed the matter in the May board meeting, but did so as a self-described "defense."

Monday's comments come after Edge was issued a notice of intent to censure by the board on Friday, The Robesonian has learned.

That action did not take place, however, following Edge's apology. Commissioner Wixie Stephens, who has been outspoken previously about taking offense to Edge's post, commented at the end of the meeting.

"As a fellow commissioner and a colleague, to represent the community, my human side would say no, I don't want to accept an apology. But my Christian side said I need to accept Mr. Edge's apology," Stephens said. "We have all sinned and come short, and I know we've all made mistakes. ... To many of you, it may not be right, it may not be popular, but it really relieves me and I thank you for your apology."

Some residents, though, are saying that Edge's apology isn't enough, and that the board fell short by not censuring the chairman.

"I just think it's too little, too late. I think the board still has an obligation and a moral responsibility to make sure that we all know that it's unacceptable," John Campbell, chairman of Concerned Citizens for Better Government and a former member of the Robeson County Board of Education, told The Robesonian after the meeting. "I don't think they've made that decision yet, and I don't think that Commissioner Edge can truly appreciate ... the hurt and the harm that many folks have experienced because of this whole thing."

Campbell believes that support to censure Edge

included a majority of the board as recently as Friday, saying that County Attorney Robert Davis likely would not have drafted the notice of intent if a majority wasn't present.

During the public comment period, Campbell presented a petition that he says has over 400 signatures supporting a censure. He also said that CCBG was blocked from the agenda for the meeting, though its members have still voiced their concerns through the public comment period.

"By failing to consider this censure, this board has chosen a path of moral cowardice," Campbell said during the meeting. "You have formally supported this behavior, signaling to every investor, every corporate partner and every citizen that this disgrace is the official standard of Robeson County."

Other public comments echoed similar sentiments. The most personal was from Ellis Hill, a friend of Edge's late son, Davie; Hill said that he and Davie had a falling out over political disagreements before Davie died in 2024.

"I wish we could have that reconciliation moment, but unfortunately we won't," Hill said. "But by taking action we can make sure other members of the community that have those relationships don't have to be as driven apart."

In late April, Edge shared a meme on Facebook including a photo of former President Barack Obama with text stating "a Black racist queer was president for eight years and not one crazy racist redneck Republican ever

took a shot at him." He deleted the post after less than a day and posted an apology a short time later.

Recovery Courts gives presentation

The board also heard an update from Judge Leah Britt Lanier on the Robeson County Recovery Courts, a program which helps find treatment options for those dealing with substance abuse.

"I was volun-told when the opportunity came about, but I quickly learned it was my passion," Lanier said. "I don't foresee myself coming away from it anytime soon."

The program is grant funded and is in the third year of a five-year grant cycle. Participation must increase by 20% each year for grant funding to continue, Lanier said. The program has three courts: adult treatment court, DWI court and family treatment court.

Lanier said a potential partnership with the Robeson County Sheriff's Office would be a great help to the program.

Johnathan Strickland, a program participant, also spoke to the board, telling his story of alcohol addiction and recovery. Strickland had three DWIs

in "about 2 1/2 years" and "was on my way to jail" and entered the program after pleading guilty to those charges.

"I saw an opening for me to be who I was supposed to be," he said.

Strickland graduated from the program in May, and says he is one year, 24 days sober as of Monday's meeting; this was given a standing ovation from the crowded boardroom. He says he has continued attending classes even after completing the program, and is now beginning to even teach classes and plans to take peer support certification class so he can help others.

"It gave me the chance to be sociable with people who understood what I was dealing with," Strickland said.

Lanier touted Strickland as proof of what the program can achieve.

"My goal is more Jonathans," the judge said.

Landfill area water update

County Manager Kellie Blue provided a brief update on the ongoing situation regarding PFAS chemicals in the water supply in the area surrounding the Robeson County landfill near St. Pauls.

"At this time the county is actively working with

state and federal environmental and public health agencies," Blue said.

