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THE ROBESONIAN

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A Fresh Perspective

Local
NEWS

\$2.00



Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

Dexter Jones speaks to the Robeson County Board of Commissioners during the public comment period of Monday's board meeting at the Robeson County Administration Building in Lumberton.

County board extends RV park ordinance

Chris Stiles
The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — The Robeson County Board of Commissioners voted Monday to extend the RV Park Ordinance which it passed in 2024, doing so during its regular monthly meeting at the Robeson County Administration Building in downtown Lumberton.

The board passed an ordinance approving and regulating the development of RV parks, but that ordinance had a “sunset clause” which caused it to expire on March 31, 2025, County Attorney Robert Davis said.

The board voted 5-0, with three commissioners absent, to reapprove the ordinance with no sunset clause.

“We hadn’t had a whole lot of RV applications coming in; we did get some recently when we were looking at it, but we realized that in the previous,

when we passed this RV ordinance, that there was a sunset clause on it that expired on March 31, 2025,” Davis said. “So we do not have the ordinance not to comply with, so they can’t even consider applications or any restrictions they put on applications. So we need to consider passing this ordinance and, if you see fit, just taking the sunset clause out.”

Commissioner Judy Sampson asked if the ordinance has any restriction on how close to the interstate a park must be; Davis said it does not. There are restrictions, he said, about parks being established in densely populated areas or within a certain distance of another residential structure or a church or school.

The board also approved amendments to the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The plan, which is adopted in coordination

See COUNTY | 7A

Blue hopes to ‘continue trajectory’ of UNC System



Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

Robeson County Manager Kellie Blue speaks during Monday's Robeson County Board of Commissioners meeting in Lumberton. Blue began her term as chair of the UNC Board of Governors on July 1.

Robeson County manager begins term leading UNC Board of Governors

Chris Stiles
The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — After serving on the UNC Board of Governors for nine years, Kellie Blue was elected to lead that board, chosen by her peers. Her term began on July 1.

As she begins a two-year term as chair, she hopes that the UNC System can continue the

momentum its built in recent years.

“Goals are) to continue the trajectory, with keeping tuition modest for residents of the state of North Carolina and trying to be mindful of those kind of things, while addressing workforce needs and (return on investment) needs with jobs and skills from the university system,” Blue

said.

The Board of Governors is scheduled to meet on Thursday, the first meeting held since Blue became its chair.

Blue, a Pembroke native, is also the Robeson County manager, having served in that role since 2019, and has worked in county government for many years.

A UNC Pembroke

alumna, she joined the UNC Board of Governors in 2017. She has chaired multiple committees and most recently served as vice chair before she was elected as chair.

The UNC Board of Governors serves as a policy board “responsible for policy making for all our institutions,” Blue said. Her role as chair

See BLUE | 8A

Tropical Storm Bertha forms in Gulf



NOAA via AP

This NOAA satellite image taken at 10:30 a.m. EST on Tuesday shows Tropical Storm Bertha moving along the Gulf of Mexico's northern coast.

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Tropical Storm Bertha strengthened in the Gulf of Mexico and was moving slowly toward the Florida Panhandle and Alabama, causing a tropical storm warning and storm surge watches, forecasters said.

The storm was about 110 miles (177 kilometers) south of Panama City, Florida, and 170 miles (274 kilometers)

southeast of Mobile, Alabama, and moving northwest at 5 mph (8 kph) with maximum sustained winds of 50 mph (80 kph), the Miami-based National Hurricane Center said Tuesday morning.

The wind speed increased by 10 mph (16 kph) since Bertha formed Monday night. A tropical storm warning, meaning the conditions

See STORM | 7A

Carolina Civic Center announces 2026-27 Mainstage Series lineup

Staff report

on Aug. 10.

LUMBERTON — The Carolina Civic Center Historic Theater, located in downtown Lumberton, has announced its 2026-27 Mainstage Series of touring and original stage performances. Season tickets will go on sale starting at 1 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 3, while individual and group ticket sales start at 1 p.m.

Ticketing information

Ticket prices for the Mainstage Series vary and can be found on the theater's website. Tickets can be purchased online by going to the website at www.carolinaciviccenter.com. Tickets also can be purchased in-person or with credit card or cash



Promotional photo | Courtesy of Carolina Civic Center

See SERIES | 8A

Uptown will perform at the Carolina Civic Center on Sept. 17.

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TODAY'S FORECAST
94/76 – Cloudy and humid; an afternoon thunderstorm; storms can bring flooding downpours and localized damaging wind gusts

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B SPORTS

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OBITUARIES

VIRGINIA FAYE MORRIS

Virginia Faye Morris, age 89, of Parkton, died Sunday, July 19, 2026, in Novant Health New Hanover Medical Center, Wilmington.

Born in Columbus County, she was the daughter of the late Thurston Gore and Vera Williamson Gore.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Rev. Alvin Joseph Morris and one son, Alvin Michael Morris.

She is survived by two daughters, Debra McNeill (Wilson) of Parkton, and April Rogers (Charles) of Red Springs, one brother, Larry Gore (Linda) of Longs, S.C., four grandchildren, Christopher Rogers (Constance), Cody McNeill, Brandon McNeill (Tessa), Nicholas Rogers (Leslie), five great-grandchildren, Ava, Lainey, Allie, Grayson and Giuliana, and many nieces and nephews and extended family.

Family would like to give special thanks to her caregivers, Barbara Locklear, Dot Locklear and Chloe Jacobs.

Visitation will be held Thursday, July 23, 2026, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. in Inman Ward Funeral Home, Tabor City.

Funeral services will be held Friday, July 24, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Bethesda Fellowship Church in Nakina, with burial to follow in the church cemetery.

Fayetteville soldier, 30, killed in Iraq

Dave Collins
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A U.S. soldier killed in Iraq during a controlled detonation of an Iranian drone was a 30-year-old father from North Carolina who had served for nearly a decade, according to a military statement Tuesday and his family.

Sgt. Michael Emmanuel Swinton, of Fayetteville, will receive a Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Combat Action Badge, and will be promoted posthumously to staff sergeant. The Army said it was investigating the circumstances of his death Sunday at an air base in Irbil.

He leaves behind a 6-year-old son and a

4-year-old daughter, his mother said.

“I will never recover from this, you should be home,” his wife, Mia Gonzalez-Swinton, posted Monday on Facebook. “We had so many plans for when you got back, I’m sick to my stomach.” She said she was notified Sunday that he had been killed.

Two U.S. Army soldiers were also killed in Jordan last week while defending against Iranian ballistic missile and drone attacks. They were the first U.S. troop deaths from direct Iranian fire since the opening days of the war.

Swinton’s mother, Christel Swinton Andujar, told WRAL-TV on Tuesday that her son’s family was “the center of his world.”



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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.

Matt Letch, Your Pie Pizza, July 23, 7 p.m.: Matt Letch is performing live at Your Pie Pizza! With his guitar and soulful voice to entertain, come on out, order that make-it-your-own pizza, choose a brew and some dessert.

“1776,” Purple Door Productions, July 24-26: 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.

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.

Mahjong in Lumberton, July 26, 6 p.m.: Learn to play Mahjong and compete. Your Pie Pizza 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>

Galileo, Robeson Planetarium & Science Center, Lumberton, July 28 and 29, 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.

Mahjong in Lumberton, July 28, 6 p.m.: Learn to play Mahjong and compete. 219 Elm is hosting Pine & Tiles, a team teaching the rules and strategies of the game.

Clay Necklace Making, Happenings on Elm, July 28, 6 p.m.: Happenings on Elm is hosting a Clay Necklace Making Class. This is a 2 part class and includes a glass of wine. Make something special for yourself or a Christmas gift. It’s Christmas in July!!

Kiwanis Bingo Night, 219 Elm, July 28, 7 p.m.: Kiwanis of Robeson-Lumberton is hosting Bingo Night at 219 Elm. Join the fun and help support Kiwanis projects for the benefit of our children and community. It’s a fun family evening.

Backpack and School Supply Giveaway, Aug. 1, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.: The Robeson County Farmers Market is hosting a Backpack and School Supply Giveaway. The backpacks, limited to two backpacks per adult and one backpack per child will be available while supplies last only. Suds of Love, a mobile shower and laundry truck will be available for un-housed community members.

Summer Sizzler Horse Show, Aug. 1, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.: An All Breed Summer Sizzler Horse Show is hosted by the Southeastern NC Agricultural Events Center.

Reading of the Declaration of Independence, Aug. 1, 10 a.m.: The Colonel Thomas Robeson Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution invites you to a special celebration marking the 250th anniversary of North Carolina’s first public reading of the Declaration of Independence. Join us at 10 a.m. on Aug. 1, 2026, at the historic Proctor Law Office, 517 North Elm St, Lumberton.

Game Night, 219 Elm, Aug. 4, 7 p.m.: Enjoy Game Night each Tuesday at 219 Elm. Bring your own game or choose from the games provided. Visit the shops, enjoy a brew at Legal Grounds and find a delicious snack. Bring friends and family and enjoy the evening.

Indoor Yard Sale, Chestnut Street Methodist Church, Aug. 8: Chestnut Street Methodist Church is holding an indoor yard sale on Saturday, Aug. 8, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Biscuits, muffins, coffee and juice will be served. This is a fundraiser for local ministries by CSMC’s Women in Mission. Everything must go; bulk purchase available at the end of the sale.

Kiwanis All-American Golf Tournament, Aug 8-9: Celebrating 102 years of service, the Kiwanis of Robeson-Lumberton is presenting the Kiwanis All-American Golf Tournament at Pinecrest Country Club in Lumberton. Help change the world one child, one community at a time. Contact Carey Read at 910-258-5341 for information as well as visit the Facebook for registration details.

Wine Dinner, Happenings on Elm, Aug. 11, 6 p.m.: Enjoy a special wine dinner at Happenings on Elm. The evening includes wine pairings, dinner and education from a wine sommelier. The price for this special evening is \$70 per person. Reservations are required as seating is limited. Call 910-674-4154 to register, or text 910-734-0668.

ers Market: 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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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Tripp recognized for 60 years of pharmacy service



Contributed photo | Jim Tripp
Jim Tripp was recently recognized by the N.C. Board of Pharmacy for six decades of service in the profession.

Devin Hammonds
The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — After six decades of serving patients across south-eastern North Carolina, retired local pharmacist Jim Tripp has been recognized for his long-standing commitment to the profession.

On July 14, the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy and its corporate league honored Tripp with a certificate recognizing his 60 years as a pharmacist in the state.

Born in Greenville, North Carolina, Tripp lived there until he was 12 years old before moving with his family to

Sanford, where he graduated from high school. He later attended the UNC Chapel Hill School of Pharmacy, earning his pharmacy degree in 1966.

While at UNC Chapel Hill, Tripp was actively involved in student life, serving as editor of the pharmacy school's student newspaper, The Oscar Gold Pharmacy. He was also named the outstanding student of his senior class.

After graduation, Tripp began his career in Maxton, where he worked for about a year and a half. It was there that he met his future wife, Katherine.

"I met her in February, and we were married

in August of that same year," Tripp said.

The couple later moved to Lumberton, where Tripp worked at Hedg-peth's Pharmacy. At the time, the pharmacy was located in the old Lor-raine Hotel in Lum-ber-ton, a building that has since been demolished.

Following 16 years in retail pharmacy, Tripp transitioned to hospital pharmacy in 1982, joining Southeastern General Hospital, now known as UNC Health Southeast-ern.

Throughout his career, Tripp witnessed sig-nificant changes in the pharmacy profession while continuing to serve

patients throughout the region. Although he is now retired, he has main-tained his North Carolina pharmacist license.

Today, Tripp is enjoy-ing retirement by spend-ing time in his garden and staying connected with others.

"I enjoy gardening and interacting with people," Tripp said.

Tripp still keeps his pharmacy license up to date.

The recent recognition marks a milestone in a career that has spanned six decades of service to communities across North Carolina.

Devin Hammonds is an intern for The Robesonian.

RCC security engineer honored with NC IIPS Outstanding Achievement Award

Courtney Jacobs
For The Robesonian

LUMBERTON— Robeson Com-munity College (RCC) security engineer Jonathan Edwards was recently recognized with the North Carolina Institutional Infor-mation Processing System (NC IIPS) Outstanding Achievement Award, one of the organization's highest honors recognizing exceptional dedication, leadership and service to the North Carolina Community College System.

