

Inside today
**Lumbee
Homecoming**

Tribe concludes week of celebration with parade, powwow. **News 9A**



AND...
Splashpad
opens in
Red Springs
News 3A

In today's paper

SPORTS:
A look
at UNCP's
football slate
Page 1B



THE ROBESONIAN

Serving Robeson County Since 1870

Wednesday, July 8, 2026 • Issue 54, Volume 157

robsonian.com

A Fresh Perspective

**Local
NEWS**

\$2.00

State budget signed; includes \$4.1M in funding for Robeson

Staff report

RALEIGH — Gov. Josh Stein signed a state budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year into law on Tuesday morning, a budget which includes significant investments in Robeson County.

Robeson County's representatives in the General Assembly — Sen. Danny Britt, Rep. John Lowery and Rep. Brenden Jones, all Republicans — worked together to secure more than \$4.1 million in funding for projects in Robeson County, a press release said, in addition to a previously announced \$24.4 million award to UNC Pembroke for its Health Sciences Center, currently under construction.

"These investments reflect our commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of Robeson County," said Lowery. "From strengthening public safety and supporting our youth to investing in higher education and workforce development, this budget, my first as your state representative, delivers meaningful investments that will benefit our communities for years to come. I'm proud to have helped secure funding that will create opportunities, improve services, and strengthen the future of Robeson County."

"This budget represents a meaningful investment in the future of Robeson County and southeastern North Carolina," said Britt. "By strengthening our justice system, supporting first responders, investing in higher education, and creating opportunities for our young people, we are making targeted investments that will have a lasting impact on our communities."

The budget includes \$1.1 million in funding to create seven new assistant district attorney positions.

"(The positions) will improve judicial efficiency and help ensure cases move through the system as quickly as possible," Jones said. "Moreover, we were also able to deliver funding for fire departments across the county and invest in Lumber River State Park, which will help support tourism and economic growth in our region. Overall, this budget represents a major win for Robeson County, and I look forward to continuing the fight for our district in the next session."

There is also a \$1 million allocation listed on the



Stein



Britt



Lowery



Jones

See BUDGET | 8A

250 years in the making



Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

Communities throughout Robeson County celebrated the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on Saturday. Pictured, fire trucks blare their lights and sirens during the grand finale of Saturday's fireworks show in St. Pauls. See page 10A for more photos from Fourth of July celebrations around the county, or page 9A for photos from the Lumbee Homecoming parade and powwow.

Hunt crowned Miss Lumbee 2026



Victoria Sanderson | The Robesonian
Miss Lumbee 2026 Anna Hunt reacts after being named the winner during Thursday's pageant in Pembroke.

Victoria Sanderson
The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — The annual Miss and Teen Miss Lumbee pageants took place on Thursday evening, ushering in the next cultural ambassadors who will serve the tribe for the next year.

Anna Hunt was crowned as the 2026 Miss Lumbee and Braeleigh Hunt was named Teen Miss Lumbee.

"There are no words to describe what this means to me," Anna Hunt said in a social media post. "To represent the Tribe that raised me, the people who have poured so much love into me, and a culture I'm so incredibly proud of is something I'll never take for granted."

For the Miss Lumbee pageant, Miss Congeniality was awarded to Kaylee Chavis, who was also awarded second place overall. Third place went to Kaitlynn Chavis.

The Teen Miss Congeniality title, voted on by the contestants,

was awarded to Charla Locklear. Locklear also claimed second place overall. Third place went to Araeh Jacobs.

The pageant opened with a message from U.S. Rep. David Rouzer, congratulating the Lumbee tribe on its recent federal recognition.

Each contestant in both pageants presented a talent, a cultural presentation and their unique regalia. This year's pageant was the first to have prerecorded cultural presentations before the contestants walked the stage in their regalia.

Anna Hunt was previously Junior Miss Lumbee in 2017 and Teen Miss Lumbee in 2022.

"As I begin this year, I promise to serve with pride, purpose, humility, and love," she said. "Eleven year old me would be in complete disbelief. I'm so thankful she never stopped dreaming."

Other Lumbee Ambassadors which were crowned earlier during Lumbee Homecoming include

See LUMBEE | 8A

1 dead, 1 injured in Pembroke shooting

Staff report

PEMBROKE — A deadly shooting early Saturday morning in Pembroke is under investigation. The shooting left one person dead and another injured.

The Pembroke Police Department responded to a shooting in the 300 block of East Third Street at approximately 12:40 a.m. Saturday. The location is near the Maxway store, and is also roughly across the street from one of the festival locations for Lumbee

Homecoming, which continued without further incident and concluded on Saturday evening.

Jaleel Sinclair, 20, of Fairmont, was taken to a local hospital and later died of his injuries.

Kyanna Oxendine, 25, of Shannon, suffered a gunshot wound and was airlifted to a regional hospital.

The incident is being actively investigated. Authorities believe that, after an altercation was underway, it escalated and shots were fired.

Detectives are asking anyone

who was in the area, witnessed the shooting or has related photo or video to contact law enforcement, saying that even the smallest detail could aide in the investigation. Contact Detective Roy Locklear or Detective Todd Rigsbee with the Pembroke Police Department at 910-521-4333 if you have any information about the case.

The N.C. Bureau of Investigation (SBI) and the Robeson County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) are assisting the Pembroke Police Department in the investigation.

ServiceMaster by ERS Inc.
Fire & Water Damage and Mold Restoration
910-733-3808 • 1-833-761-2030
www.servicemasterbyers.com



TODAY'S FORECAST

98/76 – Hot with clouds and breaks of sun; an afternoon thunderstorm

A NEWS

Obituaries: 2
Editorial: 4
Comics: 5
Classifieds: 6, 7

B SPORTS

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

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



1 83176 00025 5

FIND YOUR FUTURE HERE

ROBESON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
www.robeson.edu

REGISTER NOW!

FALL CLASSES BEGIN AUGUST 17TH!

OBITUARIES

KATRINA M. GRANT

Katrina M. Grant, age 62, passed into the more immediate presence of the Lord on Friday, July 3, 2026.

She was preceded in death by her father, James C. Grant; mother, Donna Henry Grant Byrd and her brother, Anthony Grant.

She is survived by her two brothers, James C. Grant, Jr. and Christopher Grant. She will be greatly missed by family and friends.

There will be graveside service held on Friday, July 10 at 2 p.m. at Meadowbrook Cemetery, located on East 24th Street, Lumberton.

Online condolences can be made by visiting: www.FloydMortuary.net.



CORRECTION

A story titled “Nonprofit opens Lumberton’s first free Narcan box,” which was published on page 2A of the Saturday, July 4 print edition, incorrectly stated that a Narcan vending machine operated by the new nonprofit For a Better 41 is the first box in Robeson County. Other Narcan boxes are in operation, sponsored by PAWSS, Inc., Robeson Health Care Corporation (RHCC), the Lumbee Tribe Health Department and others. The Robesonian regrets and apologizes for the error.

Rowland Norment Elementary teacher named PSRC NCCTM Outstanding Math Teacher of the Year

Jessica Sealey
For The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — The Public Schools of Robeson County has announced that Mary Watson, a third-grade teacher at Rowland Norment Elementary School, has been named the 2026-27 PSRC NCCTM Outstanding Math Teacher of the Year.

This prestigious recognition, presented in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics, honors educators who demonstrate excellence in mathematics instruction while inspiring a genuine enthusiasm for learning among their students.

Watson exemplifies these qualities through her dedication to engaging, high-quality instruction that encourages students to build confidence and achieve success in mathematics each day.

Her commitment to fostering critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and a positive learning environment has made a meaningful impact on her students and school community.

“Ms. Watson’s passion for mathematics instruction and her commitment to student success are evident in the work she does each day,” said PSRC Superintendent Freddie Williamson. “She creates engaging learning experiences that help students develop confidence and a love for mathematics, and we are proud to see her recognized with this well-deserved honor.”

As the PSRC recipient, Watson will receive a one-year membership to the North Carolina Council



Photo courtesy of PSRC

Mary Watson, right, a third-grade teacher at Rowland-Norment Elementary School, was recognized as the 2026-27 PSRC NCCTM Outstanding Math Teacher of the Year. She is pictured with Debra Dowless, PSRC director of curriculum and instruction.

of Teachers of Mathematics, a personalized award, and recognition during the NCCTM State Conference. Her achievement will also be highlighted in the fall issue of The Centroid and featured on the NCCTM website.

The Public Schools of Robeson County con-

gratulates Watson on this outstanding accomplishment and thanks her for her continued dedication to inspiring students and promoting excellence in mathematics education.

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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.

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.

Pottery Class, Robeson Art Guild, July 8, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Playing in the mud might just be your zen! Join Jim Tripp in a pottery class at the Robeson Art Guild.

Artemis II, Robeson Planetarium & Science Center, Lumberton, July 8, 12 p.m. and 2 p.m.: The Robeson Planetarium and Science Center is offering several opportunities at the planetarium during the summer months. Refer to the information on the flyer for specific times to visit.

Rob Cole, Your Pizza Pie, July 9, 7 p.m.: It’s Thursday night and our own “The Voice”

candidate, Rob Cole, is performing at Your Pie Pizza. Order that special pizza, beverage and dessert and enjoy an evening of good food and live music.

Robeson County Farmers Market, July 11, 14, 18, 21, & 25, Lumberton: The Robeson County Farmers Market opens each week on Tuesdays, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Dick Taylor plaza in the heart of historic downtown Lumberton. Parking is available around the plaza, intersecting streets and across from Adelio’s Italian Restaurant one block from the plaza on West Third Street.

Mahjong, Your Pie Pizza, July 14, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Learn to play Mahjong and compete. Your Pie Pizza Restaurant is hosting Pine & Tiles, a team teaching the rules and strategies of the game. Instruction will be available in two locations during the month of July. Follow the dates on the flyer and enjoy. Register for events at <https://linktr.ee/PineTiles>.

“1776,” Purple Door Productions, July 17-26: Purple Door Productions presents the musical, “1776”. Cake and ice cream, served in celebration of the 250th birthday of our great nation, ignites an evening of music, history, and humor.

Flock Swap, July 18, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.: The

Flock Swap is featured at the Robeson County Farmers Market on the third Saturday of each month. Gather for swapping or purchasing small farm animals, such as chickens, ducks, rabbits and goats as examples. It is free to sell but must register a waiver with the Robeson County Farmers Market.

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

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

Fragile Planet, Robeson Planetarium & Science Center, July 21 & 22, 12 p.m. and 2 p.m.: The Robeson Planetarium and Science Center is offering several

opportunities at the planetarium during the summer months. Refer to the information on the flyer for specific times to visit.

Summer Living Exhibition, Robeson Arts Guild, July 23, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.: The Robeson Art Guild is hosting “Summer Living”, an exhibition illustrating times of leisure, rainbows, children swimming or playing in a park, fireflies shining in the night, celebration of Independence Day, what will the exhibition contain? Attend the welcoming open house reception for a delightful evening at the Guild House.

NC United Women in Faith, July 25, 9 a.m., Piney Grove, Maxton: Join us in person for the A Deep Knowing: Experiencing Emmanuel Through Every Part of Our Lives by Linda L. Furtado. A study happening on various July throughout 2026. This is a great chance to dive deep, connect with others, and grow your faith in a welcoming environment. Whether you’re new or seasoned in your journey, everyone is welcome.

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

of deserving students in the Lumberton community.

VMG Barber Battle, VMG Barber Studio Lumberton, July 26, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.: Experience a full day of live barber battles, elite education, industry vendors, giveaways, networking and nonstop energy. Watch top barbers compete for cash prizes, trophies and bragging rights in categories like Fast Fade, Best Taper, Freestyle Design and the ultimate Tag-Team Battle.

Jeep Jamboree & Community Fundraiser for Larinda Watts, July 26, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., Parkton: Jeep Jamboree for the Watts Family. Jeeps, Food vendors, pony rides. All proceeds go directly to the Watts family

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lincoln Heritage
Funeral Advantage®

Kary Wilkins Insurance Group
Regional Manager
Your Final Expense Solution
2175 N Roberts Ave, Ste. 203
Lumberton, NC 28358
910-374-4523
pastorkarywilkins@yahoo.com

THE ROBESONIAN
Champion Media
(USPS 467-40)
910-739-4322
Publishes every Wednesday and Saturday
eEdition and in print.
If you have a newspaper delivery concern
please call weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Prices are subject to charge at any time.