"We're also working with our division engineers that do testing up at the landfill, in that area, to evaluate any potential risk, and make sure that we're doing appropriate testing, as far as state guidance. We'll keep you informed of those practices as we go along the way."

Magnolia baseball team honored

Edge honored Tommy Smart, a custodian at Magnolia Middle School who stepped into a role as the school's baseball coach this spring. The team was 13-1 and won the middle school county championship.

Three of the team's players were present, in addition to Smart, and presented Edge with a plaque thanking him for his financial support of the team.

Other matters

In other business, the board:

— Approved a county budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year. It separately approved a FY 26-27 budget for the Robeson County Housing Authority, which will include a 3% cost-of-living adjustment for its employees.

— Appointed Commissioner Pauline Campbell to serve as a delegate at the National Association of Counties (NACO) conference in July.

— Appointed Crystal Andrews to the Fairmont planning board, Nancy Catherine Hunt to the Lumber River Regional Aging Advisory Council and Cheryl Taylor to the Robeson County Aging Advisory Council.

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

support to censure Edge

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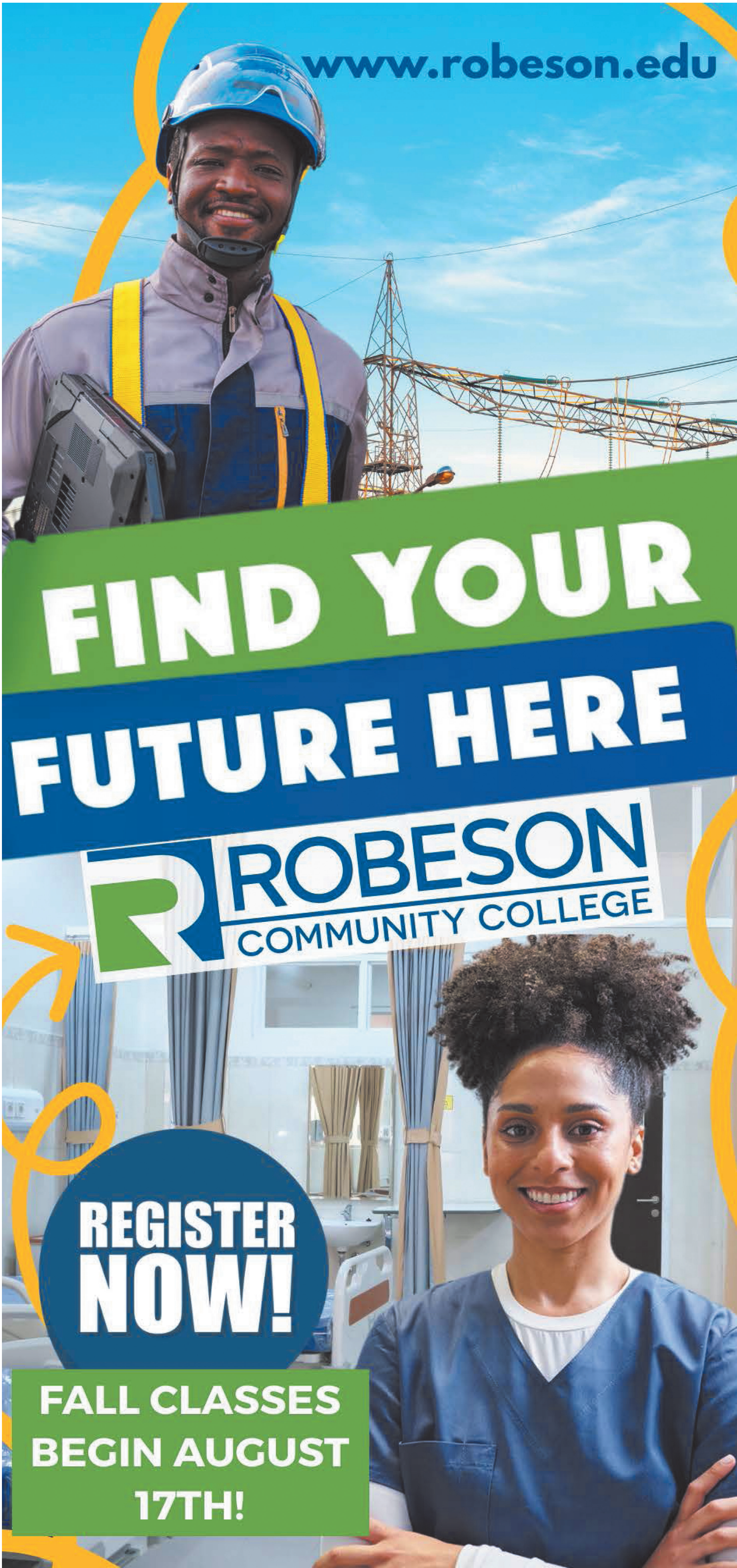
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Canes' title a win for all NC

