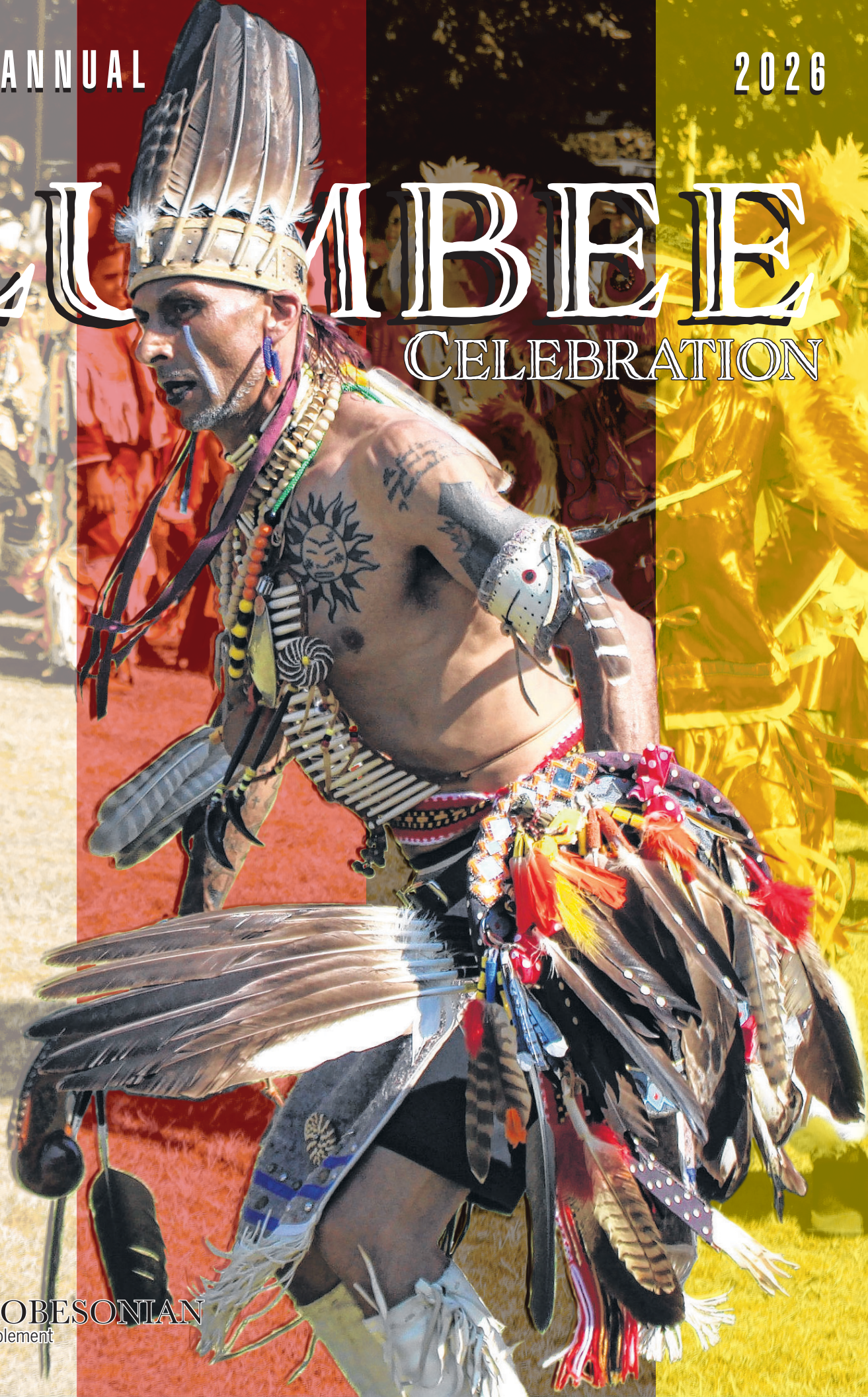


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2026

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57TH ANNUAL LUMBEE HOMECOMINGTM

EVENT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JUNE 26 - SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2026

WEEK-LONG DAILY EVENT

9am / Museum of the Southeast American Indian / UNC Pembroke / Open Daily

2nd Annual Chicken Cook-Off Contest/Sponsored by Mountaire Farms/LRDA Office Complex/Competition held daily during vendor operating hours.

2026 Best of Lumbee Homecoming Competition/Sponsored by LRDA /LRDA Office Complex / Virtual voting competition held daily during vendor operating hours.

JUNE 19 FRIDAY

6:30pm / Senior Ms. Lumbee Pageant / Givens Performing Arts Center / UNC Pembroke

JUNE 26 FRIDAY

9am / Museum of the Southeast American Indian / Open Daily

8am Tee-Off / Homecoming Golf Classic / Scothurst Golf Course/Lumber Bridge, NC

11am-10pm / Lumbee Homecoming Outdoor Market/Open Daily / LRDA Office Complex

5:30pm-7pm /Business After Hours / Hosted by Pembroke Chamber of Commerce/LRDA Office Complex

7pm /Lumbee Homecoming 575 Kick-Off Celebration / LRDA and LTNC / LRDA Homecoming Field

9:30pm /Fireworks Sky Show/ Sponsored by the Town of Pembroke

JUNE 27 SATURDAY

9am / Museum of the Southeast American Indian / Open Daily

11am-10pm / Lumbee Homecoming Outdoor Market/Open Daily / LRDA Office Complex

10am / Lumbee Games / Wrestling / UNC Pembroke Auxiliary Gym

11:30am / Miss Lumbee Legacy Luncheon / Invitation Only Event / UNC Pembroke Chancellors Residence

6pm /Lumbee Warriors Association Veterans Ball / Southeastern Agricultural Center / Lumberton, NC

JUNE 28 SUNDAY

1pm-9pm / Lumbee Homecoming Outdoor Market/Open Daily / LRDA Office Complex

2pm / Lumbee Ambassadors Farewell Tea/ Invitation ONLY Event / Berea Baptist Church / Pembroke, NC

6pm /Lumbee Homecoming Gospel Singing / The Rock Church of God /2208 W Carthage Road, Lumberton

JUNE 29 MONDAY

11am-9pm / Lumbee Homecoming Outdoor Market/ Open Daily / LRDA Office Complex

5pm / Lumbee Games/ Swimming / UNC Pembroke Aquatics Center

6:30pm /Little Miss & Junior Miss Lumbee Pageant / Givens Performing Arts Center / UNC Pembroke

JUNE 30 TUESDAY

11am-9pm / Lumbee Homecoming Outdoor Market/ Open Daily / LRDA Office Complex

12pm / Lumbee Elders Luncheon/ Southeastern Agricultural Center / Lumberton, NC

4pm-5:30pm / Who's Your People?
A Brief History of the Lumbee Tribe / Dr. Lawrence Locklear / Museum of the Southeast American Indian - Old Main / UNC Pembroke

6pm / State of the Tribe Address / Boys & Girls Club / Lumbee Tribe of NC Office Complex

JULY 1 WEDNESDAY

11am-9pm / Lumbee Homecoming Outdoor Market/Open Daily / LRDA Office Complex

JULY 2 THURSDAY

11am-11pm / Lumbee Homecoming Outdoor Market/Open Daily / LRDA Office Complex

11am / Chef Pyet DeSpain Hernandez Native Foodways Cooking Demonstration / Registration required / Hosted by Pembroke Tourism Board

5pm / Lumbee Games / Pickleball & Tennis Doubles/ UNC Pembroke Tennis Courts

6:30pm / Dr. Helen Maynor Shcheirbeck Memorial Lecture / Dr. Bryan McKinley Jones Brayboy / Museum of the Southeast American Indian - Old Main / UNC Pembroke

6:30pm / Teen Miss & Miss Pageant / Givens Performing Arts Center / UNC Pembroke

JULY 3 FRIDAY

9am / Lumbee Games / 3-on-3 Basketball / UNC Pembroke Auxiliary Gym

11am-11pm / Lumbee Homecoming Outdoor Market/Open Daily / LRDA Office Complex

12pm / 2nd Annual Chicken Cook-off Winners Announced / Sponsored by Mountaire Farms

1pm / 2026 Best of Lumbee Homecoming Awards announced / Sponsored by LRDA

6pm / Summer Jam Concert / Milton Hunt Memorial Park / Sponsored by the Town of Pembroke

JULY 4 SATURDAY

6:30am / 5K Run-Walk/Southeastern Fitness Center / Sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Pembroke

9am-9:30pm/ Lumbee Homecoming 575 Carnival Extravaganza / LRDA Office Complex Field / Sponsored by LRDA and the Lumbee Tribe of NC

10am / Lumbee Homecoming Parade / West Third Street / Pembroke

11am-11pm / Lumbee Homecoming Outdoor Market/Open Daily / LRDA Office Complex

11am / 2026 Lumbee Ambassador Reception (*Open to the public*)/ American Indian Heritage Center / UNC Pembroke - Old Main

11am / Vintage Car Show / UNC Pembroke Annex Building Parking Lot / Coordinated by the Crossroad Cruisers for Christ

1pm-3pm / Native Strong Coalition Powwow /UNC Pembroke Quad Area

1:30pm - 6pm /Audio & Bike Show / Coordinated by 910 Bagger Boyz /UNC Pembroke Thomas School of Business Parking Lot

2pm /All Veteran Parachute Team Sky Show/Behind LRDA Office Complex

6pm-9pm /Annual Outdoor Gospel Sing / LRDA Office Complex

7pm - Season Premiere of Lumbee Historical Drama, Strike at the Wind / LTNC Cultural Center Amphitheater

TBD / Lumbee Film Festival / Moore Hall / UNC Pembroke

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**Disclaimer: Event details subject to changes and updates.
Visit www.lumbee.org/lhevents for the most current schedule updates.*





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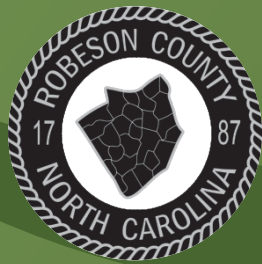
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Participants dance in a powwow during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration May 16 in Pembroke.



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The Deal Family waves to passersby while performing during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration May 16 in Pembroke.



Hoop dancer Eric Hernandez performs during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration May 16 in Pembroke.

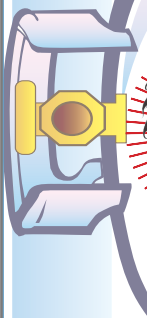
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A drone light show pays tribute to the Lumbee Tribe during its Federal Recognition Celebration May 16 in Pembroke.

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TRIBE CELEBRATES

Thousands gather to commemorate

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PEMBROKE — The Lumbee Tribe's event commemorating its federal recognition may have physically been within the campus of UNC Pembroke on May 16. But the celebration, in a way, stretched nationwide.

Members of the tribe and its allies traveled to Pembroke from as far away as Washington state as several thousand enjoyed music, food, a powwow, a drone light show and more during the day-long celebration.

"We came down for this today, because in the history of the tribe, this is historic, this is as big as it gets," said Ed Sturkey, a member of the Lumbee Tribe who lives in Akron, Ohio. *"The fact that the federal government finally did right by the Lumbee is huge. ... This finally coming full circle, it's a great day. My mother's long gone to heaven, but as an homage to her, my aunts that were all Lumbee — it has a lot more meaning to me than what it started out to be. I enrolled in the tribe and it's my intention that it'll be a big part of my life moving forward, my children's lives, my siblings' lives."* While Sturkey spent the day making new friends within the community of his heritage,

others said the celebration provided an opportunity to reconnect with old friends, comparing the event to Lumbee Homecoming. *"I've really enjoyed being able to socialize and seeing people I haven't seen in a while, fellowshiping,"* said Mary Locklear, of Pembroke. *"It's almost like the Fourth of July."*

"(It's) community," said Sharkell Swett, of Pembroke, who wore a t-shirt that said "Lumbee Indian" and had just purchased a leopard-print "575" t-shirt from the Tribe's merchandise truck. *"Seeing people I haven't seen in a long time, and just looking at everybody's face knowing that now, celebrating that*

we've been federally recognized, just looking at the smiles on their faces."

Five months after the tribe's federal recognition was signed into law on Dec. 18, 2025, the event reinforced the joyous reaction felt by many in tribal territory and beyond.

"It's been years of sacrifice from our ancestors," said Mary Locklear, who livestreamed much of the event's core program at home before coming to campus later in the day. *"I feel like we're standing on their shoulders. It's a joy, and it's something that my children and grandchildren can now look to, can look forward. ... I think it's going to provide a lot of opportunities for*

Teen Miss Lumbee Keely Deal, Little Miss Lumbee Jadyn Herndon and Junior Miss Lumbee Kyndall Locklear march in a powwow during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration May 16 in Pembroke.



FEDERAL RECOGNITION

culmination of Lumbee Tribe's quest

our people, education, health; I think it's opened a whole lot of doors."

"It means maybe we can get some help with education for our young people, and medical help for our elders, things like that is what I'm hoping to get out of this," said Kevin Locklear, who arrived at UNCP around 8:30 a.m. and stayed past sunset. *"The fellowship (is great); everybody coming along, coming around, talking, seeing families and people that we haven't seen in a long time coming around, getting to meet old friends."*

Sturkey enrolled in the Lumbee Tribe in 2023 after researching his family history and "verifying

those stories were true"; his origin in the tribe dates back to his great-grandparents. He and his wife, Daphne, traveled from Ohio to attend Saturday's celebration.

"All of the people here have been so kind and so welcoming and just embracing us," Daphne Sturkey said. *"Even when he was in the first part of the enrollment, they said 'welcome home.' He was super emotional."*

The Christian couple said they enjoyed the gospel music that was part of the celebration, and have discovered how faith-driven the Lumbee culture is. *"The gospel*

singing, we thoroughly enjoyed, and that intermixed with the powwow, it's just always, from a heritage standpoint, really moving," Ed Sturkey said. *"I enjoyed those things, and a collard green sandwich."*

The event's core program featured remarks from five sitting members of U.S. Congress, other federal and state officials, representatives from ally tribes and members of tribal leadership.

While the program was the centerpiece of the early afternoon, a powwow was held in the late afternoon hours. Colorful regalia

filled the arena as numerous individuals danced, played drum songs and chanted as the celebration continued.

Once the sun set over Pembroke, the day concluded with a drone light show, with custom designs that included "Lumbee Tribe," "The Era of 575," and an image of Henry Berry Lowrie, among others.

