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THE ROBESONIAN

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A Fresh Perspective

**Local
NEWS**

\$2.00



Photo courtesy of UNCP

Jennifer Weddle, general counsel for the Coalition of Large Tribes, speaks at the Native American Coalition for Economic Prosperity's (NACEP) Government-to-Government Roundtable Series recently held at UNC Pembroke.

National tribal leaders convene at UNCP

Mark Locklear
For The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — At a time of new opportunity for tribal nations, leaders representing more than 20 Native communities from across the country recently gathered at UNC Pembroke to discuss the challenges and opportunities shaping their future.

The fifth convening of the Native American Coalition for Economic Prosperity's (NACEP) Government-to-Government Roundtable Series brought tribal leaders, federal officials and development professionals to campus for discussions focused on workforce development, access to capital and strengthening tribal economies, while also exploring emerging opportunities in areas such as artificial intelligence, infrastructure and federal partnerships.

Founded by Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana

Chairman Marshall Pierite, NACEP serves as a national coalition of tribal nations working together to advance economic opportunity and self-determination.

"For too long, Indian Country has been told to wait," Pierite said during opening remarks. "Wait for opportunity. Wait for investment. Wait for infrastructure. Wait for policy to catch up. Wait for others to decide what is best for our communities. But tribal nations have never been passive observers in our own future."

"Today, we are here to say that our future is not something we are waiting for. Our future is something we are building right now," Pierite said.

The daylong event featured panel discussions with representatives from the U.S. Departments of Treasury, Commerce and Interior,

See TRIBES | 7A

Lumbees go to the polls



Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

The Lumbee Tribe held a special election Tuesday on whether or not to approve a constitutional amendment that would authorize and regulate gaming on tribal territory. Pictured, campaigners encouraging "yes" votes, left, and "no" votes, right, camp out in front of the polling site at the National Guard Army in Lumberton. The result of the election was unavailable at press time. For the full story, visit robsonian.com or see Saturday's print edition.

Breeches Buoy making local impact for those with substance abuse

Michele Chavis
The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — Breeches Buoy continues to make a positive impact in the Robeson County area, helping those struggling with substance abuse disorder with evidence-based treatment.

It was founded by Dr. Marla Hardenbergh in 2021 and is based in Lumberton.

"I want to become apart of something sustainable and replicable," said Hardenbergh. "This work is my passion. Soulful connections replace despair."

The program and its staff combine skilled and experienced healthcare providers with the individualized needs of each patient.

The program's results speak for themselves. Since the inception of the Breeches Bouy program, the emergency room overdose rate

at UNC Health Southeastern has decreased by 38%. The volume of neonatal patients related to substance use has dropped from 75% to 15%, and over \$8 million in insurance costs have been saved as patient's outcomes have improved.

UNC Health Southeastern is the only com-



Chris Stiles | The Robesonian file photo

Dr. Marla Hardenbergh makes a presentation to the Robeson County Board of Commissioners on the affects of substance use disorder in Robeson County and the need for funding to continue providing treatment during a 2023 board meeting in Lumberton.

munity hospital in North Carolina that offers a full scope service for the treatment of addiction disorders, Hardenbergh said. The goal is for other communities, nationwide,

to collaborate with the flagship program started in Lumberton so that more lives may be transformed.

See BREECHES | 7A



TODAY'S FORECAST

89/68 – Pleasant and less humid with times of clouds and sun

A NEWS

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B SPORTS

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

What's your take on today's news? Go to robsonian.com and visit us on Facebook to share your thoughts.



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Main Street Lumberton earns national accreditation

Staff report

LUMBERTON — Main Street Lumberton earned national accreditation status from Main Street America for 2026, the N.C. Department of Commerce announced Tuesday.

"National accreditation is one of the highest recognitions a Main

Street program can receive, earned through a rigorous evaluation process that examines every aspect of our work. As Main Street Director, I coordinate the annual assessment process, but this achievement reflects the many individuals who share a vision for Downtown Lumberton and contribute their

time, expertise, resources and support throughout the year," said Sarah Beth Ward, Lumberton's Downtown Development Coordinator. "I am proud of what our community has accomplished and thankful for the Advisory Board members, volunteers, business owners, property owners, investors, the

mayor and city council, city staff, Robeson County government, the Lumberton Visitors Bureau and community partners who make this work possible. Their dedication demonstrates that downtown revitalization is not about one district — it is about

See MAIN | 7A

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EDITOR’S NOTE

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

Pembroke board approves budget

Victoria Sanderson
The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — The Pembroke Town Council approved a town budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year during its meeting on Monday.

The budget was approved with minimal changes to the initial draft after considerable discussion. Mayor Allen Dial expressed concerns that the downtown revitalization project had more negative impact on the town than positive, citing a loss of parking spaces. Commissioner Channing Jones disagreed, stating that the revitalization project is attracting new businesses and will have a positive impact on the town.

The general fund budget is \$4,510,630, up marginally from the \$4,450,511 budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year. The water and sewer fund budget is \$2,962,300, also a marginal increase from the \$2,876,500 budget for FY25-26.

The budget includes a 3% cost-of-living adjustment for city employees and has limited capital outlay. There are no new positions in the city and no tax increases, City Manager Tyler Thomas told The Robesonian, though there will be an 8% rate increase for city water and sewer customers.

The board also discussed concerns about Commissioner Chad Deese’s continued service on the ABC board now that he is on the council. Ultimately, the board ruled that there was no precedent to remove him from the ABC board, and Deese will continue to serve on both boards.

Additionally, the board honored the Lumbee Tribe’s federal recognition with an official proclamation of congratulations.

Contact Victoria Sanderson at vsanderson@robesonian.com.

Locklear named Senior Ms. Lumbee



Lottie Locklear was named as the 2026 Senior Ms. Lumbee during the pageant held Friday at UNC Pembroke. Locklear is pictured with Lumbee Tribal Chairman John Lowery, second from left, and Tribal Speaker Alex Baker, right, after being named the winner.

Photo courtesy of Lumbee Tribe

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

575 Recognition Art Exhibition Reception, June 24 to July 8: Red Springs Artspace is hosting an opening reception for “575 Recognition”, a juried art exhibition. The exhibition is celebrating the Lumbee Tribe’s full Federal recognition. The exhibition will be on display at Red Springs Artspace from July 24 through July 8. An opening reception will be held June 24 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The regular open hours Red Springs Artspace is: Sundays 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Remembrance Poppy Exhibition, June 25, 11 a.m to 4 p.m.: The Robeson Art Guild invites members, friends and visitors to view the Artist Choice/Remembrance Poppy Exhibition. There is always something interesting going on at the Guild House. Wander through the exhibition and stop in the shop for gifts to purchase. The Guild House is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and other times by appointment.

Matt Letch - Your Pizza Pie, June 25, 7 p.m.: It’s Thursday Night! Time to go to Your Pie Pizza and hear the live sounds of Matt Letch and enjoy great food. Weather permitting, it might be an evening of outside dining.

Juneteenth Rainbow High Tea, June 26, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.: You are invited to attend an Inaugural Rainbow High Tea and UN FAST Initiative SDGs Program Launch on Friday, June 26, 2026 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$40. Groups and organizations may sponsor a table of up to 8 people for the Rainbow Tea for \$320. Come to the table and help us celebrate Black and Brown communities’ rich heritage while enjoying delicious African American foods tied to Black history. Come learn and connect through food, discussion, networking, and music.