Edwards was recognized for his commitment to advancing cyberse-curity, strengthening collaboration among information technology professionals, and supporting col-leagues throughout the state. His leadership and service have made a lasting impact within the NC IIPS community and reflect the high standards of excellence he brings to RCC.

"I was honestly shocked when I learned I had been selected," Edwards said. "I never expected the work I do at RCC or my involvement with colleagues across the North Carolina Community College System to be recognized in this way. It's incredibly humbling

to know that my efforts have made a positive impact on others."

As security engineer at RCC, Edwards works to protect the col-lege's technology systems, data and digital resources from cyberse-curity threats. His responsibilities include identifying and managing risks, implementing security con-trols, monitoring for suspicious activity, ensuring compliance with cybersecurity standards and promoting security awareness throughout the institution.

Beyond his role at RCC, Edwards has played an active leadership role within NC IIPS, serving as eastern vice president (2019-2020), execu-tive vice president (2021-2022), president (2022-2023), and past president (2023-2024). He current-ly serves as chair of the Standards Committee.

For those considering careers in information technology or cyber-security, Edwards offers simple but meaningful advice: "Be patient with yourself and commit to life-long learning. Technology is con-stantly evolving, so stay adaptable, keep learning, and never be afraid to challenge yourself."

Robeson Community College celebrates Jonathan Edwards for



Photo courtesy of RCC
Jonathan Edwards holding his Outstanding Achievement Award.

this outstanding achievement and for his continued dedication to excellence, collaboration and ser-vice. His recognition at the state level reflects the positive impact he continues to make within the college, the NC Community Col-lege System, and the cybersecurity profession.

Contact Courtney Jacobs, RCC director of governance and marketing, at 910-272-3231 or cjacobs@robeson.edu.

‘Speeding slows you down’ campaign underway statewide

Staff report

RALEIGH — Speeding remains one of the most common risky driving behaviors on roads in America.

The North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program and law enforcement agencies statewide launched the weeklong "Speeding Slows You Down" initiative today to encourage drivers to slow down and obey posted speed limits.

Law enforcement officers will increase their pres-ence on highways and local roads to stop unsafe driving behavior and promote safer choices behind the wheel.

"Speeding is not just a bad habit — it's a danger-ous choice that puts everyone on the road at risk," said GHSP Director Mark Ezzell. "This campaign reminds drivers that even going a few miles over the speed limit can have devastating outcomes."

In 2025, speed-related crashes in North Carolina resulted in nearly 350 fatalities, highlighting the serious consequences of excessive speed and the importance of making responsible decisions behind the wheel.

Driving at high speeds is dangerous and decreas-es the driver's ability to control the vehicle. In ideal weather conditions, a vehicle traveling 55 miles per hour will require more than 200 feet to stop com-pletely, according to the N.C. Driver Handbook.

The "Speeding Slows You Down" campaign is one of GHSP's many year-round initiatives that pro-mote safe driving through education, enforcement and community partnerships.

FROM THE LEGISLATURE

Budd, Tillis join colleagues in support of Russian sanctions, honoring Graham

WASHINGTON — This week, U.S. Sens. Ted Budd (R-NC) and Thom Tillis (R-NC), co-chair of the Senate NATO Observer Group (SNOG), joined Sens. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Darline Graham (R-SC), along with 60-plus colleagues in introducing the bipartisan Senator Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia Act of 2026 legislation to hold major purchasers of Russian oil and gas accountable for supporting Russia's war in Ukraine.

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to discuss the effort and secured an agreement with the White House on July 10, just before his death.

"There is no doubt that Vladimir Putin must be severely punished for his illegal aggression, and crippling economic sanctions on Russia are long overdue," said Tillis. "Lindsey led the Senate's fight to impose meaningful consequences on Putin, and we owe it to the Ukrainian people and to his legacy to pass this legislation."

"The time to increase pressure on Moscow is now. Our overwhelmingly bipartisan sanctions package has the power to cripple Putin's revenue streams by targeting the energy exports that bankroll Russia's unjust war machine. Our colleague and friend, Sena-tor Lindsey Graham, worked tirelessly to stand up to Russian aggression, and now we have the opportunity to honor his leadership and cement his legacy," said Budd.

"Until the very day he passed, Lindsey remained focused on passing the Russia sanctions bill. Passing this legislation would honor my brother's steadfast commitment to our national security and it would provide President Trump with additional leverage to bring this war to an end. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this legislation and send it to President Trump's desk," Darline Graham said.

The Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia Act of 2026 would impose primary and secondary sanctions against Russia and actors supporting Russia's war in Ukraine. The sanctions target Russian officials, oli-



Budd



Tillis

garchs, their family members, foreign persons, Russian banks and financial institutions, and the Russian Shadow Fleet.

The legislation also directs the President to impose up to 100% tariffs on imported goods from countries that buy the majority of Rus-sian oil and gas and enable Russian sanctions evasion. The new text limits these tariffs to the five largest importers of Russian crude oil and gas.

Budd returns from leading European CODEL to examine regional security challenges

Budd, member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, returned earlier this month from leading a bipartisan Congressional Delegation (CODEL) to Belgium, Moldova, Ukraine, Sweden and Austria. CODEL Budd, which occurred prior to the 2026 North Atlantic Treaty Organi-zation (NATO) Summit, met with heads of state and senior defense leaders in each country to discuss the continent's regional security challenges, reiterate the importance of the NATO Alliance, and to examine how the United States and Europe can partner to counter threats posed by the Russian Federation.

Senator Budd was joined by his colleagues, U.S. Senators John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Tim Kaine (D-Va.), and Alan Armstrong (R-Okla.) on the CODEL.

"The security of the United States and Europe is inseparable. As Russia continues its campaign of aggression in Ukraine and threatens the security of Eastern Europe and the Baltics, our partnership with our European allies remains indispensable to deter-ring adversarial aggression and maintaining Europe's strength to defend itself. By leading this CODEL ahead of the NATO Summit, my colleagues and I sought to reaffirm the strength of the NATO Alliance and express our unwavering support for the U.S.-European partnership to promote security, prosperity, and freedom for our citizens," said Budd.

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

RCAC accepting subgrant applications

Staff report

LUMBERTON — The Robeson County Arts Council is now accepting applications for Grass-roots subgrants, which fund local art projects and programs.

Applications are available on the Council's web-site at <https://robesoncountyartscouncil.org/the-grassroots-grant>. The deadline for the receipt of applications is 5 p.m. on Aug. 21.

The Robeson County Arts Council serves as the North Carolina Arts Council's partner in awarding subgrants to local organizations for arts programs in Robeson County. Applications are available for nonprofit organizations whose purpose is to promote and develop diverse cultural arts program-ming in Robeson County.

Funding priority:

1. Applications that support arts organizations, such as theaters, symphonies, galleries, art guilds, choral societies, dance companies, folk arts soci-et-ies, writer's groups, and arts festivals.
2. Applications that support arts learning and arts-in-education programs or projects conducted by qualified artists. These can be artist residencies in schools, after-school programs, summer camps, or adult arts learning classes.
3. Applicants that support community and civic organizations to provide arts experiences and programming that serves the greater community. Qualified artists must conduct these programs.

Applying nonprofit organizations must have been in operation for at least one year and must reside and carry out projects within Robeson County. Projects must take place between July 1, 2026 and June 15, 2027. Individuals are not eligible to apply.

Grant amounts range from \$500 and up. Grant applications are evaluated by a diverse panel of community members and voted on by the Robeson County Arts Council Board of Directors. There is only one grant this year, the traditional Grassroots subgrant, which can be used for programming. This grant is classified as a matching grant, mean-ing applicants/recipients must provide a dollar-for-dollar match reflected in the budget and final report. Limited funding is available, so awards are granted based on a tiered system.

Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Aug. 21 by emailing the completed applica-tion to RCAClumberton@gmail.com. For questions regarding an application, please email RCAClumberton@gmail.com

HER VIEW

See something, say something

The young Vietnamese man sat in my office with an interpreter and two social workers from the Salvation Army. He told us the story of his work in a restaurant and of a man who talked him into leaving his job and going to Greenville. There he became part of a human trafficking ring that exploited young men and women into the sex business. Because of the work of the Salvation Army, he was able to break the chains and find freedom he had lost at the hands of his tormenters.

Sex traffickers try to attract people in low-paying jobs. Restaurant kitchens, nail salons, homeless persons, especially young people out on the street. Migrant workers are being trafficked and some of those you see on corners begging for money may be victims of trafficking. You have likely seen the Covenant House television ads. A young woman or man is on the street alone and looking for a hero to rescue them.

Teenagers leave homes for all kinds of reasons. Abusive and dysfunctional families are a common cause. Rejection and abuse drive many young

people from unsafe homes into situations even less safe. Young people running from home are easy prey for traffickers.

Poverty is a root cause for many social problems. People are desperate for good jobs, an income that will support them and safe housing.

Human trafficking is a problem in North Carolina. Statistics from 2024 say 300 cases of human trafficking involving 600 victims were reported. Many probably aren't recorded and it is likely those numbers are considerably higher today.

North Carolina is ripe for an enterprise like human trafficking. We have Interstate Highways that crisscrosses the state. I-40. I-85. I-95. I-77. There are ports for boat traffic in Wilmington and Morehead. We have coastal and mountain resorts. North Carolina has several large military installations filled with young men and women and a plethora of colleges. All are fertile ground for traffickers to prey upon.

The North Carolina Legislature recognized that trafficking was a fast-growing crime issue and allocated \$500,000 to address the issue. It appears none has been spent. Inadequate funding and poor management of state resources leave services high and dry; victims wonder if there is anyone coming to rescue them.

You can find help and information about human trafficking at the North Carolina Human Trafficking commission at HTCourts.org. Your local Salvation Army can provide a listening ear and help. And the trafficking hotline number in NC is 1-888-373-7888.

Trafficking is a scrouge often overlooked. The crime is done in darkness. Too frequently it is out of sight and out of mind. Traffickers like it that way.

I helped present an evening teaching event in the parking lot at Edenton Street UMC in Raleigh. People strolled through tables with statistics and stories, picking up brochures and talking to those who facilitated the event. It surprised me how many people had been touched by human trafficking.

Poor and unhoused people are not the only ones approached by traffickers. A parishioner in the church told me the story of her daughter, who had a part time job in a convenience store and had been approached. By the hair of her chinny-chin-chin, she escaped by screaming for help.

Screaming and getting loud are handy and available tools for calling attention to something. Trafficking is not a place to go along to get along. The best thing is to get out as soon as you can.

Parents, know where your children are. Know who they are with. Pray a lot.

Evil is everywhere around us. Now is the time for vigilance.

Paying attention will save lives. And if you see something, say something.

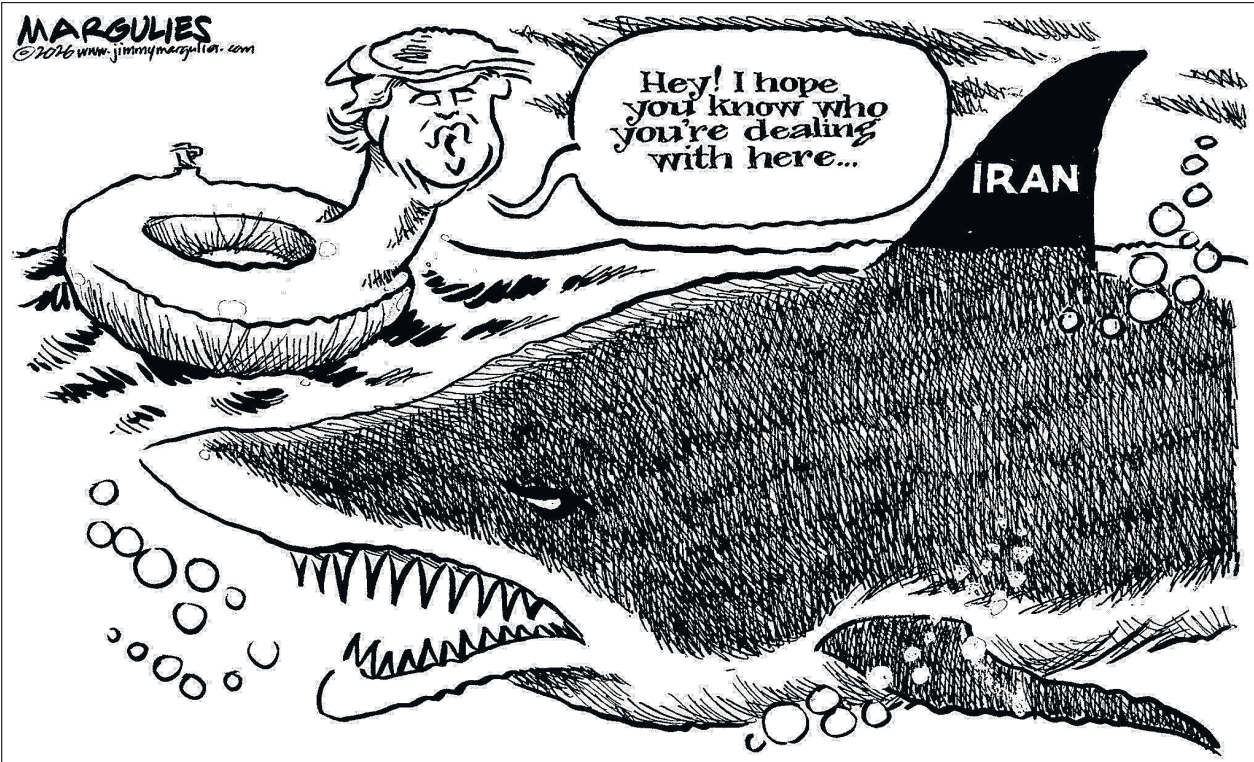
Lib Campbell is a retired Methodist pastor, retreat leader, columnist, and host of the blogsite Avirtualchurch.com. She can be contacted at libcam05@gmail.com.