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

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Little Miss Contestants



Contestant 1

Kadence Bullard

Parents: Jody and Kelli Bullard
Sponsors: Mc Neill-Legacy & Legacy Funeral Home, Scott's Tire Pros & Service Center, Salty Sage Excursions, Phoenix Strategic Advisors LLC, Papa Bills, Metahealth, Healing Hands Family Practice, Family & Friends



Contestant 2

Brinleigh Dial

Parents: Willie and Brittany Dial
Sponsors: Marty's Automotive & Wrecker Service, Driven Contractors, Scott's Tire Pros & Service Center, C.O.Y.S



Contestant 3

Emilia Flanagan

Parents: Devan and Brandi Flanagan
Sponsors: Two Hawk, East Coast Welders, Elevate Dance Academy, Friends and Family, Lumberton Hyundai



Contestant 4

Lariah Hunt

Parents: Russell and Lisa Hunt
Sponsors: Mom, Dad, Camden & Aditson, Tobacco Row Offerings (Constance Williams & Family), Reliance Lab Testing Solutions, LLC (Angela Bears), L&L Pageants and Rentals, Mayor Papa Allen and Grandma Yvonne, Native Veteran's Enterprise (Robert and Derena Chavis) Pine Skies Co. (Crystal and Ciena Fedor), Herndon Family



Contestant 5

Aspen Locklear

Parents: Nicholas and Katlynn Locklear
Sponsors: PineLodge Singers, Sliver Springs Trading, Faline Dial County Commissioner, Family and friends, Hunts Tax Services, Mom and Dad, Darkfeather and Jeff Hunt, Oxendine Capital Investments LLC



Contestant 6

Kinsley Carter

Parents: Russell and Lisa Hunt
Sponsors: Cynthia Oxendine, Marcus Jacobs, Jenny Barton, Faline Dial, Robeson County Commissioner, Dr. Christopher Locklear, Parents



Contestant 7

Layna Morgan

Parents: Jared Morgan and Talesha Dismukes
Sponsors: EOS Botanica, Jeff's Tires and Brakes, Adrian Kyle Locklear LUMS LLC, Precision Health, Kind Care Home Care, McIver Development, Blackbird Design, SJ detailing



Contestant 8

Kinleigh Jones

Parents: Harley and Kasey Jones
Sponsors: HDJ Consulting, HDJ Tax Services, M&M Drywall - Papa Michael & Nana Kim, Aunt Haley, Aunt Riley, Family & Friends

Junior Miss Contestants



Contestant 1

Ryann Emilee Hawks

Parents: Samuel Ryann Hawks and Jadell Dial

Sponsors: Oxendine Interior Trim, Isaac Dial,
LongWhisker Collective, MaDukes Sweets & Treats,
A Different Direction Home Care, LLC, Beaded
By The Minute, Family & Friends



Contestant 2

Harper Addison Bell

Parents: Ricardo Allander Bell and Alicia Lowery Bell

Sponsors: Ms. Shelia Cummings-Cummings Aerospace, Jerry
& Mary Brayboy- Brayboy Enterprise, Mr. Johnny Hunt, Cyna's
Jewelry, Preacher Andrew Smith, Terry Pate Mobile Home Sales,
Mr. Lacey Cummings, Family & Friends



Contestant 3

Verah Anelise Marion Brewington

Parents: Brian Edward Brewington and
Katrina Locklear Brewington

Sponsors: Mom and Dad, Speechfundamentals, PLLC, 1st Choice
Insurance & Realty, The Willo Day Spa, Mission Foot and Ankle, LLC
Grandparents: Bernice and Marion Locklear,
Tony and Peggy Brewington



Contestant 4

Moriah Fatih Jones

Parents: David English Jones and Morgan Hunt Jones

Sponsors: Mom & Dad, Papa Johnny & "Ma" Demetrius Locklear
Hunt, Papa Randall & Mimi Diane Jones,
1st Choice Insurance, Fuller's BBQ,
Alexis Lowry — "Challenge Your Challenges"

Teen Miss Contestants



Contestant 1
Deelayna Watkins

Parents: Micah Watkins and Demetrice Watkins

Sponsors: Baird's Animal Hospital, Mr. James H. and Mrs. Hazel, Collins, Mr. Robert and Mrs. Lanette Locklear, Pembroke Optometric Clinic, Puryear Tank Lines, Island Grove Baptist Church Family, Grandparents: Mrs. Janice Jones and the late Mr. Guy Jones and Mr. Billy and Mrs. Linda Watkins, Northern Lumbee Creations, Ms. Sheana Morgan



Contestant 2
Jaylee Lynn Bass

Parent: Ferrain Bass

Sponsors: Revels Barbecue of NC, Mr Buddy and Deanna Stephens, Bass Builders, Strickland Insurance & Financial Group, Native Angels Home Care Agency, Vicki L Locklear Register of Deeds, Up Up & Away Florist & Event Planning The Alternative Pet Store



Contestant 3
Braeleigh Hunt

Parents: Amber Hunt and Scotty Chavis

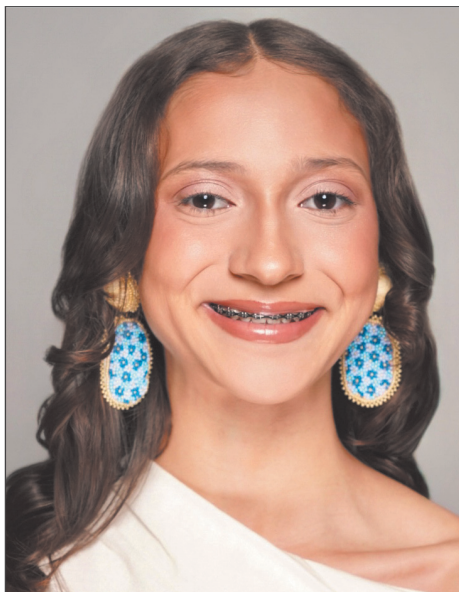
Sponsors: Grandma Loronda McNeill, Jw & Resa Hammonds, B&G Tires, Dr. Rebekah Revels Lowry, Jonathan Brewington, Cottonwood Pre-Elementary, Pier 41 Seafood, Beth & Ronnie Hunt



Contestant 4
Avaeh Jacobs

Parents: William Jacobs and Cathy Bell

Sponsors: Jacob Coppedge-The Barndo Co., Lock & Co. Integrated Clinical Services, Just Dance Studios, Mindbody Wellness Centre, Crowning Moment By Calista, Magnolia Elementary School Staff, PRSC Early College High School Staff, Family and Friends



Contestant 5
Arista Lowery

Parent: Glenda Lowery

Sponsors: Baird's Caring Touch Home and Behavioral Health Care, Mr. Jerry D. Cummings, Soul Sisters & Co., Dr. Christina Dial, Family and Friends



Contestant 6
Charla Locklear

Parents: Charles Nakoa Locklear and Natalya Locklear

Sponsors: Nana Ursula and the late Papa Weldon Freeman, Dr. Curt and Mrs. Janice Locklear, Mimi Doris and Papa Gilbert Freeman, Faline L. Dial, Deddy Nakoa and Emily Locklear, Goins Family/ Cousins, Touch of Healing Hands Home Care, LLC, Christina Oxendine, Robin Oxendine, Sherry Hammonds and Tender Hearts Homecare

Miss Lumbee Contestants



Contestant 1

Anna Grace Hunt

Parents: Scot Hunt and Kimberly Hunt
Sponsors: Agape Medical Services PLLC
Behavioral Health, Continuum Health
Providers - Dr. Paul Brar, CQue Food Vending,
Elohim Mental Health Services, Corbin &
Misha Eddings, Marty's Towing,
Family & Friends



Contestant 2

Ariel Locklear

Parents: Jonathan Locklear and
Alisha Locklear
Sponsors: Candice Revels, Miss Lumbee
2014-2015, M-R Electric & Security Alarms, Inc.,
Original Peoples LLC, Judge Greg Bell,
Jody Cummings and Family
North Carolina Insurance Services,
Wixie Stephens Insurance and Bailbonding,
Betsy Cummings



Contestant 3

Kaitlynn Chavis

Parents: Adam Chavis and
Kimberly Chavis
Sponsors: Scott Family Lawn Care, Faline
Locklear-Dial, Rudy T. Locklear, Bullard's
Pressure Washing, Family & Friends



Contestant 4

Niyah Locklear

Parents: Garrick Locklear and Kimberly Hunt
Sponsors: Emerging Technology Institute (ETI),
Dorsey's Landscaping, Jordan Sampson-Farm
Bureau, Innovative Insurance Services, Dr. David
Burns, DDS., Hope Health Family Practice, Thrive
Wellness, Speech N Progress, Inc.



Contestant 5

Kaylee Chavis

Parents: Tedrick Chavis and Karen Chavis
Sponsors: Tedrick and Karen Chavis, Leavira
Chavis, Ralph and Shirl Bolin, Dorenda Locklear,
Margaret Canady, P.R. and Sue Bullard, Thee She
Shed, Rogers Screen Printing & Embroidery



Contestant 6

Elizabeth Laney

Parents: Bryan Laney and Brigitte Laney
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Brigitte Laney, and Grandparents: Rose Jacobs,
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LEE PAM
OXENDINE ODOM

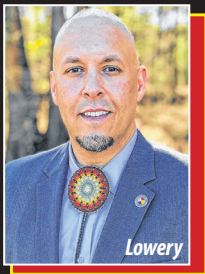


7
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Celebrating the Lumbee's past, present and future

From the Chairman



John Lowery
Lumbee Tribal Chairman

Over the past several months, we have witnessed one of the most historic and transformative moments in the history of the Lumbee people. Achieving full federal recognition is more than a legislative victory; it is the fulfillment of generations of perseverance, resilience and unwavering belief in who we are

as a people. This moment belongs to every Lumbee ancestor who fought to preserve our identity, every leader who carried our story to Washington, and every tribal citizen who never stopped believing that our time would come.

For decades, the Lumbee Tribe has continued to move forward despite barriers and challenges that no tribe should have had to endure. Yet through it all, our people remained strong. We built communities, educated our children, served our country, strengthened our churches, and protected our culture. Today, federal recognition validates what we have always known: the Lumbee People are a proud and sovereign tribal nation with a rich history and a bright future.

As we enter this new chapter, we are

stepping into an era of prosperity and possibility for the Lumbee People. Federal recognition opens doors to new opportunities in healthcare, housing, education, infrastructure, economic development and cultural preservation. It allows us to expand services for our elders, create stronger opportunities for our youth, and continue building a future where Lumbee families can thrive for generations to come.

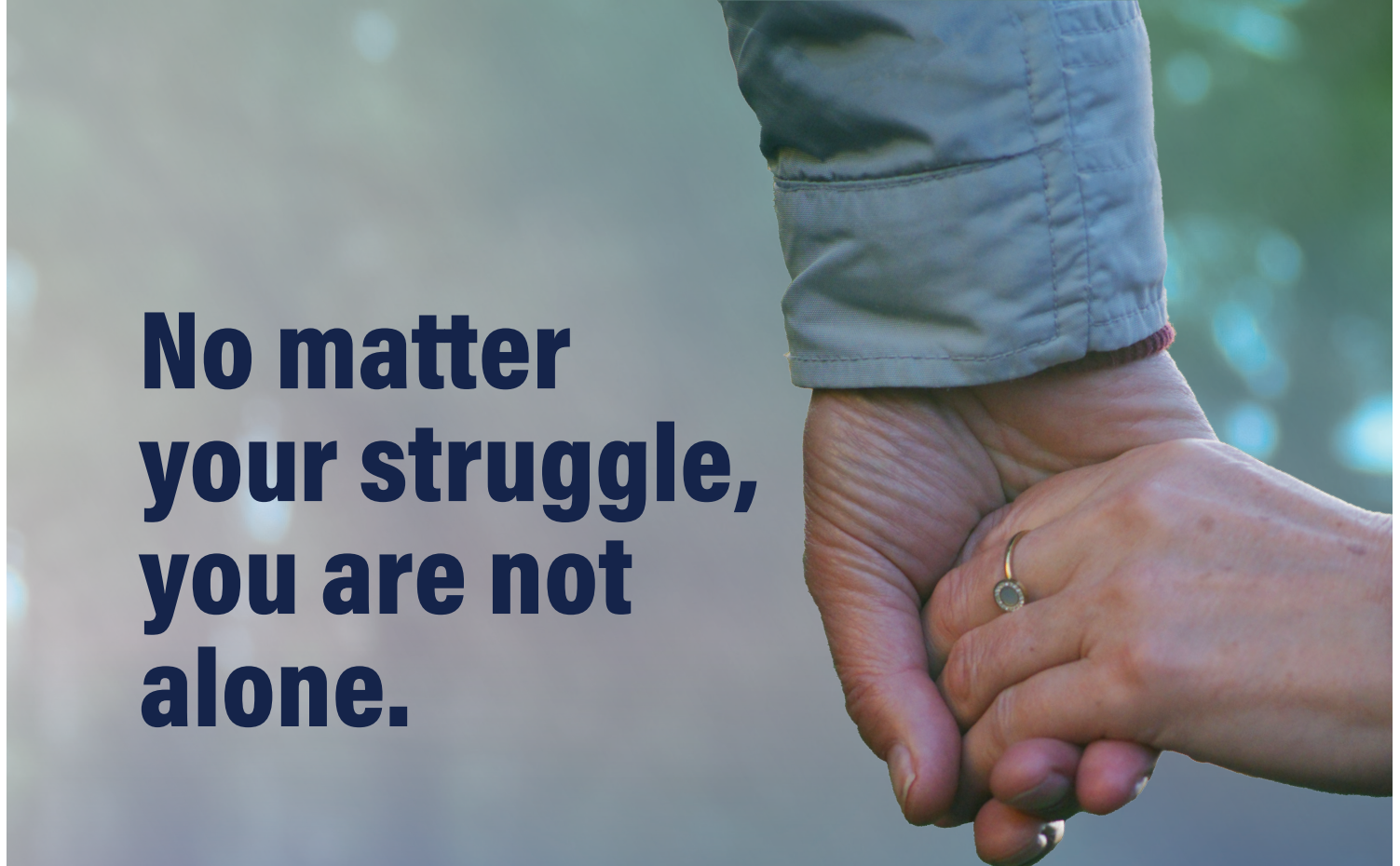
This special Lumbee Homecoming edition highlights the progress across our tribal government and community. From strengthening programs and partnerships to preparing for long term economic growth and development, we are focused on building a stronger future together. We are committed to ensuring that the benefits of federal recognition

reach every Lumbee citizen and every community we serve.

As we move forward, we must remain united in purpose and proud of our heritage. Our ancestors prayed for this day, and now it is our responsibility to honor their sacrifices by continuing to grow, lead and invest in our people. The future of the Lumbee Tribe is brighter than ever before, and together, we will continue making history.

Thank you for your continued support, your prayers, and your belief in our tribal nation. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together in this new chapter for the Lumbee people.

John Lowery is the seventh chairman of the Lumbee Tribe, serving in the position since 2022.



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alone.**

John Lowery

Lumbee Tribal Chairman

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DIGNITARIES CELEBRATE ALONGSIDE LUMBEE

Elected officials, representatives of other tribes among those
at recognition celebration event

U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis, left, presents Lumbee Tribal Chairman John Lowery, right, with the roll call vote tally from the Senate's passage of the National Defense Authorization Act, which included the Lumbee Fairness Act, on Dec. 17, 2025, during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration May 16 in Pembroke.



Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

Chris Stiles
The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — As the Lumbee Tribe celebrated its full federal recognition with a day-long event at UNC Pembroke on May 16, numerous dignitaries were present to mark the occasion. The event's core program featured remarks from five sitting members of U.S. Congress, other federal and state officials, representatives from ally tribes and members of tribal leadership.

"We don't know all of our ancestors who worked to get us here. But you know what? We're thankful for them, because they worked to make sure that we got here," Tribal Chairman John Lowery said. *"We had God on our side, we had right on our side and we had justice on*

our side, and eventually we overcame all of (the opposition)."

U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis, who represents North Carolina and was a major contributor to recognition passing the Senate, presented a frame to the Tribe which includes the document tallying the roll-call vote in the Senate on Dec. 17, 2025, along with a hand-written card with the result of the vote that Tillis read on the Senate floor, and two photos from that day.

The Tribe, in turn, presented Tillis with a blanked handcrafted by a Lumbee artisan as an appreciation for his role in securing federal recognition.

Tillis gave remarks in which he said his only expectation of the Tribe in

its new era of recognition is to make him proud.

"Make me proud by making sure you reach behind and you bring forth every tribe that deserves the same respect that you now have," Tillis said. *"Make me proud by creating a story here that's unlike anyone that's ever followed recognition, one that provides economic opportunities unlike anything children born in this Lumbee Nation have ever been able to experience before. Make me proud by continuing to serve in the military at disproportionately high numbers because you're great patriots. And at the end of the day, make me proud by being sure that you care for the least among you."*

As Tillis, who is not running for reelection this year, sees his term come to an end at the end of the

year, his documents relating to the Lumbee Fairness Act and federal recognition will be housed in the Jacobson Special Collections Room at UNCP's Livermore Library.

Others from North Carolina's congressional delegation, including U.S. Sen. Ted Budd and U.S. Reps. Mark Harris, David Rouzer and Tim Moore, also spoke during Saturday's program, in addition to a video message from Donald Trump Jr. Harris, whose district includes much of Robeson County including tribal headquarters in Pembroke, said that recognition remained a "focus" each time he visited Robeson County while campaigning or in office.

"You know better than anybody, it's been through setbacks, through delays, through years of being told to wait — you never gave up. Your elders kept the dream alive. Your families kept the faith. Your leaders kept pushing. And through it all, the Lumbee Tribe never lost sight of what this day would be," Harris said. *"Today we celebrate a victory that was carried across generations. Most importantly, this recognition affirms what the Lumbee people have always known: your story matters. Your culture matters. Your contributions to North Carolina and to the United States of America matter."*

Representatives from the Shinnecock, Caddo and Catawba tribes also spoke, as each showed solidarity with the Lumbee and excitement that its federal recognition became reality.

Bobby Gonzalez, the chairman of Caddo Nation, revealed that as his tribe has been doing research to document histories within some family cemeteries in its territory in Oklahoma, it found an unexpected Lumbee connection in an Exendine Cemetery.

"We never knew where that name came from until we started talking to Ms. Nancy (Strickland Chavis) and the Lumbee," Gonzalez said. *"I found*

Chris Stiles | The Robesonian



Larry Townsend speaks during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration May 16 in Pembroke.

Arlinda Locklear, right, waves to the crowd as she is honored with a resolution by Tribal Speaker Alex Baker, left, during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration May 16 in Pembroke.



Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

Chris Stiles | The Robesonian



Senior Miss Lumbee Wendy Locklear Chavis performs the national anthem during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration May 16 in Pembroke.

Chris Stiles | The Robesonian



Spectators look on during the Lumbee Tribe's Federal Recognition Celebration May 16 in Pembroke.

out there was a Lumbee that went to (school) and played football with Jim Thorpe ... and the Exendine that played was actually an Oxendine, and that Oxendine was actually a Lumbee who actually went to school with our people. We found out that whole Exendine family comes from the Lumbee." State officials, including Lumbee member Pam Brewington Cashwell, state secretary of natural and cultural resources, also gave remarks, and Cashwell read a letter from Gov. Josh Stein. Federal officials

from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, including Jarrod Lowery, a former state representative for Robeson County and the brother of Tribal Chairman John Lowery, also spoke.