I'm definitely not what you'd call a hockey guy, with observance usually limited to Carolina Hurricanes playoff games when I'm available to watch.

But Sunday, when Nicolaj Ehlers scored an empty-net goal with a minute left in Game 6 of the Stanley Cup Final to all but seal the outcome, then when time expired and the Hurricanes officially clinched the Stanley Cup, I couldn't help but feel genuine excitement.

This wasn't because of a payoff of a lifelong investment into a fandom chase of championship glory, which is what I felt when the Atlanta Braves won the World Series in 2021, their first title in my span of memory. But it was a realization of a historic sporting achievement for my native state.

Despite three major professional franchises residing in the state, the Hurricanes won just the second championship, following their own title in 2006. While the NBA's Hornets and NFL's Panthers will hopefully add a title soon in Charlotte, Raleigh has erupted in celebration in a sea of red in support of its newly crowned champs.

But that feeling has also expanded far past Raleigh, through all of North Carolina and to even some friends in South Carolina who have become immersed in Hurricanes hockey. And indeed, as rare as these championships are, we should all find them cause for a grand celebration.

That will happen formally with a parade through downtown Raleigh at 11 a.m. on Saturday, when fans can publicly show their appreciation for these world-class athletes and all they've accomplished while representing our state. But it's also been happening ever since Sunday evening, and will likely continue through Saturday and beyond, as North Carolinians revel in that championship glory.

The fact that this is title won for all is appropriate when you consider it was won by all on the ice. The Hurricanes have won the Stanley Cup with a total team effort. While several of them are now household names in the Triangle and beyond, none are true superstars; instead they all worked together so incredibly well to accomplish the common cause of having their names etched onto Lord Stanley's Cup.

Of the Canes' 24 goals during the Stanley Cup Final against the Vegas Golden Knights, 11 different players scored at least one. Of the seven non-goaltenders that did play in the series and did not score a goal, six of them assisted on at least

See CANES | 2B



Carolina Hurricanes left wing Nikolaj Ehlers (27) celebrates after scoring an empty-net goal late in the third period in Game 6 of the Stanley Cup Final against the Vegas Golden Knights Sunday in Las Vegas.