Red, White, & Blue Revue - Fairmont, June 26-28, 7 p.m.: Fairmont is honoring America’s birthday, July 4, 1776, with three days of events. An American Pie Concert featuring live music by several groups. Day two, the parade starts at 10 a.m. Be prepared to see queens, decorated golf carts, vehicles, floats, music and more. Day three, attend Fairmont’s Fantastic Fireworks show. Happy birthday America!

57th annual Lumbee Homecoming, June 26 to July 4, 9 a.m - 5 p.m.: 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 history 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.

Bingo Night - 219 Elm, June 30, 6:30 p.m.: Join the fun at 219 Elm for BINGO NIGHT in support of Robeson County Humane Society. Every bingo card sold provides funds necessary to provide food, shelter, medical care and a second chance for cats and dogs in need. Join the fun and support the needs.

July 4th Celebration - Lumberton, July 2, 7 p.m.: The City of Lumberton is celebrating Independence Day with a family celebration at Lumberton Senior High School. Gates open at the stadium at 7 p.m. Enjoy live music featuring Rob Cole. The All Veteran Parachute Jump Team will “drop” in and the fireworks show begins at 9:30 p.m. Other vendors, food trucks, face painting and inflatables

America’s 250th Birthday Bash - Carolina Civic Center, July 3, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.: St. Paul’s Possible presents a celebration of America’s 250th Birthday! Join the gala of fun and festivities at the Carolina Civic Center in Historic Downtown Lumberton. The Swingin’ Richards, an eight-piece ensemble that blends classic rock and R&B with guitars and sax will entertain. Make your reservation by June 15.

Strike At The Wind, July 4-18, 7 p.m.: “Strike at the Wind” is an outdoor drama held in the amphitheater of the Lumbee Tribe Cultural Center. The play chronicles the life of Henry Berry Lowrie, who led a band of men in a seven-year conflict against the Confederate Home Guard after the unjust killings of his father and brother. It highlights vigilante justice resistance, and the active fight for the Lumbee people’s rights during the post-Civil War era in North Carolina. Tickets are available through the ticket office of Given’s Performing Arts Center (https://www.uncp.edu/community-and-culture/givens-performing-arts-center/index.html) and at the entrance of the Lumbee Tribe Cultural Center, the night of the performance. The venue opens at 5:45 p.m. Pre-show entertainment begins at 6:15 p.m. and the drama begins at 7 p.m.

Love and Heartbreak Concert - Carolina Civic Center, July 18, 5 p.m.: The Carolina Civic Center is hosting “Love & Heartbreak” featuring music from the 90’s. This is an evening of live music, food, drinks and unforgettable vibes. Doors open at 5:00pm, purchase tickets early, dress up and be ready for an exciting evening. Ticket information is available on the

Carolina Civic Center website.

4-H Congress, July 20-24: The ultimate teen leadership opportunity. We will spend five days in Raleigh with youth taking part in workshops, cultural opportunities and social events. Youth will have an opportunity to take on leadership roles, complete community service projects, and have fun making new friends. For ages 14-18. Cost:\$450. Deadline to register is July 1.

Kaftans, Stogies, and Musik, July 25, 5:30 - 10 p.m.: Designed to bring the community together in a refined yet relaxed setting, the event serves as the premiere scholarship fundraiser. Proceeds go directly to support the educational advancement of deserving students in the Lumberton community.

ONGOING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Lumberton celebrates Juneteenth



Chris Stiles | The Robesonian
A member of the Lumberton High School marching band performs during a Juneteenth Parade Saturday in Lumberton.



Spectators wave during a Juneteenth Parade Saturday in Lumberton.



Ashleigh Clark, of Lumberton, gets her face painted during the Juneteenth Festival at W.H. Knuckles Elementary School Saturday in Lumberton.



Drum majors from the Lumberton High School marching band perform during a Juneteenth Parade Saturday in Lumberton.



The Lumberton Juneteenth First Queen during a Juneteenth Parade Saturday in Lumberton.



Ra-Shad Suggs, one of the 15 Under 50, waves during a Juneteenth Parade Saturday in Lumberton.



Members of the Lumberton High School marching band perform during a Juneteenth Parade Saturday in Lumberton.



The Xplosive Dollz perform during a Juneteenth Parade Saturday in Lumberton.



Bre-ill Gregg holds her brother, Jamere Thompson, 4 months, as they await a Juneteenth Parade Saturday in Lumberton.



Motorcyclists hold signs in memory of Sgt. Kayla Kyle during a Juneteenth Parade Saturday in Lumberton.



The Dynamic Divas perform during a Juneteenth Parade Saturday in Lumberton.

Purple Door Productions brings ‘1776’ to the stage

Devin Hammonds
The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — Purple Door Productions is bringing a pivotal moment in history to life with its production of “1776,” which begins at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, July 17.

The show runs on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Sunday, July 26.

Purple Door Productions, a nonprofit community theater serving Robeson County, presents a variety of productions throughout the year, ranging from musicals and comedies to dramas. This summer, the theater is spotlight-

ing the Tony Award-winning musical 1776, directed and produced by Jeanne Koonce.

Koonce said the production has long been a dream project.

“I have always wanted to make this play,” Koonce said.

The musical tells the story of the debates and political struggles surrounding the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Written by Sherman Edwards, a former history teacher with a passion for the Revolutionary era, “1776” was the only musical he ever created. Edwards teamed up with

acclaimed Broadway writer Peter Stone to bring the story to the stage.

Koonce said the timing of the production made it a natural choice.

“We chose the show because of the 250th birthday celebration of the United States founding, which happens in July,” she said.

The musical opens with members of the Continental Congress locked in heated debate over independence from Great Britain. The story follows the historic discussions and disagreements that unfolded from May through July 1776, while the Revolutionary War

raged in the background.

“When the show opens, they’re in the middle of this argument, and this argument continues from May through July,” Koonce explained. “Everything that’s going on is set against the backdrop of the war itself, from Lexington and Concord to the battles being fought throughout the colonies.”

Everyone is welcome and cake and ice cream will be served at each show.

Performance times and tickets are available at purpledoorproductions.ludus.com.

Devin Hammonds is an intern for The Robesonian.

FROM THE LEGISLATURE

Budd leads bill to codify elimination of foreign aid to fund abortion, DEI, LGBTQ programs

WASHINGTON — U.S. Sen. Ted Budd (R-N.C.) introduced the Promoting Human Flourishing in Foreign Assistance Act today to codify the Trump Administration’s Promoting Human Flourishing in Foreign Assistance (PHFFA) Policy. This legislation would reinstate and expand Mexico City Policy by preventing U.S. foreign assistance from being used to fund abortion or the promotion of abortion, DEI and pro-LGBTQ ideology.

“U.S. foreign assistance programs have been exploited as a loophole to promote far-left, radical ideology on the dime of American taxpayers for far too long. Future administrations must not be permitted to spend millions of taxpayer dollars on programs funding abortion, DEI, and gender ideology

abroad. Our country’s foreign assistance priorities should benefit our national security and strengthen our relationship with allies and partners—not advance a politically driven checklist of radical agenda items,” said Budd.

Under PHFFA (Protecting Life in Foreign Assistance, Combating Gender Ideology in Foreign Assistance, Combating Discriminatory Equity Ideology in Foreign Assistance), the Trump Administration has already identified many U.S. foreign assistance programs, paid for with taxpayer dollars, that are funding abortion, DEI and gender ideology through global health, humanitarian, and development aid.