CONTACT US

REGIONAL PUBLISHER:
Denise Ward
910-416-5867
dward@robesonian.com

EDITOR:
Chris Stiles
910-416-5847
cstiles@robesonian.com

ADVERTISING:
Denise Ward
dward@robesonian.com

CIRCULATION:
Marty Deaver
910-416-5447
mdeaver@robesonian.com

Caroline Arrington
carrington@robesonian.com

CLASSIFIEDS/LEGALS
Linda Currie
910-739-4322
lcurrie@robesonian.com

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR:
Mike Skipper

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

Welcome to your local Farm Bureau Agency!

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE
Auto • Home • Life • Health • Bank

ROBESON COUNTY
302 Bailey Road
Lumberton NC 28358
Monday-Friday
8:30am–5:00pm
FARM BUREAU BANK
1.866.645.8123
farmbureaubank.com
(910) 738-7171
(910) 521-3131
www.ncfbins.com

Jesus Loves You
Enchanted Florist & Gifts
611 Union Chapel Rd
Pembroke
Owner: In-House Designer
Canadee Marie Yanick
910-521-0907
910-316-0851
Open Monday-Sunday
Flowers For All Occasions

Dog Has Style
Pet Salon
Paula Lewis
(910) 740-7857
Brandy Church
(321) 320-2081
Kick off your pet's summer with a blueberry facial, luxury shampoo and intense thermal conditioner to protect their coat from the summer heat!
Accepting New Clients
208 South Main Street
Fairmont, NC 28340
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Floyd Mortuary & Crematory, Inc.
809 EAST 5TH STREET,
LUMBERTON, NORTH CAROLINA
(910) 738-8144 | www.floydmortuary.net

Voted Best Florist in Robeson County
Flowers By Billy
Come Visit Our Vast
Showroom Selection of Seasonal Designs
and Beautiful Live Plants
2101-A North Pine St. • Lumberton • (910) 738-2279



Children play at the new splashpad in Red Springs during Monday's grand opening.

New splashpad opens in Red Springs

Michele Chavis
The Robesonian

RED SPRINGS — The wait is over! Red Springs celebrated the long-awaited opening of its new splashpad on Monday morning.

Located near the Mill Village as a part of Tom Cope Memorial Athletic Park, the splash pad was funded by a \$100,000 grant from the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM), half of which was allocated specifically for the splashpad. Of that funding \$50,000 was used to create new water lines that added water pressure to the entire Mill Village, an ongoing issue for the community for quite some time, and added new fencing, garbage cans and colorful fountains.

“This is ours. We want it to last for generations to come,” said Mayor Caroline Sumpter. “And a lot of departments went into to making this happen. We want to thank them all, finance, parks and rec, public works, the code department and the electric department. This belongs to you as well.”

The Town of Red Springs treated the crowd to free ice cream from Bobo’s, cupcakes, chips and drinks.

Town Manager Shanelle Harris, said that the splashpad has been fully staffed and thanked state representatives for



One individual escapes the heat at the Red Springs splashpad Monday.

securing the funding for this much anticipated gift.

“I am looking forward to taking part in this and I’m sure that a lot of residents in the Mill Village are happy with the new water pressure,” said Harris.

The splashpad will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and admission is free to everyone for the rest of July.

Michele Chavis is an intern for The Robesonian.



The new splashpad in Red Springs opened on Monday.

UNCP student participates in national Adobe-AISES Leadership Program

Mark Locklear
For The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — Wendy Locklear, a rising senior pursuing an American Indian Studies degree at UNC Pembroke, was one of only 100 Indigenous college students nationwide selected to participate in Adobe’s AISES CLOUDS program, an initiative designed to cultivate leadership opportunities and strengthen digital skills among Native students.

Supported by the Adobe Foundation and offered in partnership with the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), the CLOUDS (Cultivating Leadership Opportunities and Uplifting Digital Skills) program provides Indigenous students with training in digital literacy, professional development and leadership. Participants completed a three-month curriculum that included earning digital credentials through Adobe products and developing collaborative projects.

Locklear, who is 47 and an enrolled member of the Coharie Tribe, was the only participant from North Carolina selected for the 2026 cohort.

“I feel privileged and humbled by the experience,” Locklear said. “The difference between me now and me four months ago is that I know I deserve to be in those spaces. I’m owning the spaces that I’m privileged to be in.”

Locklear is pursuing her second degree at UNCP and expects to graduate in spring 2027. Since earning her degree in birth-to-kindergarten education in 2005, she has built a career in public education. She began as a classroom educator before transitioning into leadership as the Indian Education director for Sampson County Schools.

Through the CLOUDS program, participants gained access to Adobe’s suite of creative software and completed 12 digital badges covering topics



Wendy Locklear, second from left, a rising senior at UNCP, participates in a breakout session with fellow Indigenous college students during the Adobe AISES CLOUDS program at Adobe's headquarters in San Diego, California.

ranging from professional branding to digital storytelling.

“Wendy’s selection for the Adobe AISES CLOUDS program speaks to the qualities that make her such an exceptional student and leader,” said Lawrence Locklear, director of Southeast American Indian Studies at UNCP.

“She approaches every opportunity with humility, determination and a deep commitment to serving Indigenous communities. Throughout her time at UNCP, Wendy has demonstrated that leadership is not defined by age, discipline or title, but by a willingness to learn, uplift others and create meaningful change.

“Wendy’s success illustrates the tremendous impact these programs can have, not only on individual students, but on the future of Indigenous leadership and storytelling,” Lawrence Locklear said.

One of the program’s most meaningful components, Locklear said, explored Indigenous storytelling and the preservation of Native histories.

“We are an oral-history people, but so much is being lost because those stories aren’t being recorded,” she said. “Learning how to integrate oral histories into digital storytelling and share them with future generations was phenomenal.”

The program culminated with a two-day visit to Adobe’s headquarters

in San Diego, where students worked in teams to develop projects for AISES and presented their ideas to organizational leaders.

“It was surreal,” she said. “I was intimidated at first and didn’t know what to expect, but my biggest takeaway was seeing the diversity among the employees and understanding that there is a place for all kinds of backgrounds and experiences.”

As a nontraditional student whose academic focus is outside of STEM, Locklear initially questioned whether she belonged in the program. “I felt reluctant because I was older and not in a STEM field,” Locklear said. “But this experience taught me that leadership comes in many forms and that our voices matter.”

Throughout the program, Locklear represented both UNCP and Indigenous communities in North Carolina. She said the experience provided an opportunity to raise awareness of the Coharie Tribe while highlighting UNCP’s role in supporting Indigenous students.

“Representing UNC Pembroke was outstanding,” she said. “I wanted people to know that UNCP has been influential to Indigenous communities across the nation and that we have so much to offer.”

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

UNCP earns national recognition for preparing future elementary reading teachers

Mark Locklear
For The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — UNC Pembroke’s Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education program has received an A+ from the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ), the organization’s highest rating for preparing future elementary teachers to deliver evidence-based reading instruction grounded in the science of reading.

The recognition places UNCP among a select group of teacher preparation programs nationwide earning the organization’s highest distinction.

“This recognition reflects what we’ve always believed — great readers begin with great teachers,” said Tracy Mulvaney, dean of UNCP’s School of Education. “Our faculty work intentionally to ensure future educators understand not only how children learn to read, but how to apply that knowledge in real classrooms. We want our graduates to walk into their first classroom prepared to help every child become a confident reader.”

Helping children become strong readers begins with well-prepared teachers. According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, four in 10 fourth graders in North Carolina do not read at a basic level. Research shows that teachers equipped

with evidence-based literacy practices are among the strongest factors in improving student reading outcomes.

The report, Teacher Prep Review: Decoding Progress in Reading Preparation, evaluated elementary teacher preparation programs across the country on how effectively they prepare future educators to teach reading using decades of established research.

NCTQ’s methodology is informed by a panel of reading experts, teacher preparation faculty, reading advocates and measurement experts. To evaluate each program, reviewers analyzed syllabi, lecture topics, reading materials, class assessments, assignments and opportunities for teacher candidates to practice evidence-based literacy instruction. Programs earning an A+ demonstrate comprehensive instruction in the five essential components of reading — phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension — while avoiding instructional practices that research has found to be ineffective.

“This recognition reflects the quality of our faculty, the strength of our partnerships with local schools and the dedication of our students to becoming exceptional educators,” said Diane Prusank, UNCP’s provost and vice chancellor for Academic



The Elementary Education program at UNC Pembroke earned an A+ grade from the National Council on Teacher Quality for preparing future elementary teachers in the science of reading.

Affairs. “When our graduates enter classrooms prepared to help children become successful readers, the impact extends far beyond a single school. It strengthens communities and the future workforce of North Carolina.”

Preparing teachers has been central to UNC Pembroke’s mission since the university’s founding in 1887 as a school established to educate American Indian teachers. Today, that mission continues through programs that combine rigorous coursework with meaningful clinical experiences in area schools, ensuring graduates from diverse backgrounds are ready to meet the needs of today’s classrooms.

Elementary education students at UNC Pembroke develop literacy instruction skills through evidence-based coursework and extensive clinical experiences with partner

schools throughout the region, including the university’s Literacy Clinic at Pembroke Elementary School. There, teacher candidates work one-on-one with elementary students over multiple sessions, assessing literacy needs, designing individualized instruction and adapting evidence-based reading strategies to help each child grow. Together, those experiences prepare graduates to enter the classroom ready to deliver high-quality literacy instruction from their first day as teachers.

For 2024 graduate Rhyan Jacobs, the impact of that preparation is evident every day in her third-grade classroom at Union Chapel Elementary School in Robeson County. Earlier this year, Jacobs was named one of just 27 finalists statewide for the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching’s Beginning Teacher of the Year Award, which rec-

ognizes new teachers who excel in the classroom, support student success and demonstrate a commitment to lifelong learning.

Jacobs said literacy instruction is about much more than teaching children how to read.

“By third grade, students are transitioning from learning to read to reading to learn,” Jacobs said. “When they become confident readers, they become more independent learners who are willing to ask questions, explore new ideas and believe in their own abilities. Every child learns differently, and having a strong foundation in evidence-based literacy instruction allows us to meet students where they are and help them grow.”

She credits UNC Pembroke’s educator preparation program with giving her the confidence and foundation to bring those practices into her own classroom.

“As a UNCP graduate, it’s encouraging to see the School of Education recognized for preparing future teachers with the knowledge and skills they’ll need to make a lasting impact,” Jacobs said. “Thanks to that preparation, I’m able to make that impact in my own classroom every day.”

NCTQ President Heather Peske said strong teacher preparation plays a critical role in improving literacy outcomes nationwide.

“Every child deserves a

teacher who has been well prepared to teach reading, and every teacher deserves the opportunity to enter the classroom ready to help students succeed,” Peske said. “Across the country, many teacher preparation programs still do not fully align with the science of reading, but UNC Pembroke is demonstrating what strong preparation can look like.”

As North Carolina continues to address literacy challenges and teacher shortages, the recognition reflects a mission that has guided UNC Pembroke for generations: preparing educators who are ready to make a lasting difference in classrooms, schools and communities across the state.

The UNCP School of Education offers a comprehensive range of undergraduate and graduate degree programs designed to prepare educators at every stage of their careers. From teacher licensure and advanced classroom practice to leadership, counseling and educational support roles, UNCP programs emphasize hands-on experience, strong mentorship and real-world readiness — preparing graduates to serve students, schools and communities across North Carolina and beyond.

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

HIS VIEW

Is this the best budget our lawmakers could come up with?

(Editor’s note: This column was written before Gov. Josh Stein signed the state budget into law on Tuesday morning.)

It took more than a year for our legislators to agree to a state budget. The holdup can be attributed to three primary issues: pay raises, tax cuts and funding for a children’s hospital. Looking at the final 634-page document one must ask why this couldn’t have been agreed upon a year ago?