John Locher | AP Photo

Perfect storm: 'Canes win Stanley Cup title

Carolina uses stifling defense to blank Vegas in Game 6 clincher

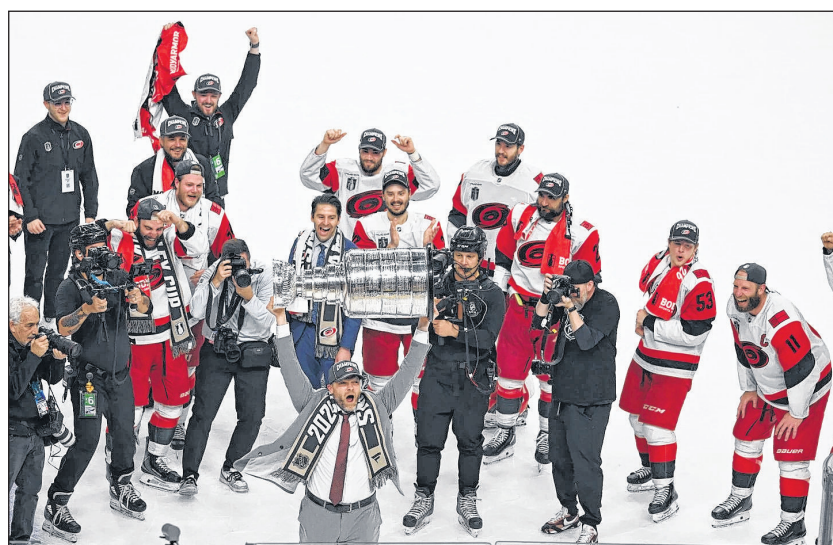
Mark Anderson
AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS — Carolina spent the first part of the Stanley Cup Final surviving, finding ways to overcome deficits and play a high-scoring game that didn't fit the Hurricanes' typical style.

But when it came down to doing what it takes to win the Cup, the Hurricanes' defense put its stamp on this series, shutting down the Vegas Golden Knights and not letting up.

The Hurricanes held Vegas to five total goals in Games 4 and 5 and used a suffocating defense in a 3-0 shutout Sunday night in Game 6 to win their first championship in 20 years.

"That's a lot of years," said Carolina center Jordan Staal, who received the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP. "It's amazing. This is something I've been going after



The Carolina Hurricanes celebrate after winning Game 6 of the Stanley Cup Final against the Vegas Golden Knights Sunday in Las Vegas.

Candice Ward | AP Photo

ever since we got the first one. You want to win it again and again and again."

Brandon Bussi, whose entrance

late in Game 3 helped turn around the series, had his first career

See HOCKEY | 2B

Byrd begins tenure as UNCP AD

Staff report

PEMBROKE — Scott Byrd officially became UNC Pembroke's athletic director on Monday as he worked his first day in the new role.

Byrd was announced as the school's next athletic director on March 26 before finishing out the school year in his previous role at UNC Charlotte.

"UNCP is (trending upward)," Byrd said during a press conference in March. "It's not just in athletics, though. Academically, there's record enrollment, and certain programs, we're trending in the right direction. So when you look at these opportunities, and I have, but I've never left Charlotte. ... A lot of these positions come open when things aren't going well; rarely do they come open when they're going so well. So really, step one is don't screw anything up. And step two is, let's figure out, how do we take it to the next level."

Byrd is the school's 11th athletic director; he replaces Dick Christy, who is transitioning to a role in the Chancellor's Office as vice chief of staff after 13 years leading Braves athletics.

"Scott is way more prepared for this job than I was in 2013; he has a much broader breadth of experience," Christy said in March. "He's being humble, but he's the right guy. He knows what he's doing."

Byrd was most recently the executive associate athletic director for external affairs at Charlotte, a role that included oversight of all external operations including marketing, strategic communications, ticketing, branding, multimedia rights and digital



Scott Byrd, right, receives a jersey from UNC Pembroke Chancellor Robin Cummings, left, during a press conference introducing Byrd as UNC Pembroke's next athletic director held March 26 in Pembroke. Byrd began his duties in the role Monday.

Jacob Husson | The Robesonian

production. He's served in various roles in the 49ers athletic department over the last 16 years.

"He understands how to grow a program, not just maintain one, through innovation, through visibility, through vision and through strategic investment," UNCP Chancellor Robin Cummings said in March. "Scott has also set new benchmarks for revenue and fan engagement at UNC Charlotte, strengthening the connection between athletics and the com-

munity."

Byrd has also worked in compliance in the athletic departments at N.C. State and Wake Forest, and in financial aid at Central Piedmont Community College. He earned a bachelor's in history from UNC Chapel Hill and a master's in leadership and organizational change from Pfeiffer.

Byrd is married to his wife, Jenny, and they have four children, Matt, Duncan, Everett and Mallory.