Budd

Examples include:

- Illegal use of the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to pay for abortions in Mozambique.
- Funding for the New Alliance for Global Equality to advance “global LGBTQI+ awareness.”
- Funding to promote democracy for LGBTQI+ populations in the Western Balkans.
- Funding to an organization in Guatemala to, among other things, “strengthen trans-led organizations to deliver gender-affirming health care.”

The Promoting Human Flourishing in Foreign Assistance Act would close loopholes in previous iterations of the Mexico City Policy by:

- Expanding covered entities: Covers U.S. NGOs, international organizations, and foreign governments and parastatals in addition to foreign NGOs. Expanding Covered Activities: Covers the promotion of DEI and gender ideology in addition to abortion and the promotion of abortion.
- Expanding covered foreign assistance: Covers most non-military foreign assistance, not just global health assistance.
- Providing for a waiver: Permits the Secretary of State to waive provisions of this bill in certain circumstances.

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

OPINION SHAPER

How to kill the Supreme Court in one easy step

In 2016, the conservative writer Mike Anton made a galvanizing case for Donald Trump in his famous “Flight 93” essay, arguing that the stakes in the contest between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton were existential.

His contention that a Clinton win would cement Democratic electoral dominance forever, such that Republicans needed to charge the cockpit or die, was implausible at the time and seems more so in retrospect.

If Hillary had won in 2016, in all likelihood, she would have been gone in 2020, washed away by the pandemic just like Trump was.

This time, though, really might be different. Democrats are now seriously contemplating measures that wouldn’t have occurred to Hillary Clinton circa 2016. Endorsing some version of court-packing, or “court reform,” as Democrats insist on calling it, is becoming orthodoxy among mainstream Democrats.

Several weeks ago, James Carville said that Democrats should pack the Court and add the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico as states in 2028 if they get unified control of Washington.

The immediate past Democratic presidential nominee, who has some chance of winning the 2028 Democratic nomination, Kamala Harris, associated herself with the same ideas. She added abolishing the Electoral College to the list.

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, who easily could be the Speaker of the House next year, has said: “In the new Congress, we’re going to have to do something about this Supreme Court, and let me be very clear: Everything is on the table.”

The top Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, Jamie Raskin, has fashioned a reason why the Supreme Court needs to be expanded by four justices (supposedly, the number of justices should match the number of federal circuits at 13).

If all these ideas were to become consensus Democratic agenda items in 2028, they would constitute one of the most radical political platforms of a major political party in American history.

Court-packing alone would be a seismic, system-changing event, as would abolishing the Electoral College, which has been foundational to our presidential elections from the beginning.

The common theme of all of this would be guaranteeing outcomes — four new progressive justices, four new Democratic senators — in blatant power grabs undermining the legitimacy of the institutions in question.

What would a world look like where a substantial portion of the country thinks the Supreme Court is a sham, and not because the court is issuing unwelcome opinions, but because the court has been arbitrarily changed to produce a predetermined ideological result through a grotesque end-run around the rules?

Democrats will say Republicans have already done this, even though the GOP operated within standard procedures to forge the current conservative majority. Did Republicans play hardball? Sure. But their influence on the composition of the court depended on winning presidential and senate elections, and taking advantage of fortuitous timing to confirm justices the way they’ve always been confirmed.

Manufacturing new seats out of nothing, or forcing the retirements of conservative justices by fiat, would be a blatant rigging of the court. If a portion of the country thinks that it no longer needs to abide by the Court’s decisions, that obviously creates the predicate for serious civil strife. The same is true if Congress is no longer seen as legitimate after it is packed with newly minted Democratic senators.

Democrats feel justified in embracing any means to match and exceed Trump’s comprehensive aggressiveness. Trump’s provocations — the lawfare, the executive overreach, the wars without congressional authorization, the gerrymandering — all have ample precedent among prior Democratic presidents. Democrats, of course, don’t see it that way, and they fear and loathe Donald Trump more than they have any other Republican president.

In reaction, should they sweep in 2028, they may try to push the American constitutional order past an event horizon from which it will never return. In other words, 12 years after the GOP was told to charge the cockpit or die, the stakes for our system really could be existential.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



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HIS VIEW

Carolínians set stage for Declaration

RALEIGH — As we prepare to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, here is a question worth pondering: was the event it sought to explain and justify, the American War of Independence, fated to succeed?

Some historians say yes. They argue that while the rebellious colonies of North America contained a small population and limited military resources, they also comprised a sprawling territory that was simply impossible for any feasibly sized force of British regulars, auxilia-ries and Loyalist militia to subdue and hold.

Other historians disagree. While outright conquest might have been practically impossible, they correctly note that many colonists were Tory in their sym-pathies and an even-large swath were disinclined to fight on either side. A few decisive defeats, followed by the capture of key Patriot political and military leaders, might have induced some of the colonies to submit, they argue, leaving the remaining rump of revolution-ary states too isolated and deprived of resources to continue their resistance.

I'm in the latter camp, at least regarding the first couple of years of the war. After the British realized they couldn't hold rebellious Boston, their leaders formed the correct strategic insight: attack the enemy at its weakest point, not its strongest. They decided to redeploy their forces southward to remove the Car-olinas and Georgia from the conflict. Virginia would have been their next target — and if it fell, the Amer-ican Revolution would falter and, eventually, collapse.

It was Britain's best play. It was not fated to fail. It was, over the course of six months, systematically defeated by the concerted efforts of a comparatively ragtag force of Patriots, most hailing from North and South Carolina.

During the first stage of the campaign, Patriots blocked a column of North Carolina Loyalists march-ing down the Cape Fear River to join up with an approaching invasion force of British redcoats. At the Feb. 27, 1776 battle of Moores Creek Bridge, nearly all the Tories were killed, captured or dispersed.

Weeks later, when British generals Henry Clinton and Charles Cornwallis finally converged on Wilming-ton, they discovered no reinforcements were coming.



John Hood
Contributing columnist

After some indecisive skirmishing, they decid-ed to reembark on their ships and sail south to the port of Charlestown (now Charleston). Tak-ing this largest city in the region would, they surmised, lead to the capture of the Carolinas.

Perhaps, at this early stage in the war, it would have. But Charleston had stout cham-pions. Among them were soon-to-be-famous men such as Francis Marion, Thomas Sumter and William Moultrie, a local militia colonel who deemed Sullivan's Island at the mouth of the harbor as its most defensible point. It was Moultrie who supervised the construction of a fort made of palmetto logs.

In addition to these South Carolínians, Charleston's defenders included hundreds of North Carolina mili-tiamen from such counties as Bladen, Halifax, Meck-lenburg and Rowan. Some were stationed in the city itself, others on James Island or in other strongpoints ringing the harbor.

On June 28, 1776, the British attacked. Their war-ships pounded the fort on Sullivan's Island. Their soldiers landed on its northern end. Neither gambit worked. After withering fire from entrenched Patriots, the redcoats withdrew. As for the fort, British can-nonballs thudded ineffectually into its walls of spongy palmetto.

Charleston did fall — but not until 1780. By then, the American cause had weathered many storms and gained the crucial support of the French and Spanish. Leaving a garrison to hold Charleston, Cornwallis headed inland and won a series of battles so costly in casualties and irrelevant in strategic value that he was compelled to flee to Yorktown in hopes of resupply or evacuation. We know how that turned out.