Tom Campbell
Contributing columnist

In essence, it is a ho-hum budget that isn’t going to thrill much of anyone. Let’s begin with the hold-out issues, starting with pay raises. In the time since the last budget was passed inflation has increased by 5.33%, so the 3% state employee pay increase is not just unsatisfactory but a downright insult to our 80,000 state employees. Lawmakers tried to ameliorate some ill will by offering an additional one-time bonus, but it won’t help much. Ardis Watkins, head of the State Employees Association said, “Legislators love to tell us how well North Carolina’s economy is doing, but this budget looks like the work of a state that’s struggling.”

Teachers get an average of an 8% pay increase, however veteran teachers, arguably our best, will receive less than that amount. Budget writers are bragging about starting teacher pay of \$48,000, but don’t get excited. It takes about that much to entice people to teach.

And employee State Health Plan premiums have already increased and promise to escalate more, even with a boost of millions from the budget.

The budget cuts hundreds of jobs from the state payroll. Most of these positions are vacant, largely because agencies are trying to economize and state salaries are so low that agencies have trouble filling them.

Perhaps the most preposterous item in the budget is the funding of \$208.5 million for a new children’s hospital in Apex, Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger’s pet project that will no doubt be named after him. Never mind that our state already has 5 children’s hospitals or that the live birth rate in our state has declined between 18% to 33%, according to Carolina Journal. We’re going to invest over \$400 million dollars where there is inadequate demonstrated need.

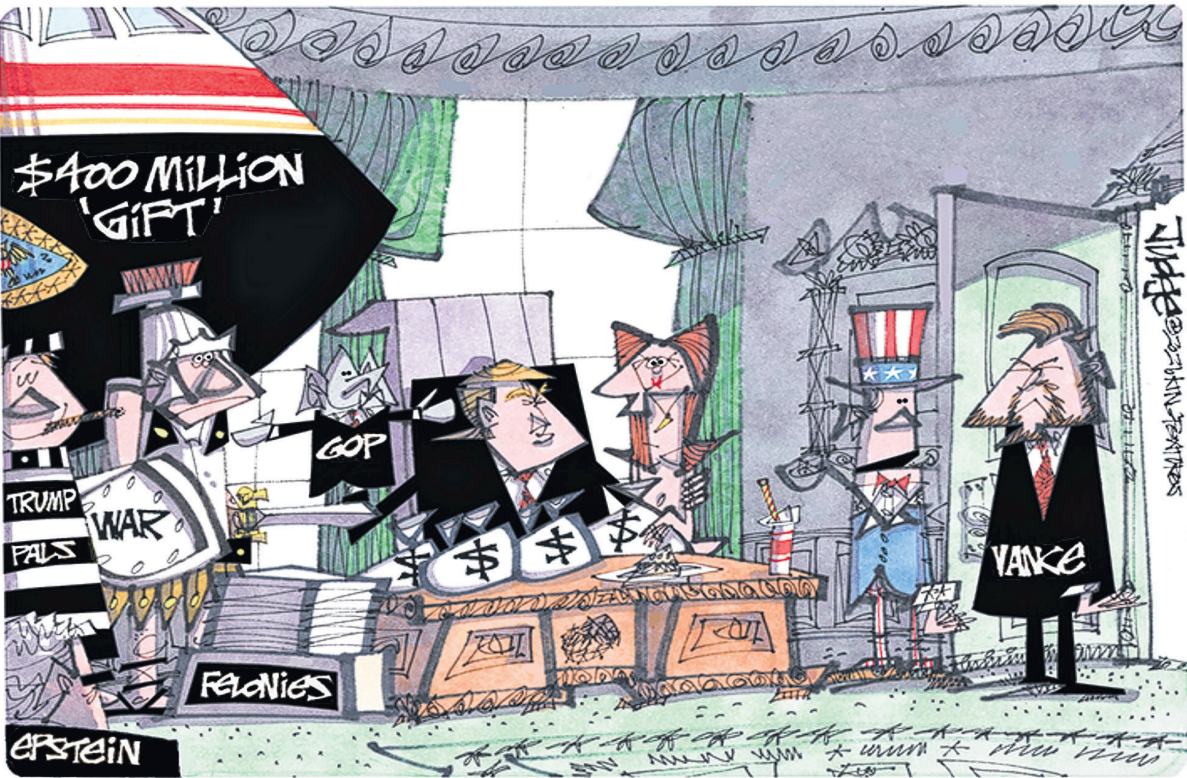
If North Carolina was going to spend significant dollars building a new hospital it should be a hospital for older folks! They are growing at significantly faster percentages than are younger people and are projected to reach 3 million. In 88 of our 100 counties people over 60 outnumber those under 18.

The third big budget holdup was tax cuts; the House wanted to delay further personal income tax cuts after authoritative sources predicted a potential budget shortfall if cuts continue. The House obviously lost the argument because tax rates will drop from 3.99% to 3.49% in fiscal years ‘27-’29, 3.2% in ‘30-’32, and 2.99% in ‘33-’34.

- Here are other highlights:
- The budget removes much of the antiquated certificate of need rules and regulations in our state, which should open healthcare competition.
 - Gamblers will see gross wagering fees increase from 18% to 23% and losers will be able to deduct some of their losses on income tax returns. Gambling revenue proceeds distributed to our state-supported universities will now include UNC Chapel Hill and NC State, our two largest universities. Both had been previously excluded from sharing the pot.
 - The budget adds \$450 million to the Rainy-Day Fund, increasing that amount to \$4.2 billion.
 - We will continue to give \$675 million to private schools, with no major concerted effort to improve traditional public schools, other than taking \$35.8 million saved from per pupil appropriations and reinvesting the funds in math, literary and personnel development, along with \$30 million for advanced teaching roles salaries.
 - If the EPA approves, North Carolina will eliminate vehicle emissions testing.
 - The huge problems encountered at DMV offices around the state are unlikely to diminish even with token fund increases and 30 new driver’s license examiners. There is language about doing away with registration cards and annual inspection stickers but little explanation how that will happen.
 - With the state’s rapid population growth, the increased traffic on our highways is outpacing state funding and the budget gives money (albeit not enough) for road maintenance.
 - All passengers on our ferries will now pay tolls.
 - Some good news is the Medicaid will be fully funded and funds will be provided to help meet SNAP costs.

In summary: This budget agreement took too long and accomplished too little. Most worrisome is it was agreed upon behind closed doors and our 170 legislators had no opportunity to amend or revise it in floor debate. Instead, they were faced with an up or down vote to approve it.

Gov. Stein will no doubt sign the budget into law. As late as it is and as unsatisfactory as a lot of this budget is, the governor has little choice but to approve it.



CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF ROBE-SON COUNTY
John Simmons, Dist. 1, john.simmons@robeson.k12.nc.us
Melissa Ocean, Vice Chairman, Dist. 2, melissa.ocean@robeson.k12.nc.us
Linda Emanuel, Dist. 3, linda.emanuel@robeson.k12.nc.us
Terry Locklear, Dist. 4, terry.locklear2@robeson.k12.nc.us
Craig Lowry, Dist. 5, craig.lowry2@robeson.k12.nc.us
Crystal Weindel Monroe, Dist. 6, crystal.monroe@robeson.k12.nc.us
Bradley Phillips, Dist. 7, bradley.phillips@robeson.k12.nc.us
Tre’ Britt, Chairman, Dist. 8, tre.britt@robeson.k12.nc.us
Kristy Fields, At-Large, kristy.fields@robeson.k12.nc.us
Vonta Leach, At-Large, vonta.leach@robeson.k12.nc.us
Henry Brewer, At-Large, henry.brewer@robeson.k12.nc.us
LUMBERTON CITY COUNCIL, 910-272-1346
Bruce Davis, Mayor, 910-671-3806, bdavis@ci.lumberton.nc.us
Leroy Rising, Precinct 1, lrising@ci.lumberton.nc.us
Melissa Robinson, Precinct 2, mrobinson@ci.lumberton.nc.us
John Carroll, Mayor Pro Tem, Precinct 3, jcarroll@ci.lumberton.nc.us
Karen Higley, Precinct 4, khigley@ci.lumberton.nc.us

John Cantey Jr., Precinct 5, jcantey@ci.lumberton.nc.us
Alfred Douglas, Precinct 6, alfred.douglas@ci.lumberton.nc.us
Eric Chavis, Precinct 7, echavis@ci.lumberton.nc.us
Owen Thomas, Precinct 8, othomas@ci.lumberton.nc.us
ROBESON COUNTY
Wixie Stephens, Dist. 1, 910-733-4770, district1@co.robeson.nc.us.
Pauline Campbell, Dist. 2, 910-734-3024, pauline.campbell@co.robeson.nc.us. .
John Cummings, Dist. 3, 910-734-9604, district3@co.robeson.nc.us.
Faline Locklear Dial, Vice Chair- man, Dist. 4, 910-827-1005, falinedial907@gmail.com.
Judy Sampson, Dist. 5, 910-374-8939, judy5rcc@gmail.com.
David Edge, Chairman, Dist. 6, 910-258-1166, dedge53@yahoo.com
Tom Taylor, Dist. 7, 910-608-9167, district7@co.robeson.nc.us
Lance Herndon, Dist. 8, 910-733-5472.
NORTH CAROLINA (State Offices)
Sen. Danny Earl Britt Jr., R-Dist. 24 (Hoke, Robeson, Scotland), 300 N. Salisbury St., Room 525, Raleigh, NC 27603, 919-733-5651.
Rep. John Lowery, R-Dist. 47 (Robeson), 300 N. Salisbury Street, 306B2, Raleigh, NC 27603-5925, 919-715-0875, John.Lowery@ncleg.

gov.
Rep. Brenden H. Jones, R-Dist. 46 (Robeson, Columbus), 16 W. Jones St., Room 1227, Raleigh, NC 27601-1096, 919-733-5821 or 919-733-5821.
UNITED STATES (Federal Offices)
U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., 310 New Bern Ave. Suite 122, Raleigh, NC 27601, 919-856-4630, or 113 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, 202-224-6342
U.S. Sen. Ted Budd, R-N.C., B85 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3154.
U.S. Rep. Mark Harris, R-N.C., 8th Dist., 126 Cannon House Office Building, 202-225-1976
U.S. Rep. David Rouzer, R-N.C., 7th Dist., 2333 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, 202-225-2731.
U.S. Pres. Donald Trump, Comments: 202-456-1111, Switchboard: 202-456-1414; Leave a written message: https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/. Mailing address: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20500.
U.S. Capitol Switchboard, 202-224-3121.
White House Switchboard, 202-456-1414.

HIS VIEW

Civic education extends beyond schools

RALEIGH — We’ve played the music, shot the fireworks and recited the opening lines of the Declaration of Independence. But our commemoration of America’s semiquincentennial has only just begun.

There will be 250th anniversaries of other key events. The creation of new state governments and charters, such as North Carolina’s first state constitution (ratified on Dec. 18, 1776). Revolutionary War victories at such places as Trenton (Dec. 26, 1776), Saratoga (Oct. 7, 1777), and the Carolina battles of Ramseur’s Mill (June 20, 1780), Kings Mountain (Oct. 7, 1780) and Cowpens (Jan. 17, 1781). Diplomatic breakthroughs such as France’s formal entry into the war (Feb. 6, 1778) and the Treaty of Paris ending it (Sept. 3, 1783). And, of course, the creation of the United States Constitution in 1787 and its ratification the following year.

That the semiquincentennial is far from over is a historical observation. America was “conceived in liberty,” as Abraham Lincoln famously put it. Unlike an infant, however, a country can have no single birthday. The Declaration of Independence was just that, what its primary author called “an expression of the American mind,” but the United States as we know it today was not yet a fully formed and independent reality. Years of hard fighting lay ahead, as did many decades of construction and legislation, expansion and assimilation, conflict and consolidation.

That our semiquincentennial is far from over also happens to be a Godsend — because our commemorations have, to date, lacked the clarity and enthusiasm they deserve.