The Tribe also recognized several notable individuals, with tribal resolutions honoring Arlinda Locklear, Aaron Thomas and Jarette Sampson, among other recognitions. "I want to remind us that the Lumbee people did not become a tribe when the federal government recognized us,"

Tribal Speaker Alex Baker said. "Federal recognition did not create who we are; it acknowledged what we've always known. We have always been an Indian people, and we've always had leadership, order, responsibility and self-governance among us."

The last word belonged to Larry Townsend, a former member of Tribal Council and longtime Lumbee advocate. "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu," Townsend said. "That's where we've been, folks. We

have opportunity now due to the work of Sen. Tillis and others, and our chairman, and the Terry Sanfords, and the Aaron Thomases, and many other people."

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



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LEAPFROG HOSPITAL SAFETY GRADE

Leading the Way in Patient Safety

UNC Health Southeastern has received an "A" Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit that rates hospitals on how well they protect patients from harm. The Spring 2026 grade recognizes hospitals that work to prevent medical errors, infections, injuries, and accidents.

"An 'A' Grade is a strong sign that UNC Health Southeastern is deeply committed to protecting patients from harm," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "We commend the leadership, board, clinicians, staff and volunteers for the role each played in earning this distinction."

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade program is peer-reviewed, transparent, and free to the public. Grades are updated twice a year, in the spring and fall. Scores are based on publicly available data and hospital-reported information on infection rates, problems after surgery, safe medication practices, staffing and communication, and use of proven safety protocols. An "A" grade means a hospital performed better than most hospitals on these safety measures at the time of scoring.

What This Means for Patients and Community

The new "A" grade is a sign of sustained progress over multiple grading cycles, not just a one-time fix. It reflects better performance in areas such as infection prevention, safe surgery and treatment practices, systems that reduce the chance of errors, and early response to serious conditions like sepsis.

"In a community like ours, where the need is great and the stakes are high, this achievement says something very important: our patients are receiving care that meets the highest standards in the country right here at UNC Health Southeastern," said UNC Health Southeastern President & CEO Chris Ellington.

For the community, UNC Health Southeastern's new "A" from The Leapfrog Group signals that the hospital has put stronger safety systems in place and is performing among the better hospitals nationwide on key patient safety measures. While no hospital can eliminate all risk, this rating shows meaningful, sustained progress in making care safer for patients close to home.

To explore UNC Health Southeastern's full grade details and to find valuable tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit HospitalSafetyGrade.org.

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Inside today
**LUMBEE'S
CELEBRATE**

57th Homecoming continues.
News 8A



AND...
350 attend
community
VBS nightly
News 3A

In today's paper
SPORTS:
Lowry reps
Robeson in
CrossFit Games
Page 1B



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Wednesday, July 1, 2026 • Issue 50, Volume 157

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A Fresh Perspective

Local
NEWS

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UNCHSE earns 'A' on Lown Institute Hospitals Index

Amanda Crabtree
For The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — UNC Health Southeastern has earned an "A" grade on the 2026 Lown Institute Hospitals Index for Social Responsibility, Health Equity, and Inclusivity. This places the health system among the top hospitals nationally for overall commitment to health equity, value and outcomes.

The Lown Hospitals Index is the only national ranking that examines how equitably care is delivered, how well hospitals invest in their communities and whether patients receive high-value care that avoids unnecessary procedures, in addition to traditional measures like clinical outcomes and patient safety. More than 50 metrics contribute to a hospital's overall score.

For the areas where the health system received an "A," social responsibility reflects performance across health equity, value and outcomes. Health equity reflects commitment to equity, inclusion and community health, and inclusivity measures the extent to which patients being served are demographically similar to those in the surrounding community. For inclusivity, the system ranked highest in the area of income inclusivity, which measures how well the hospital services provided to lower income patients are served.



Ellington

"At UNC Health Southeastern, we believe every person deserves exceptional care delivered with dignity, compassion, and respect regardless of where they live, what they earn, their background or the circumstances that bring them through our doors," said UNC Health Southeastern President and CEO Chris Ellington.

"Earning an 'A' for Social Responsibility from the Lown Hospitals Index is meaningful because it validates our commitment to treating every patient fairly while delivering outstanding clinical care. We are honored to be the only hospital in our region to achieve this recognition, reinforcing our belief that great healthcare organizations must serve all people equally and effectively."

"This recognition is especially meaningful when viewed alongside our recent 'A' Hospital Safety Grade from the Leapfrog Group," added Ellington. "Together, these honors demonstrate that our commitment extends beyond providing safe, high-quality care; we are equally dedicated to ensuring that care is accessible, equitable and delivered with compassion to every member of our community. These achievements belong to our teammates, whose dedication proves every day that excellence in healthcare is not just

See LOWN | 9A

A week of celebration



Victoria Sanderson | The Robesonian

Communities around Robeson County are celebrating America's 250th birthday this week. Pictured, flags are handed out during Saturday's Fourth of July parade in Fairmont. See more pictures from Fairmont's celebration on page 10A, and from Lumbee Homecoming on page 8A.

NSF renews \$2M for UNCP's COMPASS STEM program



Photo courtesy of UNCP

Students from UNC Pembroke's COMPASS program, which recently received \$2 million in renewed funding from the National Science Foundation.

Mark Locklear
For The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — After helping dramatically improve retention and graduation rates among STEM students, UNC Pembroke's COMPASS program has received nearly \$2 million in renewed funding from the National Science Foundation to support future generations of scientists, researchers and healthcare professionals.

The grant will support low-income students majoring in biology, chemistry, environmental science and geoscience who enter UNCP in fall 2026, 2027 and 2028.

Students selected for the program will receive scholarships averaging nearly \$12,900 annually, along with academic, professional and personal support designed to help them succeed in STEM fields. The scholarships will support students through degree completion.

The funding represents the third iteration of the grant-funded program at UNCP, known as COMPASS-3. The renewal follows more than a decade of measurable success.

Before the program launched in 2014, nearly 70% of STEM students

See COMPASS | 10A

CORE talks opioids at Homecoming

Victoria Sanderson
The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — The Community Organized Relief Effort (CORE) is educating the public on the dangers of overdose and prevention methods during Lumbee Homecoming.

CORE first came to Robeson County in 2018 to assist the community and repair the damage caused by Hurricane Florence, according to

North Carolina Area Director Linda Oxendine, and has partnered with the Lumbee Regional Development Association (LRDA) for the past eight years to continue providing aid to the area throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

"As COVID became more manageable," Oxendine said, "we recognized that there is an overdose epidemic around opioids



Photo courtesy of CORE

Linda Oxendine hugging a member of the public during Lumbee Homecoming.

See CORE | 9A



TODAY'S FORECAST

93/69 – Mostly sunny

A NEWS

Obituaries: 2
Editorial: 4
Comics: 5
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CRIME ROUNDUP

Rowland man arrested after Pembroke shooting death

Staff report

PEMBROKE — A Rowland man has been charged with one county of first-degree murder and another count of attempted first-degree murder following a shooting early Sunday morning in Pembroke.

David Estrada, 26, was arrested and charged following the incident. He was denied bond in a court appearance on Monday.

Pembroke Police Department officers found Christopher Lynn Brooks, 40, suffering from a gunshot wound when they responded to the area of College Street and Barker Street just after 4:30 a.m. Brooks later succumbed to his injuries at a local hospital.

Estrada was reportedly arrested a short time later.

Anyone with information on the case is asked to contact Detective Roy Locklear with the Pembroke Police Department at 910-521-4333.

RCSO investigating homicide near Fairmont

The Robeson County Sheriff's Office is investigating a homicide that occurred Thursday in the Fairmont area.

On Thursday, RCSO deputies responded to 313 Lynell Road, Fairmont in reference to an individual being shot.

Billy Ray Caulder, 38, of Fairmont, was deceased upon arrival of deputies.

The case is being investigated by the RCSO Homicide and Criminal Investigation divisions.

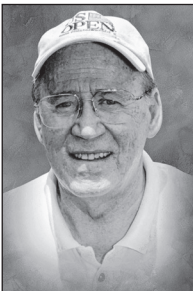
Anyone with information about the case is asked to contact RCSO at 910-671-3000.



Estrada

OBITUARIES

FRANK JUDSON PAIT III



Mr. Frank Judson Pait, III, age 85, of North Wilkesboro passed away on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at Westwood Hills Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. on Monday, June 29, 2026, at Scenic Memorial Gardens Mausoleum Chapel. Burial will be in the cemetery following the service. The family will receive friends immediately following the service.

Frank was born on Nov. 3, 1940, in Fayetteville at Cape Fear Valley Hospital, to Frank Judson Pait, Jr. and Eva Mae Bounds Pait.

Frank graduated from Fayetteville Senior High School and was chosen as Senior Superlative for Most Talented. He was chosen for his musical ability, singing and playing the guitar. As a young teenager he entered talent shows in the area and sang on the radio stations. And later he was a member of a Rock & Roll Band, The Elites, where his brother was the drummer; which he gave up when he and his family moved to North Wilkesboro. He attended East Carolina University.

In 1972 he accepted a position with Sturdivant Life Insurance Company and moved to North Wilkesboro with his family. After Sturdivant Life Co., was sold he took a position with World Insurance Company in Omaha, Nebraska as a Regional Manager for the western part of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. He and his family continued to live in North Wilkesboro.

When he moved to North Wilkesboro, he took up golf and enjoyed playing at Oakwoods Country Club with his friends and family.

What he enjoyed most was going to sports events for his two children. His son Frank J. Pait, IV (Frank) and his daughter, Jennifer Blythe Pait (Jennifer). Playing baseball, basketball or anything else they participated in. He was very proud of his family and enjoyed keeping in touch with his old workmates and friends.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his daughter, Jennifer Blythe Pait and brother, Robert Douglas Pait of Whiteville.

He is survived by his wife Pauline Davis Pait of the home; a son, Frank J. Pait, IV and wife Sheila E. Foster Pait of Hickory, and two beloved grandchildren, Tyler Davis Pait of North Wilkesboro and Baylor James Pait of Charlotte. They were the pride and love of his and Pauline's life.

Frank will be sorely missed and thought of every day by his family and friends.

We are most grateful to his doctors, all the nurses and aides at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist and Westwood Hills for giving the best care and attention. You could not ask for nicer and lovely people. Our family sincerely thanks you.

Flowers will be accepted.
Online condolences may be made to www.reins-sturdivant.com.



BETSY (FIELDS) W. SMITH



Betsy (Fields) W. Smith, age 79, of Evergreen, passed away on Sunday, June 28, 2026, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital. She was the youngest of six children born on August 20, 1946, to the late William Taft Fields and the late Lois Loretta (Inman) Fields.

Betsy loved life! She loved good old beach music, oldies (doo-wop, etc.), gospel and country. Her favorite dance was the "Shag" and she was good at it! She was a great cook just like her mother and all of her sisters, and a sharp dresser. Betsy was a big personality in a small package (small and mighty!), fearless, and extremely strong willed! She had an impact on each and every person she interacted with. Courageous, inspiring, kind, loving and wonderfully funny, she radiated joy and laughter and brought light wherever she went. She was a ball of fire who showed us all what can be achieved through determination, resilience, and persistence.

Betsy lived her life to the fullest, despite her many challenges. She was employed with the Williamsburg County Sheriff's Department in the early '70s while also volunteering with the local chapter of the American Cancer Society in Kingstree, S.C. She worked for Aiken and Company in Florence, S.C. in the mid '70s; and then the S.C. Employment Security Commission/Job Service from 1978 until her retirement in 2002. She took great pride throughout her career, staffing many organizations large and small throughout Kingstree, Florence, Columbia, Myrtle Beach and Conway, S.C. While in Columbia, she also helped many young adults ages 16-24 years old excel through the S.C. Job Corps Recruitment Program.

Above all, her greatest joys and proudest accomplishments were her two beloved daughters "Necie and Mandi B." who she constantly spoke about with a huge smile on her face! They were the center of her world and the living legacy.

Betsy is survived by her two daughters Denise Walters (Curtis Micheal Britt) of Timmonsville, S.C. and Mandi Beama Walters (Andrew Caleb Pike) of Charleston, S.C.; her sister Amelia Fields Leggett (the late James Perry Leggett, Jr.) of Fairmont, N.C.; several loving nieces and nephews; and her Grand Fur-Babies, Gabby Lane, Sir Micheal Bentley, Sophocles the Greek, Gus, and Stanley.

Betsy was preceded in death by her parents and siblings: William Corbett Fields, Sr., Claudette Fields Blackwell, Polly Fields Welshans, and Joe Thad Fields.

A private family service will be held at the family homesite in Evergreen at a later date. Memorials may be made in her memory to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 6704, Hagerstown, MD 21741. <https://www.cancer.org/donate/hope.html>.

"Rest easy now mom, you're finally Home and we can only imagine the peace and beauty! See you later and love you more."

The family has chosen Bullock Funeral Home for their arrangements. You may sign the family's guest book at www.bullockfuneralhome.com.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

57th annual 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 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.

575 Recognition Art

Exhibition Reception, through 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.

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 are located in the stadium. Entry to the stadium is free.

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,

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Robeson Art Guild welcomes visitors, art lovers

Devin Hammonds
The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — The Robeson Art Guild is giving local artists a place to create, exhibit and connect with the community. Located at 109 West Ninth Street in Lumberton, the nonprofit organization welcomes visitors to explore rotating art exhibitions while supporting artists from across Robeson County and surrounding areas.

The Guild House is open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., when visitors can browse

the current exhibition and shop for one-of-a-kind artwork created by local artists. On Mondays from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Guild members gather for an open painting session, providing an opportunity to work on projects, share ideas and enjoy the company of fellow artists.

The Artist's Choice 2026 and Remembrance Poppy Exhibition is the Guild's current exhibition. It opened last month and will remain on display through July 9, according to Guild member Collin Bell. The Guild rotates its exhibits more

than six times each year, ensuring visitors always have something new to experience.

Membership is open to anyone interested in supporting the arts. Annual dues are \$40 for individual artists and \$50 for families. Members have access to painting sessions, exhibitions, workshops and other Guild activities throughout the year.

In addition to the gallery, the Robeson Art Guild features a small gift shop offering original artwork created by local artists. Pieces typically start at \$10, making it

easy for visitors to take home a unique piece of local art while supporting the creative community.

As a nonprofit organization, the Robeson Art Guild is dedicated to promoting the visual arts through exhibitions, educational opportunities, workshops, and community partnerships. Whether you're an artist looking to get involved or simply appreciate local talent, the Guild House offers a welcoming place to experience the arts in Robeson County.

Devin Hammonds is an intern for The Robesonian.

Pembroke man pleads guilty to stealing over \$170,000 in Covid loans

Staff report

NEW BERN — A Pembroke man pleaded guilty to stealing from the Small Business Administration's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) by submitting false loan applications which resulted in the disbursement of \$170,833 in loan proceeds.

Phillip Collins, 47, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and faces a maximum term of 30 years in prison, and a \$1,000,000 fine when sentenced later this year. He will also be ordered to pay a Forfeiture Money Judgment of \$170,833.

“Although the government may have stopped doling out Covid money, our government continues to hand out billions in other loans, subsidies and programs,” said U.S. Attorney Ellis Boyle. “This office will continue to hold accountable anyone who defrauds any of our taxpayer funded programs. Crime doesn't pay! Cheaters. Never. Win.”



Collins

According to court documents and other information presented in court, Collins submitted fraudulent EIDL and PPP loan applications for a business located in Robeson County. Collins made false representations of the number of employees and gross revenues. He also submitted false and fraudulent tax forms and bank statements. Following approval of each of the loan applications, funds were disbursed into a personal account controlled by Collins.

W. Ellis Boyle, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina, made the announcement after U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert Jones accepted the guilty plea from the defendant. The FBI and IRS-CI investigated the case.

Community VBS attracts 350 per night

Devin Hammonds
The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — More than 350 people gathered for a community-wide Vacation Bible School last week as churches from across the community joined together at W.H. Knuckles Elementary School to provide a week of faith, fellowship and family activities.

According to Vacation Bible School Director Veronica Powell of Sandy Grove Baptist Church, the idea for the event began with a vision from the church's pastor to create a joint VBS that would bring multiple congregations together while also serving the wider community. Last year was the first year the event was held, attracting about 250 nightly, before the event grew this year.

“We invited several churches to participate with us last year,” Pow said. “It was phenomenal.”

Organizers expanded the program this year, adding three more sponsoring churches. The event's growing reputation even drew interest from churches outside Robeson County, with congregations in Fayetteville reaching out about participating.