LETTERS POLICY

The Robesonian welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be about issues of general interest, brief and to the point. We reserve the right to refuse letters longer than 400 words; poetry; letters that are in bad taste or libelous; and letters from outside our readership. Letters may be edited, but content will not be altered

Letters should be original. They must be signed. Please include your address and daytime phone number. Street addresses and phone numbers will not be published. A photograph of the writer will be used if provided.

Send letters to: The Robesonian, P.O. Box 1028, Lumberton, NC 28359, or fax them to (910) 739-6553. Letters can be sent via email to cstiles@robesonian.com.



CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

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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, khig- ley@ci.lumberton.nc.us

John Cantey Jr., Precinct 5, jcan- tey@ci.lumberton.nc.us
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ROBESON COUNTY
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John Cummings, Dist. 3, 910-734-9604, district3@co.robeson.nc.us.

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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.Low- ery@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 Build- ing, 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, Com- ments: 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

British scheme helped the patriot cause

RALEIGH — In war, alliances often prove decisive. But as Sun Tzu observed nearly 2,500 years ago, allies can often be more trouble than they are worth. “We cannot enter into alliance with neighboring princes,” the Chinese general wrote in his Art of War, “until we are acquaint- ed with their designs.”

In other words, it is perilous to assume that the interests and goals of potential allies are entirely consonant with your own. The British empire learned this lesson during the American War of Independence. At first, they figured they'd subdue the unruly New Englanders before other American colonists could come to their aid. They figured wrong.

By early 1776, British officials had devised a differ- ent strategy. They would send a large force south, where multitudes of Loyalists would flock to their banner and take the Carolinas, Georgia and eventu- ally Virginia off the board. Then they would capture the bustling port cities of New York and Philadelphia, leaving the American rebels with few options other than indecisive insurgency or abject surrender.

It wasn't a mad scheme. It made more sense than hunkering down in Boston. But it was, in the end, unsuccessful. The southern campaign flopped. And after taking New York in 1776 and Philadelphia in 1777, they discovered that most Americans either didn't much care or — correctly, in the latter case — judged the British occupation to be temporary rather than permanent.

Why did the southern campaign flop? I've written extensively about the plucky Carolinians who defeated a Loyalist column at Moores Creek Bridge in early 1776 and a British amphibious assault on Charleston in June 1776. But here's another reason the plot didn't succeed: it relied on allies who did not, in fact, share Britain's wartime goals.

I'm speaking of a pro-war Indian faction who came to be called the Chickamauga Cherokees. After the Lexington and Concord, when British agents traveled north from Florida with guns, ammunition, and big promises, some Cherokee leaders were wary. They'd gone to war with American militias in the past and paid dearly. On the other hand, some younger chiefs and warriors were open to attempting a violent settle-



John Hood
Contributing columnist

ment of their land disputes with Americans who'd journeyed over the high mountains to settle in what are now northeastern Tennessee and southwestern Virginia.

Just to be clear: these were land disputes, not military conquests. Most of the Americans thought they'd paid for the homesteads they settled. Most of the Cherokees rejected the authority of chiefs who sold the land, or disput- ed that it had been sold for permanent settle- ment rather than leased for occasional hunting.

As late as the spring of 1776, the pro-war fac- tion remained a clear minority of Cherokees.

Then two delegations arrived, a British one from Pen- sacola and a party of pro-British chiefs from northern tribes, led by Shawnee hero Cornstalk. They proved persuasive. A young Cherokee chief named Dragging Canoe pledged to attack within weeks. Others fol- lowed his lead.

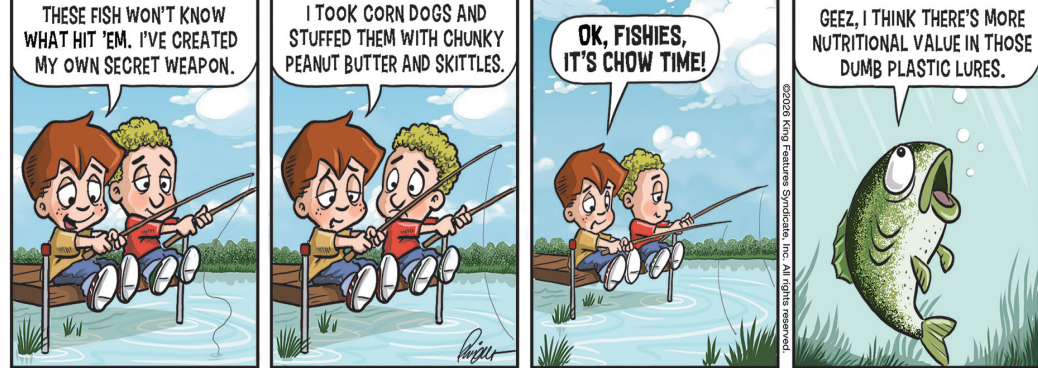
Unfortunately for the British, Dragging Canoe didn't confine his attacks to the enemies they wanted him to attack: Patriot settlements on the eastern side of the mountains, in the Carolina backcountry. After all, those folks weren't on Cherokee lands! Instead, Dragging Canoe and his raiders focused on the nearby white settlements on the Holston, Nolichucky and Watauga rivers. Only some of these settlers were full- throated Patriots. Most wanted to stay out of the Rev- olutionary War. A few even had Loyalist sympathies.

The Cherokees had early successes. But 250 years ago this week, nearly 200 warriors under Dragging Canoe assaulted a settlement on the Long Island of the Holston River, in modern-day Kingsport, Tennes- see. A comparable force of Carolinians (remember, Tennessee wasn't yet a separate state) repulsed the attack, leaving 14 Cherokees dead and Dragging Canoe himself grievously wounded.

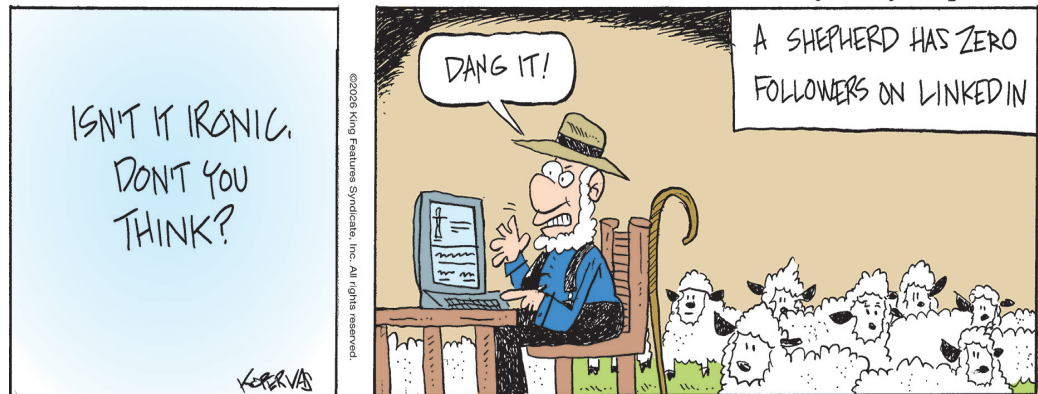
After this July 20, 1776 battle of Island Flats, many previously neutral Americans joined the Patriot cause. They devastated dozens of Cherokee towns. And the British gained nothing of consequence. Alliances are tricky things.

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

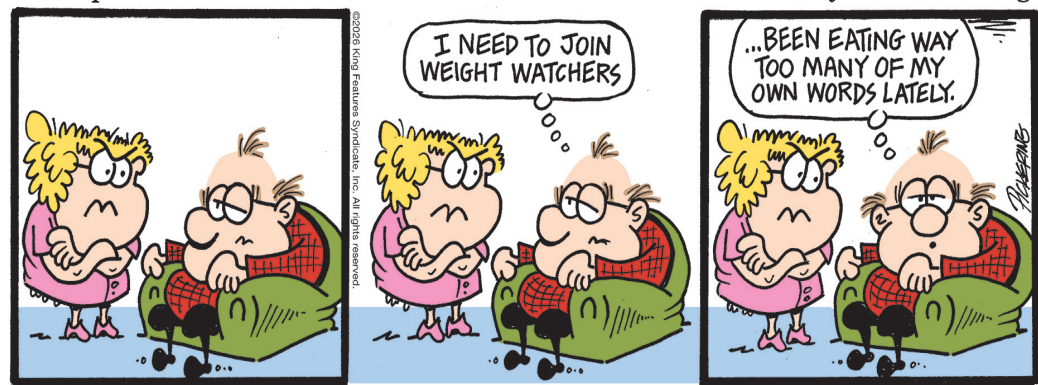
Amber Waves



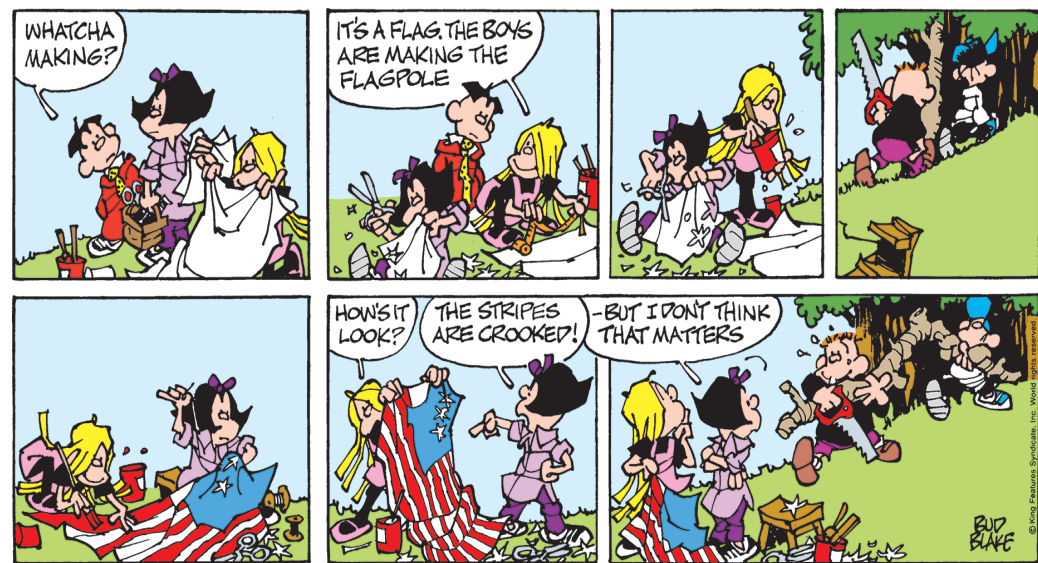
Out on a Limb



The Spats



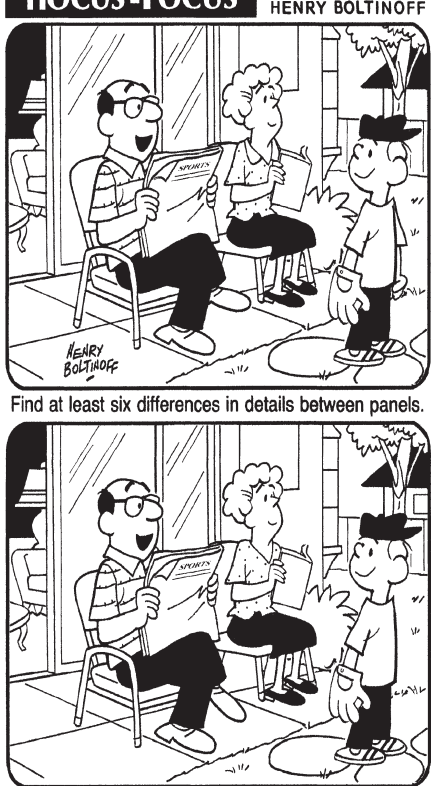
TIGER



OLIVE & POPEYE



HOCUS-FOCUS



Just Like Cats & Dogs



CryptoQuip

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

Clue: R equals C

L REXKW FEO OSLFV EJ OSY

FUZY EJ OSUO PUALR

RSYZLRUK AXPAOUFRY.