It was 250 years ago this week, then, that Carolín-ians put an end to Britain's first Southern Strategy, and with it the Crown's best chance to win the war. The Continental Congress in Philadelphia was about to finalize the Declaration of Independence. Its rel-evance rested on a hard-fought battle nearly 700 miles away.

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

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

TIGER

by Bud Blake

OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Milholland

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINGOFF

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: V equals S

UPSY M VSS VNQSXP MYO

ESBWZ KLXS BYF OSX XPS

LEOS XN SQGSWWMVP MX,

M KEZ "PNU BFNEYBGWS!"

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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!

Irony
AIRSET

Deal
DACCOR

Slice
CAVER

Expand
DRAPES

TODAY'S WORD

"I guess you can say this vacation saved our marriage — now we can't afford a _____."

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 "Caught ya!"

4 Spring melt-down

8 Baby's bed

12 Barbecue seasoning

13 Meditative exercise

14 Verdi heroine

15 Muffin-like treats

17 General — Chicken

18 Couturier Christian

19 Bracelet site

20 Liniment targets

22 "Arrivederci —"

24 One-named supermodel

25 Castle features

29 Unruly group

30 Ram

31 Solidify

32 Short extracts

34 Taj Mahal site

35 TV host Kelly

36 Analyze

37 Poultry choice

40 Humdrum

41 Honker

42 Marching band section

46 Scrambled wd.

7 Existed

8 40 winks

9 Jeopardize

10 Teen fave

11 Pyramid part

16 Carriage

19 You love (Lat.)

20 Goals

21 "Let's go!"

22 Indian yogurt dish

23 Unrefined metals

25 Get ready, briefly

26 Paint finish

27 Prefix with byte

30 Neat as —

33 Plug parts

34 Now, on a memo

36 Makeup brand

37 Scorch

38 Highly rated

39 Baby carriage

40 Duelist Aaron

42 Youngster

43 MGM rival

44 Eastern path

45 Boston team, for short

DOWN

1 Curved line

2 "Ben- —"

3 Middle Eastern capital

4 Printing errors

5 Farmer, at times

6 Literary rep

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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FiveSpot™

A quieter approach

S	T	O	I	C

Followers of Zeno

Old fashioned medicine

Hunk of metal

San Francisco player

CIA or FBI operative

Diversion from a straight line

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.sproutspuzzle.com

02645

King Crossword

Solution time: 26 mins.

Answers

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

Trivia Answers

1. "Green Acres", 1959
2. Denmark, Sweden and Finland
3. 1999
4. Heart attack
5. Ostris
6. The Philadelphia Museum of Art
7. PISCES, CANCER and SCORPIO
8. 54
9. Arizona
10. Endocrine

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. TELEVISION: Which TV sitcom features a pet pig named Arnold Ziffel?
2. GEOGRAPHY: Which three countries make up Scandinavia?
3. MONEY: When was the euro currency introduced?
4. MEDICAL TERMS: What is a more common name for myocardial infarction?
5. MYTHOLOGY: Who is the Egyptian god of the underworld?
6. MOVIES: What is the building whose steps Rocky Balboa climbs triumphantly in the movie "Rocky"?
7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which three signs of the Zodiac are considered to be water signs?
8. GAMES: How many wooden blocks are in a game of Jenga?
9. U.S. STATES: Which state is home to the Petrified Forest National Park?
10. ANATOMY: Which system in the human body is responsible for hormone production and regulation?

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SCRAMBLERS

Today's Word

3. Carve; 4. Spread

1. Saffron; 2. Accord

Solution

V	A	N	G	L	E
A	G	E	N	T	
G	I	A	N	T	
O	G	N	I	T	
C	I	N	O		
S	T	O			

FiveSpot™

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

CryptoQuip

When I see something really cute and get the urge to embellish it, I cry "How adorable!"

THE ROBESONIAN

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LEGALS	LEGALS	LEGALS	LEGALS	LEGALS	Miscellaneous
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. WAYNE CUMMINGS 5799 RENNERT ROAD SHANNON NC 28386 6/3 6/10 6/17 6/24 2026 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF HOPE DEANNER CARROLL BENTON AKA HOPE DEANER CARROLL BENTON DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 25 E 002072-770 The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the estate of HOPE DEANNER CARROLL BENTON AKA HOPE DEANER CARROLL BENTON, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of SEPTEMBER 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This is the 3rd day of JUNE 2026 RICHARD MACK BENTON II 2116 E 7TH ST LUMBERTON NC 28358 6/3 6/10 6/17 6/24 2026 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF 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 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 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF JAMES WILLIAM MELVIN JR DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 26 E 000439-770 The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the estate of JAMES WILLIAM MELVIN JR, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of SEPTEMBER 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This is the 3rd day of JUNE 2026. ROBERT STEPHEN HAGEN 12796 NC HWY 71 N RED SPRING NC 28377 6/3 6/10 6/17 6/24 2026 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF 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 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 WOODPELL 299 BROOKS STREET PEMBROKE NC 28372 6/10 6/17 6/24 7/1 2026 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF MABEL DORIS LOCKLEAR DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 26 E 000423-770 The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the estate of MABEL DORIS LOCKLEAR, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of SEPTEMBER 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This is the 3rd day of JUNE 2026. PEGGY L HUNT 120 ETTA DRIVE PEMBROKE NC 28372 6/3 6/10 6/17 6/24 2026 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF MARY HANNAH HOLLINGSWORTH DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 26 E 000563-770 The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of MARY HANNAH HOLLINGSWORTH, 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 28th 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 24th day of JUNE 2026. THOMAS MILTON WHITE 300 JOHN BALLENTINE RD IRMO SC 29063 6/24 7/1 7/8 7/15 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 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	STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF ROBERT LEE HAMMONDS JR DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 26 E 000584-770 The undersigned having qualified as Executors, of the Estate of ROBERT LEE HAMMONDS 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 28th 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 24th day of JUNE 2026. JUDY ANN JACOBS CO-EXECUTOR 1696 ELIJAH RD ORRUM NC 28369 JAYLA MAKIA GADDY CO-EXECUTOR 1696 ELIJAH RD ORRUM NC 28369 6/24 7/1 7/8 7/15 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 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 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 VILLASENOR GONZALES, JUVENILE IN RE: ISAI VILLASENOR GONZALES, JUVENILE TO: YENELI GONZALES-CRUZ, RESPONDENT MOTHER ROLANDO MARTINEZ, FATHER VILLASENOR-RESPONDENT 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	STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF WILMA JEAN HERRING DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 26 E 000542-770 The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of WILMA JEAN HERRING, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of SEPTEMBER 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This is the 10th day of JUNE 2026. JACLYN HERRING BENTON 1689 MERCER MILL RD LUMBERTON NC 28358 6/10 6/17 6/24 7/1 2026 NOTICE OF 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 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 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	FOR SALE LAMINATING MACHINE COMMERCIAL SEWING MACHINE PFAFF 491 PHONE 910-648-4608 Help Wanted General Robeson Community College Program Director, Business and Information Technologies (Hybrid Position) (\$15,000 Signing Bonus) Robeson Community College is seeking a qualified and motivated Program Director to provide administrative leadership and instructional oversight for assigned academic programs. For a list of duties and to apply, visit www.robeson.edu/hr or contact Human Resources at hr@robeson.edu. Deadline for applications: Open until filled ROBESON COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER Robeson Community College College Instructional Technology Manager (FT Hybrid) Robeson Community College is seeking an Instructional Technology Manager to support and enhance online learning and instructional technology initiatives. This position collaborates with faculty and academic leaders to provide LMS support, improve course design and assessment, and coordinate professional development opportunities through the College's Center for Teaching and Learning. For a list of qualifications and to apply, visit www.robeson.edu/hr or contact Human Resources at hr@robeson.edu. Deadline for applications: June 30, 2026 ROBESON COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER Robeson Community College College LMS Administrator (FT Hybrid) Robeson Community College seeks a Learning Management System (LMS) Administrator to support Canvas, educational technology integration, faculty training, and distance learning initiatives. Requires a bachelor's degree in Information Technology, or a related field and three years of LMS administration or higher education IT support experience. For a list of qualifications and to apply, visit www.robeson.edu/hr or contact Human Resources at hr@robeson.edu. Deadline for applications: July 1, 2026 ROBESON COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER Want To Buy GOOD CONDITION CARGO VAN USED CHEVY-FORD-DODGE ASK FOR RON 910-521-9314 LEAVE MESSAGE IF NO ANSWER LEAVE PRICE, MILEAGE, YR AND COLOR House For Rent FOR RENT 3 BEDROOM 2 BATH MOBILE HOME PRIVATE LOT 900.00 A MONTH 1000.00 DEPOSIT 2 BEDROOM 2 BATH MOBILE HOME 825.00 A MONTH 1000.00 DEPOSIT PLEASE CALL 9103169642 Want to Rent 3 BED 2 BATH MOBILE HOME FOR RENT IN FAIRMONT AREA CALL RUTH 910-374-7647 Rentals 2 BED&2 BATH singlewide ST.PAULS 3BED &2 BATH singlewide ORRUM AREA area Call 910-739-7749