In all, approximately 350 people registered for this year's Vacation Bible School, with representatives from 20 churches across Robeson County taking part.

The event was sponsored by five churches: Sandy Grove Baptist Church, First Baptist Church (Second Street), Eden Global Ministry, McCormick Chapel and another local partner church in Lumberton.



Rod Parker | Courtesy of Sandy Grove Baptist Church
Mickey Mouse visits with children at last week's Community VBS at W.H. Knuckles Elementary School in Lumberton.

In addition to Bible lessons and worship, organizers partnered with community organizations to provide support services and guest speakers who focused on encouraging and mentoring teenagers.

Younger children enjoyed a variety of family-friendly activities, including visits from Minnie and Mickey Mouse mascots, adding an extra element of fun to the week's programming.

Organizers say the event continues to grow each year, reflecting the willingness of churches throughout the community to work together in sharing their faith and serving local families.

Devin Hammonds is an intern for The Robesonian.



Children enjoy last week's Community VBS at W.H. Knuckles Elementary School in Lumberton.



A child has fun on the playground swings at last week's Community VBS at W.H. Knuckles Elementary School in Lumberton.

PSRC Board of Education approves assistant principal assignments for 2026-27

Jessica Sealey
For The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — The Public Schools of Robeson County Board of Education approved several assistant principal appointments during its special called meeting held on June 25, 2026. The appointments were approved during the closed session portion of the meeting as part of the personnel report and will become effective in the 2026-2027 academic year.

The following assistant principal appointments were approved:

— Nicholas Baffaro, Lumberton High School: Baffaro was approved as assistant principal at Lumberton High School. He currently serves as a physical education teacher at Littlefield Middle



Baffaro

School.

— Kenda Collins, Shining Stars Preschool: Collins was approved as assistant principal at Shining Stars Preschool. She currently serves as assistant principal at Deep Branch Elementary School.

— Olivia Deese, Purnell Swett High School: Deese was approved as assistant principal at Purnell Swett High School. She currently serves as an academic coach at Purnell Swett High School.

— Bobby Evans, St. Pauls High School: Evans



Collins



Deese

was approved as assistant principal and athletic director at St. Pauls High School. He currently serves as assistant principal at Lumberton Junior High School.

— Erica Quick, St. Pauls Elementary School: Quick was approved as assistant principal at St. Pauls Elementary School. She currently serves as an academic coach at Rosendwald Elementary School.

— Jordan Strickland, L. Gilbert Carroll Middle School: Strickland was approved as assistant principal at L. Gilbert



Evans



Quick

Carroll Middle School. He currently serves as assistant principal and athletic director at St. Pauls High School.

“These appointments reflect the district's ongoing commitment to developing educational leaders and supporting schools with experienced administrators who are dedicated to student success,” said PSRC Superintendent Freddie Williamson.

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



Strickland

PSRC to hold public hearing on naming CTEC building

Michele Chavis
For The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — The Public Schools of Robeson County Board of Education will hold a public hearing on Thursday, July 9 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Lumberton Junior High School Auditorium. The purpose of the hearing is to consider the proposed naming of the new Robeson Career and Technical Education Center.

Robeson CTEC is set to open in August and will replace the current Robeson County Career Center. The Center will include a new planetarium and science center. The previous planetarium had been destroyed by Hurricane Matthew in 2016. The idea behind the new building is to serve as a hub for innovation, skill-building and career readiness, aligning educational opportunities with the evolving demands of today's workforce.

The Board had decided to table the naming of the facility back in February after many residents voiced strong opinions regarding honoring former leaders within the district that made meaningful impacts within the community. Many members of the Robeson County community that represent the Lumbee Tribe urged the Board to name the building for Barry Harding and Johnny Hunt, both former superintendents. The PSRC Construction Committee recommended adding plaques at the building to honor those two men and James Hooks, a former director of the planetarium who died in 2024. A motion had been on the floor to rename the building after the men, but the motion died and was tabled for a later date.

Anyone wishing to speak must sign up between 4:30 p.m. and 5:25 p.m. at the site of the public hearing. Individuals wishing to speak must list their name and address and are limited to no more than three minutes. Groups or organizations wishing to express themselves are requested to designate a single spokesperson to represent the group's position.

Though no decision will be made at the meeting, the board is eager to ultimately come to an agreement.

Michele Chavis is an intern for The Robesonian.

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HIS VIEW

Is NC ready for political regime change?

A case can be made that fifteen years of Republican dominance in state government is enough and a regime change is desirable.

For the record, we felt the same way after Democrats ran the state for over 100 years. Republicans have done some good things, chief among them is putting our state on a sounder financial footing and amassing cash for the inevitable rainy day. But the damage now outweighs the benefits.

The GOP mantra has been cut, cut, cut. In 2011, when Republicans took charge, the personal income tax rate was 7.75% for incomes



Tom Campbell
Contributing columnist

over \$60,000. Today it is 3.99% and Republicans want to cut even more. If current legislative leadership gets their way corporate income taxes will disappear altogether. Let's acknowledge tax cuts were justified and helped stimulate our economy. But we've cut enough and at some point need to question who is going pay for state government services? Is this primarily a ploy by leadership to cut budgets and state services?

For more than a decade they prohibited North Carolina from expanding Medicaid, keeping more than a half million elderly and low-income citizens from having health insurance. Republicans have resegregated our state's public schools, transferring funds from traditional public schools to charters and now gifting \$675 million per year to private schools filled with predominantly white, middle to upper income students — schools where we have no idea how well students perform. It is apparent Republicans have essentially given up on traditional public schools.

Republicans politicized the governance of our state university system and community colleges, and now aim to do the same to the State Board of Education. Meanwhile, they exempted themselves from open meetings laws and accountability. They have studiously and regularly reduced environmental regulations and passed rules favoring big business. Lawmakers ended the Earned Income Tax Credit that helped provide childcare for low-income workers. They cut unemployment insurance benefits, making us among the least generous states in the country.

During their reign, Republicans made judicial elections partisan by forcing candidates to declare their political affiliation. Our legislature's partisan gerrymandering is among the most extreme in the nation and they changed election laws to be more favorable to their party's candidates.

The current power structure deliberately changed the balance of power by weakening the authority and appointment powers of our governor. They used political trickery to overturn gubernatorial vetoes. The numbers of women and minorities on boards and commissions have shrunk and one only needs to speak the words "HB2" to remind you what Republican think of those with gender differences. Further, they drastically modified our abortion laws.

The case is substantial that it is time for a political change in our state, but it won't take place overnight. Let us remind ourselves that 30.25% of our registered voters are Republicans, 30.21% are Democrats and 39% are Unaffiliated — voters who deliberately chose not to join either tribe. The climate appears right for Democrats and unaffiliated voters to find some common ground and form a new coalition, perhaps not only every issue, but on enough issues to take charge of state government.

What can be done in 2026?

The March primary elections have locked in place the candidates for November's elections, however a significant step toward regime change would be to eliminate the current veto-proof majorities in both houses of our legislature. This would not only promote more incentive for cooperation and compromise by the current leadership, but also would make the governor a player in legislation to prevent vetoes.

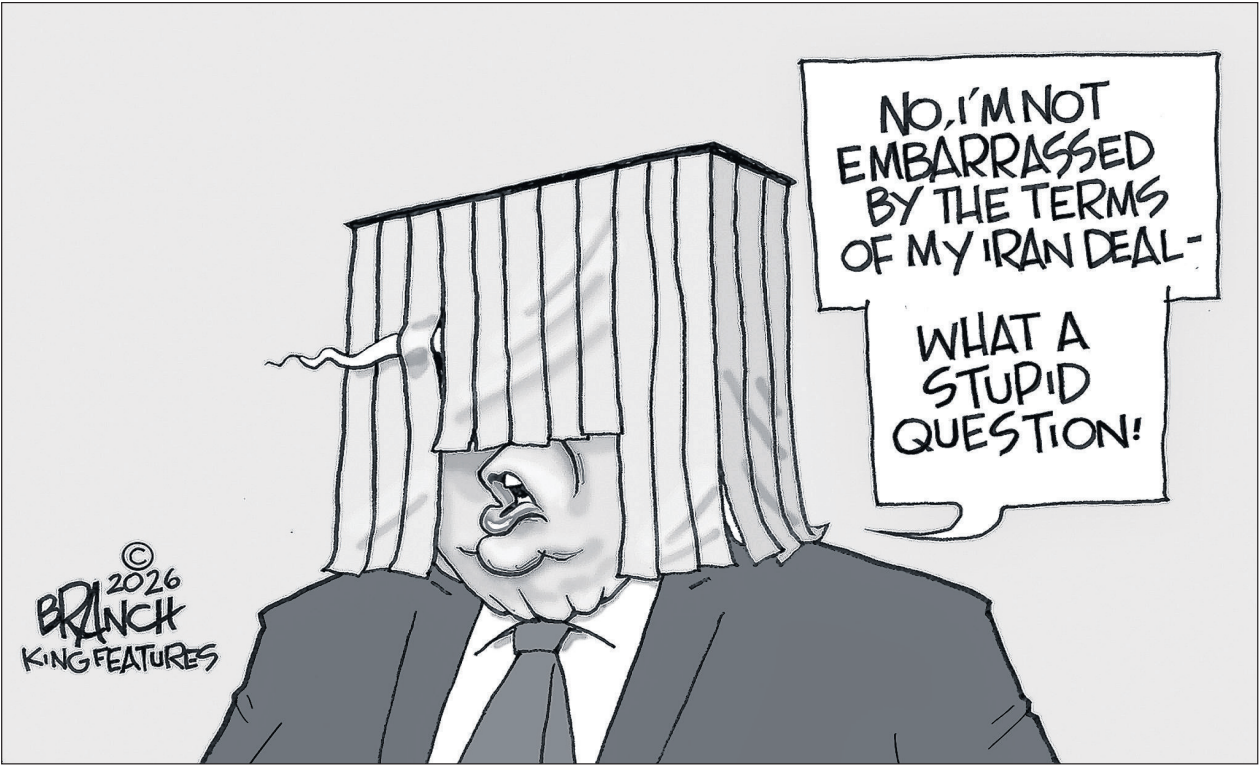
Political consultants can easily identify districts where an incumbent might be weak, where registration numbers indicate a newcomer might have a chance for an upset or where there is significant voter unrest over issues. The March election between longtime Senator Phil Berger and Sheriff Sam Page proved such changes can happen.

A three-fifths majority of those present and voting is needed to override a gubernatorial veto. In the House that is 72 votes, if all members are present. Currently the House has 70 Republicans, 47 Democrats and two not affiliated. In the N.C. Senate, 30 votes are necessary to override a veto. Currently, there are 30 Republicans and 20 Democrats.

A few "flips" in party representation could assure one or both chambers are veto proof.

Using the Republican playbook, Independent Expenditure Groups would form to raise the large sums of money needed to inform the public. Carefully crafted advertising could stir up voters and motivate them to cast ballots in November.

Removing veto overrides could be a good test to see if North Carolina is ready for change. If they are, there is ample time to prepare for the 2028 presidential election.



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

Some homers among the strikes

RALEIGH — Next month will mark the 40th anniversary of my debut as a columnist for North Carolina newspapers. Over the decades, I've gotten quite a few things wrong. I've misdiagnosed policy problems, misinterpreted data, miscalled political races, even misspelled an embarrassing number of names.

While every error makes my stomach lurch, I try not to beat myself up too much about it — or about how often I mix my metaphors. After all, when you step up to the editorial plate once or twice a week over four decades, you're going to strike out. Often.

Still, when I really blow it and need some reassurance, I change the mental subject. I think about the articles I wrote that stand the test of time. Articles that correctly summarized and analyzed a difficult issue. Articles that offered what proved to be accurate predictions of political events. And articles pitching policy ideas that became law in North Carolina and beyond.

One of the first columns I wrote that appeared in more than one newspaper — and later appeared in expanded form in Reader's Digest — examined the rising cost of college. While several factors were in play, I argued, one explanation for tuition inflation was actually the federal government's attempts to solve the problem with grants and loans. As financial aid became more generous, college and universities hiked their tuition and fees to capture most if not all of the benefit. I called the process an "education treadmill," in that many students and their families were expending a great amount of energy and money and getting nowhere.

This treadmill effect is now so widely accepted an account of how tuition subsidies work that even left-wing critics of school choice make the same argument about private-school tuition — and they are, to some extent, correct.

As it happens, I also wrote columns decades ago predicting that vouchers or tax breaks for households selecting private schools would, everything else being equal, enable those schools to raise tuition. My proposed solution, for both K-12 and higher education, was to use tax reform to give households a financial

incentive to shop around for the best educational deal.

I urged policymakers to create what I called "educational savings accounts" into which parents and others could contribute tax-free deposits and from

which they could withdraw to pay tuition, fees and other costs. Those eligible for vouchers or other public subsidies would also have that money flow into their ESAs. Here's the kicker: any unspent ESAs funds could eventually roll over into other savings or retirement accounts. Rather than presenting folks with a "use it or lose it" dynamic, ESAs would empower them to make the educational choices that best fit their needs while also encouraging them to be price-sensitive.

My first piece on ESAs came out in the mid-1990s. I'm happy to say that, since then, education savings accounts (subsequent advocates shortened the first word) have become a popular reform, enacted so far in 18 states, including our own.

Finally, one political call I got right was the fate of Jim Black, former Democratic speaker of the North Carolina House. In the 2002 midterms, Republicans won a 61-seat majority in the 120-seat chamber. Black didn't yield power gracefully. Instead, he bribed a Republican with financial problems to change parties, yielding a 60-60 split, then used other questionable means to preserve his power.

As allegations of Black's corruption continued to proliferate, most insiders believed the speaker would survive. Many dismissed predictions of his political demise as fanciful. That wasn't my take. I wrote multiple columns about his scandals and predicted an end to his speakership and career. In a March 27, 2006 column entitled "It's not a question of if," I wrote that "the chorus of individuals and institutions calling for Black to step down as speaker started out as a barber-shop quartet. Now it can perform oratorios."

Some months later, Black announced his retirement, pled guilty to corruption charges, and went to prison.

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).

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.

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: U equals V

V ITJWW QRK QUVQR UQAVJXK
XMQR QZZJQEW XD IDY VR
MJQUJR HDTEY OJ
HEQWWVNVJY QW Q OVAY
DN ZAQK.

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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!

Shield
MARRO

Laud
XELOT

Mug
NITES

Tower
PIERS

Of course, all those prices are just _____."

TODAY'S WORD

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 "Chocolat" actor
5 Audio giant
9 Prune
12 Antioxidant berry
13 Egg
14 — budget
15 Plumbing problem
16 Firsties
17 TiVo precursor
18 Foolproof
19 Sch. URL ender
20 Borscht base
21 Sailing hazard
23 — Victor
25 Daughter of Muhammad
28 Lynx
32 "West Side Story" role
33 Prefix meaning "water"
34 Ocean bottoms
36 Grapevine talk
37 Chow down
38 — was saying ...
39 Scoff
42 Half of bi-
44 Sod
48 Napoleon's title (Abbr.)
49 Mideast gulf
50 Verifiable
51 Brit. record label

DOWN

1 June honorees
2 Beige
3 Two of a kind
4 Specialist in the heating/cooling industry
5 Grocery store
6 Roman poet
7 Outlying area
8 Ambulance letters
9 Zero, in tennis
10 Formerly
11 Section
20 Date night hire
22 D-Day beach
24 Some Pacific salmon
25 Passing craze
26 Chemical suffix
27 Gratuity
29 LP successors
30 NPR's Shapiro
31 Pinnacle
35 Recording site
36 Olympic swimmer
39 "M*A*S*H" vehicle
40 Tennis star
41 Raducanu
41 Grand tale
43 Legendary loch
45 Language of Pakistan
46 Carpets
47 Shoe fillers
49 Illustrations

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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Artistic expression

P	R	I	N	T

PC command
Prepare for competition
Low point
Repairs a sock
Gets info from a newspaper
Lamp accessory

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.sproutsuzzles.com

02646

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

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

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MOVIES: Who was the only actress to appear in the 1961 and 2021 film versions of "West Side Story"?

2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which month of the year has the most letters in its name?

3. SCIENCE: What protects the Earth from solar winds?

4. TELEVISION: What is the name of the bar in "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia"?

5. U.S. STATES: Which state is home to the first Ben & Jerry's ice cream shop?

6. LITERATURE: What are the names of the two brothers in the "Hardy Boys" novel series?

7. LANGUAGE: What is a polyglot?

8. FOOD & DRINK: Which herb is most often used in traditional pesto?

9. ANATOMY: Membranes called pleurae cover the surface of which human organs?

10. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of South Korea?