L SUW UF YKZYFOUK PKERV.

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SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Swarm VODER

Device PETRO

Alarm REINS

Rogue SLACAR

“Being _____ is awful — there’s nothing to do!”

TODAY’S WORD

by Dave T. Phipps

by Gary Kopervas

by Jeff Pickering

by BUD BLAKE

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Efron of "Parkland"

4 "For — the Bell Tolls"

8 Maui's — Highway

12 Rock's Brian

13 Continental coin

14 Petri dish gel

15 Scrape (out)

16 Shakable paperweight

18 Egypt's Anwar

20 Quibble

21 Composer Bartok

24 Informative

28 Hall & Oates ballad of 1976

32 Scarce

33 Galley item

34 Must, casually

36 Plant seeds

37 Radar dot

39 "Gems" found on a beach

41 "Bye!"

43 Poetry contest

44 Vat

46 Foolish

50 Scott Evil actor in the Austin Powers films

55 Blue bird

56 Saab model

57 Nest egg

58 Broad st.

59 Wee songbird

60 Lacking slack

61 Wine choice

7 Summer top

9 Previously

10 Collar

11 Common verb

17 Tonic's mixer

19 Six-pack muscles

22 Novelist Anita

23 Poker pot starters

25 "That — close one!"

26 "No seats" signs

27 Evergreens

28 Weeps

29 Robust

30 Buffalo's lake

31 List-ending abbr.

35 Not for

38 Large constrictor

40 Run after K

42 Summer mo.

45 Telly watcher

47 Slightly open

48 Cathedral area

49 Kept tabs on

50 Cutting tool

51 Chariot trailer

52 Three, in Rome

53 Notable time

54 Vichy water

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Weekly SUDOKU

3 9 8

1 9 6

3 6 1

6 8 9 5 3 1

6 2 9

8 7 6 4

6 3 4 1 5 8 7

8 1 7 3 5

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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FiveSpot™ Dealer's choice

P O W E R

Electricity

Reduce

Taciturn type

Copy

Male relative

Word with "bag" or "money"

Solve each row by replacing one letter from the answer above or below and scrambling to make a new word. When complete, the top and bottom words will have no letters in common.

FiveSpot is a trademark of Michael McLinden. See more at www.sprouts-puzzle.com

02649

Answers

King Crossword

Solution time: 24 mins.

ZAC WHOM HANA

ENO EURO AGAR

EKE SNOW GLOBE

SAD AT NIT

BE LA NE WS Y

SHE S ONE RARE

GO T A SOW

BLIP SEA GLASS

SEE YA SLAM

NE ANE

SET H G R E E N J A Y

AERO I R A S AVE

W R E N T A U T R E D

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. ANATOMY: How many vertebrae are in the human spine?

2. U.S. CITIES: Which city is home to the Gateway Arch, known as the tallest arch in the world?

3. TELEVISION: Which 1970s sitcom introduced a neighbor named Phyllis Lindstrom?

4. HISTORY: When was the first heart transplant performed?

5. GEOGRAPHY: Where are the Cape Verde islands located?

6. MOVIES: Which 1991 film featured a villain named Max Cady?

7. MUSIC: When did Taylor Swift's second studio album ("Fearless") win the Country Music Association's Album of the Year award?

8. SCIENCE: What is nephology?

9. MEASUREMENTS: What instrument is used to measure the depth of oceans?

10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby deer called?

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RETIRED Today's Word

3. Siren; 4. Rascal

1. Drove; 2. Trope

solution

SCRAMBLERS

H C N U L

E L C N U

E N O L C

R E N O L

R E W O L

R E W O P

Solution

FiveSpot™

6 9 2

3 4 2 1 9 5 8 7

5 2 6 7 6 4 3 1

4 7 3 1 6 2 8 5 6

2 8 6 5 3 1 7 4

6 5 1 7 4 8 2 6 3

7 8 5 3 2 4 6 1 9

1 9 6 5 8 7 3 4 2

3 4 2 6 1 7 5 8

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

I had an elemental block.

chemical substance.

name of that basic

I could not think of the

answer

Cryptoquip

1. 33

2. St. Louis, Missouri

3. "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"

4. 1967

5. Off the west coast of Africa

6. "Cape Fear"

7. 2009

8. The scientific study of clouds

9. An echo sounder or fathometer

10. A fawn or calf

5RVW7E0

LEGALS	LEGALS	LEGALS	LEGALS	LEGALS
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION NORTH CAROLINA ROBESON COUNTY IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO. 19CvD002923-770 CITY OF LUMBERTON Plaintiff, vs. The HEIRS, ASSIGNS and DEVEISEES of JUDY K. LOCKLEAR, et al Defendants. NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION. TO: The HEIRS, ASSIGNS and DEVEISEES of JUDY K. LOCKLEAR and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder A pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action and notice of service of process by publication began on July 8, 2026. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Foreclosure on tax parcel(s) more completely described in the Complaint, to collect delinquent ad valorem taxes (assessments). Plaintiff seeks to extinguish any and all claim or interest that you may have in said property. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days after the date of the first publication of notice stated above, exclusive of such date, being forty (40) days after July 8, 2026, or by August 17, 2026, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service of process by publication will apply to the Court for relief sought. This the 30th day of June, 2026. ZACCHAEUS LEGAL SERVICES By: Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill Attorney for Plaintiff NC Bar #12852/56782 310 W. Jones St. P. O. Box 25 Trenton, North Carolina 28585 Telephone: (252) 448-4541 Publication dates: July 8, 2026 July 15, 2026 July 22, 2026 7/8 7/15 7/22 2026 Notice Notice is hereby given that the City of Lumberton has completed the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Report for the Wastewater Collection System. A copy of the Annual Report will be filed at the City Clerk's Office, 500 North Cedar Street, Lumberton, North Carolina 28358. A copy of the Annual Report may be obtained by contacting the City Clerk at (910) 671-3807. Laney Mitchell-McIntosh City Clerk CN# 1374 7/8 7/11 7/15 7/18 7/22 7/25 7/29 2026 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF DENZIL WILLIAM TONKIN, JR DECEASED File Number 25E000065-770 The undersigned having qualified as Administrator, of the estate of Denzil William Tonkin, 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 25th 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 the 22nd day of July, 2026. Amanda Leger-Asselin 234 Applewood Road Saint Pauls, NC 28384 7/22 7/29 8/5 8/12 2026 State of North Carolina County of Robeson Estate File No. 20E000213-250 All persons, firms and corporations having claims against Billy Johnson Stone, deceased, of Robeson County, North Carolina, are notified to present their claims to the Executor named below, at the address below, on or before October 16, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. Debtors of Billy Johnson Stone are requested to make immediate payment to the Executor named below. Date of First Publication: July 15, 2026 Estate of Billy Johnson Stone Ricky Stone Executor C/O Deanna Coleman Coleman & Halverson, PLLC Attorneys for the Estate 345 Hay Street Fayetteville, NC 28301 7/15 7/22 7/29 8/5 2026	STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF LOUISE STUBBS ELMQUIST DECEASED File Number 26E000707-770 The undersigned having qualified as Administrator, of the estate of Louise Stubbs Elmquist, 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 18th 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 the 15th day of July, 2026. C. Adam Barrington III, Administrator 201 Alston Blvd., Suite A Hampstead, NC 28443 Attorney C. Adam Barrington III 201 Alston Blvd., Suite A Hampstead, NC 28443 910-421-0421 7/15 7/22 7/29 8/5 2026 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF SYLVIA OLIVER HUGGINS DECEASED File Number 26E000696-770 The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the estate of Sylvia Oliver Huggins, 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 18th 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 the 15th day of July, 2026. Justin Clark Huggins PO Box 2331 Columbia, SC 29202 7/15 7/22 7/29 8/5 2026 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF CATHY MAE WALTERS FOLEY DECEASED File Number 26E000637-770 The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the estate of Cathy Mae Walters Foley, 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 11th 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 the 8th day of July, 2026. Carlton Ray Foley Jr. 32 Kensington St Lumberton, NC 28359 Attorney Thorp, Clarke & Regan, PA PO Box 478 St. Pauls, NC 28384 910-865-4059 7/8 7/15 7/22 7/29 2026 The Robeson County Partnership for Children, Inc. is accepting bids for the 2026-2027 fiscal year for the following categories: Catering, Contracted Services, Evaluation Services, Child Care Provider Trainings, Strategic Planning and Board Development, Staff Development, Janitorial Supplies, Graphic Design, Printing, Office Supplies & Furniture, Books & Education Resources, IT Services, Computers & Equipment, Early Childhood Education Materials and Furniture, Repair & Maintenance, Legal Services, Programmatic Monitoring, Technical Assistant Services, Insurance Services, and Construction. THERE IS NO FORMAL BIDDING APPLICATION FOR THIS PROCESS! Interested applicants should submit a basic proposal outlining expense of services. The submission deadline is August 7, 2026. If you need further assistance, please contact Wendy Porter at wallen@rcpartnership4children.org. 7/22 2026	NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION IN RE: JALANDON LOCKLEAR, JUVENILE TO: MAKAYLA LOCKLEAR, MOTHER JACOB SMITH, FATHER TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above entitled action. The nature of the relief sought is as follows: For the Court to determine if the above-named minor is neglected as defined by N.C.G.S. 7B-101 (15). You will further take notice that the undersigned will appear before the Juvenile Court of Robeson County forty (40) days or more after this first date to such pleadings by said time, upon your failure to do so, the undersigned will apply to the Court for the relief sought. If you are indigent, you are entitled to court appoint counsel. You may contact the Robeson County Clerk of District Court, Juvenile Division and request counsel. This the 2nd day of July, 2026 Jose Coker, Attorney for the Robeson County Department of Social Services 120 Glen Cowan Road Lumberton, NC 28360 Telephone: 910-737-4048 7/8 7/15 7/22 2026 Notice Notice is hereby given that the City of Lumberton has completed the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Wastewater Treatment Plant Performance Report. A copy of the Annual Report will be on file at the City Clerk's Office, 500 North Cedar Street, Lumberton, North Carolina 28358. A copy of the Annual Report may be obtained by contacting the City Clerk at (910) 671-3807. Laney Mitchell-McIntosh City Clerk CN# 3375 7/11 7/15 7/18 7/22 7/25 2026 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA ROBESON COUNTY NOTICE TO CREDITORS File No: 26E000245-770 Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of ABUNDIO VILLA MIRANDA a/k/a JUAN ANTONIO NEGRON MARRERO (alias), deceased, of 206 Old Whiteville Road, Robeson County, Lumberton, NC 28358, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned in care of the attorney for the estate on or before October 9, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 8th day of July, 2026. Jeffrey L. Austin Administrator of the Estate of Abundio Villa Miranda a/k/a Juan Antonio Negron Marrero (alias) c/o Law Office of Jeffrey L. Austin, PLLC 500 Westover Dr. #32043 Sanford, NC 27330 7/8 7/15 7/22 7/29 2026 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF DORIS BROOKS DECEASED FILE NUMBER 25 E 002231-770 The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the Estate of DORIS BROOKS, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 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 DALTON PETER BROOKS JR 111 WATERVIEW LANE 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 CHICO ANTERRIO LOCKLEAR DECEASED FILE NUMBER 26 E 000522-770 The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of CHICO ANTERRIO LOCKLEAR, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 3rd day of OCTOBER 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This is the 1st day of JULY 2026 SASHA ZANTANA LOCKLEAR 800 E WHITE POND ROAD APT C1 FAIRMONT NC 28340 7/1 7/8 7/15 7/22 2026 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF HAZEL SAMPSON LOCKLEAR DECEASED FILE NUMBER 26 E 000664-770 The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of HAZEL SAMPSON LOCKLEAR, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 19th 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 15th day of JULY 2026 GRALIN DEREK LOCKLEAR 65 VIOLET FARM ROAD PEMBROKE NC 28372 7/15 7/22 7/29 8/5 2026 7/15 7/22 7/29 8/5 2026 7/15 7/22 7/29 8/5 2026	

Storm

From page 1A

are expected within the warning area within 36 hours, was in effect early Tuesday from the Florida and Alabama border to the Jefferson and Plaquemines parish line in Louisiana.