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going to
waste



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4	5	6	-
1	2	3	
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finding or
selling what
you want...



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DYB 6U COACH PITCH STATE TOURNAMENT



The West Robeson Blue 6U team celebrates after winning the DYB State Tournament Monday in Lumberton. Photos by Jacob Husson | The Robesonian

West Rob. wins 6U DYB state title

Jacob Husson
The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — Many young children dream about winning baseball championships. Well, the West Robeson Blue team did just that Monday, defeating Hope Mills 19-16 to win the Diamond Youth Baseball 6U Coach Pitch State Tournament. They now advance to the World Series in Laurel, Mississippi, scheduled for July 29 through Aug. 3.

Both offenses came to play in the championship game as both teams racked up runs in what was a back and forth game all night. West Robeson blue held a 3-2 lead after the first inning. They scored five runs that went unanswered to lead 8-2 after the third inning. Back and forth offensive fireworks had them up 14-11 after the fifth inning.

After more offensive firepower, West Robeson Blue won 19-16 to win the state championship.

At the award ceremony after the game, players on both teams received medals for the impressive performances that got them there.

The presentation of medals and other accolades provided a perfect opportunity for parents to take pictures and take



West Robeson Blue's Jamison Locklear (9) puts the ball in play during Monday's DYB 6U State Tournament game in Lumberton.



West Robeson Blue's Jaxxon Locklear, bottom, slides into home plate during Monday's DYB 6U State Tournament game in Lumberton.



The West Robeson Blue 6U team celebrates after winning the DYB State Tournament Monday in Lumberton.



Rebecca S. Gratz | AP Photo
From left, North Carolina undergraduate assistant coach Kyle Datres, Macon Winslow and Olin Johnson sit in the dugout following their loss to Oklahoma in Game 3 of the College World Series final Monday in Omaha, Neb.

Sooners roll past Tar Heels for CWS title

Eric Olson
AP Sports Writer

OMAHA, Neb. — The way its regular season unfolded, a national championship for Oklahoma would have seemed impossible.

The way the postseason unfolded, well, there was no stopping the Sooners.

OU completed the improbable run to its first national championship since 1994 with a 13-2 victory over North Carolina in the winner-take-all Game 3 of the College World Series finals Monday night, a performance that featured the prodigious offensive production and clutch pitching the Sooners rode through the NCAA Tournament.

"I think we knew the talent was always in the room," said Jaxon Willits, named the CWS most

outstanding player. "We got hot at the right time, and now we're national champions."

The Sooners (43-23) won the Southeastern Conference's seventh straight title, quite an accomplishment for a team picked 14th in the 16-team conference in the preseason, finished 11th and entered the postseason off losses in seven of nine games.

To get to Omaha, they beat No. 2 national seed Georgia Tech twice on the road in regionals and swept upstart Kansas on the road in super regionals. To get to the finals, they beat No. 3 Georgia twice in bracket play.

"They got really confident the last month," OU coach Skip Johnson said. "They care about each

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Marta Lavandier | AP Photo
Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) dribbles the ball during a March 12 game against the Miami Heat in Miami. The NBA superstar was reportedly traded to Miami late Monday.

Giannis sent to Heat in blockbuster

Tim Reynolds
AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI — Giannis Antetokounmpo wants more championships. So do the Miami Heat.

Their interests are officially aligned — and the Heat finally have another superstar.

Ending a marathon watch for the next great Miami get, the Heat landed Antetokounmpo — a two-time NBA MVP and 10-time All-Star — from the Milwaukee Bucks on Monday night in exchange for a massive haul of players and draft picks.

The terms, according to a person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the move had yet

to receive the required league approval: Antetokounmpo and Bobby Portis are heading to Miami for Wisconsin native Tyler Herro, Jaime Jaquez Jr., Kel'el Ware and Kasparas Jakucionis.

Milwaukee also gets the No. 13 selection that will be made in Tuesday night's NBA draft, along with a first-round pick swap in 2030, first-round picks in 2031 and 2033 and a second-rounder in 2033, the person said.

It ends a wild back-and-forth in the final days of the saga, with the Bucks considering offers from both Miami and Boston for Antetokounmpo — who led Milwaukee

See GIANNIS | 2B

Baseball

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other. They didn't want to give in. They were selfless."

North Carolina (54-14-1) was runner-up for the third time since 2006 and now has 13 CWS appearances without a title. Only Florida State, with 24, has more without winning it all.

The Sooners were back in top form offensively after managing only four singles in a 6-2 loss in Game 2 and handed the Tar Heels their most lopsided loss of the season.

"We ran out of gas when all is said and done," Carolina coach Scott Forbes said.

When Jackson Cleveland struck out Jake Schaffner to end the game, he and catcher Deiten Lachance embraced and then headed to the dogpile that formed near third base. Players waving national championship towels rushed back toward their dugout to salute the celebrating Sooner faithful on the first-base line, football greats Barry Switzer and Brian Bosworth among them.

Kyle Branch, the No. 9 batter who came into the game 1 of 16 (.063) in the CWS, drove in six runs with a pair of singles and home run. His homer came on his last at-bat, just as brother Kolby's did for Georgia last Wednesday.

"Pure joy. Pure joy for our team," Branch said. "I had a teammate tell me I was going to do something special, and for him to tell me that with the way things have been going, it has to be a God thing."

He joined Dayton Tockey as the seventh and eighth OU players to homer in Omaha. Willits had three hits, reached base five times and finished the CWS 13 of 25 (.520).

The pitching matchup of Carolina's

Jackson Rose (5-1) and Oklahoma's Nick Wesloski was the first between freshmen in a CWS winner-take-all game since 1993. Neither got out of the third inning.