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ESTIMATES

Today's Word

3. Stein; 4. Spire

1. Armor; 2. Extol

solution

SCRAMBLERS

E	D	A	H	S
S	D	A	R	S
S	N	S		
R	A	D	I	R
N	A	I		
T	R	I	N	T

solution

FiveSpot™

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

CryptoQuip

I guess any avian variety that appeals to God in heaven could be classified as a bird of prey.

1. Rita Moreno
2. September
3. The magnetosphere, an invisible magnetic bubble generated inside the Earth
4. Paddy's Pub
5. Vermont
6. Frank and Joe
7. A person who speaks several languages
8. Basil
9. The lungs
10. Seoul

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58XVW710

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ANIMALS

LEGALS

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

LEGALS	LEGALS	LEGALS	LEGALS	LEGALS	LEGALS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, COUNTY OF ROBESON, IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE, DISTRICT COURT DIVISION, FILE NO.: 26CV001681-770 COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina; Plaintiff, VS. VASHTI JONES, RICHARD JONES, JOE NATHAN MCLEAN, and APRIL HAYES AS TRUSTEES OF HESTER CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Owners; and CRYSTAL GRAHAM, GUARDIAN AD LITEM OF VASHTI JONES, RICHARD JONES, JOE NATHAN MCLEAN, and APRIL HAYES AS TRUSTEES OF HESTER CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH; Defendants. GENERAL NOTICE OF TAX FORECLOSURE SALE Under and by virtue of an order of the District Court of Robeson County, North Carolina, made and entered in the action entitled "County of Robeson vs Vashti Jones, Richard Jones, Joe Nathan McLean, and April Hayes as Trustees of Hester Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Owners; and Crystal Graham, Guardian ad Litem of Vashti Jones, Richard Jones, Joe Nathan McLean, and April Hayes as Trustees of Hester Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, the undersigned Commissioner will on the 14th day of July, 2026, offer for sale and sell for cash, to the last and highest bidder at public auction, at the courthouse door in Robeson County, North Carolina, in Lumberton at 12:00 noon the following described real property, lying and being the aforesaid State and County, and more particularly described as follows: DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY Owner(s) of Record: Hester Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Title Reference: Deed Book 1578, Page 425, PIN No: 101803006, 101803007, and 10103008. Tax Account No: 1059912 Property Location: Lumberton Township. Hestertown Rd. Lots 18-26 of Map Book 5 Page 45 - Division 1 of Troy Musselwhite Farm. Being all of Lot Numbers 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26 of the division Number One of Troy Musselwhite's Farm at Hestertown, and as shown on Book of Maps 5, at Page 45, in the Robeson County Public Registry. Said map is incorporated herein by reference for a more full and accurate description of the said lots. Being the same lands described in deed dated August 24th, 2006 from Andrew B. Canady et ux., Bonnie J. Canady to Vashti Jones, Richard Jones, Joe Nathan McLean, and April Hayes as Trustees of Hester Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, and recorded in Book 1578, page 425, December 22, 2006, Robeson County Registry. The above-described property is subject to all Right of Ways and Easements of record. The sale will be made subject to all outstanding city and county taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above-described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. A deposit of twenty (20) percent of the successful bid will be required. This 18th day of June, 2026. Edward K. Brooks, Commissioner	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 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 WOODELL 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 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

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Notices

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE

SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

THIS ACTION BROUGHT PURSUANT TO THE POWER AND AUTHORITY contained within that certain Deed of Trust executed and delivered by Crystal G. Nobles Hammonds dated April 17, 2025 and recorded on April 17, 2025 in Book D 2512 at Page 489 in the Office of Register of Deeds of Robeson County, North Carolina. As a result of a default in the obligations contained within the Promissory Note and Deed of Trust and the failure to carry out and perform the stipulation and agreements contained therein, the holder of the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust made demand to have the default cured, which was not met. Therefore, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will place for sale that parcel of land, including improvements thereon, situated, lying and being in the City of Lumberton, County of Robeson, State of North Carolina, and being more particularly described in the heretofore referenced Deed of trust Said sale will be a public auction to the highest bidder for cash, at the usual place of sale at the Robeson County Courthouse, Lumberton, North Carolina, on **July 16, 2026 at 11:00 AM.**

Address of Property: 2502 N Barker St, Lumberton, NC 28358
Tax Parcel ID: 031190497100
Present Record Owners: Crystal G. Nobles Hammonds

The terms of the sale are that the real property hereinbefore described will be sold for cash to the highest bidder. A deposit of five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid or Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, is required and must be tendered in the form of certified funds at the time of the sale. The successful bidder will be required to pay revenue stamps on the Trustee's Deed, any Land Transfer Tax, and costs for recording the Trustee's Deed.

The real property hereinabove described is being offered for sale "AS IS, WHERE IS" and will be sold subject to all superior liens, unpaid taxes, special assessments and other encumbrances. Other conditions will be announced at the sale. The sale will be held open for ten (10) days for upset bids, as by law required The sale will not confirm until there have been ten (10) consecutive days with no upset bids having been filed.

If for any reason the Trustee is unable to convey title to this property, or if the sale is set aside, the sole remedy of the purchaser is the return of the bid deposit. Furthermore, if the validity of the sale is challenged by any party, the Trustee in its sole discretion, if it believes the challenge to have merit, may declare the sale to be void and return the bid deposit. In either event, the purchaser will have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee's attorney, or the Trustee.

Additional notice required for Residential Real Property with Less Than Fifteen (15) Rental Units:

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. 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 ten (10) days, but no more than 90 day, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. 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.

Posted: _____

Witness: _____

Assistant/Deputy clerk of Superior Court

s/Franklin L. Greene
Albertelli Law Partners North Carolina, P.A.
Franklin L. Greene, ESQ., NC Bar # 37896
205 Regency Executive Park Drive
Suite 100
Charlotte, NC 28217
Tel: 704-970-0391
fgreene@alaw.net
26SP000111-770/25-016509

7/1 7/8 2026

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

CHICO ANTERRIO LOCKLEAR DECEASED

FILE NUMBER 26 E 000522-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of CHICO ANTERRIO 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 3rd day of OCTOBER 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 1st day of JULY 2026

SASHA ZANTANA LOCKLEAR
800 E WHITE POND ROAD
APT C1
FAIRMONT NC 28340

7/1 7/8 7/15 7/22 2026

LEGALS

STATE OF
NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF ROBESON
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
AND DEBTORS OF
RUTH WILLIAMS
WOOLRIDGE
DECEASED
FILE NUMBER
26 E 000658-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of RUTH WILLIAMS WOOLRIDGE, 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 3rd day of OCTOBER 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 1st day of JULY 2026

MICHELL WOOLRIDGE
140 WILKERSON ROAD
LUMBERTON NC 28358

7/1 7/8 7/15 7/22 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

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

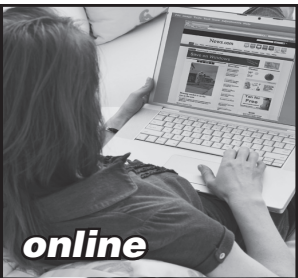
STATE OF
NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF ROBESON
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
AND DEBTORS OF
WILMA JEAN HERRING
DECEASED
FILE NUMBER:
26 E 000542-770

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



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LEGALS

NOTICE OF SERVICE
OF PROCESS BY
PUBLICATION
NORTH CAROLINA
ROBESON COUNTY
IN THE DISTRICT
COURT DIVISON
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

24CVS001759-770 NOTICE OF JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY UNDER AND BY VIRTUE of the power and authority contained in that certain Deed of Trust executed and delivered by Wayon D. Graham, Jr. and Amanda Allen Graham dated May 6, 2019 and recorded on May 6, 2019, in Book D 2176 at page 311, in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Robeson County, North Carolina; and because of default in the payment of the indebtedness secured thereby and, pursuant to demand of the holder of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust, the undersigned Goddard & Peterson, PLLC (Commissioner) will offer for sale at the courthouse door in the City of Lumberton, Robeson County, North Carolina, or the customary location designated for foreclosure sales, on July 13, 2026 at 10:00 AM and will sell to the highest bidder for cash the following real estate situated in the County of Robeson, North Carolina and being more particularly described in the above referenced Deed of Trust, together with all improvements located thereon: Address of Property: 4004 Kings Cross Road, Lumberton, NC 28360 Tax Parcel ID: 100602001 Present Record Owner: Wayon D. Graham, Jr. and Amanda Allen Graham Commissioner may, in the Commissioner's sole discretion, delay the sale for up to one hour as provided in N.C.G.S. §45-21.23. Said property is sold subject to applicable Federal and State laws. A deposit of five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid or seven hundred fifty Dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, is required and must be tendered in the form of certified funds at the time of the sale. The real property described above is being offered for sale "AS IS, WHERE IS" and will be sold subject to all superior liens, unpaid taxes, and special assessments and any liens or encumbrances that would not be extinguished by non-judicial foreclosure. Neither the Commissioner nor the holder of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust being foreclosed, nor the officers, directors, attorneys, employees, agents or authorized representatives of either the Commissioner or the holder of the Note make any representation or warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the property being offered for sale, and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition expressly are disclaimed. The sale will be held open for ten (10) days for upset bids as required by law. Should the property be purchased by a third party, that party must pay the excise tax, and any Land Transfer Tax as required by N.C.G.S. §7A-308(a)(1). Third party, must pay the full bid amount, less any deposit that has been paid to the Commissioner, immediately upon demand after the conclusion of the final upset bid period. Failure of the bidder to comply with the bid shall result in the resale of the property, with the defaulting bidder remaining liable upon their bid under the provisions of N.C.G.S. §45-21-30. If the Commissioner is unable to convey title to this property for any reason, the sole remedy of the purchaser is the return of the deposit. Reasons of such inability to convey title include, but are not limited to, the filing of a bankruptcy petition prior to the sale and reinstatement of the loan without knowledge of the Commissioner. If the validity of the sale is challenged by any party, the Commissioner, in its/their sole discretion, if it/they believe(s) the challenge to have merit, may declare the sale to be void and return the deposit. The purchaser will have no further remedy. Additional Notice where the Real Property is Residential with less than 15 Rental Units: An order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to N.C.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. 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 ten (10) days, but no more than ninety (90) days, after the sale date contained in the Notice of Sale, provided that the mortgage has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the Notice of Termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of such termination. This is a communication from a debt collector. The purpose of this Communication is to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose, except as stated below in the instance of bankruptcy protection. If you are under the protection of the bankruptcy court or have been discharged as a result of a bankruptcy proceeding, this notice is given to you pursuant to statutory requirement and for informational purposes and is not intended as an attempt to collect a debt or as an act to collect, assess, or recover all or any portion of the debt from you personally. FN# 3130.00124 60988

7/1 7/8 2026

LEGALS

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
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

House For Rent

FOR RENT
3 BEDROOM 2 BATH MO-
BILE HOME PRIVATE LOT
900.00 A MONTH
1000.00 DEPOSIT

2 BEDROOM 2 BATH MO-
BILE HOME
825.00 A MONTH
1000.00 DEPOSIT

PLEASE CALL 9103169642

Want to Rent

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

RUSTIC TRAIL RENTALS
3BD & 2 BATH MOBILE
HOME
910-671-4461

Rentals

2 BED&2 BATH singlewide
ST.PAULS
3BED &2 BATH singlewide
ORRUM AREA
area Call 910-739-7749

NOTICE OF ADDENDUM

Sealed bids for the Town of Maxton Town Hall & Police Station Renovation
Project will be received by the Town of Maxton until **10:00 A.M. on July 7, 2026**
at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Please note that this
addendum serves to clarify and extend the deadline for the submission of the
previously re-advertise request for proposals.

Bids shall be delivered to:
Town of Maxton
201 McCaskill Avenue
Maxton, NC 28364
Attn: Angela Pitchford

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

Complete digital bidding documents and/or questions inquire from:
Lumber River Council of Governments
30 CJ Walker Road
Pembroke, NC 28372
ATTN: Craig Usher
cu@lrcog.org

Bidders must be properly licensed under Chapter 87 of the North Carolina General Statutes.
The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities.
The Town of Maxton encourages participation by minority-owned, women-owned, and historically
underutilized businesses (HUBs).

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, COUNTY OF ROBESON, IN THE GENERAL COURT OF
JUSTICE, DISTRICT COURT DIVISION, FILE NO.: 26CV000554-770
COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina;

Plaintiff,

VS.

ANY AND ALL ASSIGNEES, HEIRS AT LAW AND DEVISEES OF DALLAS OXENDINE, and spouse,
if any, Owners, KEVIN OXENDINE and spouse, if any, Heir at Law, TELISHA LYNN OXENDINE
and spouse, if any, Heir at Law, BRANDON DWIGHT OXENDINE and spouse, if any, Heir at Law, and
CRYSTAL GRAHAM, GUARDIAN AD LITEM OF ANY AND ALL ASSIGNEES, HEIRS AT LAW AND
DEVISEES OF DALLAS OXENDINE, and spouse, if any, KEVIN OXENDINE and spouse, if any,
Heir at Law, TELISHA LYNN OXENDINE and spouse, if any, Heir at Law, and BRANDON DWIGHT
OXENDINE and spouse, if any, Heir at Law;

Defendants.

NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: ANY AND ALL ASSIGNEES, HEIRS AT LAW AND DEVISEES OF DALLAS OXENDINE,
and spouse, if any, Owners, KEVIN OXENDINE and spouse, if any, Heir at Law, TELISHA LYNN
OXENDINE and spouse, if any, Heir at Law, BRANDON DWIGHT OXENDINE and spouse, if any,
Heir at Law, and CRYSTAL GRAHAM, GUARDIAN AD LITEM OF ANY AND ALL ASSIGNEES,
HEIRS AT LAW AND DEVISEES OF DALLAS OXENDINE, and spouse, if any, KEVIN OXENDINE
and spouse, if any, Heir at Law, TELISHA LYNN OXENDINE and spouse, if any, Heir at Law, and
BRANDON DWIGHT OXENDINE and spouse, if any, Heir at Law;
Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action, and
notice of service by Publication will begin the 1st day of July, 2026.
The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: foreclosure sale to satisfy unpaid property taxes
on your interest in the property described as:
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
**Owner of Record: Heirs of Dallas Oxendine and spouse, if any, Title Reference: DB 1682 @ PG
344, PIN No: 04030202012, Tax Account No: 1095152, Property Location: Burnt Swamp Twp.
Tr 26 Hannah O Wood et al Map 44 @ 85, 1.95 AC +/-.**
TRACT 26
Burnt Swamp Township, Robeson County, North Carolina
All that certain tract or parcel of land lying about 3.2 miles east of the center of Pembroke, NC, about
½ mile northeast of NC Highway 72 West, about 0.25 miles northwest of SR 1516, Genes Road,
adjacent to and on the northeast side of a 45 foot private easement #3, adjacent to and south of the
southeast end of easement #2 and adjoining Tract 25 of this Division on the southwest, Tract 23 on
the northwest, Tract 27 on the northeast, Harry Locklear (1073/164) and Mary Chavis (19-B/331) on
the southeast and being more particularly described as follows:
BEGINNING at an iron rod set in the northwest line of Mary Chavis (19-B/331), the corner of Tracts
25 and 26 of this Division, this iron rod being located North 51 degrees 45 minutes 40 seconds East
513.56 feet from a pump pipe found in a ditch, the northwest corner of Sue Ellen Brooks (1130/701),
this pump pipe being located North 24 degrees 46 minutes 37 seconds West 1128.13 feet from a
mag nail found in the centerline intersection of SR 1516, Genes Road with Jimmy's Farm Road and
runs thence from said beginning iron rod with the line of Tracts 25 and 26, North 45 degrees 50
minutes 57 seconds West 300.86 feet to an iron rod set in the center of a 45 foot private easement
#3, the corners of Tracts 25 and 26; thence with the center of said 45 foot private easement #3 North
40 degrees 49 minutes 44 seconds East 184.78 feet to an iron rod set in the intersection of said 45
foot private easement #3 with the 45 foot private easement #2, the corner of Tracts 23, 26, 27 and 28;
thence with the center of said 45 foot private easement #2, South 69 degrees 27 minutes 30 seconds
East 89.69 feet to an iron rod set in the center of a cul-de-sac, having a 50 foot radius a the southeast
end of said easement #2; thence with the line of Tracts 26 and 27, South 69 degrees 27 minutes 30
seconds East 300.0 feet to an iron rod set in the northwest line of Harry Locklear (1073/164), the
corner of Tracts 26 and 27; thence with the northwest line of said Harry Locklear and Mary Chavis
(19-B/331), South 51 degrees 45 minutes 40 seconds West 343.56 feet to the beginning containing
1.95 acres more or less.