A storm surge watch, indicating rising, possible life-threatening water moving inland from the coast within 48 hours, was issued from the Alabama and Florida border to the mouth of the Mississippi River, the hurricane center reported.

Bertha is expected to stay near or along the Gulf Coast

Bertha is the second tropical storm of the Atlantic hurricane season after Tropical Storm Arthur brought heavy rainfall to the southeastern U.S. in June.

The storm was expected to stay near or along the northern Gulf Coast this week, dropping heavy rain

on coastal areas of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana while pushing west toward Texas.

Potentially life-threatening storm surges of up to 4 feet (1.2 meters) are possible in portions of Louisiana, Alabama and Florida, the hurricane center said, warning Bertha could spin off an isolated tornado or two over the Florida Big Bend region.

Areas of flash flooding also will be possible through Friday along the coast from western Florida to middle Texas, forecasters said, adding that rainfall could total 3 to 5 inches (7 to 12 centimeters) along the Louisiana coastline, with higher amounts in some scattered areas.

Red flags on the beach at Orange Beach, Alabama, cautioned swimmers about high surf and currents. In Escambia County, Florida, emergency officials offered sand for people living in flood-prone areas to use for sandbags.

The storm is not expected to have any impact on the Carolinas; forecast rain for Thursday and Friday

Hurricane Fausto churns in the Pacific

In the eastern Pacific Ocean, Hurricane Fausto churned far from Mexico's Baja California peninsula and posed no threat to land, the hurricane center said.

Fausto gained hurricane status Monday night. It was about 740 miles (1,191 kilometers) southwest of the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula, had top sustained winds of 80 mph (129 kph) and was moving northwest at 12 mph (19 kph).

The storm was expected to strengthen Tuesday and Wednesday. No coastal watches or warnings were in effect, though ocean swells generated by the storm could cause life-threatening surf and rip tide conditions on the Baja California coast, the center said.

County

From page 1A

with Bladen and Columbus counties, is required to be updated annually, and this was to approve those “tweaks,” County Manager Kellie Blue said.

The thorough document, which Blue told commissioners is over 600 pages long, provides plans for regional response to disasters such as floods, wildfires, tornadoes, winter storms, hurricanes and more.

During the public comment period, Parkton Mayor Ed Lowery spoke to the board about installing a camera system in the county-owned park in the town. Lowery said he and police chief Hudson Chitwood agreed that cameras will help in determining what happened if any incidents occur in the park.

Because the park is county-owned, Lowery sought the board’s “permission” to install

the cameras, which the town is paying for. The board responded enthusiastically at the idea.

The board also reappointed Audrey Hunt to serve another term on the Robeson Community College Board of Trustees.

Commissioner John Cummings spoke at the close of the meeting encouraging county residents to be careful during the current heat wave.

“I caution the county to please use some common sense: it’s hot out there,” Cummings said. “Be cognizant of your neighbors, and when I say that, older people — a lot of people are on meds for blood pressure and so forth, and they’re not used to this heat. So be cognizant of the neighbor that’s sitting beside you, watch everybody, and let’s take care of each other.”

The board’s next scheduled meeting is at 9 a.m. on Aug. 3.

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

LEGALS
NOTICE
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON 26 E 000662-770

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of James B. Prevatte, deceased of Lumberton, North Carolina, do hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 8th day of October 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 8th day of July, 2026.

Eric Prevatte, Executor of the Estate of James B. Prevatte
444 Watts Road
Lumberton, N.C 28360

MURCHISON, TAYLOR & GIBSON, PLLC
1979 EASTWOOD ROAD
SUITE 101
WILMINGTON, NC 28403

7/8 7/15 7/22 7/29 2026
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 T DANIELS DECEASED FILE NUMBER 26 E 000747-770

The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the Estate of MARY T DANIELS, 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 26th 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 22nd day of JULY 2026

DELORES WRIGHT CROMARTIE
1091 DAVIS BRIDGE RD
PARKTON NC 28371

7/22 7/29 8/5 8/12 2026

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LEGALS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF NOLAN GARY PHILLIPS DECEASED FILE NUMBER 26 E 000748-770

The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the Estate of NOLAN GARY PHILLIPS, 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 26th 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 22nd day of JULY 2026

FRANCES MELTON
798 DUSTY ROAD
BLADENBORO NC 28320

7/22 7/29 8/5 8/12 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

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LEGALS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF TWILA ANITA WILLIFORD DECEASED FILE NUMBER 26 E 000691-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of TWILA ANITA WILLIFORD, 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 19th 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 15th day of JULY 2026

LINDA PARKER WELLS
1627 MONTCLAIR DR
SURFSIDE BEACH SC 29575

7/15 7/22 7/29 8/5 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF WILLIAM JUNIOR REVELS DECEASED FILE NUMBER 26 E 000694-770
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The undersigned having qualified as Executor, of the Estate of WILLIAM JUNIOR REVELS, 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 19th 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 15th day of JULY 2026

JIMMY DEAN REVELS
649 JR RD
MAXTON NC 28364

7/15 7/22 7/29 8/5 2026

NORTH CAROLINA
ROBESON COUNTY 26 E 446
NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS

All persons, firms or corporations having claims against William Byron Sanborn, deceased, late of Robeson County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before October 15, 2026, or be barred from any recovery.

All persons indebted to said estate are asked to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 15th day of July, 2026.

Heidi Mae Sanborn, Administrator CTA of the Estate of William Byron Sanborn, Deceased, c/o Jonathan L. Morton Attorney for the Estate Huggins, Davis & Associates, LLP
P.O. Box 1571
Lumberton, NC 28359

7/15 7/22 7/29 8/5 2026

CLASSIFIEDS

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LEGALS
NORTH CAROLINA ROBESON COUNTY 26 E 724

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS

All persons, firms or corporations having claims against John E. Wishart, Jr., deceased, late of Robeson County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before October 15, 2026, or be barred from any recovery.

All persons indebted to said estate are asked to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 15th day of July, 2026.

John Brent Wishart, Administrator CTA of the Estate of John E. Wishart, Jr., Deceased, c/o Katherine H. Davis Attorney for the Estate Huggins, Davis & Associates, LLP
P.O. Box 1571
Lumberton, NC 28359

7/15 7/22 7/29 8/5 2026
Help Wanted General
Angel's Child Care & Learning Center 22492 Hwy 301 North Parkton, NC 2837 (910) 858 - 0614

Now Hiring NC Pre-K Teacher! Angel's Child Care & Learning Center is seeking a full-time Birth through Kindergarten Teacher. We are looking for someone with experience, caring, faithful and dedicated. This individual must have a Bachelor's degree, ideally in Early Childhood Education (ECE) or a related field, and must work towards or hold a NC Birth-Kindergarten (B-K) Standard Professional II license, enrolling with the Early Educator Support (EES) Unit to pursue the B-K license, often completing 6 semester hours annually while working in the role. Requirements vary slightly if you have existing license (like K-6 or out-of-state) or starting without a degree, but the goal is the B-K SP II license within the three years. This individual must be willing to obtain and maintain the credentials required by North Carolina. Please help us share this wonderful opportunity family and referrals are always appreciated. For more details, please feel free to stop by or give us a call today (910) 858 – 0614.

Robeson Community College Nurse Aide Coordinator

Robeson Community College is seeking a Nurse Aide Coordinator. Applicants must hold a current, unencumbered North Carolina RN license, have at least two (2) years of RN experience in the U.S., and one (1) year of experience providing, supervising, or teaching long-term care services in a licensed skilled nursing facility. Teaching experience is preferred but not required.

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

Deadline for applications: July 28, 2026

ROBESON COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
Want to Rent
1 BEDROOM HOUSE 1 BATH FAIRMONT AREA 910-723-3628

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LEGALS

NORTH CAROLINA

ROBESON COUNTY

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

BEFORE THE CLERK

FILE NO. 26SP000121-770

IN THE MATTER OF THE FORECLOSURE

OF THE DEED OF TRUST EXECUTED BY

VICKIE GAVIN BULLARD, unmarried,

Recorded in Book 2263, Page 129 and

recorded again in Book 2263, Page 851,

Robeson County Registry

NOTICE OF

FORECLOSURE SALE

DEED OF TRUST BEING FORECLOSED:

The Deed of Trust being foreclosed is that Deed of Trust executed by VICKIE GAVIN BULLARD, unmarried to Jay B. Green, Attorney at Law, PC, Trustee, dated December 17, 2020 and recorded in Book 2263, Page 129 and recorded again in Book 2263, Page 851 in the Robeson County Registry of North Carolina. RECORD OWNERS OF THE REAL PROPERTY:

The record owner of the subject real property as reflected on the records of the Robeson County Register of Deeds not more than 10 days prior to the posting of this Notice is Vickie Gavin Bullard. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF SALE:

The sale will be held on July 23, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the door of the Robeson County Courthouse, Lumberton, North Carolina. PROPERTY TO BE SOLD:

The following real property to be sold "sight unseen" together with any improvements is located in Robeson County, North Carolina and is believed to have the address of 68 Clark Rd, Maxton, NC 28364 and is otherwise more particularly described as follows:

ALL OF LOT 2, AS SHOWN ON A PLAT RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 55, PAGE 127, ROBESON COUNTY REGISTRY. Included is a 2021 TRU manufactured home bearing serial no. CWP047671TNAB. TERMS OF SALE:

Pursuant to the provisions of N.C.G.S. §45-21.10(b) and the terms of the Deed of Trust, any successful bidder may be required to deposit with the Trustee or Clerk of Superior Court immediately upon the conclusion of the sale a cash deposit to be determined by the greater of 5% of the bid or \$750.00. Unless the Substitute Trustee agrees otherwise, the successful bidder will be required to tender the "full purchase price" so bid in cash or certified check at the time the Trustee tenders to him a Deed to the property or attempts to tender such Deed, and should the successful bidder fail to pay the full amount, then the successful bidder shall remain liable as provided for in N.C.G.S. §45-21.30. A tender of Deed shall be defined as a letter from the Trustee to the successful bidder offering to record the Deed upon receipt of full purchase price as described herein and listed in said letter. PAYMENT IN FULL SHALL BE DUE UPON CONFIRMATION OF THE SALE AND WITHIN 10 DAYS FOLLOWING THE TENDER OF DEED. The Trustee receives the funds and records the foreclosure deed. If the trustee is unable to convey title to this property for any reason such as a bankruptcy filing, the sole remedy of the successful bidder is the return of the deposit. As to any manufactured home, the following shall apply: Any not considered real property is being foreclosed pursuant to N.C.G.S. §25-9-604, if necessary; there is no warranty that any is actually located on the subject tract; and there is no warranty given by the Substitute Trustee as to whether said home is real property or personal property. There is no warranty of title and the sale will be made subject to all prior liens, unpaid taxes, assessments, restrictions and easements of record, if any. ADDITIONAL NOTICE:

Take notice that an order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Take further notice that any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving the notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but no more than 90 days, after the sale dates contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. This notice further states that upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.

This date being June, 1, 2026

THE GREEN LAW FIRM, P.C.

By: S/ Jay B. Green

Jay B .Green, Attorney at Law

The Green Law Firm, P.C.

Attorney for Trustee

908 E. Edenton Street

Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

Telephone: 919-829-0797

7/15 7/22 2026

Buy & Sell In the Classifieds



Blue

From page 1A

encompasses a little bit of everything in leading that board.

“Setting committees, setting liaisons for the universities,” Blue said. “The Board of Governors is the ultimate policy-making governing body for those 17 educational institutions that make up the University of North Carolina system. All those legal mandates which involves electing a UNC System president, which now is Peter Hans. We set system-wide tuition, the budgets with these universities and strategic initiatives, and then overseeing individual campus boards of trustees.”

While she represents all of the UNC System's institutions in her role with the Board of Governors, she naturally has specific goals for UNCP, as a local resident, an alumna of the university and a past chairman of its Board of Trustees.