LJ Mercurius (7-7) turned in another strong performance out of the bullpen, shutting down a threat when OU led 3-1 in the third and holding the Tar Heels to one run in 5 2/3 innings. He allowed just two runs in 12 1/3 over four CWS appearances.

The Tar Heels' pitching staff, which had the best ERA in the Atlantic Coast Conference, had been good and occasionally great in the CWS. It was neither Monday, with eight pitchers combining to allow 14 hits, issue eight walks, throw three wild pitches and hit a batter.

ACC freshman of the year Caden Glauber, who had given up just one run in 10 1/3 innings in four CWS appearances, was called on for a fifth one day after he threw 65 pitches in five shutout innings. It was apparent coach Forbes went to the well one time too many.

Glauber was called for a clock violation before he even threw his first pitch. He issued a four-pitch bases-loaded walk and Willits followed with a two-run single to make it 6-1 in the fourth. That was all for Glauber, who threw seven pitches, five of them balls. The Tar Heels had won all 29 games in which Glauber had pitched before Monday.

"This group loved each other all season and took us on a ride and came up just short," Forbes said. "I'd take that ride every day of the year. While we're sad, the sadness will go away. We talk about joy. Joy doesn't go away. These guys have given me, our coaching staff, our fans, administration, everybody, a ton of joy and a ton to be proud of."

West Robeson wins 12U district title



Contributed photo

The West Robeson Blue team won the Diamond Youth Baseball District 9 Majors (12U) championship last week. West Robeson Blue defeated Fairmont 13-3, beat Lumberton 11-1, topped West Robeson White 13-0 and again beat Fairmont 11-4. They advance to the state tournament July 10-14 in Leland. Also, West Robeson's White team won the district tournament sportsmanship award. Pictured, in the front row from left, are West Robeson Blue's Colton Oxendine, Jaxon Maynor, Micah Locklear, Kadon Lowery, Derian Strickland and Jeremiah Jacobs. In the back row, from left, are coach Ross Maynor, coach Steven Oxendine, David Locklear, Theodore Locklear, Anderson Locklear, Brayden Clark, Kohl Dees, Ayden Deese and coach Sandy Jacobs.

Giannis

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to the 2021 NBA title, was on the NBA's 75th anniversary list of its greatest players ever, is a nine-time All-NBA selection and is coming off an injury-shortened season in which he averaged 27.6 points per game.

Heat go star hunting again, and it pays off

There has been no secret that this is what Miami has sought, because this is what Miami usually seeks. The Heat pulled off similar moves by landing Shaquille O'Neal in 2004 (helping lead to the 2006 NBA title) and by getting LeBron James and Chris Bosh to play alongside Dwyane Wade in 2010 (leading to four NBA Finals runs in four seasons together, along with the 2012 and 2013 NBA titles).

Now, it's Antetokounmpo's turn. At 31, the Heat clearly believe he still has many good years left — and it's generally presumed that by making this deal they'll give the Greek superstar a massive extension later this year.

He was a perennial MVP candidate in Milwaukee, getting votes for

that award in nine consecutive seasons before 2025-26 when too many missed games left him ineligible.

He has averaged 24.1 points and 9.9 rebounds per game in his career, with 10 consecutive seasons of averaging at least 22.9 points — with three years in there of averaging more than 30 points per game.

Only seven active players have more points in their careers than Antetokounmpo, who has totaled 21,531 to this point.

A trade seemed inevitable

Antetokounmpo had been mentioned in trade talks countless times in recent years, with the Bucks always insisting — with words and actions — that they had no interest in trading their best player and one of the best players in the history of the franchise.

But this time, it seemed different.

The Bucks, who fired Doc Rivers as coach after the season, don't have a roster that would be considered a championship contender. By trading Antetokounmpo, they can essentially start over with four players (and the Heat were high on all of them) along with draft capital.

"I just think before the draft is a natural time, right, because if Giannis does play somewhere else we're going to get a lot of assets. ... You've got to get it right," Bucks

co-owner Jimmy Haslam said in May, when the team introduced new coach Taylor Jenkins — who was told that Antetokounmpo may or may not be with the franchise when next season starts.

Jenkins and the rest of the NBA now has the answer: Antetokounmpo won't be there.

Antetokounmpo had spoken highly of Miami many times over the years, even when the Heat and Bucks were going head-to-head in the playoffs. He also shares an agent with Heat star center Bam Adebayo, who was the only player Miami clearly was not willing to part with in order to make this deal happen.

"They're going to play tough and they're not going to stop playing," Antetokounmpo said after Milwaukee played Miami on March 12. "That's the Miami Heat culture."

Little did anyone know that night that those words were coming after what would be the next-to-last game for Antetokounmpo in a Bucks uniform. He played three nights later against Indiana, then was held out of Milwaukee's final 15 games of the season.

The Bucks said that was for injury-related reasons. Antetokounmpo said he wanted to play.

He had some bouts with injuries this past season: Antetokounmpo missed four games in late November with a left adductor strain and

sat out eight games in December with a right calf strain, then he injured the right calf again in January.

He landed awkwardly on a dunk in that March 15 victory over Indiana and didn't play again due to what team officials had labeled as a left knee hyperextension and bone bruise. Antetokounmpo said the last few weeks of the season that he was healthy and wanted to play, a dispute that resulted in an investigation by the league office.

For Antetokounmpo, it's about legacy

Antetokounmpo said coming into the 2025-26 season that he is at the point in his career where he thinks about his legacy, and how more championships are important to him. Told he is already considered an all-time great, he bristled at the notion.

"I'm not there yet," Antetokounmpo said that day at Bucks training camp.

That's hard to believe, considering his resume. He's won a championship. He's been an MVP. He's been an NBA Finals MVP. He's a perennial All-Star and All-NBA pick. He's one of only seven players born somewhere other than the 50 states of the U.S. to have reached the 20,000-point mark. In 2025, he led Greece to its first EuroBasket medal in 16 years.

"Every basketball player, every athlete, starts a career and they have this quest of what they want to accomplish and what to be remembered for," Antetokounmpo said in that same training camp interview. "And I think at this point, I've accomplished everything that I've put my mind to."

He said those words in Miami. And now, Miami is about to be his new home.

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ROBESON COUNTY ATHLETIC SPOTLIGHT

RED SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL

KYLEE THAMES
Football, Basketball, Track

Red Springs' Kylee Thames excelled across multiple sports in his only season with the Red Devils. On the gridiron, he caught 64 passes for 1,001 yards and four touchdowns while compiling 40 tackles and five interceptions at defensive back. He averaged 7.7 points, 4.0 rebounds, 3.9 assists and 2.4 steals in basketball, and was also on the track team.

PURNELL SWETT HIGH SCHOOL

NYLAH JOHNSON
Softball, Basketball

Purnell Swett catcher Nylah Johnson will continue her softball career at UNC Pembroke after hitting .423 in her senior season with the Rams with 13 doubles, 23 RBIs and 18 runs, helping lead Purnell Swett to conference and Slugfest championships. She also averaged 3.5 points, 7.6 rebounds and 2.4 steals per game during basketball season.

Clark shows toughness as US Open champ Long Island didn’t want

Doug Ferguson
AP Golf Writer

SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. — For thousands in the gallery on the final day of the U.S. Open, he was a most unpopular champion.

One media account noted that he “defeated par, pressure and a hostile gallery Sunday” and that he “stalked poker-faced through the heat and caustic comments of the gallery.” The local columnist wrote “except for a few strays from his hometown,” nobody rooted for him.