Granted and Reserved, a 45 foot Private Easement for Jimmy's Farm Road

BEGINNING at an iron rod found in the bend of a ditch, a corner of Tract 12 of this Division and
Carolyn O. Carter (452/44), said iron rod being located South 83 degrees 26 minutes 39 seconds
West 127.05 feet from an iron rod found at a bend in said ditch, this iron rod being located South 34
degrees 47 minutes 22 seconds West 128.33 feet from an axle found in said ditch, the northeast
corner of Tracy Carter (1063/203) and runs thence from said beginning iron rod and runs with said
ditch and the southwest line of Jimmy's Farm Road (45 ft. private road) North 51 degrees 24 minutes
52 seconds West 359.20 feet to an iron rod set in said ditch; thence with the center of Jimmy's Farm
Road (45 ft. private easement) North 38 degrees 01 minutes 38 seconds East 301.93 feet to an iron
rod set at a bend in said easement; thence with the center of said Jimmy's Farm Road (45 ft. private
easement) North 40 degrees 09 minutes 45 seconds West 272.56 feet to an iron rod set at a bend in
said easement; thence with the center of Jimmy's Farm Road, (45 foot private easement), North 34
degrees 52 minutes 53 seconds East 97.67 feet to an iron rod set at a bend in said easement; thence
with the center of said 45 foot private easement for Jimmy's Farm Road North 24 degrees 33 minutes
57 seconds West 545.70 feet to an iron rod set in the center of said easement and the center of a
cul-de-sac, having a radius of 50 feet, the easement granted and reserved herein is 45 feet at right
angles to and northeast of the 1st line described above and 22.5 feet at right angles to and on both
sides of the center of all other lines with a 50 foot radius at the end of the last call for the purpose of
ingress, egress and utilities, also granted and reserved is any and all rights to Jimmy's Farm Road
that leads from Genes Road, SR 1516, to the above tracts, also a 20 foot private road easement
shown in Deed Book 1063, page 203.

45 Foot Private Easement #1, Granted and Reserved

BEGINNING at an iron rod set in the center of Jimmy's Farm Road, a 45 foot private easement, at its
intersection with the center of a 45 foot private easement #1, the corner of Tracts 16, 21 and 22, this
iron rod being located North 38 degrees 01 minutes 38 seconds East 301.93 feet from an iron rod
set in a ditch, the corner of Tracts 15 and 16, this iron rod being located South 51 degrees 24 minutes
52 seconds East 224.49 feet from an iron rod found, a corner with Addie R. Oxendine (471/168) and
Audrey Oxendine (452/42) and runs thence from said beginning iron rod with the center of this 45 foot
private easement #1, North 73 degrees 04 minutes 27 seconds East 149.11 feet to an iron rod set at
a bend in said easement at a ditch; thence continuing with the center of this 45 foot private easement
#1, North 39 degrees 07 minutes 56 seconds East 281.44 feet to a iron rod set; thence continuing
with the center of this 45 foot private easement #1, North 34 degrees 49 minutes 30 seconds East
159.37 feet to a iron rod set in the center of a cul-de-sac, having a 50 foot radius at the northeast end
of this 45 foot private easement #1, the easement granted and reserved herein is 22.50 feet at right
angles to and northwest and southeast of the above-described centerline for the purpose of ingress,
egress and utilities.

45 Foot Private Easement #2, Granted and Reserved

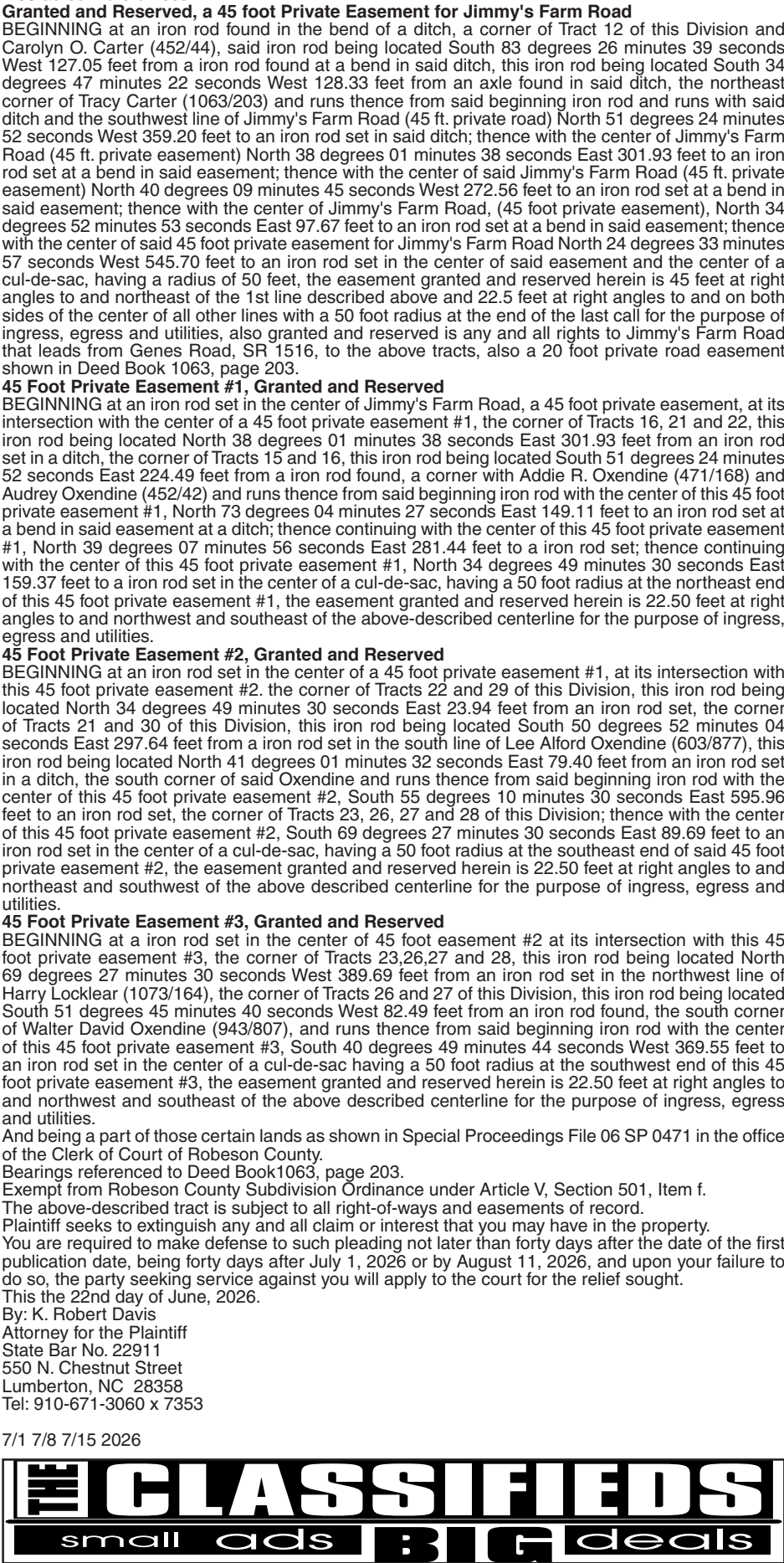
BEGINNING at an iron rod set in the center of a 45 foot private easement #1, at its intersection with
this 45 foot private easement #2, the corner of Tracts 22 and 29 of this Division, this iron rod being
located North 34 degrees 49 minutes 30 seconds East 23.94 feet from an iron rod set, the corner
of Tracts 21 and 30 of this Division, this iron rod being located South 50 degrees 52 minutes 04
seconds East 297.64 feet from an iron rod set in the south line of Lee Alford Oxendine (603/877), this
iron rod being located North 41 degrees 01 minutes 32 seconds East 79.40 feet from an iron rod set
in a ditch, the south corner of said Oxendine and runs thence from said beginning iron rod with the
center of this 45 foot private easement #2, South 55 degrees 10 minutes 30 seconds East 595.96
feet to an iron rod set, the corner of Tracts 23, 26, 27 and 28 of this Division; thence with the center
of this 45 foot private easement #2, South 69 degrees 27 minutes 30 seconds East 89.69 feet to an
iron rod set in the center of a cul-de-sac, having a 50 foot radius at the southeast end of said 45 foot
private easement #2, the easement granted and reserved herein is 22.50 feet at right angles to and
northeast and southwest of the above described centerline for the purpose of ingress, egress and
utilities.

45 Foot Private Easement #3, Granted and Reserved

BEGINNING at an iron rod set in the center of 45 foot easement #2 at its intersection with this 45
foot private easement #3, the corner of Tracts 23,26,27 and 28, this iron rod being located North
69 degrees 27 minutes 30 seconds West 389.69 feet from an iron rod set in the northwest line of
Harry Locklear (1073/164), the corner of Tracts 26 and 27 of this Division, this iron rod being located
South 51 degrees 45 minutes 40 seconds West 82.49 feet from an iron rod found, the south corner
of Walter David Oxendine (943/807), and runs thence from said beginning iron rod with the center
of this 45 foot private easement #3, South 40 degrees 49 minutes 44 seconds West 369.55 feet to
an iron rod set in the center of a cul-de-sac having a 50 foot radius at the southwest end of this 45
foot private easement #3, the easement granted and reserved herein is 22.50 feet at right angles to
and northwest and southeast of the above described centerline for the purpose of ingress, egress
and utilities.

And being a part of those certain lands as shown in Special Proceedings File 06 SP 0471 in the office
of the Clerk of Court of Robeson County.
Bearings referenced to Deed Book1063, page 203.
Exempt from Robeson County Subdivision Ordinance under Article V, Section 501, Item f.
The above-described tract is subject to all right-of-ways and easements of record.
Plaintiff seeks to extinguish any and all claim or interest that you may have in the property.
You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty days after the date of the first
publication date, being forty days after July 1, 2026 or by August 11, 2026, and upon your failure to
do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.
This the 22nd day of June, 2026.
By: K. Robert Davis
Attorney for the Plaintiff
State Bar No. 22911
550 N. Chestnut Street
Lumberton, NC 28358
Tel: 910-671-3060 x 7353

7/1 7/8 7/15 2026



Lumbees celebrate 57th Homecoming



Fireworks illuminate over Pembroke during the kickoff celebration at the 57th annual Lumbee Homecoming Friday.

Jeremy Sampson, center, and dog Luka watch the fireworks show at Lumbee Homecoming Friday in Pembroke.



A family watches the fireworks show at Lumbee Homecoming Friday in Pembroke.



Spectators watch the fireworks show from the front steps of the Givens Performing Arts Center at Lumbee Homecoming Friday in Pembroke.



A patron orders from a food truck at Lumbee Homecoming Friday in Pembroke.



Spectators watch the fireworks show at Lumbee Homecoming Friday in Pembroke.



Vendors Coco Disco at Lumbee Homecoming Friday in Pembroke.

UNCP hosting several events throughout Lumbee Homecoming

Mark Locklear
For The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — UNC Pembroke invites the public to celebrate the 57th annual Lumbee Homecoming, which began last week and runs through Saturday in Pembroke.

As one of the largest annual gatherings in southeastern North Carolina, Lumbee Homecoming showcases the rich history and vibrant culture of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. Each year, thousands of Lumbee citizens and visitors gather to enjoy traditions such as collard sandwiches and grape ice cream, purchase Native art, attend a parade and powwow, witness the crowning of the Lumbee ambassadors and enjoy fireworks. This year marks the first homecoming since the Lumbee Tribe was fully federally recognized on Dec. 18, 2025.

For a full schedule of events organized by the Lumbee Regional Development Association (LRDA), visit lumbee.org/lhevents.

UNCP will host several events during Lumbee Homecoming to celebrate Lumbee history and culture. Established in 1887 to train Lumbee teachers, the university is in the heart of the Lumbee community and has a historical mission of service to the Lumbee and other Indigenous communities. All UNCP events listed below



Lumbee Ambassadors Taylor Davis, Keely Deal, Kyndall Locklear and Jadyn Herndon lead the grand entry during the 2025 AISES Powwow at UNC Pembroke.

are free and open to the public.

Ongoing Exhibition: Poet Tonya Holy Elk

The Museum of the Southeast American Indian is hosting a special exhibition featuring the poetry of Tonya Holy Elk, the 2026 Lloyd Oxendine Artist in Residence. Holy Elk is an Indigenous author, poet, scholar and storyteller from North Carolina. She is a citizen of the Oglala Lakota Nation of Pine Ridge, South Dakota, with family ties to the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. Her work reflects the strength of Native communities and the deep connection between land, memory and spirit. Holy Elk's poetry collection *Roots & Blooms* and the forthcoming *Soul Food*

honor ancestral roots while engaging contemporary struggles, resilience and renewal.

The residency honors Lloyd Earl Oxendine (1942-2015), a pioneering Lumbee artist and advocate for Native American art. The museum is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. To learn more about the museum, visit uncp.edu/museum.

Thursday, July 2: Dr. Helen Maynor Scheirbeck Memorial Lecture

Dr. Bryan McKinley Jones Brayboy (Lumbee) is the dean of the School of Education & Social Policy and the Carlos Montezuma Professor of Education and Social Policy at Northwestern University. He will deliver the third annual lecture

honoring Dr. Helen Maynor Scheirbeck (1935-2010), a trail-blazing Lumbee political scientist, educator and community organizer.

The lecture begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Museum of the Southeast American Indian located on the first floor of Old Main.

Dr. Scheirbeck was instrumental in shaping American Indian education and policy at the national level. She assisted with the founding of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to chair the Indian Education Task Force and served as the director of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare Office of Indian Education. Dr. Scheirbeck also assisted in developing the Tribally Controlled Community College Assistance Act (1978), was appointed head of the Indian Head Start Program and served as assistant director for public programs at the National Museum of the American Indian.

Lumbee Scholars & Academics will serve as a co-host.

Friday, July 3: UNC Pembroke closed

UNC Pembroke, including the Museum of the Southeast American Indian, will be closed on Friday, July 3 in observance on Independence Day.

Saturday, July 4: Visit the Museum of the Southeast American Indian

Visit the Museum of the Southeast American Indian from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to enjoy family-friendly activities such as engaging with the museum's exhibits, participating in the free crafts for kids, and purchasing items at the gift shop. Be sure to view the special exhibit on the 50th anniversary of the outdoor drama *Strike At The Wind!*, which tells the story of Lumbee hero Henry Berry Lowrie and the Lowrie Gang, and make your mark on the Lumbee art mural!

Saturday, July 4: Native Strong Coalition Powwow

Following the Lumbee Homecoming parade, join the Native Strong Coalition Powwow, featuring Native dancers, music and vendors, from 1 to 3 p.m. on the Quad next to Old Main. This celebration is hosted by UNCP student organizations (Alpha Pi Omega Sorority, American Indian Science and Engineering Society, Native American Student Organization and Phi Sigma Nu Fraternity) and showcases Native talent and tradition in the heart of campus.

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

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Red Springs Artspace opens ‘575’ exhibition

Michele Chavis
The Robesonian

RED SPRINGS — The Red Springs Artspace hosted the opening reception of “575 | Recognition” last Wednesday evening.

The juried exhibition, a competitive showcase of artwork, features the works of 20 local artists and is a celebration to honor the Lumbee Tribe’s recent achievement of full federal recognition.

After the 137-year struggle, federal lawmakers passed the Lumbee Fairness Act in Dec. 2025. Known as the People of the Dark Water, the Lumbee are the largest tribe east of the Mississippi River and are primarily based in Robeson County. To honor their rich culture, history and resilience, the exhibition is dedicated to Lumbee themes, stories, and artistic expression.

Three winners were chosen from the many talented participants. Lindsay Siemens won first place with her work “On the Hunt,” Lisa Huggins Oxendine won second with “Gather the Sisters” and Pamela Odom Emanuel won third with “Life on the Swamp.”

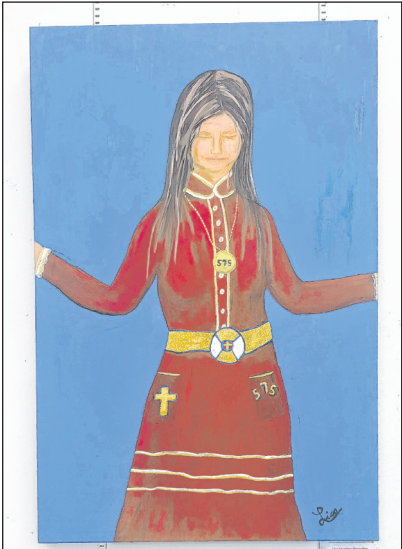
Other artists that participated using various mediums where, Shantonia Kai Chavis-Bullard with “Paper Dolls” and “Swamp Psalms”, Carla Paschal Hunt with “Lumbee Pride”, Ned Barton with “Geronimo”, Richard Mathis with his photo montage, “The River Remembers” and Karina McMillan with “Lumbee Woman Wearing Necklace.”

Jurors included Nancy Strickland Chavis, director and curator for the Museum of the Southeast American Indian, and Harlen Chavis Jr., the Lumbee Tribe’s historic preservation officer.