“We want to continue things in the county, with (the Givens Performing Arts Center), and just continue with the health initiatives that are going on at the university,” Blue said. “Those health (programs) that will be housed in the new College of Health Sciences (building).”

UNCP broke ground on a \$96.8 million Clinical Sciences Building in April, which will house multiple health sciences programs, including the new College of Optometric Medicine, the state's only public doctoral program in the field.

“Kellie Blue's election as chair is a tremendous honor for her and a proud moment for our county and region and certainly, the entire

Brave Nation community,” UNCP Chancellor Robin Cummings said. “Throughout her career, she has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to expanding opportunity, strengthening communities and advancing public higher education across North Carolina. ... I am confident the UNC System will continue to benefit from her vision, integrity and deep understanding of the transformative power of education for all students,” Cummings said.

“Having a UNCP alumna serving as chair of the Board of Governors brings firsthand experience and observations of the inner workings of education at regional institutions like UNC Pembroke to the table in every conversation,” UNCP Board of Trustees Chair Ed Brooks said. “At the same time, having served in so many different capacities gives her a unique perspective not only from a fiscal responsibility and stewardship standpoint, but also from a leadership perspective. She has honed her leadership skills over many years, and it is only going to be a great thing for the UNC System.

Blue will serve a two-year term as chair, and has three years overall left in her term on the Board of Governors before reaching the term limit.

She has also served on the Southeastern Regional Mental Health Board, Civic Federal Credit Union Board of Directors and UNCP Foundation Board.

Terry Hutchens was elected as vice chair of the UNC Board of Governors and Carolyn Coward was picked as secretary.

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

Series

From page 1A

from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday through the administrative offices in the theater's second floor (enter on Fourth Street side), or by calling the Civic Center at 910-738-4339. When available, tickets can also be purchased at the door. Theater lobby box office opens for ticket sales one hour prior to performances.

A season subscription discount of 20% off the individual price is available with the purchase five or more of the season's eight shows through box office. Senior, military, student discounts and group rates are also available for most events. For group rates and season tickets, call the theater's box office at 910-738-4339.

General information

The Carolina Civic Center and Historic Theater is a beautifully-restored 1928 treasure listed on the National Register of Historic Places that offers visitors a unique and visually stunning experience. The theater is located at 315 North Chestnut Street in the heart of downtown Lumberton. First opened as a vaudeville and silent film house, the theater offers a wide array of programming including live touring performances, original productions, art exhibits, films, special events and rentals. For more information visit www.carolinaciviccenter.com.

For a full schedule and to sign up for the Civic Center's e-newsletter visit its web site at: www.carolinaciviccenter.com.

THE 2026-27 MAINSTAGE SCHEDULE

Uptown: A Celebration of Motown and Soul, 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 17

Fusing Bruno-Mars-caliber stage presence with top-tier vocals and wall-to-wall choreography, the men of UPTOWN combine the smooth stylings of R&B with the fresh hits of today in a unique and modern show that gets every crowd on their feet! Born in New York City (the epicenter of contemporary pop and soul music), the group exudes unparalleled energy with their blend of contemporary radio hits and classic Motown music.

This immersive, multi-media enhanced evening of amazing vocals backed by live band will have audiences singing and dancing the night away. Every single member of UPTOWN is a world-class soloist, with frequent comparisons to the artistry of icons like Stevie Wonder and Marvin Gaye; when they come together as one collective, the resulting remix creates “the most electrifying show you'll see this decade!” (Agua Caliente, Palm Springs CA).

film as well as nostalgic tunes performed by master musician and composer Mark Andersen. And since it's the spooky season, the 1925 silent film “Phantom of the Opera” with Lon Chaney will be screened with an organ score accompaniment written by Mr. Andersen himself. The show's “live” Phantom performance will feature Daniel Britt singing music from Andrew Lloyd Weber's Phantom of the Opera. A unique evening in a historic (1928) setting!

The 15th annual Robeson County Christmas Show, Nov. 23 to Dec. 12

The most wonderful time of the year is back and bigger than ever. Considered by many as the region's best holiday stage tradition, the annual Robeson County Christmas Show is directed by the theater's resident artist, Kendrix Singletary. A dazzling holiday musical revue the whole family will love, from the toe-tapping dance numbers with the Civettes, to powerful performances by our youth and adult ensembles, state of the art projections and special effects, this heartwarming tradition is packed with music, magic, and memories. The theater will be beautifully decorated for Christmas, and of course, there will be special appearances by Frosty the Snowman, The Grinch, and Santa Claus!

School shows are scheduled for Nov. 23-24, before two weekend runs Dec. 3-6 and Dec. 11-12.

Denise Tichenor and Friends Motown Show, 7 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 30

Audience favorite Denise Tichenor returns with her friends for an evening of powerhouse vocals and sweet musical memories. The Motown Special is a vibrant, soul-stirring tribute to the music that defined a generation. With dazzling vocals, live instrumentation, and dynamic choreography, this show transports audiences to the heart of Detroit's Motown era — where rhythm, harmony, and emotion rule the stage.

The production features the unforgettable hits of Marvin Gaye, The Supremes, The Temptations, Stevie Wonder, and Smokey Robinson, performed by a talented ensemble led by Denise Tichenor, whose nearly two decades on BET's Bobby Jones Gospel Show have made her a respected voice in American music. Every performance is a celebration of timeless artistry, community, and joy — a night of music that moves the soul and uplifts the spirit.

Annual Bluegrass on the Blackwater Concert: Lonesome River Band, 7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 20

Since its formation decades ago, Lonesome River Band continues its reputation as one of the most respected names in bluegrass music. Five-time International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) Banjo Player of the Year, and winner of the Steve Martin Prize for Excellence in Banjo and Bluegrass, Sammy Shelor leads the group that is constantly breaking new ground in acoustic music. This concert is presented in part-

nership with the Robeson County Arts Council.

New Country with the Six One Five Collective, 7 p.m., Friday, March 12

Nashville harmonies, vintage vibes, southern roots, west coast cool: In the tradition of iconic American supergroups like The Highwaymen and Little Big Town, The Six One Five Collective is a powerhouse ensemble of Grammy-nominated, award-winning artists who have become one of Nashville's most exciting and sought-after acts. With a sound that blends Country, Americana, and Pop into a rich tapestry of harmony and storytelling, this group delivers a concert experience that is both intimate and electrifying—perfectly suited for the acoustics and atmosphere of a performing arts center or live theater.

These are not just performers—they are the songwriters behind hits for Kelly Clarkson, George Strait, Luke Bryan, and Lee Brice, with accolades including three Grammy nominations an IBMA Song of the Year and a Double-Platinum artist. Their music has been featured on major TV shows like Nashville, Parenthood, and Virgin River. These performers have shared stages with John Legend, India Arie, Kenny Chesney, and Jon Pardi, and performed at legendary venues like the Grand Ole Opry and international festivals including C2C. Their performances are polished, heartfelt, and deeply engaging for audiences of all ages.

Annual My Time to Shine Talent Competition: All-Star Edition, 7 p.m., Saturday, March 27

My Time to Shine All-Stars edition will bring together past winners, Viewer's Choice recipients, and some of the most memorable and accomplished performers in My Time to Shine History for one unforgettable night of entertainment. Cash and prizes totaling \$5,000. Our hugely popular — and very competitive — talent competition, includes all categories of talent — from singing and dancing to instrumental and more. It's more than a competition; it's a great show!

Summer Musical: Jesus Christ Superstar, Wednesday, June 9 through Sunday, June 13

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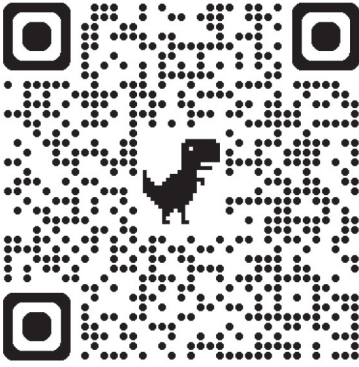
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ROBESON COUNTY GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP



Ian Locklear hits his approach on the 11th hole during the final round of the Robeson County Golf Championship Sunday at Pinecrest Country Club.

Photos by Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

Ian Locklear wins 2nd RCGC title

15 years after his 1st win, Sunday 69 leads to another

Chris Stiles
The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — When Ian Locklear won the Robeson County Golf Championship title in 2011, he was a 19-year-old college student on the UNC Pembroke golf team. Fifteen years later, he's in a different stage of life as a husband and a father, more than a decade removed from his college golf days. But after a 3-under-par 69 on Sunday, he's once again earned the title of county champion. Locklear came from behind in the final round for a four-stroke victory over Ryan Bass and Steve Pippin, becoming the 11th man to win multiple Championship Division titles in the 46-year

history of the tournament, sponsored by Dial Insurance. "It means a lot," Locklear said. "It was definitely a struggle. I didn't have everything on command. Didn't have the most control over my swing, but took little bits of momentum where we could. I was thinking to myself, a little bit of confidence is like yeast starter for bread — all it takes is a little bit." After a 1-under 35 on the front nine in Sunday's final round, Locklear shot 2-under 34 on the back nine for the third straight day. The key moment came at the par-5 11th hole, just after a brief weather delay, when an eagle gave him the tournament lead. He followed that with an



Ian Locklear, right, shakes hands with playing partners Ryan Bass, center, and Ryan Tyson, left, on the 18th green during the final round of the Robeson County Golf Championship Sunday at Pinecrest Country Club.

8-foot birdie at the par-3 12th, which put him two strokes ahead of Bass. "I hit a decent drive, had a great lie on the bare dirt in the woods," Locklear said. "I love that, honestly, I love it. I turned around and saw a group of like 50 people following us, and I was like 'man, I've got to hit a good one here.' So I just

committed to the shot, hit it up there five feet, made the putt, and birdied the next hole, and my head was down after that, 'let's go.'" Locklear played the last six holes in even par, with birdie at the par-5 15th and bogey on the 18th. "My confidence was through the roof after 12,

and I was on cruise control, honestly," Locklear said. That was more than enough as none of the other contenders were able to make a run down the stretch. "I just didn't have it on that back (nine), and Ian played his (butt)"

See TITLE | 3B

RCGC ROUNDUP

Locklear, Wallwork, Carter, Beck win divisions

Chris Stiles
The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — After winning five Robeson County Golf Championship Senior Division titles between 2018-24, Lonail Locklear returned to the Regular Division to see if, at age 67, he could still win against younger competition. Sunday, he did just that, shooting 2-over-par 74 to beat Brian Haymore by four strokes for the title. Locklear previously won the Regular Division title in 2014. "I want to thank God for doing what He's done for me," Locklear said. "I won it in 2014, but I always said I wanted to come back and play the white (tees), the Regular (Division) and see if I could win. I prayed and I told God, with Your faith, my faith, I can do anything. ... I pulled it out. I just kept the faith and kept playing." Locklear and Haymore

were tied at the time of a weather delay after the 12th hole, a delay which Locklear said settled his nerves. When play resumed, he made a 20-foot par putt on the 13th hole, taking the lead after Haymore made bogey, before a two-shot swing on the 14th, with Locklear making birdie from six feet while Haymore made bogey. Prior to the delay, Locklear made double bogey on the fourth, birdied the eighth and bogeyed the 11th and 12th holes. "The seniors is not as far as the Regular (Division), that's another 2- or 300 yards. I figured I had more challenges to play against me because they're all younger," Locklear said. "It's a big thing for me to finish and accomplish what I wanted to do this year." Haymore is a three-time Regular Division champion, in 2020-21 and 2024. He finished with a final-round 79 and an



Division winners from the 46th annual Robeson County Golf Championship take a group photo after Sunday's round at Pinecrest Country Club. Pictured, from left, are Super Senior Division winner Donnie Beck, Ladies Division winner Pandora Carter, Championship Division winner Ian Locklear and Regular Division winner Lonail Locklear. Not pictured is Senior Division winner Phillip Wallwork.

Photos by Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

11-over-par total after opening with 76 on Saturday. Marty Hunt finished third, eight strokes behind Locklear, after a Sunday 79. Woody Bullard, the first-round leader after a Saturday 75, withdrew from the tournament Sunday.

See DIVISIONS | 3B



Lonail Locklear tees off on the 10th hole during Sunday's round of the Robeson County Golf Championship at Pinecrest Country Club.