Vargas to coach Red Devils boys soccer

Jacob Husson
The Robesonian

RED SPRINGS — Red Springs has found the next man to stoke the flames of their inferno as Ben Vargas has been named the Red Devils' next head boys' soccer coach. He comes to lead the Red Devils after being an assistant coach at St. Pauls recently.

"It's a dream come true," Vargas said. "God is good and I just want to thank Him." Red Springs feels like it has its head coach for the next several seasons. Work ethic and drive were major reasons why the Red Devils named Vargas their new head coach.

"(Vargas) is going to have a bright future," Red Springs athletic director Adam Deese said. "He has all the tools to be a really good coach, including hunger."

Vargas was most recently an assistant coach at St. Pauls, whom he helped lead to a 16-5-2 record to win the Eastern Sandhills Conference last season before falling 1-0 to Northside-Jacksonville in the first round of the 5A state playoffs.

The Red Devils (10-9)

are hoping Vargas can produce more consistent results next year as it was up and down all last season. After winning five of their first six last year, they dropped eight of their final 13 games.

Being an assistant at St. Pauls helped prepare Vargas for this opportunity, he said.

"I learned to value discipline and commitment," Vargas said.

Vargas plans to bring discipline and accountability to this team as a rule.

Deese is particularly pleased with Vargas' will to help the players grow and improve.

"His drive and commitment to the players (made him stand out)," Deese said. "He has a really good structure and the willingness to come in day one ready to work."

As Vargas looks to build a culture with the Red Devils that leads to consistent winning, Deese's comments about his drive should be reassuring to their fan base. Time will tell if Vargas' commitment leads to a better performance on the pitch.

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



Vargas



Deese

Canes

From page 1B

one, including three assists from the great Jaccob Slavin, who became just the second American to win Olympic gold and the Stanley Cup in the same year.

The balanced goal-scoring did give way to a barrage of them from Jordan Staal, who had six goals across the six games of the series against Vegas. From a big-picture view, there's not a more apropos player to win the Conn Smythe Trophy as a Hurricane than the 37-year-old Staal, the longest-tenured Hurricane, who joined the team in 2012 and was a bright spot through some lean years before anchoring this run of eight straight playoff appearances that has culminated in a championship. His brother, Eric Staal, was a key piece of the 2006 Hurricanes title as well.

Ehlers bookended the series with its first two goals in the opening period of Game 1 and the empty-net finale on Sunday, ending the series with four goals and five assists. Andrei Svechnikov, Jackson Blake, Logan Stankoven and Taylor Hall, each with storylines of their own, also contributed multiple goals to the Canes' effort, while Shayne Gostisbehere and Sebastian Aho had five and four assists, respectively, to go with one goal each in the series.

And while goalkeeping is usually a one-man job even on the most well-rounded of teams,



John Locher | AP Photo

The Carolina Hurricanes celebrate after winning the Stanley Cup Sunday in Las Vegas.

even that task couldn't have been done without the contributions of a pair of talented Hurricanes. Frederik Andersen led the Canes through the first three rounds of the playoffs, overcoming personal tragedy in the death of his agent Claude Lemieux; Brandon Bussi replaced Andersen during Game

3 of the final, and the rookie was stellar the rest of the way, including a Cup-clinching shut-out in Game 6.

But while he was quick to deflect credit onto the players, the leader of it all and the through line for nearly all of Hurricanes history is coach Rod Brind'Amour. The eight-year playoff run began in his

first season as head coach, and the team has won more games than anyone during his tenure, finally paying off with a title to celebrate this year. This comes after he captained the 2006 Cup winner in Carolina. Out of 104 playoff wins in Hurricanes history, he has coached or played in 102 of them. Brind'Amour and the front

office have undoubtedly led the Hurricanes to great heights. And now, as they've reached that mountaintop, they've given us all a reason to celebrate, from Raleigh to Manteo to Murphy and everywhere in between.