The exhibition will be on display through Wednesday, July 8 and is



Photos by Michele Chavis | The Robesonian
Lindsay Siemens' work “On the Hunt” at the “575 | Recognition” exhibition at the Red Springs Artspace. The artwork was awarded first place in the exhibition.



Lisa Huggins Oxendine's work “Praise” at the “575 | Recognition” exhibition at the Red Springs Artspace.



Ned Barton's work “Geronimo” at the “575 | Recognition” exhibition at the Red Springs Artspace.

free to the public. Exhibition hours are on Wednesdays from 12 p.m. 3 pm, Sundays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., and also by appointment.

Michele Chavis is an intern for The Robesonian.

Lown

From page 1A

about what we do, but how we do it and who we serve.”

While most rankings focus on clinical outcomes, the Lown Index takes into account the full breadth of what hospitals do as care providers, employers and community partners. By setting these benchmarks, they seek to shine a light on those hospitals that provide exceptional, high-value patient care to all who need it in their community, and encourage all hospitals to follow their example.

“The Lown Index takes a comprehensive look at who hospitals are, their outcomes, their value, their commitment to community,”

said Vikas Saini, M.D., president of the Lown Institute. “An ‘A’ in social responsibility means a hospital has met high standards across the board.”

The Lown Institute is an independent think tank advocating bold ideas for a just and caring system for health. The Institute envisions a healthcare system focused on what’s best for people, like hospitals caring for those most in need, patients living without fear of financial distress, and health professionals finding joy in their roles. The Lown Hospitals Index is a signature project of The Lown Institute, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Amanda L. Crabtree is the director of marketing & public relations at UNC Health Southeastern. Reach her by email at amanda.crabtree@unchealth.unc.edu.



Photo courtesy of CORE
Linda Oxendine distributes food boxes alongside CORE-trained Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers in Robeson County, North Carolina during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CORE

From page 1A

not just in our county, but throughout the state of North Carolina and the United States, so we shifted over into opioid overdose response. We have been in that space for the past three years.”

Since shifting to prioritize overdose response, CORE has continued to partner with the LRDA while beginning to work with the Department of Public Health, alongside receiving private donations and grants supporting its work to reduce overdose fatalities.

CORE’s main focus has been on educating the community on the dangers of opioids and how to reverse overdoses, working with the faith-based community to spread awareness of overdose reversal methods, such as Narcan, a medication created to reverse the effects of opioids and counteract an overdose quickly.

“When we first started,” Oxendine said, “most of the community, except our first responders, had no information on Narcan... We may do a training in a local church, but we have also

walked into a Jersey Mike’s in Pembroke and conducted a training on how to reverse an overdose.”

CORE can also connect any person seeking help managing and overcoming an opioid addiction with a wide variety of care opportunities, from having boxes of food delivered to connecting people with care facilities if they choose.

“When it comes to the opioid overdose epidemic, it’s predominantly impacting Native Americans in this area,” Oxendine said. “At a rate of over two times higher than any other race. Last week, our county at one point was number one for overdose; now we’re about number three. We don’t want to be on the charts at all, but at least we see the impact of the work that’s happening.”

The CORE offices are located in the LRDA headquarters in Pembroke and can be contacted at 910-522-2157.

“If you need any information, including possible options for a family member who isn’t ready yet,” Oxendine said, “contact us. We will be there to help guide them in any form we can.”

Contact Victoria Sanderson at vsanderson@robesonian.com.

ELCA women welcome Lumbee Tribe for MMIWP awareness

Tasha Oxendine
For The Robesonian

HICKORY — The North Carolina Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) recently welcomed representatives of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina during the 38th Annual Women of the ELCA Gathering in Hickory. Tribal leaders say it was an opportunity to bring attention to the ongoing epidemic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIWP).

The educational presentation featured members of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina staff as well as Yvonne Dial, former Lumbee Tribal Council member and coordinator of the MMIWP Campaign, and Virginia Locklear, executive director of the Rape Crisis Center of Robeson

County. Together, the delegation shared the history of the MMIWP movement, current statistics and data affecting Native women, and the cultural significance of the jingle dress as a symbol of healing, resilience, and hope.

A special highlight of the gathering was the tribute to the late Maxine Amos, a Lumbee tribal citizen and longtime member of St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in Lumberton. Amos faithfully served on the North Carolina Women of the ELCA state board for many years and was instrumental in educating the organization about the Lumbee Tribe and the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People. Her dedication to advocacy and education continues to inspire the organization’s commitment to

justice and awareness.

Conference participants honored Amos and all Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People by wearing red dresses and creating red handprints, powerful symbols recognized nationwide in the MMIWP movement. These visual tributes served as reminders of those whose voices have been silenced and the continued need for awareness, justice and action.

The Lumbee delegation also shared the story of Sara Graham, an 18-year-old Lumbee girl who disappeared from the Lumbee tribal territory 11 years ago. Her story underscored the devastating impact the MMIWP crisis continues to have on Native families and communities. Graham was recently declared legally deceased and her

stepmother was charged last Thursday with her murder.

In addition to learning about the MMIWP movement, attendees gained insight into Lumbee history, culture, traditions, and full federal recognition for the Lumbee Tribe. The presentation concluded with participants joining together in a friendship dance, celebrating unity, respect and shared commitment to strengthening relationships across communities.

The 38th Annual North Carolina Women of the ELCA Gathering brought together women from congregations across North Carolina for worship, education, fellowship and service.

Tasha A. Oxendine is the public relations manager for the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. Contact her at taoxendine@lumbeetribe.com.



Photo courtesy of the Lumbee Tribe
Lumbee Tribe Director of Governmental Affairs Tammy Maynor speaks to the Women of the ELCA Gathering recently in Hickory.

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Fairmont celebrates America with parade, fireworks



A cadet from the Fairmont High School ROTC leads the Fourth of July parade Saturday in Fairmont.



The Fairmont community watches fireworks to celebrate the Fourth of July Sunday evening.



The Fairmont Festival Queens at the town's Fourth of July parade on Saturday.



Fairmont residents buying food and drink ahead of the fireworks on Sunday.



Decorated golf carts in the Fairmont Fourth of July parade on Saturday.

Photos by Victoria Sanderson | The Robesonian

A portion of the Fairmont High School marching band during the Fourth of July parade on Saturday.

COMPASS

From page 1A

at UNCP had left their major by their fourth year. Today, COMPASS participants have a 76% persistence rate in science, while recent cohorts have achieved nearly a 100% four-year graduation rate.

For Maria Santisteban, professor of biology and one of the program's founders, those outcomes reflect the power of combining financial support with intentional student development.

"The scholarships are important, but COMPASS has never been solely about paying for college," Santisteban said. "It's about creating a system of support that helps students see themselves as scientists, researchers and professionals."

Officially titled "Advancing STEM Retention and Career Readiness through Comprehensive Support Systems," COMPASS was designed to address barriers that often prevent low-income and rural students from persisting in STEM majors.

The National Science Foundation recognizes an ongoing need to increase the number of domestic STEM graduates, particularly among students from rural communities who may have limited exposure to STEM careers, research opportunities and professional networks.

"Some of them don't really know what research is," Santisteban said. "They think it's just writing papers as they did in high school. Others feel like it's only for a certain type of student, so they don't even try to get involved in research outside of class."

COMPASS students begin with a math and chemistry bootcamp before their first semester and spend the following years exploring research opportunities, visiting graduate schools and industry partners, attending professional conferences and building relationships with scientists and healthcare professionals.

Research stipends allow students to focus on hands-on learning experiences, while select participants are nominated to attend a national conference hosted by the National Science Foundation and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Last semester, four UNCP students traveled to San Diego for the event.

Senior biology major Jamori Gerald was among the students selected to attend the conference.

"I met new people and learned a lot of things revolving around the science world," he said. "Every individual I met was very professional and left me wanting to know more."

Gerald said the site visits during the school year were also beneficial. "They gave a better understanding of different opportunities after graduation and how we would use science in real-world scenarios," he said.

Building confidence in STEM begins long before students apply for internships, attend conferences or conduct independent research. Rachel Smith, a member of the COMPASS project team and chair of UNCP Chemistry and Physics, said the program introduces students to research opportunities early to help them see themselves as scientists from the beginning.

"To overcome the perception that research is intimidating, COMPASS scholars will work in small groups with faculty to learn basic laboratory skills and then shadow upper-level students who are already engaged in faculty-mentored research projects," Smith said. "This early exposure demystifies the research process and helps students build the confidence needed to become involved themselves."

The students also have an annual retreat, one-on-one mentoring and a dedicated space to study or take a break.

"At the end of the day, if students don't feel like they belong, they're not going to stay in STEM," Santisteban said. "So, we really focus on building that sense of community, whether it's through the retreat, time in the student lounge, or even our site visits, where they travel together, share meals and build those connections that make a big difference."

For UNCP alumna Gretchen Gilenwater, who's now working on her Master of Arts in Geography at UNC Charlotte, with a focus on the social

aspects of meteorology, the program was life-changing.

"The COMPASS program allowed me to pursue dreams I didn't know existed," she said. "I had the academic and financial support to go above and beyond at Pembroke and apply for internships I never thought I would get into. I still remember Dr. Santisteban showing me the NSF webpage full of internships and pointing me to the National Weather Service research experience, which changed my childhood dream for the better."

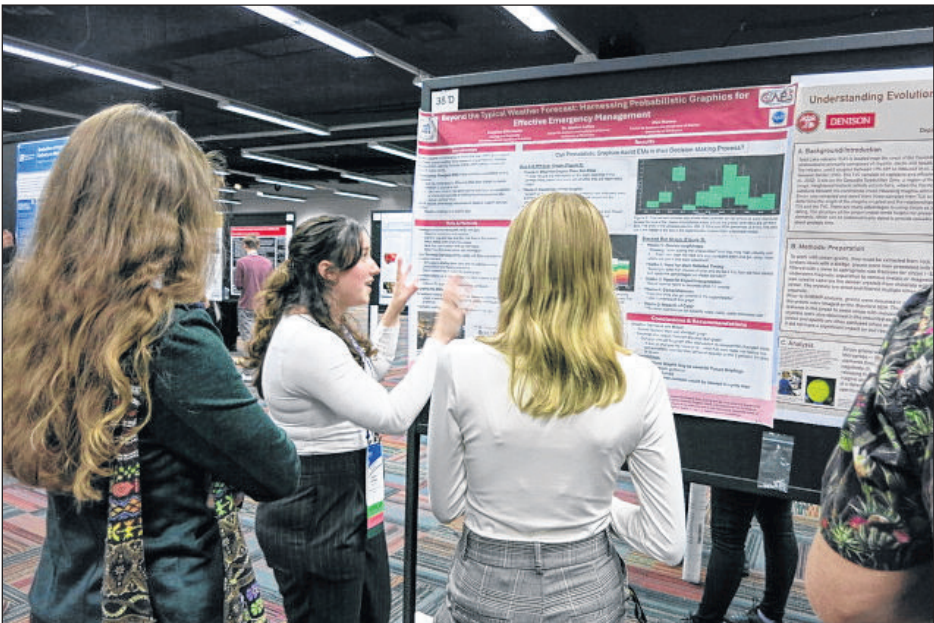
With the grant renewal in place, program leaders hope to create similar opportunities for the next generation of STEM students.

Interested in COMPASS?

The program is open to incoming freshmen and community college transfer students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents and have completed fewer than 61 credit hours. Eligible majors include biology, chemistry, environmental science and geoscience.

Applicants must submit two letters of recommendation, SAT scores and a personal statement. Additional information is available at uncc.edu/COMPASS. Students who have been accepted to UNCP and completed the FAFSA may contact Dr. Maria Santisteban at maria.santisteban@uncc.edu for more information.

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



Students from UNC Pembroke's COMPASS program, which recently received \$2 million in renewed funding from the National Science Foundation.



Photo courtesy of UNCP

Hornets trade Bridges to Suns, acquire Allen, O’Neale

Steve Reed
AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Hornets are continuing their offseason overhaul.

The Hornets have agreed to trade forward Miles Bridges, a 2029 first-round draft pick and a 2027 second-round pick to the Phoenix Suns for guard Grayson Allen, forward Royce O’Neale and a 2033 first-round pick, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Sunday because the trade, which was first reported by ESPN, still needs to be approved by the league.

The trade comes on the heels of the Hornets sending star point guard LaMelo Ball to Minnesota as part of a deal that brought them Naz Reid, draft picks and pick swaps.

That appears to have set off a major restructuring in Charlotte just months after the team improved its win total by 24 games from last season under second-year head coach Charles Lee.

The Hornets lost in the play-in game to Orlando. The 6-foot-7 Bridges, 28, was the longest-tenured player on the Hornets roster, joining the team as a first-round draft pick in 2018 out of Michigan State.

In seven seasons, he averaged 15.9 points, 6.1 rebounds and 2.8 assists per game while shooting 46.1% from the field and 33.8% from 3-point range. His best season came in 2023-24 when he averaged 21 points and 7.3 rebounds while shooting 34.9% from beyond the arc.

He sat out the 2022-23 season following accusations of domestic abuse.

Bridges was arrested in June 2022 on the eve of free agency on charges including felony child abuse and injuring a child’s parent. The NBA forced him to sit out while his legal case was pending. He ultimately pleaded no contest to a felony domestic violence charge in November 2022.

Bridges was suspended for 30 games in April 2023 by the league but received a 20-game credit because he missed the entire 2022-23 season.

Charlotte never made the playoffs with Bridges’ tenure with the team.

The trade opens the door for Reid, one of the league’s top reserves, to potentially start at power forward.

The 6-foot-3 Allen grew into a solid scorer in his three seasons with the Suns, averaging a career-high 16.5 points and 3.8 assists per game, though injuries limited him to just 51 games.

He’s the third former Duke player to join the Hornets roster.

The 30-year-old is considered an elite 3-point shooter, though his accuracy dipped to 34.9% from long range last season.

O’Neale, 33, is a versatile veteran entering his 10th NBA season. The 6-foot-6 forward spent the past 2 1/2 seasons with the Suns and averaged a career-high 9.8 points per game last season while shooting nearly 41% from beyond the arc.



Bridges



Allen



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Terry Lowry competes in the CrossFit Games semifinals.

Contributed photos | Terry Lowry

Lowry looks to stand alone in CrossFit world

Jacob Husson
The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — Local heart surgeon Terry Lowry has made waves in the CrossFit community lately by advancing to the finals in the age 60-64 Masters division of the CrossFit games. He’ll travel to California to compete for the top spot in his age bracket.

“(Winning) would mean the world,” Lowry said. “I’ve spent the last eight or nine years trying to get into the finals.”

The top 10 in the semifinals advanced to the finals, which will be held beginning July 21 in San Jose.

Lowry’s passion for fitness didn’t come out of nowhere as he’s been involved in helping people live healthy lives for most of his life.

Beyond a standard passion for fitness, Lowry is motivated to live healthy because he’s a heart surgeon. Being trusted to help patients inspires him to be at his best and to win in CrossFit.

Lowry’s training partner Owen Thomas has been thoroughly impressed by Lowry’s commitment to consistent improvement throughout their time working together. He also discussed some of the key areas of their training.

“(Lowry’s) consistency,

discipline and dedication to improvement have helped him to succeed,” Thomas said. “We’ve focused on muscle endurance and cardio.”

With Lowry motivated to have a healthy lifestyle because of his work and pushing harder than most will, he has become a standout performer in Robeson County.

Thomas had one message regarding Lowry’s physical fitness as someone in his 60’s.

“Age is just a number,” Thomas said. “He’s outperforming people of any age.”

Lowry says his work keeps him grounded and ready to work hard in his training.

Perhaps one difference between competing in CrossFit and working as a doctor is Lowry works hard to help his patients while CrossFit is an individual pursuit of success.

“You try to do the best you can for every patient and as an athlete, the goal is to win,” Lowry said.

Lowry’s athletic performance exceeds the standard expectations for a man in his early 60s. He’ll look to stand alone at the top after the CrossFit games.

Apparently, Lowry’s commitment to training also stands out from the rest.

“(Lowry’s) been consistent and disciplined and does



what other people won’t do,” Thomas said.

As Lowry pushes himself in an attempt to win it all in California, he had one simple message for the rest of Robeson County.

“The best medicine is good health,” he said.

Now that he’s looking to stand on top of the CrossFit world, Lowry wants to represent Robeson County to the best of his ability with the region cheering him on.

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

Americans look to snap 0-for-Europe World Cup streak in Wednesday match

Mark Zeigler
San Diego Union-Tribune via AP



Andre Penner | AP Photo

United States soccer players Giovanni Rayna, center left, Antonee Robinson, center, and Tyler Adams practice during a training session Monday ahead of their Wednesday World Cup match against Bosnia-Herzegovina.

SAN DIEGO — Midfielder Sebastian Berhalter was asked after last week’s 3-2 World Cup loss to Türkiye why the U.S. men struggle so mightily against European opposition.