While many communities across the country — including many here in North Carolina — staged wonderful events, concerts, parades and shows, America 250 hasn’t lived up to its potential. Rival organizations squandered scarce time and resources fighting over turf. Politicians attempted to hijack the project for partisan purposes. Radicals and revisionists within the progressive left and populist right decided not to tie their ideological programs to the founders, as previous generations of activists did, but rather to denigrate the Founders as nasty bigots, grasping plutocrats or deluded acolytes of John Locke (the Enlightenment philosopher who espoused the classical liberalism both progressives and populists disdain).

The good news is that it’s not too late to fix this. The better news is that the general public remains receptive to learning about and celebrating the American experiment.

A new YouGov survey for Catawba College’s Center for North Carolina Politics and Public Service underscored both the challenges and opportunities. The vast majority of its thousand respondents embraced the celebration of the Declaration of Independence, with 84% describing its principles as “extremely important” (56%) or “very important” (28%) in our present day.

At the same time, the survey found partisan differences about whether the nation is living up to the Declaration’s ideals. Overall, 40% said the country is close to fulfilling those ideals, while 55% said it isn’t. Six in 10 Democrats said the nation is not close to achieving the Declaration’s ideals, while 58% of Republicans said the nation is close to fulfilling them. “North Carolinians largely agree on the ideals themselves,” said the center’s director, Michael Bitzer. “That distinction helps explain both the enduring power of the Declaration and the continuing debates over what it means in modern America.”

I think North Carolinians should take the lead in commemorating the American experiment and educating ourselves and others about it. Policymakers should strengthen our civics curriculum, to be sure, and reinstate a rigorous high-school exam to measure how well North Carolina students understand the history, principles and enduring relevance of the American Founding. But civics education should extend far beyond the classroom.

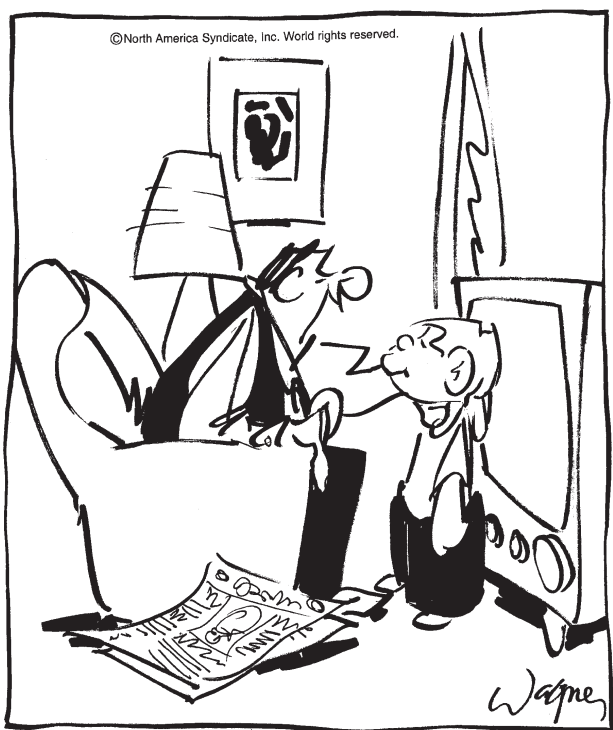
Let’s double down on the semiquincentennial. Let’s have more concerts and parades, yes, as well as more publications, readings, public lectures and private conversations. Let’s run ad campaigns, produce documentaries and shows and post viral content. Let’s reflect on America’s imperfections and unrealized potential, sure, but let’s also celebrate its historic accomplishments and revolutionary legacy.

“America remains mankind’s best hope,” said Ronald Reagan. Fact check: true!

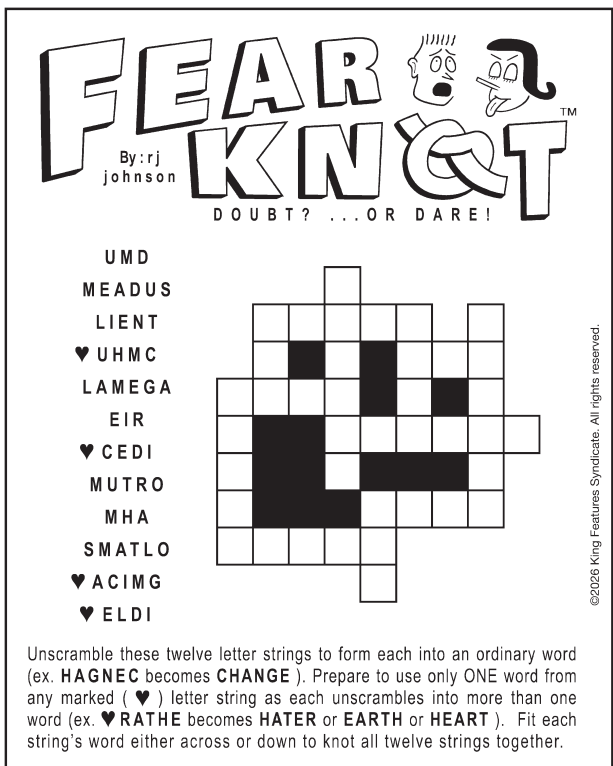


John Hood
Contributing columnist

By Wagner



By Jim Keefe



Q2 REPORT

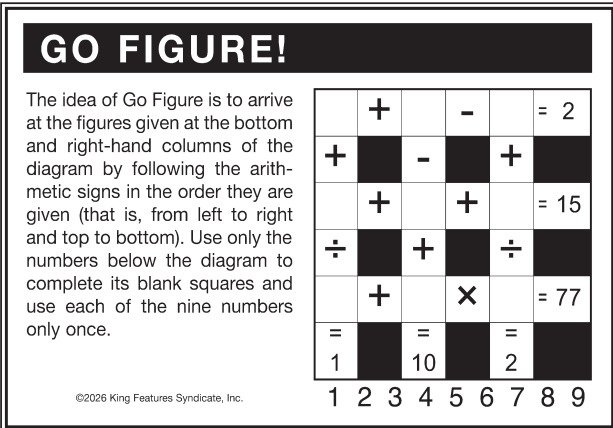
- MAGIC MAZE** ● **"INDEPENDENCE DAY"**

L Y V R O Y L H E B X U R O L
I E B Y V S C Q E N D K H N E
B Y W T R O L N J N E E E G E
B Y W U R P (E Y E P I E C E) N
K I G E D B D D Z D D N C I X
V S Q N O D M I D E N N A K I
G E C I A A Y A D W A E U C S
Q P N D L C C P J N C Y P H F
E C A Y X V E U E A A A S E Q
P N M K J H F P E D E C N A D
E C B Z Y X V P U T R Q P O M

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions: forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Unlisted clue hint: UNSWEETENED — TEA

Candle	Cayenne	Dine	Peace
Candid	Daddy	Diaper	Pecan
Candied	Danced	Needed	Penance
Canine	Dependency	Paid	

©2026 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.



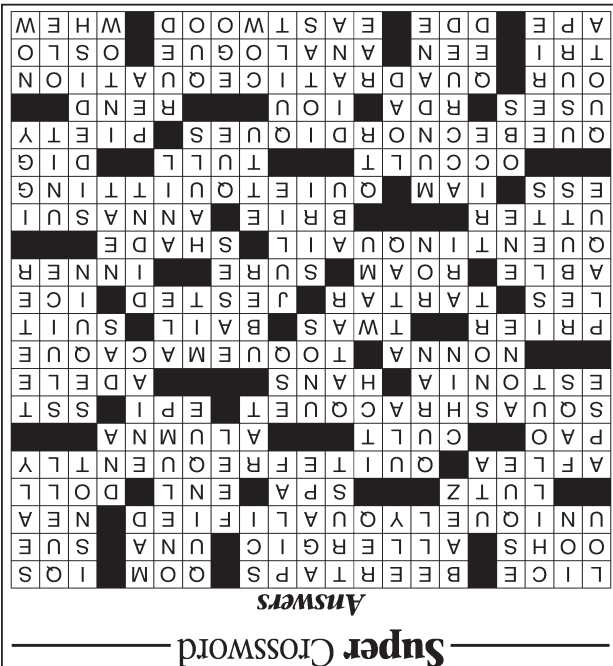
Go Figure!

1	6	-	5	=	2
2	4	+	9	=	15
3	8	×	7	=	77
1	10	=	2		

answer

R	E				
T	U	M	O	R	
E			I	C	E
		M			
		A	L	M	O
		S			
		H	A	M	
		G			
		A			

WORDS FOR AN INDEPENDENT DAY



LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF LINDA LOU CHAVIS DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 23 E 001253-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of LINDA LOU CHAVIS, 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 12th 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 8th day of JULY 2026

ELLA W EVANS
1122 PAUL ROAD
PEMBROKE NC 28372

7/8 7/15 7/22 7/29 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF MARY HANNAH HOLLINGSWORTH DECEASED FILE NUMBER: 26 E 000563-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of MARY HANNAH HOLLINGSWORTH, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of SEPTEMBER 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This is the 24th day of JUNE 2026.

THOMAS MILTON WHITE
300 JOHN BALLENTINE RD
IRMO SC 29063

6/24 7/1 7/8 7/15 2026

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

The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the estate of PRISCILLA CHERRY, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of SEPTEMBER 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This is the 17th day of JUNE 2026.

JOHNNIE CHERRY
5208 SIMMONS DRIVE
LUMBERTON NC 28360

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

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF 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 RONALD LEE SCOTT DECEASED FILE NUMBER 26 E 000699-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of RONALD LEE SCOTT, 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 12th 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 8th day of JULY 2026

SHEILA M PEREZ
2409 COLLINS DR
LUMBERTON NC 28358

7/8 7/15 7/22 7/29 2026

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

LEGALS

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Robeson County Board of Zoning Adjustment will hold a public hearing at 5:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, July 20, 2026 in the Robeson County Administration Center, 550 North Chestnut Street, in the City of Lumberton, North Carolina. The purpose of this hearing is to consider the following requests:

I

Case # 2026-965340-- Kaitlyn Woods, Raft Swamp Township, District 5. Consideration of a Variance of Robeson County Zoning Ordinance Section 3.6 (d) requiring a minimum 15' feet side yard setback. The purpose for this Variance is to allow for the establishment of a single-family dwelling on a 0.47+/- acre tract, more or less, in a Residential Agricultural District (R-A), located at 455 Beam Rd; submitted by Kaitlyn Woods (Applicant); Maggie Woods (Owner). Tax Parcel # 1605-01-035.

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

THIS the 1st day of July, 2026.

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

7/8 7/15 2026

LEGALS

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

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of THOMAS LEE ROWDY, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of SEPTEMBER 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This is the 17th day of JUNE 2026.

FREDRICK TREMAYNE ROWDY
847 S CHICKEN ROAD
ROWLAND NC 28383

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

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; 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 a 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 a 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 a 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 a 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

LEGALS

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Robeson County Board of Zoning Adjustment will hold a public hearing at 5:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, July 20, 2026 in the Robeson County Administration Center, 550 North Chestnut Street, in the City of Lumberton, North Carolina. The purpose of this hearing is to consider the following requests:

I

Case # 2026-965340-- Kaitlyn Woods, Raft Swamp Township, District 5. Consideration of a Variance of Robeson County Zoning Ordinance Section 3.6 (d) requiring a minimum 15' feet side yard setback. The purpose for this Variance is to allow for the establishment of a single-family dwelling on a 0.47+/- acre tract, more or less, in a Residential Agricultural District (R-A), located at 455 Beam Rd; submitted by Kaitlyn Woods (Applicant); Maggie Woods (Owner). Tax Parcel # 1605-01-035.

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

THIS the 1st day of July, 2026.

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

7/8 7/15 2026

LEGALS

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

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of THOMAS LEE ROWDY, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of SEPTEMBER 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This is the 17th day of JUNE 2026.

FREDRICK TREMAYNE ROWDY
847 S CHICKEN ROAD
ROWLAND NC 28383

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

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; 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 a 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 a 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 a 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 a 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

LEGALS

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Robeson County Board of Zoning Adjustment will hold a public hearing at 5:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, July 20, 2026 in the Robeson County Administration Center, 550 North Chestnut Street, in the City of Lumberton, North Carolina. The purpose of this hearing is to consider the following requests:

I

Case # 2026-965340-- Kaitlyn Woods, Raft Swamp Township, District 5. Consideration of a Variance of Robeson County Zoning Ordinance Section 3.6 (d) requiring a minimum 15' feet side yard setback. The purpose for this Variance is to allow for the establishment of a single-family dwelling on a 0.47+/- acre tract, more or less, in a Residential Agricultural District (R-A), located at 455 Beam Rd; submitted by Kaitlyn Woods (Applicant); Maggie Woods (Owner). Tax Parcel # 1605-01-035.