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

Hockey

From page 1B

playoff shutout in stopping 22 shots. Jackson Blake had a goal and assist, and Taylor Hall scored just 3:47 into the game to set the tone. Nikolaj Ehlers added an empty-netter.

"Your mind wanders the last couple of days and wonder what it may be like out here (on ice after winning) and it's better than I could have expected," Hall said.

The Golden Knights struggled badly to muster any kind of offense in Game 6 and went 18:37 between shots on goal in the second and third periods. Playing in their third Cup final, this is the first time they have been shut out.

This final game was what many observers expected the series to be like between the defen-

sive-minded teams, but each side watched leads of two-plus goals disappear in the first three games.

Now, the Cup belongs to the Hurricanes, led by coach Rod Brind'Amour, who also captained Carolina to its 2006 title.

"It's just as awesome," Brind'Amour said. "But as a player, it was a little different. I worked and dreamt of winning the Cup my whole life, so that was like a piano came off my back. This time around, I wanted it for the group."

This was the first game of the series that Vegas goalie Carter Hart didn't allow four goals in a game. He finished with 20 saves.

The Hurricanes began to assume control of the series after falling behind by the score of 4-0 in Game 3. They came back force overtime, and though the Canes lost, they outplayed the Golden Knights from there on out.

Reflecting the do-or-die situation for the Golden

Knights, they made several lineup changes, with Brett Howden replacing the injured William Karlsson at second-line center. Mitch Marner could have moved there, but remained at right wing.

Original Golden Knight Reilly Smith made his Cup final debut at third-line right wing, and Braeden Bowman made his playoff debut at fourth-line right wing. Kaedan Korczak replaced Dylan Coghlan on the third defensive pairing.

"This is tough to be on this side of it," Golden Knights defenseman Brayden McNabb said. "But on the other side, these chances don't come around very often. So it stings."

This title is a testament to Carolina's resilience as a franchise that kept coming close to winning the Eastern Conference, but couldn't quite get through until now.

Brind'Amour made sure the Hurricanes kept get-

ting back up after losing in the conference final twice in the past three years and three times in their current eight-year playoff run. The talent was clearly there, but there was always a stumbling block.

Not anymore. After dispatching Montreal in five games to make the final, the Hurricanes then faced perennial power Vegas and took care of business there, too. Now, Brind'Amour will get his name on the Cup for the second time.

So will 37-year-old Staal, who also won the title in 2009 with Pittsburgh. He planted himself in front of Hart and dared the Golden Knights to knock him out of the way. Staal scored in each of the first five Cup final games, the first time that has happened.

The Hurricanes got off to a fast start with a goal just 25 seconds into Game 1, only to lose 5-4 on a late goal from Tomas Hertl.

And the Golden Knights were on the verge of taking complete control as minutes ticked down in Game 2 while holding a 2-0 lead and appearing as if they would take a two-game advantage back home.

Then, it all changed. Carolina showed a fight that not only brought the Hurricanes back into the series by rallying to win 4-3 in overtime on Seth Jarvis' one-timer, but would serve as their signature throughout the series.

That was especially true the following game when the Golden Knights took a 4-0 lead into the third period and the Canes seemed to have no answers. Brind'Amour even appeared to wave the white flag by removing goalie Frederik Andersen and replacing him with Bussi.

But the Hurricanes weren't simply trying to get to Game 4. They sent a message, going on a remarkable rally to force

overtime. Though Carolina lost, it was inflection point, with Bussi backstopping a team that was only growing stronger. Carolina then went on to win the next two games and moved within a victory of the championship.

The Hurricanes got it done against the Golden Knights team that was on a heater after John Tortorella replaced Bruce Cassidy with eight games left in the regular season. Vegas then went from third in the Pacific Division to first, knocked off Utah and Anaheim in six games apiece in the playoffs and shockingly swept Presidents' Trophy-winning Colorado to win the West.

"I am very proud to be a part of this organization, very proud to lead this team, very proud to play with every single guy that steps into our locker room," Vegas captain Mark Stone said. "This feeling sucks. I never want to have it again."