“Ummmm,” Berhalter said, pausing. “I’ll have to get back to you on that. I’m not sure of the stats.”

The stats: The Türkiye loss was their 10th straight — no wins, no ties — in friendlies or official matches against European teams. In the World Cup, the Yanks have faced 21 European opponents since 1990 and, gulp, won only once, a 3-2 decision against Portugal in 2002 that was aided by an own goal on a Landon Donovan cross

Netherlands, Germany each fall in penalties in Round of 32

Associated Press

GUADALUPE, Mexico — Ismael Saibari scored the decisive goal in a penalty shootout, and Morocco sent the Netherlands to its earliest World Cup exit, eliminating the Dutch 3-2 after a 1-1 draw on Monday night.

With the shootout tied at 2-all after four rounds, Morocco goalkeeper Yassine Bounou made a strong save of Cryscenio Summerville’s attempt, batting it away with his left hand. Saibari then sent the winner into the low left corner as goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen went the other direction. The midfielder tore off his shirt and screamed with joy as he was mobbed by teammates.

The Netherlands had reached at least the Round of 16 in 11 previous World Cups, including a quarterfinal appearance four years ago in Qatar, when Morocco made a breakthrough run to the semifinals. In this year’s expanded tournament, 32 teams reached the knockout stage for the first time.

Morocco moves on to face Canada in the Round of 16 on Saturday in Houston.

In the second round of the shootout with Morocco trailing 1-0, Verbruggen appeared to have stopped an attempt by Soufiane Rahimi, but the goalkeeper couldn’t secure the ball and deflected it over the line with the back of his leg.

Cody Gakpo scored in the 72nd minute for Netherlands. After the goal, which was assisted by Summerville, the Dutch bench ran onto the field to embrace the 27-year-old Gakpo, who broke down in tears. Gakpo and

his partner, Noa van der Bij, recently announced that they lost their unborn child.

Morocco’s Issa Diop tied it in the 91st minute. Chemsdine Talbi sent a looping cross into the box from about 28 yards out on the left side and connected with Diop for a clean header that Verbruggen had no chance to stop.

Neither team had a strong scoring opportunity in 30 minutes of extra time at Estadio BBVA.

It was the second game of the tournament to conclude with a shootout. Paraguay beat Germany on penalties earlier Monday.

The teams entered with the highest combined ranking of any Round of 32 match. Morocco was sixth in the world and the Netherlands was seventh.

Paraguay stuns Germany

Jose Canale scored on the first sudden death penalty kick, Orlando Gill made two key saves in the shootout, and Paraguay beat Germany 4-3 on penalties Monday to earn the biggest upset of the 2026 World Cup so far.

The round of 32 match ended 1-1 after extra time. Paraguay took the lead when Julio Enciso scored on a header late in the first half, but Kai Havertz equalized in the 52nd minute for four-time champion Germany.

“We had to analyze every player, every detail. Thanks to that I was able to only miss two penalties,” Gill said afterward. “This is for all the people of Paraguay.”

Paraguay, ranked 34th by FIFA, is

the deepest betting long shot to win a World Cup match and did it against 12th-ranked Germany.

The Paraguayans will next face the winner of Tuesday’s match between France and Sweden in the round of 16 on Saturday in Philadelphia. A win in that match would land them back in Foxborough for a quarterfinal match on July 9.

“I think we deserved one more game and to be honest considering everything that was said, everything we went through,” Canale said. “What I want to highlight from our team is how united we are. ... Today was a game we really needed to show our true colors.”

Germany had won six of seven penalty shootouts in major tournaments, including six straight since losing to Czechoslovakia in the 1976 European Championship final.

In the only previous World Cup match between the teams, Germany beat Paraguay 1-0 in the round of 16 at the 2002 tournament. Nearly a quarter-century later, Paraguay has its revenge.

Paraguay had appeared in five previous knockout games but failed to score in each. It advanced only once in those previous occasions, winning on penalty kicks against Japan in the round of 16 at the 2010 tournament in South Africa. It fell that year to eventual champion Spain in the quarterfinals.

Monday was Germany’s first knockout game since the 2014 final in Brazil when the Germans beat Argentina 1-0 to capture their fourth World Cup title. The Germans were eliminated from the

group stage at the last two World Cup tournaments.

“We had very big plans for this World Cup. It’s very difficult to disappoint again,” Havertz said. “It was difficult to create chances and keep the pace.”

Paraguay broke the early stalemate in the 42nd minute Monday with some perfect ball movement to setup Enciso.

Miguel Almiron split Germany’s Aleksandar Pavlovic and Nathaniel Brown with a left-footed pass to Matias Galarza. Galarza sent a cross to Enciso, who was unmarked by Germany’s defenders and easily headed it past goalkeeper Manuel Neuer.

In the second half, Havertz took a cross from Florian Wirtz, which he got just enough head on to redirect it past Gill.

And then in extra time, Germany appeared to take a 2-1 lead in the 102nd minute when Jonathan Tah headed in a corner kick by Nathaniel Brown that was just above the reach of Gill. But a video review ruled that Waldemar Anton has pushed Gill to the ground before the shot and the goal was disallowed.

Germany, whose 10 goals in the group stage was tied for the most of any team, struggled to find a way through Paraguay’s 4-5-1 setup. The Germans had 78% of the possession in the first half.

As expected, Paraguay was without defender Omar Alderete, who left with an injury in the second half of the team’s 0-0 draw against Australia. Canale started in his place.

Cup

From page 1B

fortuitously deflected off the back of a defender’s neck into the net.

Informed of the grim history, Berhalter politely smiled and, his five-minute interview session expired, walked off the podium.

It is an inconvenient truth that U.S. players either don’t know or don’t want to know but is suddenly consequential with a round of 32 date against Bosnia and Herzegovina on Wednesday night in Santa Clara. And likely three more European foes waiting for them in the round of 16 (Belgium), quarterfinals (Spain) and semifinals (France).

“I didn’t know it until you said it,” midfielder Tyler Adams said. “I couldn’t care less if we had a 100-game winning streak or a 100-game losing streak. I go out every game trying to win.”

“Damn, I didn’t know that,” defender Chris Richards said. “Let’s hope we change that for the next game.”

There are three viable explanations:

Rub of the green

“It’s just one of those things,” defender Tim Ream said curtly after watching the U.S. reserves commit multiple defensive blunders in surrendering a last-minute goal against Türkiye.

“None of us are thinking, ‘Oh, it’s a European team, we’re going to lose.’ It’s just one of those things.”

“I’m not going to say it’s a coincidence, but stylistically, it’s not even about style. It’s just rub of the green and just the way the ball is falling right now for us.”

That’s a lot of bad bounces, though.

In the World Cup since 1990, the Yanks are 1-15-5 against European teams. Against everyone else, they are 7-4-1.

Since the start of the 2022 World Cup, they are 0-10-2 in all matches

against European teams, including two draws in the group stage and a 3-1 loss to the Netherlands in the round of 16 in Qatar followed by nine consecutive Ls since. Against everyone else, they are 30-10-9 over that period.

Since coach Mauricio Pochettino was hired in October 2024, the United States has lost all six European encounters and been outscored 18-6.

Europe is just good

Maybe the most logical explanation is that, well, Europe is really, really good at soccer.

The continent has claimed four of the last five World Cup titles (by four different countries that all border one another). It holds nine of the top 14 spots in the current FIFA world rankings. It has the top five World Cup rosters based on total transfer valuation and eight of the top 10, which isn’t surprising because the top five richest pro leagues are all in Europe.

There are a record 16

European teams at this expanded World Cup, up from 13 in past tournaments, and that doesn’t include No. 14-ranked Italy, No. 20 Denmark and six others in the top 40.

“We are USA,” Pochettino said last spring, in a moment of frustration and candor, after getting drilled by Belgium and Portugal in friendlies by a combined 7-2. “We are competing against Belgium, Portugal. I think for sure Belgium and Portugal have, in the top 100 players, a few or some players playing in that top 100.”

“I think we don’t have.”

The counterargument is that not everyone struggles against the Old Continent. Japan, which has never won in the World Cup knockout stage, currently has an 11-match unbeaten streak against European teams. They’ve won eight times and tied three times.

Horses for courses

That leaves something stylistically, something

in the size, strength, fitness, organization, tactical sophistication, youth development or historical pedigree of European teams. The simple answer is that the U.S. men play a style of soccer more similar to European clubs than their brethren in the Americas, and the Europeans are just better at it.

“When you think about European teams, you think about more technique and technical ability,” Richards said. “When you think about South American and African teams, you think about more mentality.”

“Maybe there’s something there, or maybe we’ve just been unlucky. I haven’t really thought about it, to be fair.”

The good news is that the Americans are facing Bosnia and Herzegovina instead of, say, any other European team here. The Balkan country of 3.1 million with a land area slightly smaller than West Virginia is the lowest-ranked European team here at No. 61,

squeaked into the knockout stage by finishing third in Group B despite getting smoked 4-1 by Switzerland, has qualified for just two of eight World Cups since joining FIFA as an independent nation and has never reached the round of 16.

It’s also the last European team the Yanks beat, 1-0 at Carson’s Dignity Health Sports Park on Dec. 18, 2021.

Even that wasn’t easy. It took an 89-minute goal by Cole Bassett to beat what amounted to a Bosnian B team on home soil.

After that, there were draws against Wales and England in the 2022 World Cup.

Then loss, loss, loss, loss, loss, loss, loss, loss, loss, loss, loss.

The Netherlands, Serbia, Germany, Slovenia, Türkiye, Switzerland, Belgium, Portugal, Germany again, Türkiye again.

“Ultimately, streaks are meant to be broken,” Richards said. “That’s kind of the plan.”



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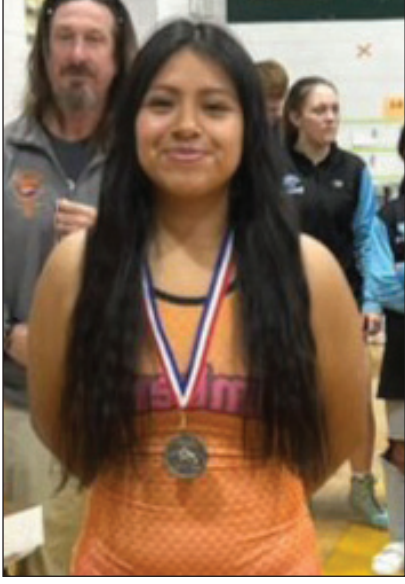
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ELIJAH LOCKLEAR
Football, Bowling, Track

Red Springs’ Elijah Locklear made 45 tackles, with eight tackles and two tackles for loss, as part of the Red Devils’ defensive line last season, while also competing in bowling and track, where he finished ninth at regionals in the discus at 112-10. Locklear earned the True Devil Award as the school’s highest-GPA three-sport athlete, and will join the Air Force.

LUMBERTON HIGH SCHOOL



EDIT SAAVEDRA
Wrestling

Lumberton’s Edit Saavedra will be joining the U.S. Marine Corps in August after graduating in June. She competed for the Pirates wrestling team during her high school years, including a 13-3 record last winter with a third-place finish in the 145-pound classification at the Boneyard Bash. She also compiled a high ranking in JROTC activities.

Morant sent to Portland as Grizzlies trade 2-time All-Star

Tim Reynolds
AP Basketball Writer

PORTLAND — Ja Morant is headed to Portland, after the Trail Blazers and Memphis completed a trade Monday night that sees the Grizzlies starting anew and gives the two-time All-Star a chance to revive his career.

Portland sent forwards Jerami Grant and Kris Murray to the Grizzlies as part of the deal.

It's a big swing by the Trail Blazers and could suggest Portland — with new owner Tom Dundon, whose Carolina Hurricanes just won the Stanley Cup — might not be done making moves. Morant adds to a logjam at point guard right now for Portland, with Jrue Holiday, Damian Lillard and Scoot Henderson also on the current roster.

Morant has averaged 22.4 points for his career but has played only 79 games over the last three seasons because of injuries and suspensions — including a 25-game banishment after he was seen on a livestream holding a gun while he was in the passenger seat of a vehicle. That came not long after an eight-game suspension for flashing a gun in a Denver-area nightclub, also captured on social media.

The suspensions, combined, cost Morant — who was Rookie of the Year after being the No. 2 selection in the 2019 draft, as well as the league's Most Improved Player in 2021-22 when he appeared to be on a path toward superstardom — about \$9 million in lost salary. He said in April 2025 that he's made his peace with being a lightning rod for constant criticism.

"I'm kind of used to it," Morant said at that time. "I was pretty much a villain for two years now. Every little thing, if somebody can say something negative about me, it's going to be out there. So, yeah. I don't care no more."

Grant averaged 18.6 points last season for Portland and will be joining his sixth team by going to Memphis. Murray averaged 5.8 points this past season for the Trail Blazers.

Morant's MIP-award year in 2021-22 saw Memphis win 56 games, tying a franchise record. That team was built around a young core four of Morant, Dillon Brooks, Jaren Jackson Jr. and Desmond Bane.

And now, they're all gone. Brooks played only one more season with the Grizzlies after that and has changed teams twice since, Bane went to Orlando last summer and Jackson was traded to Utah in February.

Former ECU, NFL RB Chris Johnson says he has ALS

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Chris Johnson, one of nine players in NFL history to rush for more than 2,000 yards in a season who made the Pro Bowl in each of his first three years with the Tennessee Titans, revealed in a television interview aired Monday that he has ALS.

Johnson, 40, spent 10 seasons in the league and last played in 2017 for the Arizona Cardinals. He said on ABC's "Good Morning America" that he was diagnosed with the fatal nervous system disease last year.

"Honestly, I don't know if you really fully process it," he said, using his eyes to communicate through a computerized speech-generating device during the interview with Michael Strahan. "At first you're in shock. Then you realize you have two choices: You can give up or you can fight. I chose to fight."

Johnson, a first-round draft pick out of East Carolina in 2008, rushed for 7,965 yards over six seasons with the Titans. The native of Orlando, Florida, had 2,006 yards

and breathe.

Tim Shaw, who had a six-year career as a linebacker in the NFL and was a teammate of Johnson's with the Titans from 2010-12, was diagnosed in 2014 at age 30 with ALS and is still alive.

Johnson, who also played one season for the New York Jets, first noticed weakness in his right hand and trouble with his grip. He was still working out daily a year ago. Now he can't hold a cup or speak on his own.

"Your mind stays sharp. People sometimes look at a person with a physical disability and assume you're not still the same person inside," Johnson said. "I still think the same. I still dream. I still love my family. My body just doesn't cooperate."

Johnson was joined for the interview by his wife, Brittany, who has become his primary caregiver.

"She hasn't left my side through any of this. My kids are also a huge part of why I keep going," Johnson said. "Every day I wake up wanting more time with them to make more memories and just

be their dad. They give me a reason to keep fighting."

Johnson has been participating in experimental treatments with the goal of extending his life and helping the medical field move closer to a cure for the disease.

"If it helps even one person get diagnosed sooner, inspires more research or gives another family hope," he said, "then it's worth it."

Johnson didn't discuss his playing career in the interview. In a later post on his Instagram account he acknowledged the unknown about how he developed the disease but referenced research that has linked repetitive head trauma to ALS. That includes a 2021 study that found NFL players were nearly four times more likely to develop the disease than the general male population.

"I hope the NFL steps up, invests in research, and continues working to protect players — both now and for generations to come," Johnson said. "Together, we can push toward better treatments and, one day, a cure."

LeBron James won't return to Lakers, hits free-agent market

Tim Reynolds
AP Basketball Writer

LOS ANGELES — LeBron James will not be back with the Los Angeles Lakers and plans to play a record-extending 24th NBA season elsewhere, a person with knowledge of those plans confirmed Tuesday.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because James had not revealed that decision publicly. ESPN, citing James' longtime agent and Klutch Sports CEO Rich Paul, first reported James' plans.

James can begin talking officially to new clubs after 6 p.m. EDT on

Tuesday, when the league's free agent period opens. He will not be able to sign with a new team until the league's offseason moratorium is lifted on July 6.

A slew of options will be available to James on the open market, including Golden State. Long-time Warriors forward Draymond Green did not exercise his \$27.6 million option for this coming season earlier this week in large part to allow his team flexibility to make other roster moves.

"Personally, I'm always willing to work with the team on whatever is best, especially at this point in



James

my career," Green said on the latest episode of his podcast, which was released Tuesday. "So my decision to opt out was for a few reasons. As you all know, I've always taken the approach of working with the organization. I've been in one place for 14 years. It's more of a family to me than anything."

It could be the move that convinces James to go to Golden State — a franchise he faced four times with Cleveland in the NBA Finals. He also has close relationships with Green, Stephen Curry and Warriors coach Steve Kerr.

James spent eight seasons with the Lakers, the longest he spent in one stint with one NBA team and led them to the 2020 NBA championship. He

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