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

THIS the 1st day of July, 2026.

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

7/8 7/15 2026

LEGALS

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

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of THOMAS LEE ROWDY, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of SEPTEMBER 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This is the 17th day of JUNE 2026.

FREDRICK TREMAYNE ROWDY
847 S CHICKEN ROAD
ROWLAND NC 28383

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

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; 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



Photos by Victoria Sanderson | The Robesonian
Miss Lumbee 2026, Anna Hunt, singing during the talent portion of Thursday's pageant in Pembroke.

Lumbee

From page 1A

2026 Little Miss Lumbee Lariah Hunt, Junior Miss Lumbee Verah Brewington and Senior Miss Lumbee Lottie Lowery Locklear.

The Ambassadors made several appear-

ances throughout the rest of the final weekend of Lumbee Homecoming, including the Summer Jam Concert, the Lumbee Homecoming Parade, an Ambassadors Reception, the Native Strong Coalition Powwow and a gospel singing.

Contact Victoria Sanderson at vsanderson@robesonian.com.



Teen Miss Lumbee, Braeleigh Hunt, during the regalia portion of Thursday's pageant in Pembroke.



Teen Miss Lumbee, Braeleigh Hunt, singing during the talent portion of Thursday's pageant in Pembroke.

Gov. Stein, First Lady visit Pembroke during Homecoming



Office of First Lady Anna Stein

Gov. Josh Stein and First Lady Anna Stein visited Pembroke on Thursday to attend a live cooking demonstration by Chef Pyet during Lumbee Homecoming. Chef Pyet is a member of the Prarie Band Potawatomi Nation. The governor, second from right, and first lady, right, are pictured with Chef Pyet, center, UNC Pembroke Chancellor Robin Cummings, second from left, and his wife Rebecca Cummings, left. The first lady also tried her first collard wrap and grape ice cream, she said in a social media post, during the visit.

Budget

From page 1A

budget as providing a “directed grant” to Robeson County, though the purpose of this grant was not immediately clear.

Appropriations for Robeson County include the following:

- Public safety**
- \$1.1 million to fund seven new assistant district attorney positions
 - \$50,000 for the Lumberton Police Department
 - \$30,000 for the Lumberton Police Department
 - \$25,000 for the Maxton Police Department
 - \$25,000 for Robeson County Sheriff's Department capital projects
 - \$25,000 for the Robeson County Re-entry Program
 - \$5,000 for the Robeson County Honor Guard

- Fire & emergency services**
- \$125,000 for Rowland Fire Department capital projects
 - \$75,000 for Deep Branch Fire Department capital projects
 - \$50,000 for Queheel Fire Department capital projects

- Education, youth and community involvement**
- \$24.4 million for the UNCP Health Sciences Center
 - \$165,000 for Robeson County high school and middle school athletic programs and facilities
 - \$100,000 for Robeson County Fair capital projects
 - \$75,000 for Children's Bible Ministries of the Mid-Atlantic Camp Grace
 - \$75,000 for the Robeson County Church and Community Center
 - \$50,000 for the Fairmont Youth Center
 - \$50,000 for Red Springs Community

- Development**
- Overall highlights**
- The budget's passage marks the first full state budget to pass since 2023.
- The overall budget is for \$34 billion. In addition to the budget's local investment, it also has some notable statewide appropriations that include:
- A 3% pay raise for all state employees
 - A pay raise averaging 8% for all teachers, with the minimum base salary raised to \$48,000.
 - A reduction in the personal income tax rate from 3.99% this year to 3.49% next year, with continued reductions in coming years to 2.99%.
 - Medicaid in the state is fully funded
 - \$700 million of funding is allocated for Hurricane Helene relief in Western North Carolina.
- “North Carolinians expect their elected officials to come together across our differences to

deliver for people,” Stein said. “The budget also makes meaningful investments in our community colleges, the DMV, child care, cybersecurity, a new veterans’ home, clean drinking water, and summer food programs for kids.”

While Stein signed the bill into law, he did take a moment to rebuke some “flaws” within it.

“The legislature slashed more than 1,000 state government positions, making it harder for us to keep people safe and healthy,” Stein said. “It also includes a number of unconstitutional and wrong-headed provisions like those shifting power from the executive branch or those that are hostile to local governments, especially Charlotte. ... Going forward, there is more work to do.”

The budget passed the N.C. House 88-21 and the N.C. Senate 35-10 before Stein signed it into law.

More NC lawmakers identified as attending bourbon trip, search warrant says

Dan Kane

The News & Observer via AP

RALEIGH — A newly public search warrant identifies two more lawmakers who attended at least one of two bourbon tours in Kentucky, and one of them is the current co-chairman of the House Alcoholic Beverage Control Committee.

The warrant is the second made public in a probe by the State Bureau of Investigation into a nonprofit known as Greater Carolina, which hosted the trips.

The warrant says only one lawmaker who

attended — state Sen. Tim Moffitt of Henderson County — reported the trip on his statement of economic interest, a report many state officials have to file with the State Ethics Commission each year.

Four lobbyists face a misdemeanor charge of violating the state's ban on gifts to lawmakers. The indictments say they used their clients to help pay for the 2024 bourbon tour. Evidence in the case reported in search warrants shows lobbyists' clients also helped pay for the 2022 trip, but the statute of limitations pre-

vents charges from being considered, Wake County District Attorney Lorrin Freeman has said.

The second search warrant was unsealed late last month. It said Rep. Ray Pickett of Watauga County and state Sen. Todd Johnson of Union County attended the 2022 trip along with then-Rep. Jason Saine and Moffitt. All are Republicans.

Both search warrants say 11 lawmakers attended the first bourbon tour with lobbyists and their clients, while nine lawmakers attended the second. It's unclear how many of the first group of

lawmakers also attended the second tour since Moffitt was the only one to disclose the trip.

A complaint that prompted the investigation, filed by Carolina Forward, a left-leaning nonprofit think tank, produced receipts from the 2024 tour that showed purchases by Reps. Kyle Hall of Stokes County and David Willis of Union County. Hall and Willis, both Republicans, did not respond last year to inquiries about whether they attended the 2024 tour.

State Sen. David Craven, a Randolph County Republican, early this

year acknowledged attending the 2024 tour after The News & Observer inquired about him reporting on his 2021 economic interest statement that he was Greater Carolina's secretary.

The search warrants and other documents indicate that Saine attended both trips. A former legislative aide of his, Clark Riemer, who is now a lobbyist, filed the incorporation papers for Greater Carolina in 2018. The nonprofit bills itself as a free-market conservative group.

Its director, David Coble, is a Mooresville

businessman who occasionally cohosted a radio show with Saine, a Lincolnnton Republican.

The search warrants say Saine was involved in launching the bourbon tours. During that time, he was the chief budget writer under then House Speaker Tim Moore, who left the position in 2024 to successfully run for Congress. Saine also left the House that year and became a lobbyist. By then the 2024 trip had become public, the result of a Reddit post by a distillery employee who claimed the tour group had behaved badly.



Adelio's
Italian-American Ristorante

Call now to book your upcoming event!



111 West 3rd St • Lumberton, NC • (910) 671-4747



DILLON TIRE SUPERSTORE

WHEEL SETUP SALE



SAVE BIG ON TOP BRANDS!

306 E Main Street, Dillon, SC
843-774-2146



HIS and HER GREENHOUSE, INC.

Locally Grown Seasonal Vegetables!



910-739-2235
2278 E. Powersville Rd., Lumberton, NC 28358



PROUDLY SERVING ROBESON COUNTY
NOT FOR PROFIT
PUTTING YOUR NEEDS FIRST

When needed, Morrison Manor provides 24-hour inpatient care to keep your loved one close and out of the hospital.

Morrison Manor is available to any Scotland Regional Hospice patient, who meets the criteria for inpatient care, regardless of the county they reside in.

A non-profit hospice provider since 1986

Proudly offering in-home care to residents of Robeson County

Accredited by the Accreditation of Commission for Health Care (ACHC).

Recognized by Strategic Healthcare Programs (SHP) as a "Superior Performer" for providing high quality service to families and caregivers of patients receiving hospice care.



SCOTLAND REGIONAL Hospice

"A Special Kind of Caring"
610 Lauchwood Drive
Laurinburg, NC 28352
(910)276-7176
scotlandhospice.org

Lumbee Homecoming concludes with parade, powwow



Grand Marshal Arlinda Locklear waves to the crowd during the Lumbee Homecoming Parade Saturday in Pembroke.



Photos by Chris Stiles | The Robesonian
An entry in the Lumbee Homecoming Parade Saturday in Pembroke.



Braeden Uriah Johnson Jr., 1, of Pembroke, enjoys the Lumbee Homecoming Parade Saturday in Pembroke.



An entrant in the Lumbee Homecoming Parade Saturday in Pembroke.



Members of a drum group perform at the Native Strong Powwow during Lumbee Homecoming Saturday in Pembroke.



Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars wave to the crowd during the Lumbee Homecoming Parade Saturday in Pembroke.



The head dancers lead participants in the arena at the Native Strong Powwow during Lumbee Homecoming Saturday in Pembroke.



A member of the Omar Shriners Provost Guard waves during the Lumbee Homecoming Parade Saturday in Pembroke.



A member of the Pembroke Fire Department waves during the Lumbee Homecoming Parade Saturday in Pembroke.



Melissa Lowery, left, of Red Springs, enjoys a sandwich as Braylen Locklear, right, looks on during Lumbee Homecoming Saturday in Pembroke.



Young attendees enjoy a carnival ride at Lumbee Homecoming Saturday in Pembroke.



Master Sgt. Sunny Dale Hyde of the All Veteran Group jumps towards the ground at Lumbee Homecoming Saturday in Pembroke.



A drum group performs at the Native Strong Powwow during Lumbee Homecoming Saturday in Pembroke.



Lumbee Tribal Chairman John Lowery, right, and his brother, former N.C. Rep. Jarrod Lowery, left, wave to the crowd during the Lumbee Homecoming Parade Saturday in Pembroke.



Michael Whatley, the Republican nominee for U.S. Senate, hands a piece of candy to a young spectator during the Lumbee Homecoming Parade Saturday in Pembroke.

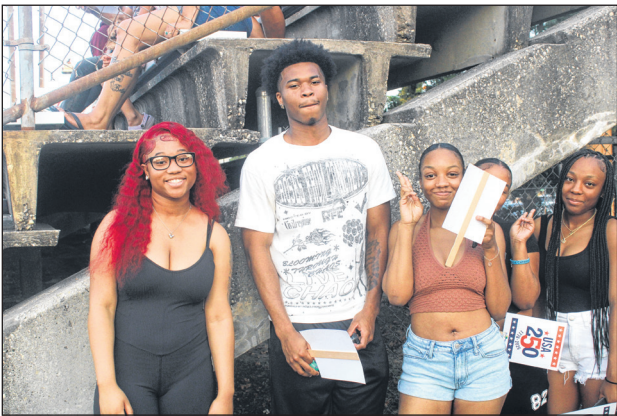
Robeson celebrates America's 250th birthday



Photos by Chris Stiles | The Robesonian
Raylin Jackson, 2, left, Oaklin Jackson, 5, center, and Elsie Locklear, 1, second from right, all of St. Pauls, light sparklers while awaiting Saturday's fireworks show in St. Pauls.



An attendee comes down the water slide at the Red Springs July 4th Celebration on Saturday.



Attendees await the fireworks at the Family Fourth Celebration Thursday in Lumberton.



Photos by Jacob Husson | The Robesonian



Chris Stiles | The Robesonian
Throwback Collaboration Band performs at the Red Springs July 4th Celebration on Saturday.



Chris Stiles | The Robesonian
Victoria Counts, left, and Amareanna Davis, right, both of Fayetteville, listen to the music at the Red Springs July 4th Celebration on Saturday.