That was Jack Nicklaus in 1962 at Oakmont.

Nicklaus certainly can relate to the toughness Wyndham Clark showed Sunday at Shinnecock Hills to become a U.S. Open champion for the second time. If hearing the crowd cheer his bad shots wasn’t enough of a challenge, Clark’s six-shot lead was nearly gone in five holes. But he showed his moxie by not letting Sam Burns or anyone else catch him.

“He had some stones down the stretch,” said Scottie Scheffler, high praise from golf’s best player.

But could Nicklaus relate to the “hostile gallery” and “caustic comments” Clark endured? Hostile and caustic had a different meaning in 1962.

Society has changed mightily over the past 64 years, and it’s getting worse by the year. The Long Island fans — no one would refer to them as “patrons” — had no filter and no restraint. But this isn’t a Long Island problem. It’s largely an American problem everywhere but Augusta National.

Clark is not the first person to be a



Gerald Herbert | AP Photo

Wyndham Clark holds the trophy after winning the U.S. Open Sunday at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club in Southampton, N.Y.

major champion hardly anyone wanted.

Nicklaus was never going to be celebrated in 1962, not in an 18-hole play-off against Arnold Palmer in the King’s backyard at Oakmont, especially with Palmer having won the Masters that year.

It felt as though all of New York was ready to crown Phil Mickelson at Shinnecock Hills in 2004 until he three-putted from 5 feet for double bogey on the 17th hole. The air came out of the place in a New York minute. Retief Goosen was appreciated — but not adored — as the U.S. Open champion.

This was different. This was ugly. It was relentless.

“Hit it in the fescue!” was nothing like Nicklaus ever heard. Nor did Oakmont in 1962 have a fan like the idiot who shouted, “Don’t choke, Wyndham!” when it was Clark’s turn to tee off on the fourth hole. The fan was quickly approached and evicted.

The rousing and sudden cheer on the par-3 seventh sounded as though Clark had just hit it close. Instead, it was because his ball went into the bunker.

It might have been different had Clark played in the final group with Tom Kim instead of Scheffler, the No. 1 player in the world who had a chance to give fans something to remember forever by winning the U.S. Open on his 30th birthday to complete the career Grand Slam.

But the crowd shifted quickly from being pro-Scottie to anti-Wyndham.

Clark no doubt is difficult to embrace, particularly after his behavior last year when he flung a driver that made a marshal flinch at the PGA Championship, and a month later smashed a locker at Oakmont when he missed the cut at the U.S. Open.

“New York didn’t really like me. I love you guys,” Clark said during the trophy presentation. “But I get it. Some of it’s self-deserved. I did some unfortunate things last year that I really regret, and I’ve been sorry multiple times and I’m still sorry. So hopefully, I can win you guys over eventually.”

His signature moment came on the par-5 16th when he atoned for a bad tee shot into gnarly grass by making a 30-foot birdie putt. The applause was muted, and don’t get the idea it sounded that way because too many fans had phones in their hands. They didn’t like him.

Clark played right through it, with some level of experience. He played with popular Rickie Fowler in the final round of his U.S. Open victory at Los Angeles Country Club in 2023, when he held off popular Rory McIlroy by one shot. But no one cheered against him that day.

The Long Island gallery was at another level, and ultimately Clark took his place among other Shinnecock Hills champions notes for their toughness — Brooks Koepka, Goosen, Corey Pavin and Raymond Floyd.

Scheffler has seen this act before. He played McIlroy in singles at Bethpage Black in the Ryder Cup last September, when the taunts became personal and left a stain on the matches.

He also got a relatively muted response in McIlroy’s home country when Scheffler won the British Open at Royal Portrush last summer. There was no heckling, certainly not any bad behavior. But it was quiet for a world-class performance by the No. 1 player.

“The crowd was tough today. I mean, New Yorkers, they are tough people,” Scheffler said Sunday. “You like seeing the fans cheer for you. I think sometimes it can get a little too much when balls are going off greens and you start hearing cheers. That felt a bit much to me.

“Being in the arena is not for everybody, and I think it shows a lot about Wyndham, how he handled not only this golf course but I think the crowd today as well and is a well-deserving champion.”

Clark took the high road in the closing ceremony, his news conference and other interviews in the hours after his victory. He posted on social media Monday night, “This game can be incredibly humbling. It doesn’t owe you anything, and sometimes the only thing you can do is keep showing up and trust that the work will eventually pay off.”

Keep showing up and maybe the fans might cheer for him.

PGA Tour approves two-tiered model for 2028

Doug Ferguson
AP Golf Writer

CROMWELL, Conn. — Tiger Woods said the objective was to create the best version of the PGA Tour. The answer Tuesday was a major shakeup to its model that effectively creates two tours, expanding the field for the elite tier and cutting in half prize money for the secondary tier.

The new system is to start in 2028, and the Future Competition Committee that Woods leads still has work left on key details. Chief among them is which of the roughly 15 tournaments will be part of the “Championship Series,” and the 20 events on the lesser “Challenger Series.”

Other details involve bringing a form of match play to the postseason and creating a rotation of prestigious courses instead of going to East Lake in Atlanta every year.

“This work was never about any one player or person,” Woods said in his first public appearance since his arrest on DUI charges on March 27. “It was about bringing together different perspectives, having honest, hard conversations, and thinking boldly about what is best for the game that we all love.”

The PGA Tour boards on Monday afternoon approved the recommendations. Woods jumped back into his role as chairman the last several weeks upon his return from seeking treatment out of the country since his arrest.

“It’s great to see him back,” PGA Tour CEO Brian Rolapp said. “Tiger has been involved throughout the process. He’s contributed meaningfully. It’s awesome to see him back and in great form.”

Rolapp preached “scarcity, simplicity and parity” when he took over last summer, and those pillars have become more clear. The season will be shorter — approximately February through August with some scheduled weeks off — without taking away playing opportunities.

The \$20 million signature events for 72 players now will be part of the Championship Series and expanded to 120 players on average. Players are not required to play them

all and those tournaments will not have sponsor invitations or an alternate list. There will be a 36-hole cut.

“When fans tune into the PGA Tour Championship Series, they know they will see the best players in the world competing head-to-head,” Rolapp said. He said it was important to credibility not to have sponsor exemptions because sponsors in other sports don’t determine who plays.

The Challenger Series will be a path for players to earn their way to the top level. Those fields will be about 144 players, and Rolapp said purses would be at least \$4 million. This year, all but three regular non-signature events had prize funds of at least \$9 million.

Except for about seven times during the season, the Championship and Challenger Series tournaments will be held the same week. Rolapp said on the occasion of a week off for the elite circuit, the Challenger Series event would be elevated.

Rory McIlroy last week referred to the secondary tier as a “glorified Korn Ferry event,” referring to the tour’s developmental circuit.

“I just think there’s going to be certain events that might lose their status if a sponsor doesn’t pony up \$30 million,” McIlroy said.

Rolapp said he spoke to McIlroy on Tuesday — the Masters champion is skipping the Travelers Championship, the third signature event he has

missed this year — and said the new model will serve the same player and offer a similar number of tournaments. Korn Ferry purses are \$1 million.

“We’ve just organized the same tour into a much more interesting and competitive system,” Rolapp said. “If you look at the Challenger Series events, they’ll be at venues you recognize. They’ll be for healthy purses. They’ll include a subset of the same 200 and change players that we have today. That is much different than what the Korn Ferry Tour is today.”