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ROBESON COUNTY ATHLETIC SPOTLIGHT

PURNELL SWETT HIGH SCHOOL

Purnell Swett's Sean Locklear caught 40 passes in his senior season for the Rams, totaling 563 yards and seven touchdowns, earning All-County recognition. On the hardwood, the guard averaged 3.4 points, 1.7 rebounds and 1.2 steals. Locklear will stay close to home to play football at UNC Pembroke.

SEAN LOCKLEAR
Football, Basketball

LUMBERTON HIGH SCHOOL

Lumberton's Charley Whitley graduated last week after a decorated athletic career. She was named All-County in basketball after averaging 13.0 points, 4.5 rebounds, 2.5 assists and 2.3 steals as a senior, was the team MVP in tennis, reaching the semifinals at regionals with doubles partner MacKenzie Register, and scored two goals in her first season of varsity soccer.

CHARLEY WHITLEY
Basketball, Tennis, Soccer

Lucas picks up another All-American nod

Staff report

PEMBROKE — Landon Lucas added another honor to his name Monday as the third baseman was selected to the D2 Baseball All-American first team.



Lucas

A first-team All-American selection for the fourth time this postseason,

Lucas finished the year with a .419 (88-for-210) batting average, 20 doubles, three triples, 20 home runs, and 76 RBI, becoming the first Brave to reach the 20 double-20 home run mark since Collins Cuthrell in 2015.

The Blythewood, S.C. native tallied at least one hit in 45 of 50 games, and tallied 26 multi-hit games, 24

multi-RBI games, and three multi-home run games. Lucas was named Conference Carolinas Player of the Week in March after going 10-14 with three doubles, a home run, and eight RBI in the series sweep at Southern Wesleyan.

Lucas finished regular-season play ranked in the top five in Division II in four categories, including second in hits and fifth in home runs and RBI.

US forward Pulisic, recovering from calf injury, trains separately in World Cup practice

Greg Beacham
AP Sports Writer

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — U.S. forward Christian Pulisic trained on his own during practice Monday while he rehabilitates a calf injury that limited him to one half of action in the Americans' opening World Cup victory last week.

Pulisic participated in individual work and then went to the gym while his teammates practiced at their training base in Irvine, California. The AC Milan attacker got kicked in the calf during training last week, and he left the Americans' 4-1 victory over Paraguay at halftime for precautionary reasons. Pulisic was outstanding

in the first match of his second World Cup, tormenting Paraguay's defense with repeated runs down the left side at SoFi Stadium. He recorded an assist on a goal by Folarin Balogun, and his playmaking was directly responsible for an own-goal scored by Paraguay while the Americans went ahead 3-0 in their highest-scoring performance in World Cup history.

The U.S. gave no update on Pulisic's condition Monday, but he said after the game that he didn't think it was serious.

"I just got a bit of a kick in the first half, so I'm really hoping that it's

nothing," Pulisic said at the time. "I'm hoping I'll be fine the next few days. Just the back of my leg, sort of my calf area. I'm staying positive. I don't think it's anything."

Pulisic and coach Mauricio Pochettino didn't speak to reporters Monday, but teammate Tyler Adams was not concerned.

"Christian will be ready, everyone," Adams told reporters. "Let's relax."

The U.S. continues group play in its home World Cup in Seattle on Friday against Australia, which also won its opening match. The Americans return to Inglewood on June 25 to face Turkey.

Lumbee Games set for Homecoming week

Staff report

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

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

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

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

Each match will be judged based on high school rules.

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

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

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

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

Call O.T. Johnson with

questions at 910-775-4116 or email him at ot.johnson@uncp.edu.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

their own divisions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Knicks make championship run to be remembered

Brian Mahoney
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK — By the time Jalen Brunson and the Knicks returned home, it was as easy to find something orange around New York as at Halloween.

The city was caught up in this championship run for nearly two months and the party will last at least a few days more, with the Knicks' first parade through New York — they didn't have one in 1970 or '73 — scheduled for Thursday.