Braves football 2nd in CC preseason poll

Staff report

PEMBROKE — A strong showing during the inaugural 2025 Conference Carolinas football season paid dividends for the UNC Pembroke football team as the Braves were picked to finish second with the release of the Conference Carolinas Preseason Coaches Poll on Tuesday. The Black & Gold picked up two first-place votes and a total of 32 points in the poll. North Greenville collected five first-place votes and a total of 35 points as favorites in the league, while Barton rounded out the top three with 25 total points. The preseason coaches poll is voted on by each head coach in the league and coaches are not permitted to vote for their own team. The Conference Carolinas Bowl is scheduled for Saturday, November 14 and will be hosted by the regular season champion. UNCP finished the 2025 season with an 8-3 record and a 5-1 record in conference play. UNCP knocked off a pair of ranked teams during the season and picked up

See FOOTBALL | 4B

Lady Braves add Hayes to coaching staff

Staff report

PEMBROKE — UNC Pembroke Head women's basketball coach Kendra Samuels-Eaton announced the addition of Ashara Hayes to the coaching staff for the 2026-27 season. Hayes will serve as a graduate assistant coach. "We are excited to welcome Ashara to our program. She is a proven winner, joining us from Fayetteville State, where she helped lead the team to back-to-back CIAA championships and a Division II Sweet 16 appearance," said Samuels-Eaton. "Her experience on the court, combined with her ability to connect with players, will be a tremendous asset to our program." Hayes comes to Pembroke after serving as the varsity assistant women's basketball coach at Seventy-First High School in Fayetteville, where she helped lead the Falcons to a 23-3 record and its first regional championship appearance in 13 years. Hayes was responsible for creating scouting reports



Hayes



Samuels-Eaton

See HAYES | 4B

Ryan Fox traveled long road to become Open champion

Doug Ferguson
AP Golf Writer

SOUTHPORT, England — Ryan Fox is the British Open champion, and it's going to take time for that to sink in no matter how many times he watches the replay of a 12-foot birdie putt on the final hole, or how many times he stares at his name on the base of the silver claret jug.

"I don't know if it's something I've dreamed of. I don't know if it's something I ever thought was possible," Fox said after his one-shot victory Sunday. "But we're here now."

It's how he got there that sets him apart from so many other names on golf's oldest trophy.

Never mind the son of All Blacks rugby great Grant Fox didn't play golf competitively until he was 17, or that all he ever wanted was to have a card on any tour. Fox had never finished better than a tie for 16th in 28 majors before arriving at Royal Birkdale.

And to think Fox nearly quit before he even got started.

It was his second year on the PGA Tour of Australasia and Fox was about to lose his card with two events left in the season when he went to the Australian Masters at Royal Melbourne.

"My dad came over and caddied for me, and he

said to me, 'Why do you play this game?' And I said, 'Well, it's supposed to be fun.' But it wasn't really very fun at the time," Fox said Sunday night, the silver claret jug at his side. "He goes, 'Well, let's just go out this week try to have some fun.'"

He did well enough to keep his card, and before long Fox was on his way on a path that culminated with a putt he only imagined in his dreams — a 12-foot birdie, the final shot of the 154th Open, middle of the cup, arms raised, face awash in joy and disbelief.

"Everyone practices on the green — you've got a putt to win a major championship, to win The Open. It's not like that in real life. It's not a very comfortable feeling," Fox said. "It's certainly very enjoyable when you see it go in."

Royal Birkdale now has two Open champions from Down Under. Fox joined Ian Baker-Finch, the Australian who won on these links in 1991 and who was on site this week to promote his book, "To Hell and Back."

It wasn't that way for Fox. He was more of a slow, steady rise. He had three wins on the PGA Tour of Australasia, three more on the European tour (including the BMW PGA Championship) and two wins on the PGA Tour last year that



Ryan Fox poses with the Claret Jug after winning the British Open Sunday at Royal Birkdale Golf Club in Southport, England. David Goldman | AP Photo

included a playoff win over Sam Burns in the Canadian Open, and a playoff chip-in to win the Myrtle Beach Classic.

"Why it's a slow burn? I don't know," Fox said as he contemplated his timeline — European tour rookie at age 30, PGA Tour rookie at age 37, major champion at age 39. He's the oldest first-time major champion since Henrik Stenson was 40 at Royal Troon in 2016.

"If you'd have given me my career up till yesterday when I first turned pro, I would have jumped at it," he said. "Now I probably would have killed people for it."

Fox showed plenty of resiliency in the final round of a British Open

that kept a record crowd guessing until the very end.

He was among four players who had at least a share of the lead, with Scottie Scheffler and Tommy Fleetwood on the fringe of joining the fray at various points. One by one they fell to the side until the target became Cameron Young.

The American had to scramble for bogey on the 18th hole more than two hours earlier, hitting the face of a pot bunker right of the fairway, then nearly holing a bunker shot by the green for par. It added to a 64, the best round of the day. And for the longest time, it looked like it might hold up.

"I gave it everything I had all the way through,"

Young said when he finished. He declined interviews after hearing the roar from the practice range as he warmed up for a potential playoff.

Fox made birdie on four of his last six holes for a 2-under 68. It was a bogey that was just as crucial. He was tied for the lead when his tee shot on the par-3 15th caromed off the top face of a bunker and landed next to the edge of the lip.

He had no shot at the pin, much less the green. He blasted out away from the green and onto the fairway, 45 yards from the hole. He pitched it to 6 feet and made the bogey putt.

"I felt a whole lot better walking off that green making bogey that way than probably even if I'd

have made par," Fox said.

A birdie on the 16th allowed him to catch Young again, and then came the final test. The 18th at Royal Birkdale is so tough only four of the 76 players to that point had made birdie.

A par would put him in a three-hole playoff. A bogey would give the title to Young, who had been runner-up at St. Andrews in 2022 and had another close call at the Masters this year.

Fox was thinking big. "I did say to my caddie Dean (Smith) that we were going to take it on, that I was going to try to win the tournament, and I'd live with the consequences if I stuffed it up," Fox said.

It turned out to be the stuff of major champions.

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ROBESON COUNTY ATHLETIC SPOTLIGHT

RED SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL

XZAVIER SINCLAIR
Baseball

Red Springs rising senior Xzavier Sinclair has been an All-County selection in each of his first three seasons with the Red Devils baseball team. As a junior this spring, the catcher/shortstop/pitcher hit .350 and scored 12 runs at the plate; on the mound, he compiled three wins and struck out 49 batters. He hit .396 as a freshman and .389 as a sophomore for the Red Devils.

LUMBERTON HIGH SCHOOL

GISELLE LEACH
Volleyball, Basketball, Track

Lumberton's Giselle Leach made an impact across three sports in her sophomore year. In track, she was fourth at the 7A state meet in shot put at 36-6.25 after finishing fourth at the 7A East Regional. She was also Robeson County Co-Player of the Year in volleyball, totaling over 300 kills for the Pirates, and averaged 5.5 points and 8.1 rebounds per game on the hardwood.



Photos by Chris Stiles | The Robesonian
Ryan Bass hits his approach on the 14th hole during the final round of the Robeson County Golf Championship Sunday at Pinecrest Country Club.

Title

From page 1B

off,” Bass said. “Congrats to him, but I just didn’t have it; he definitely outplayed me, that’s for sure.”

Behind Locklear at even par, Bass and Pippin finished at 4 over. Scott Benton finished fourth at 5 over, while Ryan Tyson and Mike Chuchacz shared fifth at 6 over.

Bass, a six-time tournament champion, started the day one stroke off the lead and led at the turn after his own front-nine 35. After a bogey at the 10th, he remained within two strokes of Locklear before a double-bogey at the 16th ended his chances. He shot 74.

“Second shot (on 16), all I saw was pine straw, I hit the ball and (there was) a root, I didn’t see the root,” Bass said. “Over there behind the green, it was kind of buried, and I tried not to hit it fat and thinned it. It was just not good.”

Pippin, who shared the lead with Chuchacz entering the final round, shot a 4-over 40 on the front nine. He chipped in for birdie on the 13th and made a 20-footer for birdie at the 14th, but three-putted for bogey on the par-5 15th, finishing with a Sunday 75.

“I didn’t hit the best tee ball, didn’t have a great lie,” Pippin said. “I



Steve Pippin tees off on the 12th hole during the final round of the Robeson County Golf Championship Sunday at Pinecrest Country Club.



Scott Benton hits his approach on the ninth hole during the final round of the Robeson County Golf Championship Sunday at Pinecrest Country Club.

thought about going for (the green in two), but I said, you know what, you just need to play within yourself, get it in position, maybe make birdie. I was in position but I just hit a bad shot and three-putted.”

The three-putt on that green was a microcosm of the weekend, the two-time tournament champion said.

“That was three today, I think I had two yesterday,” Pippin said. “I putted well; it’s just the

long-distance putts on the speed kind of got me. But that’s golf; we all have points in our game that gets us. ... To me, this weekend it was my putting. But I hung in there and tried to put up a respectable score at least. I was happy with how I finished.”

Scott Benton, the defending champion who started the day one stroke behind the co-leaders, was in the hunt for a sixth RCGC title after an even-par 36 on the out-

46TH ANNUAL ROBESON COUNTY GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

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FINAL SCORES

Championship Division

Championship Flight

- 1. Ian Locklear 74-73-69 — 216
- T2. Steve Pippin 74-71-75 — 220
- T2. Ryan Bass 75-71-74 — 220
- Scott Benton 71-75-75 — 221
- Mike Chuchacz 73-72-77 — 222
- Ryan Tyson 74-74-74 — 222
- Jeff Wishart 73-73-75 — 226
- David Lowery Jr. 73-76-78 — 227
- Mack Kenney 71-80-76 — 227
- Logan Locklear 76-75-77 — 228
- Landon Lowry 74-76-81 — 231
- Brad Locklear 75-76-80 — 231

First Flight

- T1. Mark Lassiter 77-75-81 — 233
- T1. Jamie Locklear 75-79-79 — 233
- 3. Gary Walters 77-81-76 — 234
- Colby Allen 73-87-75 — 235
- Daniel Zeng 74-81-81 — 236
- Tommy Britt 78-78-80 — 236
- Ryan Hundley 77-84-79 — 240
- Bobby Campbell 80-80-82 — 242
- Cal Hunt 81-81-81 — 243
- Jason Dial 78-84-89 — 251
- Danny Henderson 70-83-WD
- Justin Britt 80-75-WD

Second Flight

- 1. Ben Collins 87-85-81 — 253
- 2. Brook Gehrke 87-85-83 — 255
- 3. Darren Hunt 85-81-90 — 256
- Chad Martin 84-82-91 — 257
- Kevin Newberry 89-92-83 — 264
- Brian Taylor 88-86-91 — 265
- Raymond Rogers 85-91-91 — 267
- Grant Locklear 87-90-96 — 273
- Kent Locklear 89-90-95 — 274
- Jeff Collins 94-92-100 — 286
- Chandler Laurent 97-100-97 — 294
- Yarnell Locklear 82-WD

Regular Division

First Flight

- 1. Lonail Locklear 77-74 — 151
- 2. Brian Haymore 76-79 — 155

- 3. Marty Hunt 80-79 — 159
- Dawson Brooks 82-78 — 160
- Tyler Leggette 79-82 — 161
- Stoney Stone 79-82 — 161
- Stephen Blackwell 82-83 — 165
- Derrick Bullard 79-89 — 168
- Greg Lane 80-89 — 169
- Bentley Cox 82-89 — 171
- Allan Campbell 82-89 — 171
- Woody Bullard 75-WD

Second Flight

- 1. Junebug Locklear 84-71 — 155
- 2. Travis Mullis 84-76 — 160
- 3. Gavin Locklear 87-76 — 163
- Jaden Freeman 87-78 — 165
- Adrian Lowery 87-78 — 165
- Kendell Hunt 83-85 — 168
- Jason Hunt 85-83 — 168
- Corey Hardin 87-81 — 168
- Grayson Locklear 86-83 — 169
- Randy Chavis Sr. 84-88 — 172
- Collin Sampson 87-85 — 172
- Canyon Jones 87-93 — 180
- Matt Oliver 84-WD

Third Flight

- 1. Justin Strickland 89-82 — 171
- 2. Garrison Locklear 91-88 — 179
- T3. Kevin Chavis 90-92 — 182
- T3. Chip Thorndyke 96-86 — 182
- Ronald Hammonds 94-95 — 189
- Chris Stiles 99-93 — 192
- Randy Chavis Jr. 102-92 — 194
- Bradley Locklear 98-97 — 195
- Austin Bruce 97-102 — 199
- Drew Smith 102-112 — 214

Senior Division

- 1. Phillip Wallwork 78-70 — 148
- 2. Lindsey Locklear 81-82 — 163
- 3. Pete Maynor 81-86 — 167

Super Senior Division

- 1. Donnie Beck 78-82 — 160
- T2. Mark Turner 86-76 — 162
- T2. William Lowry 84-78 — 162
- Larry Lynn Locklear 85-78 — 163
- Ronnie Hunt 86-90 — 176

Ladies Division

- 1. Pandora Carter 99-93 — 192

ward nine. But after the weather delay, he bogeyed the 10th and 11th, and after making a 30-footer to birdie the par-3 12th, he made bogeys on the 16th and 18th to shoot a final-round 75.