Jacob Husson | The Robesonian
Rob Cole, left, performs at the Family Fourth Celebration Thursday in Lumberton.



Photos by Chris Stiles | The Robesonian
Attendees watch the fireworks Saturday in St. Pauls.



Young attendees await the fireworks Saturday in St. Pauls.



Attendees play cornhole while awaiting the fireworks Saturday in St. Pauls.



Fire trucks blare their lights and sirens during the grand finale of Saturday's fireworks show in St. Pauls.



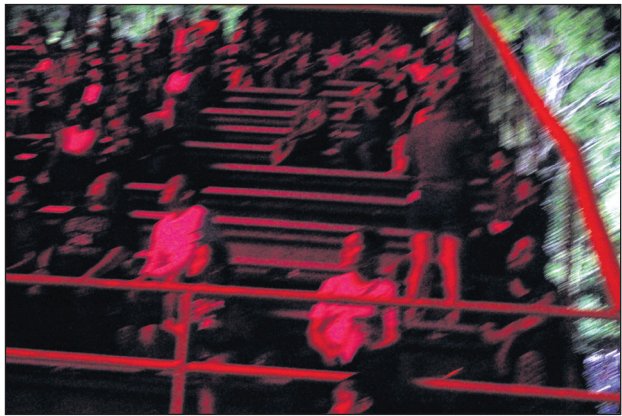
One spectator records the fireworks on her cell phone during Saturday's show in St. Pauls.



Photos by Chris Stiles | The Robesonian
Young attendees await the fireworks Saturday in St. Pauls.



The sunset illuminates the American flag before the fireworks Saturday in St. Pauls.



Jacob Husson | The Robesonian
Attendees watch the fireworks at the Family Fourth Celebration Thursday in Lumberton.

UNCP football slate includes 6 home games



UNC Pembroke's Que Kennedy runs with the ball during an Oct. 11, 2025 game against Shorter in Pembroke.

Staff report

PEMBROKE — After an 8-3 season in 2025 that culminated with a Conference Carolinas championship game appearance, the 2026 season sees UNCP at home six times in a 10-game schedule. UNCP kicks off the season Aug. 27 against Wingate at home on Military Appreciation Night. The Bulldogs went 9-3 last season including a 30-21 win over the Braves. UNCP then goes on the road to face Fayetteville State on Sept. 5 in a renewal of the Two Rivers Classic series. The Broncos went 6-4 last season, losing to UNCP 31-24 in the process.

The Braves will play against Shorter on Sept. 12 in Rome, Georgia; they defeated the Hawks 52-21 last season. After that, UNCP has four straight home games, Sept. 19 against Valdosta State, Sept. 26 against Monroe, Oct. 3 against North Greenville and Oct. 10 against Erskine. The Braves dominated then-20th-ranked Valdosta State 31-0 last season, dismantled Erskine 31-7 and lost twice to North Greenville, 20-7 in the regular season and 34-20 in the conference championship. Monroe, located in New York, is transitioning from the junior-college level to NCAA Division II and will face the Braves for the first time.

The game against Monroe celebrates Parents & Families Weekend and the North Greenville game is on Education & Service Day. Finally, the game against Erskine is on American Indian Heritage Day. The Braves will travel to Wilson to face Barton on Oct. 17, who they beat 34-17 last year. UNCP will then return home to face Chowan on Homecoming on Oct. 24. UNCP took them down 42-10 in Murfreesboro last year. After a bye week on Oct. 31, the Braves will end the regular season in Virginia facing Ferrum on Nov. 7. They got the better of the Panthers 41-14

See UNCP | 2B

Trump, FIFA defend actions after Balogun's suspension rescinded

Graham Dunbar
AP Sports Writer

GENEVA — Soccer leaders questioned the World Cup's integrity on a chaotic and unprecedented day in the event's modern history Monday. The furor centered on a phone call that President Donald Trump made last week to FIFA head Gianni Infantino to make the case that U.S. striker Folarin Balogun should not have been suspended for Monday's matchup with Belgium because of a red card in a game last week. FIFA lifted the suspension and cleared Balogun to play. The decision ultimately didn't help the U.S. team, which was eliminated from the World Cup with a 4-1 loss to Belgium late Monday with Balogun in the lineup. The decision appeared to be the first time since 1962 that punishment for a World Cup offense was suspended in the tournament, increasing scrutiny on Infantino's control of FIFA and his close association with Trump. European soccer body UEFA said FIFA "crossed a red line" and called Sunday's decision by FIFA's disciplinary committee "unprecedented, incomprehensible and unjustifiable." Infantino denied having a role in the decision. Trump called it a "horrible" call and took credit for getting FIFA to review the foul, but said he did not demand an outcome. The Belgian Football Association said it informed the U.S. Soccer Federation it was contesting Balogun's eligibility. But FIFA's appeals committee dismissed Belgium's legal challenge less than eight hours before scheduled kickoff of the round of

16 match in Seattle. The appellate panel said Belgium had no standing to challenge the decision. It was unclear whether Belgium could pursue an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Switzerland. Balogun's red card was assessed by Brazilian referee Raphael Claus for stepping on an opponent's ankle last Wednesday during the Americans' 2-0 win over Bosnia-Herzegovina, triggering an automatic one-game suspension. Claus did not initially issue a red card but showed it after a video review. FIFA's disciplinary committee on Sunday provisionally lifted the suspension for one year and fined Balogun \$40,000, which the USSF can pay. UEFA vs. FIFA reignites European soccer officials reacted with outrage. "When the certainty of rules is no longer guaranteed by its guardians, the integrity of the game is at stake and the credibility of a competition is undermined," UEFA said in a statement. "Sometimes rules are open to interpretation. In this case not," it said. "When the certainty of rules is no longer guaranteed by its guardians, the integrity of the game is at stake and the credibility of a competition is undermined." UEFA has often clashed with Infantino during his decade in FIFA power. Infantino's predecessor Sepp Blatter, forced from office in 2015 in fallout from corruption scandals, posted Monday on social media: "Red cards are not overturned by political phone calls," said Blatter. "They are overturned by rules, evidence and independent

See FIFA | 2B

WORLD CUP ROUND OF 16



Belgium's Romelu Lukaku (9) celebrates after scoring his team's fourth goal during the World Cup round of 16 soccer match between the United States and Belgium in Seattle, Monday, July 6, 2026.

Lindsey Wasson | AP Photo

US comes up short against Belgium

Andrew Destin
AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE — Shortly after Romelu Lukaku scored the goal that capped a commanding 4-1 win over the United States, Belgium's all-time leading goal scorer held his right hand to his ear. On American soil, and in the aftermath of star U.S. forward Folarin Balogun being permitted to play after a one-game red-card suspension was controversially lifted by FIFA, Lukaku egged on the crowd of 66,925 at Lumen Field. The Red Devils then took to social media to poke more fun in light of what they considered no laughing matter, posting above the photo the words: "Overturn this." "There's always a justice somewhere in life," Belgian midfielder Nicolas Raskin said. "The fact that something happened like that, we don't think that was fair. And today, I think it just brings us a little bit of (motivation) that we needed to win the game." The Belgian soccer federation wanted an explanation from FIFA about the decision to let Balogun play. Many of Belgium's players, though, insisted they didn't need any additional motivation for Monday's match. Belgium extended its unbeaten streak to 18

games, and knocked out the U.S. in the round of 16 for the second time in 12 years. American players including defender Alex Freeman entered the evening wanting revenge for 2014, and for a 5-2 blow-out loss in a World Cup warmup match in March. Belgium captain Youri Tielemans and company had other ideas, and collectively turned in a clinical performance. "We put in a lot of intensity, there was quality too," Tielemans said. "Defensively, we were really compact. We tried to put them under pressure and it really worked out for us. We scored at the right moments, too." Though Lukaku put the finishing touches on the win, it was not Belgium's so-called "Golden Generation" that propelled the side to victory. Jérémy Doku didn't start for the Red Devils, and Kevin De Bruyne never came off the bench. Rather than Lukaku or De Bruyne, the two most accomplished scorers in Belgian national team history, it was Charles De Ketelaere who tallied a brace. De Ketelaere considered the showing his greatest yet for the Red Devils, whose four goals were the most the U.S. had allowed in a World Cup game since a 5-1 loss to Czechoslovakia in 1990.



United States goalkeeper Matt Freese (24) and United States' Antonee Robinson (5) react after Belgium's Hans Vanaken (20) scored their third goal during the World Cup round of 16 soccer match between the United States and Belgium in Seattle, Monday, July 6, 2026.

Ted S. Warren | AP Photo

"It's a great feeling to put out this performance in this game and to go through," De Ketelaere said. "It's amazing for the team and for the country." Hans Vanaken also scored for Belgium, which went quite close to not advancing to the round of 16 in the first place. To even play the U.S. required a dramatic comeback from a two-goal deficit to beat Senegal in the round of 32. The Red Devils were shaky at the beginning of the tournament, settling for draws against Iran and Egypt. If not for a dominant 5-1 win over New Zealand, Belgium may have failed to get out of the group stage, just as it came up short four years ago in Qatar. "I think we could (have done) much better in the

group phase," midfielder Dodi Lukébakio said. "But, we grew. Today, we are showing that we have more confidence. And with the results, it helps us a lot. And, we are showing our quality, definitely." The Red Devils next play 2010 champion Spain on Friday at Inglewood, California, for a semifinal berth against France or Morocco. They will do so without midfielder Amadou Onana, who coach Rudi Garcia said sustained a "serious injury" while marking U.S. forward Christian Pulisic in the 19th minute. Vanaken replaced Onana in the 21st minute. Aside from Onana's injury, which Garcia referred to as a "dark

See SOCCER | 2B

FIFA

From page 1B

bodies.”
The Swiss Football Association declared that the “credibility of the competition depends on clear rules that are applied consistently.”
Coaches speculated about the implications of the decision going forward.

“What about the next red card? What happens then?” Norway coach Ståle Solbakken said. “Is there going to be some committee somewhere that is going to take that card away? It’s a bad, bad, bad, bad, bad decision that will hurt the World Cup.”

England coach Thomas Tuchel wondered whether yellow cards to English defender Declan Rice and French midfielder Michael Olise could be reversed.

FIFA’s disciplinary committee defended its decision in a statement Monday.

“Reviewing the legal consequences of red cards in football is nothing new in the modern game,” it said. “In the majority of top-tier leagues belonging to UEFA-affiliated member associations the overturning of red cards is a common disciplinary measure, yet this has never raised concerns about crossing any ‘red line.’”

Trump’s comments

Trump on Monday called the referee’s decision a “horrible” call while admitting he was confused about the rules and punishment surrounding red cards.
“I didn’t think it was a foul,” Trump said. “I thought it was two great athletes that crashed into each other and got entangled.”

He also acknowledged calling Infantino.

“All I did was ask for a review,” Trump said. “I didn’t say, ‘You have to do this.’”

Infantino issued a statement saying: “FIFA’s judicial bodies are inde-

pendent. They operate autonomously.”
“I explained that there was an ongoing legal process involving FIFA’s independent judicial bodies and that the case would be decided in due course by the competent bodies,” he said of his conversation with Trump.

Infantino’s relationship with Trump previously sparked concern among soccer officials. European soccer leaders walked out of a FIFA Congress in Paraguay last year due to a three-hour delay caused by Infantino arriving late because he was with Trump in the Middle East.

After Infantino awarded Trump the first FIFA peace prize in December, Norway’s governing body filed a letter supporting an ethics complaint against Infantino that accused him of violating provisions in FIFA’s code of ethics requiring political neutrality.

Belgium’s legal options

Belgian officials prepared in Seattle through

the night into Monday to get a hearing with a FIFA-appointed appeals judge, and their eventual defeat might not be the end.

“Regardless of the sporting outcome of the match,” the Belgian federation said, “(we are) deeply concerned by the way these events have unfolded and will continue, in the hours, days and months ahead, to pursue every available avenue to uphold the fundamental principles of ethics, sporting fairness and the interests of football as a whole.”

Balogun’s tackle

Balogun was sent off directly for planting his cleated foot on an ankle of defender Tarik Muharemovi.