The team will be remembered long after the confetti is picked up off the streets of Broadway — and not only in New York.

The 2025-26 Knicks have a place in NBA history.

Their postseason performance is in the discussion for the best in the 80-year history of the league, a run of routs and then comebacks for their first championship since 1973.

"What a run!" former President Barack Obama wrote in a tweet congratulating coach Mike Brown, Brunson and the rest of the Knicks.

One that was arguably as good even as any of Obama's beloved Bulls.

The Knicks finished 16-3, an .842 winning percentage that matched the 2024 Boston Celtics for the second best since the format switched to best-of-seven series in all rounds beginning in 2003. The 2017 Golden State Warriors finished 16-1.

The Los Angeles Lakers went 15-1 in 2001 and the Philadelphia 76ers finished 12-1 in 1983. Five teams finished a postseason with two losses.

The Knicks won 13 consecutive games at one point, second only to the Warriors' 15 in a row in 2017. They set records by winning nine straight on the road and outscoring their postseason opponents by 283 points.

They were still midway through the NBA Finals when rapper Fat Joe, one of the Knicks' orange-and-blue dressed celebrity fans, came to Brown's news conference and said what the team had



New York Knicks guard Jalen Brunson holds the MVP trophy after the Knicks defeated the San Antonio Spurs in Game 5 of the NBA Finals Saturday in San Antonio. Darren Abate | AP Photo

spent weeks making clear. "Let's just wait until it's over, but right now you analyze the numbers, we might be looking at the greatest team ever, like if you analyze the numbers," he said.

And when things stopped coming easily, the Knicks set records for the other ways they won. Their comeback from a 29-point deficit in Game 4 was the biggest rally in an NBA Finals game since detailed play-by-play began in 1997, and the Knicks capped it off by coming from 16 down in the clincher.

Add it up, and the Knicks can make a compelling case for the most dominant postseason ever.

"It's absolutely one of the great-

est ever," said Mike Breen, who calls Knicks games on MSG Network during the regular season and has been ABC's lead announcer for the NBA Finals since 2006.

"It's impossible for me to rank it, but when you take into account the point differential, the nine straight road wins, clinching all four series on the road, the two losses by one point, the two record-setting comebacks, it's in the conversation as the best ever."

Two of the Knicks' losses were by one point to Atlanta in the first round. The other was by four points in Game 3 against the Spurs, leaving them six points from a perfect postseason.

On the other side, they won clinching

games by 51, 30 and 37 points in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

The Knicks were never going to care about how they won, just that they did. Before the playoffs started, All-Star center Karl-Anthony Towns summed up the pressure the players faced in trying to get back to the NBA Finals for the first time since 1999 by saying: "At the end of the day we'll be judged by what we do in this run."

They will be judged well — historically well.

"We went through a lot this season, a lot of ups and downs, but we just stayed with it," forward OG Anunoby said. "We're resilient, mentally tough and we won."

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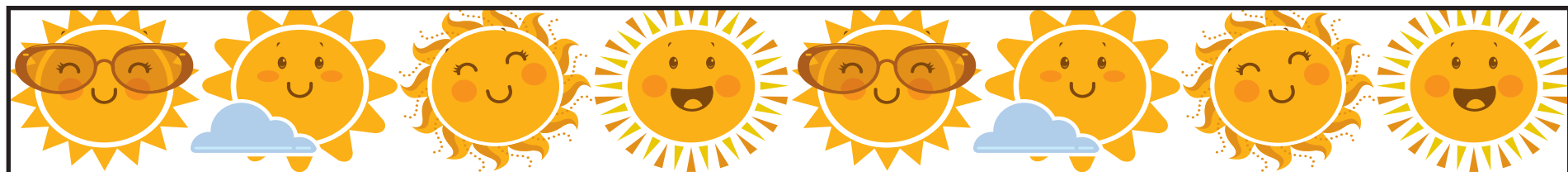
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SUMMER I Spy

How many do YOU spy?