Each tour will have a separate points standings and there is no plan for players to move up to the Championship Series dur-

ing the season unless they were to win twice.

The Championship Series eligibility would be determined by the top 90 players from the previous year, the top 20 players from the Challenger Series and other exemption categories for tournament winners, injuries or career milestones.

Missing from the announcement was any mention of the FedEx Corp., the financial muscle behind the PGA Tour’s postseason since it began in 2007. The most recent FedEx deal ends in 2027.

“Our hope is to create more value for FedEx and everybody else. We’re in an existing contract, and we’re going to honor that,” Rolapp said.

As for the fall, the PGA Tour is moving toward a separate series of four to six tournaments in which top performers can earn their way back to the Championship Series. The tour said it still has plans for the Korn Ferry Tour, PGA Tour Americas and the PGA Tour University ranking system that creates places for top college players.

Finishing in August would give the elite players time to consider playing overseas, such as premier European tour events or the Australian Open. The PGA Tour recently became partners with Golf Australia without co-sanctioning the century-old event.



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Pulisic returns to training with US after missing last World Cup match with injury

Greg Beacham
AP Sports Writer

IRVINE, Calif. — Christian Pulisic returned to training with his U.S. teammates on Monday after missing their most recent match of the World Cup with a calf injury.

Pulisic participated in warmups and ball drills during the 15 minutes of practice open to the media in Orange County. The team gave no formal update on the status of the AC Milan midfielder, who has been limited to one dynamic half of play in the unbeaten Americans’ home World Cup.

Pulisic didn’t play in the Americans’ 2-0 victory over Australia in Seattle last Friday. He played the first half of their

tournament-opening victory over Paraguay, catalyzing two of the U.S. team’s three goals in the first half of a historic 4-1 win before coming off at halftime with stiffness from the injury incurred the previous week in training.

Pulisic trained apart from his teammates during the workouts between the first two games, so his return to the full squad was obviously encouraging. He had been limited to gym workouts, resistance training and light ball work during his absence.

“It’s a tough situation when you’re going through a small, little knock,” U.S. teammate Alex Zendejas said Monday. “It’s an important tournament where obviously everyone

wants to be able to get out there 100%, but (we don’t) talk about the injury or talk about the moment (Pulisic) is going through. (We) talk about other stuff, try to get his mind off of it. Just be there for him.”

The U.S. finishes group play on Thursday night at SoFi Stadium against Turkey in a meaningless game for the group-winning Americans and the already-eliminated Turks.

The Americans’ first knockout match is on July 1 in Santa Clara, California.

U.S. coach Mauricio Pochettino still didn’t have his entire roster on the field at Great Park. Midfielder Cristian Roldan missed practice with a strained muscle.



United States' Christian Pulisic (10) runs with the ball during the World Cup Group D soccer match between the United States and Paraguay June 12 in Inglewood, Calif.

Jayne Kamin-Oncea | AP Photo



West Robeson Blue's Parker Dowdy (38) awaits a pitch during Monday's DYB 6U State Tournament game in Lumberton.



West Robeson Blue's Hunter Jones (7) takes a pitch during Monday's DYB 6U State Tournament game in Lumberton.



West Robeson Blue's Jacob Jones (10) and Kaydon Taylor (3) take their positions during Monday's DYB 6U State Tournament game in Lumberton.



West Robeson Blue's Colton Lowery (99) runs the bases during Monday's DYB 6U State Tournament game in Lumberton.

DYB

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pride in their children's accomplishments.

West Robeson Blue also received a first place trophy which the whole team including the coaches crowded around for pictures.

Earlier Monday, West

Robeson Blue defeated Stanley 19-15 to get within one win of the championship.

West Robeson Blue also went 2-0 in pool play, defeating Lumberton and South Columbus on Friday, then continued winning through bracket play, beating West Robeson White and South Brunswick on Saturday and winning Sunday games against East Duplin

National and Hope Mills.

Team members include River Bullard, Parker Dowdy, Hayden Hunt, Hunter Jones, Jacob Jones, Jamison Locklear, Jaxxon Locklear, Langston Locklear, Samuel Locklear, Colton Lowery, Wes Lowery and Kaydon Taylor. The team is coached by Kaven Locklear, Dennis Lowery, Redd Locklear and Matt

Hunt.

With West Robeson blue now getting ready to head to Mississippi to represent North Carolina, these children have already made their families and all of Robeson County proud. Time will tell if they can make noise on the national stage.

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

Heim's 1st win reaffirms Hamlin's eye for talent

Nate Ryan
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The oldest and winningest active driver in the NASCAR Cup Series, as well as a shrewd team owner, Denny Hamlin has become a sounding board for his sage counsel.

So he was a little surprised when protege Corey Heim went radio silent ahead of the inaugural race at Naval Base Coronado.

“I asked Corey before the race, ‘This is the first week you haven’t called me for advice, you didn’t think I’d bring anything to the table?’” Hamlin said with a smile. “Apparently, he was good.”

Indeed, Heim proved he had it handled with his upset win Sunday. By winning in only his

13th career start, the rising star reaffirmed that Hamlin has a keen eye for spotting talent while taking risks in building 23XI Racing with NBA legend Michael Jordan, his co-owner.

Four years ago, Hamlin and Jordan showed faith in Tyler Reddick by signing him more than 18 months before his Richard Childress Racing contract expired. Reddick escaped the deal’s final year and validated Hamlin’s faith with a championship round appearance.

Reddick opened this season by winning five of the first nine races (including the Daytona 500). The Cup Series points leader was on his way to a sixth win Sunday on the street course south of downtown San Diego before he got out-



Denis Poroy | AP Photo

Corey Heim competes in Sunday's NASCAR Cup Series race at the Naval Base Coronado in San Diego.

dued by Heim, who will move into Cup full time in 2027 as a teammate of Reddick and Bubba Wallace.

“Really surprised,” Hamlin said about Heim’s breakout performance. “Now if you would have asked me in the middle of the race, I wouldn’t

have been that surprised. I got to race around him enough to know he had plenty of speed.”

As a top-level driver with 64 victories (four this season), the 45-year-old Hamlin has an edge over other team owners because he can scout prospects with a firsthand

perspective while also speaking their language behind the wheel.

After winning the truck series championship last year, Heim passed on full time with other Cup teams and chose to race a partial schedule while waiting for the 2027 ride to open at 23XI Racing.

“I always just had a gut feeling that 23XI was where I wanted to be,” Heim said. “Just so much support from Denny and MJ. I talk to them on a very regular basis, and I’ve always felt like family. Their preparation is the best in the industry. It probably would have been advantageous to be full time as soon as possible, but my gut just told me to stay with it.”

Street race successes
A sellout crowd of

50,000 fans gathered on the active military base to witness the third first-time Cup winner this season.

NASCAR chief operating officer Ben Kennedy, who previously took the Cup Series to inaugural events in downtown Chicago and Los Angeles, said 67% of the attendees were NASCAR first-timers.

Though it’s unclear if Naval Base Coronado will be on the 2027 schedule, Kennedy vowed to stay aggressive in the future by scheduling at least one annual street race with an eye toward new metropolitan areas and military bases.

“There are a lot of strategic markets across the country that we would love to be in that have large military bases as well,” Kennedy said. “So we’ve talked about the Pacific Northwest, Colorado, the Northeast.”

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