That kind of challenge has been a routine red card all season in competitions worldwide, and Balogun could have expected a two-game ban for serious foul play under the FIFA disciplinary code.

Still, similar challenges by star players have gone

unpunished at this World Cup — by Argentina’s Lionel Messi against Algeria and Morocco’s Achraf Hakimi vs. Brazil. Bernardo Silva of Portugal got just a yellow card against Congo.

“I think a yellow card would have been fair,” Balogun later suggested.

FIFA’s interventions

This World Cup has been remarkable for FIFA under Infantino seeming to rewrite the norms of disciplinary action even before the tournament began.

A pattern of pardons opened FIFA to suggestions of executive intervention in the statutory independence of its judicial bodies, including the disciplinary committee that formally reprimed Balogun.

Cristiano Ronaldo was cleared to play in Portugal’s opening World Cup game despite getting a red card for serious foul play in a qualifying game against Ireland last November. He struck an opponent with an elbow. Ronaldo served his

mandatory ban in Portugal’s final qualifying game but he was reprieved from an expected two-game ban because FIFA introduced the idea of probation. An imposed three-game ban was less meaningful as two games were deferred during a one-year probationary period.

At the opening game on June 11, South Africa’s Themba Zwane got a red card against Mexico for a similar offense to Ronaldo’s and FIFA imposed a three-game ban with no probation. Zwane did not play again at the World Cup.

Three players sent off in their teams’ qualifying games last year were surprisingly told by FIFA in May they could serve their bans in a future competition instead of at the World Cup, which was the long-standing norm.

Ecuador midfielder Moisés Caicedo, Argentina defender Nicolás Otamendi and Qatar defender Tarek Salman all had their bans waived for the World Cup.

Soccer

From page 1B

cloud” that hung over the team, it was Belgium’s night. Considering the build-up to the game, which included President Donald Trump calling FIFA president Gianni Infantino seeking a review of Balogun’s red card, it made the victory that much sweeter.

“Our job was to show on the pitch that we are here for football,” Tielemans said. “That decision was out of our hands, and we just had to talk on the field. And, we did that today.”

Veteran goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois apparently wasn’t upset by the pre-match drama.

“I read things and I laughed,” he said. “I was more sure of beating the USA than Senegal, because Senegal is a better soccer team than the United States”

UNCP

From page 1B

last season.

Should the Braves advance to a second straight Conference Carolinas championship game, it will take place on Nov. 14.

2026 UNCP FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 27 — Wingate
Sept. 5 — at Fayetteville State
Sept. 12 — at Shorter*
Sept. 19 — Valdosta State
Sept. 26 — Monroe
Oct. 3 — North Greenville*
Oct. 10 — Erskine*
Oct. 17 — Barton*
Oct. 24 — Chowan*
Oct. 31 — BYE
Nov. 7 — at Ferrum*
* — denotes Conference Carolinas game

Hornets acquire Dorian Finney-Smith, more picks from Rockets

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Hornets acquired forward Dorian Finney-Smith and three second-round draft picks in a trade with the Houston Rockets on Friday, according to a person familiar with the situation.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of ano-

nymity because the league has not yet approved the trade.

The move allows the Rockets some roster flexibility and creates a \$13 million trade exception. Houston recently acquired Marcus Smart and Bogdan Bogdanovic.

ESPN was first to report the news.

Meanwhile, the Hornets con-

tinue to stockpile draft picks. Charlotte now has 20 second-round draft picks over the next seven years, the second-most tradable picks in the NBA, according to ESPN.

The 33-year-old Finney-Smith is on the tail end of his career and averaged 3.3 points last season in 37 games.

DO YOU WANT TO AVOID KNEE SURGERY?

WE HELP THOSE WHO SUFFER BEFORE OR AFTER KNEE SURGERY



If you are experience any of the following

Aching Knee Pain

Grinding Sensation

"Bone on bone"

Arthritis

Tendonitis

Bursitis

Cartilage Damage

Weakness in your knees

Sharp/Shooting Pain

Muscles Spasms

Burning

LUMBERTON LASER PAIN CENTER

Affiliated with Dial Chiropractic

Accident & Injury Center

910-802-4034

POLARIS

THE 2026 LINEUP HAS ARRIVED



CHECK OUT OUR LOCAL INVENTORY. VISIT US AT:

4401 FAYETTEVILLE ROAD

LUMBERTON, NC 28358

(910) 738-1454

WWW.YAMAHAOFLUMBERTON.COM

YAMAHA

OF LUMBERTON

RING UP PROFITS WITH THE CLASSIFIEDS

FUELING FAMILIES

QUALITY PROPANE

SINCE 1945

SWITCH TO QUALITY PROPANE: CLEAN, RELIABLE, AMERICAN.



SERVICING RICHMOND, SCOTLAND, ROBESON, ANSON & SURROUNDING COUNTIES.

Make the switch today!

www.switchtoquality.com

CLEAN

Approved Clean Fuel

Reduces Emissions

RELIABLE

Independent of Grid

Gas Reserves

ABUNDANT

Meeting U.S. Production

Bridge Fuel

AFFORDABLE

States Pricing

Guaranteed

AMERICAN

Created U.S. Jobs

Supports Economy

NEED TO MAKE ROOM FOR MORE STUFF??

Advertise your yard or garage sale in the classifieds!

(Then search your local paper for those sales and bargains so you can buy more!)

ROBESON COUNTY ATHLETIC SPOTLIGHT

LUMBERTON HIGH SCHOOL

TRAVELIAN HALL
Wrestling

Lumberton’s Travelian Hall became the first wrestler from Robeson County to win three state championships earlier this year, taking the boys 7A 113-pound title with a 5-3 decision over Holly Springs’ Adam Walker. Hall recently signed to wrestle collegiately at Indian Hills Community College in Iowa, the same school at which former Pirate Wyntergale Oxendine wrestled the last two years.

PURNELL SWETT HIGH SCHOOL

SAVANNAH OXENDINE
Wrestling

Purnell Swett wrestler Savannah Oxendine ended her high school career with a regional championship and a state runner-up finish in the girls 7A 185-pound classification. Oxendine pinned two state-tournament opponents to reach the final after not qualifying for states in 2025, and also pinned all three opponents at the 7A East Regional, finishing the season at 25-5.

2026 ROBESON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

Fairmont Aug. 21 — at Lumberton Aug. 28 — Forest Hills Sept. 4 — Lake View Sept. 11 — at Lakewood Sept. 18 — at St. Pauls Sept. 25 — BYE Oct. 2 — at South Columbus* Oct. 9 — West Bladen* Oct. 16 — at Whiteville* Oct. 23 — South Brunswick* Oct. 30 — Red Springs*	Lumberton Aug. 21 — Fairmont Aug. 28 — St. Pauls Sept. 4 — at Westover Sept. 11 — BYE Sept. 18 — at Heide Trask Sept. 25 — at Monroe Oct. 2 — Cape Fear* Oct. 9 — at Gray’s Creek* Oct. 16 — Terry Sanford* Oct. 23 — Scotland* Oct. 30 — at Purnell Swett*	Purnell Swett Aug. 21 — at St. Pauls Aug. 28 — at New Hanover Sept. 4 — Douglas Byrd Sept. 11 — Red Springs Sept. 18 — South Brunswick Sept. 25 — BYE Oct. 2 — Terry Sanford* Oct. 9 — at Cape Fear* Oct. 16 — at Scotland* Oct. 23 — at Gray’s Creek* Oct. 30 — Lumberton*	Red Springs Aug. 21 — at Anson Aug. 28 — Pender Sept. 4 — St. Pauls Sept. 11 — at Purnell Swett Sept. 18 — Douglas Byrd Sept. 25 — BYE Oct. 2 — South Brunswick* Oct. 9 — at South Columbus* Oct. 16 — at West Bladen* Oct. 23 — Whiteville* Oct. 30 — at Fairmont*	St. Pauls Aug. 21 — Purnell Swett Aug. 28 — at Lumberton Sept. 4 — at Red Springs Sept. 11 — North Brunswick Sept. 18 — Fairmont Sept. 25 — BYE Oct. 2 — at E.E. Smith* Oct. 9 — Seventy-First* Oct. 16 — at Westover* Oct. 23 — South View* Oct. 30 — at Douglas Byrd* * — denotes conference game
---	---	---	---	--

Former Cowboys DE Kneeland had early stage CTE at time of death

Jim Vertuno
AP Sports Writer

Editor’s note: This story includes discussion of suicide. If you or someone you know needs help, the national suicide and crisis lifeline in the U.S. is available by calling or texting 988. There is also an online chat at 988lifeline.org

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Former Dallas Cowboys defensive end Marshawn Kneeland, who died by suicide in November 2025 after a high-speed chase with police, had early stage chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a brain abnormality linked to repeated concussions, his family announced Tuesday.

The Boston University CTE Center, which investigates the long-term consequences of repetitive brain trauma in athletes and others, analyzed Kneeland’s brain tissue after his death. Researchers

determined Kneeland, who was 24, was in stage one of four of CTE.

CTE is a degenerative brain disease that has been found in athletes in contact sports, combat veterans and others who experience repetitive head trauma. It has been known to cause violent mood swings, impulsive behavior and depression. It can be diagnosed only after death.

“While this diagnosis does not change the tragedy of his passing, it provides important context about some of the struggles he may have been facing. We share this information to help people understand what NFL and other high contact sport athletes might be struggling with,” Kneeland’s family, including his girlfriend, Catalina Mancera, said in a statement issued through the Concussion and CTE Foundation.

“Raising awareness is important to us. We continue to remember Marshawn with compassion for the person

he was, rather than defining him by the final moments of his life. One Love,” the family said.

The abnormality has also been linked to deaths in the National Football League, as well as in hockey and soccer. Kneeland shot himself after evading authorities in his vehicle and fleeing a car crash on foot.

The chase happened after police said Kneeland didn’t stop for Texas Department of Public Safety troopers over a traffic violation. Authorities lost sight of the vehicle before locating it crashed minutes later.

As authorities were looking for Kneeland after he fled the crash site on foot, a dispatcher told officers that people who knew him had received a group text from Kneeland “saying goodbye,” indicating he might be suicidal.

According to a 2021 study by the Harvard Medical School and the Boston University CTE Center, NFL players

are more than four times more likely to develop ALS than other men.

Dr. Chris Nowinski, CEO of the Concussion & CTE Foundation, noted Kneeland’s diagnosis comes even amid a modern era of concussion protocols in professional and college athletics and better safety equipment.

Kneeland started playing tackle football when he was 7 years old. He played at Western Michigan University before he was selected by the Cowboys in the second round of the 2024 NFL draft.

“We have no reason to believe the current generation is at a lower risk of CTE than previous generations. Concussion protocols do not prevent CTE, because CTE is caused by repeated head impacts, not just concussions,” Nowinski said. “If we want to reduce CTE risk, we must implement CTE prevention protocols and aggressively reduce the number and strength of head impacts at every level of the game.”

Briscoe holds off Bell at Chicago

Jay Cohen
AP Sports Writer

JOLIET, Ill. — Chase Briscoe was on an off-season bonding trip to the United Kingdom with crew chief James Small when the NASCAR driver discovered chocolate buttons, a popular British treat. He bought some online after he returned to the U.S., but he said it wasn’t the same.

Small purchased some on a return trip to the U.K., and he promised to share if Briscoe won on the crew chief’s birthday. That made Sunday night’s victory pretty sweet.

Briscoe held off Christopher Bell in NASCAR’s return to Chicagoland Speedway, racing to his first Cup Series win of the season. And Small delivered the chocolates to Briscoe moments after it was over.

“They were pretty dang good,” Briscoe said.

Briscoe was followed closely by Bell in the final laps on the 1.5-mile oval about 50 miles southwest of downtown Chicago. But Bell was unable to run down his Joe Gibbs Racing teammate.

The 31-year-old Briscoe, an Indiana native, celebrated his sixth career win with a burnout before standing on his car and waving to the sellout crowd.

“This has been a place that I’ve always loved coming to, back when we used to, and I’ve missed it,” Briscoe said. “It’s always been one of my top-five tracks.”

It was Bell’s fourth runner-up finish this season. He was wearing a splint on his arm as he continues his recovery after breaking his left wrist in a crash at Michigan on June 7.