Chuchacz shot a front-nine 41 en route to a 77 after sharing the 36-hole lead, while Tyson shot 74 for the third straight day.

Jeff Wishart finished seventh at 10 over par after a final-round 75; David Lowery Jr., who shot 78, and Mack Kenney, 76, shared eighth at an 11-over total. Logan Locklear, nephew of Ian Locklear, shot 77 and finished 10th at 12 over.

Ian Locklear’s front nine featured a birdie on the opening hole before he “grinded” the rest of the side, playing the next eight holes in even par including a 25-foot par save at the ninth.

That grind was an overall theme for the week, with even par as the winning score, the second time in recent history that no one has finished under par in the championship, joining the 2024 event.

“Just staying patient was the name of the game, survival of the fittest,” said Ian Locklear, who was 5 over par for the championship after nine holes of Saturday’s

round. “We kept saying that yesterday, we almost considered quitting after the first nine of the second round. I’m glad we didn’t, I’m glad we stuck it out.”

Mark Lassiter and Jamie Locklear shared the first-flight title with a score of 233, with Gary Walters third in flight one stroke behind.

Ben Collins won the second flight at 253, two strokes ahead of runner-up Brook Gehrke and three ahead of third-place Darren Hunt.

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

Divisions

From page 1B

Junebug Locklear shot a 1-under 71 on Sunday to win the Regular Division’s second flight. He improved 13 strokes from Saturday’s score and shot a two-round total of 155. Travis Mullis finished second in the flight and Gavin Locklear took third, at 160 and 163, respectively, after each shot 76 on Sunday.

Justin Strickland won the third flight at 171 after a Sunday 82, eight strokes ahead of second-place Garrison Locklear. Kevin Chavis and Chip Thorndyke tied for third, 11 strokes behind Strickland.

Wallwork wins Senior Division

Phillip Wallwork shot a 2-under-par 70 on Sunday and cruised to the Senior Division title, his first since 2016.

Wallwork improved eight strokes from Saturday’s 78, and won by 15 strokes over runner-up Lindsey Locklear, the father of Championship Division winner Ian Locklear. Lindsey Locklear shot 82 on Sunday.

Pete Maynor finished in third, four behind Lindsey Locklear and 19 behind Wallwork, with a final-round 86.



Photos by Chris Stiles | The Robesonian
Phillip Wallwork tees off on the 10th hole during Sunday’s round of the Robeson County Golf Championship at Pinecrest Country Club.

Carter wins Ladies title

Pandora Carter was, in essence, competing against herself during the Robeson County Golf Championship, as the only participant in this year’s Ladies Division.

“It’s not as much fun (as the only player), because you don’t try as hard, you just relax and try to improve your game some out there. But I enjoyed playing with the guys today,” Carter said. After a 99 on Saturday, Carter shot a 93 on Sunday.

This marks her fourth Ladies Division championship, dating back to 2018.

She hopes to see more participants in the Ladies Division in future years.

“Maybe, hopefully. I

know some of the college students played last year and none of them played this year,” Carter said. “But hopefully some other golfers will come out and play more.”

Beck wins Super Senior title

Donnie Beck joked Saturday that his original goal for the Robeson County Golf Championship Super Senior Division was a top-five finish — then showed up for the tournament Friday to find only five competitors in the division.

He didn’t play well on Saturday, he said, but the seven-stroke lead he’d built after Friday’s round was enough to earn the division title.

Beck shot rounds of 78 and 82, finishing two



Donnie Beck tees off on the 18th hole during Saturday’s round of the Robeson County Golf Championship at Pinecrest Country Club.

strokes ahead of runners-up Mark Turner and William Lowry.

“I had been playing good; I didn’t play real good, and obviously nobody else played real good,” Beck said. “I’m happy. I played terrible today, but the card’s in the right spot.”

Beck made one birdie in Saturday’s round, on the par-5 sixth. His round also included a triple-bogey on the ninth and a double bogey on the 12th.

Beck won the Senior Division title in 2014 and the Super Senior title in 2018 and 2019.

“That’s just my fourth,” Beck said. “It might be my last, but I’m happy about the four times I’ve won.”

Turner improved by



Pandora Carter hits her approach on the 15th hole during Sunday’s round of the Robeson County Golf Championship at Pinecrest Country Club.

10 strokes from Friday, from 86 to 76, shooting 38 on both nines Saturday. Lowry showed a six-stroke improvement, following a Friday 84 with a Saturday 78 to join Turner in the runner-up spot; he shot 37 on the

back nine Saturday.

Larry Lynn Locklear, division winner three of the last four years, finished fourth, three strokes behind Beck.

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

Hayes

From page 1B

and leading skill development workouts, team conditioning sessions, and weight training. Prior to her time at Seventy-First High School, Hayes was a four-year player at Fayetteville State, where she was a part of back-to-back CIAA Championship teams while helping lead the Broncos to a 29-3 record and a berth in the Division II Sweet 16.

“First, I want to thank God for this incredible opportunity, as well as Coach Kendra, the coaching staff, and my entire support system for believing in me,” said Hayes. “Joining the UNCP women’s basketball program is a true blessing. I am incredibly excited to learn from this staff, compete for championships, and, most importantly, make a meaningful impact on our players’ lives both on and off the court.”

Football

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their own national ranking as high as 19 last year. The Braves played North Greenville in the inaugural Conference Carolinas Bowl last season.

The Braves will officially begin the 2026 season on August 27 when they host Wingate at 6 p.m. at Grace P. Johnson Stadium for Military Appreciation Night. The Black & Gold will play their first conference game on Sept. 12 when they travel to Shorter.

UNCP will play its first home conference game on Oct. 3 when they host North Greenville for Education & Service Day. Kickoff is set for 1 p.m.

Spain beats Argentina for World Cup title

Tim Reynolds
AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — This is how good Spain was at the World Cup: Not even Lionel Messi had any answers.

And when it was over, Spain walked off with the trophy. Messi simply walked off in tears.

Spain is back atop the soccer world for a second time, after Ferran Torres’ first goal of this year’s World Cup — unquestionably the goal of his life — gave his country a 1-0 win over now-dethroned champion Argentina in the final on Sunday.

“It was a goal scored by 47 million people,” Torres said, referring to Spain’s population.

Maybe not by them — but certainly for them.

The goal came with Argentina down to 10 men after Enzo Fernandez was sent off late in regulation following a reckless tackle. Tempers flared then, and flared again after the final whistle with Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni and players from both sides engaging in what appeared to be some pushing and shoving.

In the end, Spain denied Messi a second straight title in what he has indicated was his final World Cup match. Torres, a second-half substitute, pounced on a bouncing ball in the box and used his left foot to bury a shot just under the crossbar in the 106th minute.

From there, the airtight defense that dominated opponents throughout the tournament came through one final time. Spain — which also won the title in 2010 —

allowed only one goal in eight matches in this World Cup run, setting a record for fewest goals allowed by a champion.

“I feel pride, to be honest,” said Spain coach Luis de la Fuente, who at 65 is now the oldest man to lead a team to a World Cup title. “Accompanying them on this journey is an honor.”

Spain gets a World Cup 1st

This title, combined with the Women’s World Cup won by Spain in 2023, makes the European nation the first to hold both the men’s and women’s titles simultaneously. And in the streets of Madrid — probably many other places in Spain as well — countless people spilled into the streets, celebrating Sunday’s victory long into the wee hours of Monday morning.

The score indicates this match was close, but only one team was in command.

Spain took the game’s first 20 shots on goal before Argentina — desperate for an equalizer — got its first attempt off in the second half of extra time. Spain took nine of the game’s first 10 corner kicks, and only a World Cup final-record 12 saves by Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez gave the 2022 champions a shot at going back-to-back.

“Dibu was nothing short of exceptional,” de la Fuente said, referring to Argentina’s keeper by his nickname.

Spain is now unbeaten in its last 38 matches — 29 wins, nine draws — and is the outright holder of the longest such streak by any European men’s

team ever. Italy went 37 matches (28 wins, nine draws) from October 2018 through September 2021, before Spain ended that streak.

And for the last two-plus years, nobody has beaten Spain. Not even Messi. An Argentina team that was the kings of the late-game rally in this tournament had no answer this time.

“We lost the game, and we accept that,” Scaloni said. “That doesn’t mean that we will forget everything we’ve done so far, so I’d like to thank my people, my players and the country. I can tell them that we played our hearts out.”

Spain survives a late push

Messi took a corner kick with about four minutes left before the final whistle and the ball took a fortunate skip toward substitute Giuliano Simeone — who sent it high and over the crossbar, holding his head in disbelief afterward.

“When you have Messi on the other side, well, you are nervous,” Torres said. “At the end of the day, we always depended on us. We always come up with our football, and we showed it again.”

After the post-match scuffles, they also paid tribute to the former champions. Spain’s players lined up to form an honor guard of sorts for Argentina’s squad to walk through on its way to the stage for the runner-up medals from President Donald Trump and FIFA President Gianni Infantino.

“I think now I’m in a cloud,” said Spain midfielder Rodri, the Golden Ball winner as the tournament’s best player.

Argentina was forced to finish the match down a man after Fernandez was sent off in second-half stoppage time after getting his second yellow card. Fernandez was whistled for a collision that sent Spain defender Pau Cubarsi cartwheeling into the air, and the card came out immediately.

Defense led Spain to a title

It was the 104th and last match of the biggest World Cup ever,



Ashley Landis | AP Photo
Spain’s Ferran Torres celebrates with the trophy after winning the World Cup final soccer match between Spain and Argentina Sunday in East Rutherford, N.J., near New York.

a 48-team event that played out over the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Because there were more matches than any previous World Cup, it was no surprise that there were more goals than all other editions — more than 300, nearly three per match.

Except, of course, when Spain was involved. Spain’s plan was simple and flawless: Hold the ball as much as possible, denying opponents any hint of chances.

It worked, all the way to the end.

Messi is 39 and the math certainly suggests that the Inter Miami star is at the end of his international career. There have been hints — such as Messi himself declaring that a home World Cup qualifying match against Venezuela last year would be his final competitive contest for Argentina on his nation’s soil.

“I experienced a lot of things on this pitch, good and not so good,” Messi said that night. “I’ll take the good with me.”

He retired from the national team after losing a Copa America final to Chile — in the same stadium he played in Sunday — a decade ago, then came back a few weeks later after changing his mind.

Good thing he did, because in that decade he went from superstar to absolute icon.

There was the World Cup title in 2022. There were two Copa America titles, the first in 2021 and the second in 2024. He won Argentina’s player of the year award 16 times in a span of 19 years, first winning it as a teenager and continuing to win it all

the way into his late 30s.

He’s a legend within the game and on all corners of the globe. But Spain was better Sunday.

“I spoke to my players, and they said: ‘Look, we’ve won everything, coach. We’ve won everything,’” de la Fuente said. “And that is beautiful.”

A final unlike any other

The spectacle was not limited to simply soccer. Madonna, Justin Bieber, BTS and Shakira were all part of a halftime show that also featured Burna Boy, Jason Sudeikis in character as “Ted Lasso” and even some of the Muppets. Jennifer Hudson, Post Malone and Tom Cruise had roles in the closing ceremony, which actually preceded the match.

A slew of actors, athletes and other celebrities were there: Spain’s Javier Bardem left happy, Luciana Barroso Damon — the wife of actor Matt Damon — probably did not, considering she was wearing the colors of her native Argentina.

They all came to see a show. So did 80,000 other people, not to mention perhaps as many as 2 billion watching around the globe.

Spain didn’t disappoint. No team has won back-to-back men’s World Cups since Brazil in 1958 and 1962, and Spain kept Argentina from pulling off that repeat.

“As I told the lads before the game, we have to go for the game, we need to face them, we have to look to their eyes and say we want this game,” Rodri said. “And then, life gives you the World Cup or not.”

Spain took it instead.

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