“I think he’s handled that as well as you can handle it,” team owner Joe Gibbs said. “He’s got

a burning desire to stay in there and win. I think he had, you know — he had a real good car tonight, too.”

Denny Hamlin, who started on the pole, was third. William Byron, who won two stages while leading a race-high 94 laps, and Alex Bowman rounded out the top five.

“I thought I was in control early on, even though I wasn’t leading,” Hamlin said. “I felt in control and probably got a little lazy on some restarts and things like that. Just taking for granted that I’ll just go up there and get it.”

NASCAR ran 19 Cup races in Joliet before pulling out after the 2019 season. It tried to build interest in the event in a crowded sports market, but the race struggled with attendance.

After racing on a street course in downtown Chicago each of the previous

three years, NASCAR decided to go back to Chicagoland — eager to see how the Next Gen cars would do on the rough and bumpy asphalt at the facility. Rain on Friday and Saturday caused some parking issues, but the racing was compelling.

Led by Briscoe, Bell and Hamlin, Toyota accounted for seven of the top 10 cars for the first time in a Cup Series race — continuing a strong season for the manufacturer.

“Yeah, Toyotas are fast,” Bell said.

Driving a “Space Jam”-themed car in honor of the 30th anniversary of the Looney Tunes movie, Bubba Wallace was sixth in his No. 23 Toyota Camry. Wallace is part of the 23XI Racing team that is co-owned by Michael Jordan, one of the stars of the 1996 movie.

Braves send Pérez to IL, designate Carrasco for assignment

Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Braves placed left-hander Martín Pérez on the 15-day injured list on Monday with a left forearm contusion.

Pérez was hit by Juan Soto’s line drive in Sunday’s 10-9 loss to the New York Mets and left the game. Afterward, Atlanta manager Walt Weiss said X-rays were negative.

Pérez (6-6) allowed six hits and five runs,

four earned, in 4 1/3 innings. He has a 3.54 ERA in 18 games, including 14 starts.

Right-hander Carlos Carrasco was designated for assignment after allowing five runs on five hits in two innings on Sunday.

The Braves recalled right-hander JR Ritchie from Triple-A Gwinnett and called up right-hander Owen Murphy, who has pitched for Gwinnett and Double-A Columbus this season. Murphy made his

major league debut in Monday’s game.

Atlanta also recalled outfielder José Azócar from Triple-A Gwinnett. Outfielder Eli White was placed on paternity leave.

Ritchie is 1-2 with a 4.53 ERA in nine games, including seven starts, for Atlanta this season. He was optioned to Gwinnett on Sunday after he threw three scoreless innings to earn his first save in Saturday night’s 14-3 win over New York.

We care like family!



We offer quality short-term and long-term care.

GlenFlora

Private Baths
Homelike Atmosphere

5701 Fayetteville Road, Lumberton NC 28360
910-739-2821

- Assisted Living
- Skilled Care
- Rehabilitation
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy

RHCC
Your Health Care Guardian
www.rhcchealth.org

HEALTH CENTERS
Dr. AJ ROBINSON HEALTH CENTER
(910) 570-0815

- * JULIAN T. PIERCE HEALTH CENTER
(910) 521-2816 | (910) 521-2878 Pharmacy
- * MAXTON MEDICAL CENTER
(910) 844-5253
- * RED SPRINGS HEALTH CENTER
(910) 227-2850 | (910) 586-0030 Pharmacy
- * SCOTLAND HEALTH CENTER
(910) 506-4682 | (910) 501-5127 Pharmacy
- * SOUTH BRUNSWICK MEDICAL CENTER
(910) 628-6711 | (910) 535-1003 Pharmacy
- * ST. PAULS HEALTH CENTER
(910) 241-3042
- * LUMBERTON HEALTH CENTER
(910) 739-1666 | (910) 674-3174 Pharmacy

* Locations with Pharmacy Services

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FACILITIES
• GRACE COURT (910) 616-9912
• CAMBRIDGE PLACE (919) 989-8114
• THE VILLAGE (252) 752-6555
• OUR HOUSE (910) 521-1464
• MEN’S RECOVERY HOME (910) 738-5545

FAIRMONT FAMILY DENTAL
210 South Walnut Street Fairmont, NC 28340 Phone: 910-668-6534

RED SPRINGS WALK IN
Unexpected injuries and illnesses
302 Mt. Tabor Road Red Springs, NC 28377
Phone: (910) 227-2850
Monday-Friday (10am-7pm)
Saturday and Sunday (10am-2pm)

Providing Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder Services at all Health Centers.

“Your Health is our highest priority, let us be your Health Care Guardian”

Robeson Health Care Corporation Corporate Headquarters
60 Commerce Plaza Circle • Pembroke, NC 28372 Ph: (910) 521-2900
To learn more about
<https://www.rhcchealth.org/>

50 Years of Service



Southern Heating & A/C, Inc.

910-738-7000
www.southernheatingandac.biz

LAW OFFICE OF ATTORNEY JENNIFER CLAY



PERSONAL INJURY LAW | **WORKER’S COMP INJURIES**

910-720-5028

DEDICATED. EXPERIENCED. RESULTS DRIVEN.

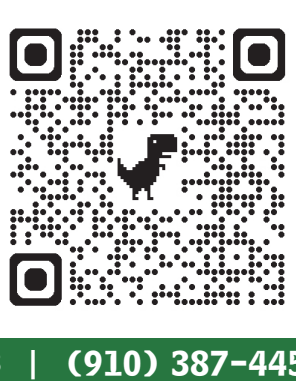
FIGHTING FOR YOUR RIGHTS EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

AMPLE STORAGE



FACILITY FEATURES

- Climate Controlled Units
- Covered RV & Boat Parking
- Free Moving Truck Special
- Month-to-Month Lease
- 24/7 surveillance
- Fenced and Lighted
- 40’ Aisles
- Moving Supplies For Sale
- Auto-Pay Available
- Online Payment Portal
- Credit Cards Accepted
- Visa, Mastercard
- AMEX, Discover
- Checks Accepted



\$35.00



MOVE IN SPECIAL

6701 East Elizabethtown Road Lumberton, NC 28358 | **(910) 387-4457** | Lumberton@AmpleStorageCenter.com

LeBron’s free agency decision still up in the air

Tim Reynolds
AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI — All eyes in the NBA are on LeBron James, even amid a huge cycle of changes around the league.

Giannis Antetokounmpo got traded to Miami for Tyler Herro. Jaylen Brown got traded to Philadelphia for Paul George. Kawhi Leonard got traded back to Toronto, Ja Morant got traded to Portland, LaMelo Ball got traded to Minnesota and Dusty May left NCAA champion Michigan to coach Dallas.

There have been some huge moves in the NBA in the past few days. But everybody, it seems, is waiting for James — again.

“He’s still the face of the league,” James’ agent, Klutch Sports CEO Rich Paul said.

If there was any question about whether the league’s oldest active player and NBA’s all-time points leader still moves the needle, that’s been answered.

Soccer’s World Cup is going on, the wedding of Taylor Swift and Travis

Kelce at Madison Square Garden — the home of the NBA champion New York Knicks — is commanding global attention, it’s a holiday weekend in the U.S., and yet there’s still all sorts of intrigue surrounding where James will decide to play next season.

This much is certain: James, who turns 42 in December, will play a 24th season and it won’t be for the Los Angeles Lakers.

Officially, that’s the full list of what is known. Paul dropped some clues on the “Game Over” podcast that he shares with Max Kellerman — indicating by showing a whiteboard filled with scrawled-out possibilities that James is looking at a slew of teams, including and probably not limited to Philadelphia, Cleveland, Miami, Minnesota, Denver, Golden State, San Antonio, Dallas, Boston and New York.

“If the Knicks hadn’t have won, there would be no board,” Paul said on the podcast. “He’d be going to the Knicks.”

When does LeBron have to



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) dunks against the Phoenix Suns during an April 10 game in Los Angeles. Jessie Alcheh | AP Photo

decide?

The decision can come whenever he wants.

It can’t be announced or commented upon by a team before Monday at 12:01 p.m. Eastern — unless James signs for the minimum salary, which in his case would be about \$3.9 million.

Will he make his announcement Saturday, on July 4 amid a celebra-

tion of the nation’s 250th birthday? Will he do it on July 8, the 16th anniversary of the famed “The Decision” broadcast?

Nobody knows. Nobody even knows if he knows. And nobody also knows if James intends for 2026-27 to be his final season.

“No one said this is going to be his last year,” Paul said. “Nobody said that.”

That raises the possibility of a 25th season — a quarter-century of LeBron, when nobody else in league history made it past a 22nd season.

What is LeBron looking for?

It’s pretty clear that money won’t be a huge factor here. James has

earned nearly \$600 million in gross salary on the court in his first 23 seasons, while his net worth is generally believed to exceed \$1 billion.

Golf will matter. James is an avid — perhaps even rabid — golfer now, and Minnesota, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Denver, New York and Boston aren’t exactly places known for great golf offerings in January and February. That said, they all surely have great indoor facilities. It won’t be a deal-breaker.

He’ll want to play for a team that can contend for a title, not present quality-of-life issues, and appeals to his wife and daughter. Every spot on his list will be able to

make a good case on all those fronts.

So, who is the front-runner?

The podcast had a ton of news and a ton of insight. Paul laid out how James would fit into the lineup of most of those teams, how acquisitions such as Philadelphia acquiring Brown changes dynamics, then talked about some of the reasons why James might be leaning toward — or away from — certain clubs.

But in the end, he didn’t provide any real hint.

“You can think whatever you think,” Paul said. “This is just my board. You decide what you want to think.”

And the wait continues.

TURN THIS...

into THIS!

Sell your old Gold jewelry for CASH!

Bob's Jewel Shop
Where quality has made the difference since 1984

4280 FAYETTEVILLE ROAD, LUMBERTON, NC 28358
910-739-3431

LET OUR FAMILY FEED YOUR FAMILY!

ORDER ONLINE

Providing Exceptional Seafood & Service in Our Hometown

2401 East Elizabethtown Road
Lumberton, NC
910-738-8555
Mon-Tues: Closed
Wed-Sat: 11am - 9pm • Sun: 11am - 8pm

www.pier41seafood.com

God has truly blessed our business to Him we give all the glory

Touch Of Healing Hands Home Care, LLC.
— IN GOD WE TRUST —

NOW A MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY

≡ We are ≡

NOW LICENSED AS A MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY!

★★★★

Touch Of Healing Hands Home Care, LLC. is now offering PSR SERVICES throughout North Carolina!

NOW ACCEPTING REFERRALS

Our mission has always been to provide compassionate, dependable, and high-quality care - and we are excited to now support individuals with mental health needs through structured PSR Services.

We are committed to helping individuals reach their fullest potential while promoting independence and overall well-being.

OUR PSR SERVICES INCLUDE:

DAILY LIVING SKILLS
Build essential skills for a more independent life.

COPING & SOCIAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
Learn healthy coping strategies and improve social interactions.

COMMUNITY INTEGRATION
Engage in the community and strengthen connections.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT & RECOVERY ASSISTANCE
Receive support on your journey toward mental wellness.

GOAL-ORIENTED MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT
Set goals, build confidence, and achieve success.

STRUCTURED THERAPEUTIC ACTIVITIES
Participate in meaningful activities that promote growth and healing.

ADDITIONAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES Coming Soon!

NC Innovations
Innovative approaches to support recovery and independence.

SAIOP and SACOT
Structured programs designed to support individuals in their recovery journey.

Community Support Team (CST)
A team-based approach to provide community support and resources.

Peer Support Services (PSS)
Support from peers who understand and empower.

Individual Therapy

Group Therapy

Medication Management

Case Management

Crisis Intervention

Life Skills Training

Peer Support Services

More services to support your mental wellness journey!

OUR LOCATION
325 East 4th
Lumberton, NC 28358

CONTACT US TODAY!
910.674.3057

We accept referrals from individuals, families, and provider agencies.

Proudly SERVING NORTH CAROLINA

Providing compassionate, dependable, and high-quality mental health services across the state.

ALLOW US TO BE YOUR FIRST CHOICE FOR HOME CARE & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES!