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THE ROBESONIAN

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A Fresh Perspective

Local
NEWS

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Duke Energy reduces proposed rate increase, state officials still push back

Chris Stiles
The Robesonian

RALEIGH — As Duke Energy seeks approval from the North Carolina Utilities Commission for a proposed rate increase, it has reached an agreement with North Carolina Public Staff and other shareholders to reduce the proposed increase. But state officials, including Attorney General Jeff Jackson, are continuing to push for even lower rates, saying that the proposed increase still remains too high.

Duke Energy has reduced its proposal twice, with its initial proposal for an 18% rate increase and its newest proposal for an increase of about 9.5% for residential consumers. Jackson says that rate increase is still too large a burden on Duke's customers, and has refused to join in the proposed settlement. NCUC is set to decide in the coming weeks whether or not to improve the rate proposal, which would take effect on Jan. 1, 2027.

"Duke started this case asking families for an 18% increase. We pushed back, and now its own filing shows

9.5%," said Jackson. "That is movement in the right direction, but it is still too high. We are not joining this deal, and we will keep pushing for lower rates."

According to a press release from Jackson's office, Duke has said that the settlement would result in an average annual increase of 3.7% over two years,

or about 7.4% overall. That rate, however, is an average of all Duke Energy customers, including industrial clients, and Duke's own filings show that residential customers will actually see a 9.5% rate increase.

"We've agreed to reduce rates even more than in our prior settlements, while still allowing us to make vital infrastructure investments to meet existing and future customer needs," said Kendal Bowman, Duke Energy's North Carolina president. "Our duty is to protect reliability at the lowest possible cost, and we believe this agreement achieves that balance."

Duke has also agreed to lower its return on equity, which is the profit rate it is allowed to earn, from an original

See DUKE | 8A



Jackson



Bowman



Lumbee Tribe General Counsel Joshua Malcolm, right, presents a draft ordinance on tribal gaming to the Lumbee Tribal Council's Constitutional & Ordinance Committee during Monday's meeting in Pembroke.

Chris Stiles | The Robesonian

Tribal committee presented new gaming ordinance draft

Chris Stiles
The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — Joshua Malcolm, the Lumbee Tribe's general counsel, presented a draft of a gaming ordinance to the Tribal Council's Constitu-

tion & Ordinance Committee during its monthly meeting on Monday, in what Malcolm called "a very introductory conversation."

The draft — which Malcolm and committee chair Rudy Locklear each

stressed is a working document intended to be revised — laid out how the organization and regulation of gaming operations could look should the Tribal public approve gaming in the future.

After the Tribal popula-

tion voted no on June 23 on a constitutional amendment to authorize and regulate gaming, Tribal Council voted on June 25 to authorize Malcolm to investigate what

See GAMING | 9A



Michele Chavis | The Robesonian

Former Red Springs Police Chief Antionette Locklear-Hurtt speaks during Monday's Concerned Citizens for a Better Red Springs meeting.

Locklear-Hurtt speaks on departure

Michele Chavis
The Robesonian

RED SPRINGS — "If the powers that be above were to make the right decisions, I would come back to serve you, the people," said Antionette Locklear-Hurtt.

It was standing room only at Monday's Concerned Citizens for a Better Red Springs meeting as the former police chief explained that a resignation instead of a termination left her the ability to be rehired. She went on to discuss the difficulties that she had been hav-

ing in her communication with the town manager, Shanelle Harris.

Locklear-Hurtt said that Harris had taken issue with everything from a podcast down to the color that the police cars had been changed to and had openly stated, "I want her gone." In lieu of being forced out of her position before her six-month probationary period was up, Locklear-Hurtt made the decision on June 12 to resign instead, leaving her eligible for rehire should the town request her

See HURTT | 9A



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TODAY'S FORECAST

91/66 – Partly sunny

A NEWS

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B SPORTS

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

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



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UNCP's Thomas Entrepreneurship HUB launches GrowthWorks program for entrepreneurs

Mark Locklear
For The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — UNC Pembroke's Thomas Entrepreneurship HUB is accepting registrations for GrowthWorks, a 12-week hybrid entrepreneurship program designed to help aspiring

and early-stage business owners develop the knowledge and skills needed to launch and grow successful businesses.

The program combines the nationally recognized Kauffman FastTrac online entrepreneurship curriculum with self-paced online

learning, workshops, one-on-one business coaching and networking opportunities through the HUB's Founders' Circle.

The program begins on Sept. 8. Participants who register by Aug. 20 will receive the early registration rate of \$99. After Aug. 20, registration is

\$149. The program is free for UNCP students with a valid Banner ID. Participants can register online.

"GrowthWorks is designed for anyone with a business idea or existing business who wants to gain the tools

See HUB | 3A

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DEATH NOTICES

ESTHER MAE PARKER PREVATT

With heartfelt sorrow, the family of Esther Mae Parker Prevatt, age 83, announces her passing on July 24, 2026.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Bryan-Lee Funeral Home in Garner. The funeral service will follow on Thursday at 1 p.m. at Garner Church in Garner. <http://garner-church.com/give>



Photo courtesy of the Carolina Civic Center

Auditions are scheduled for the 15th annual Robeson County Christmas Show at the Carolina Civic Center & Historic Theater in downtown Lumberton.

Auditions scheduled for Robeson County Christmas Show

Staff report

LUMBERTON — It's the most wonderful time of the year! Audition for the 15th annual Robeson County Christmas Show and become part of one of Robeson County's most beloved holiday traditions.

The Carolina Civic Center is seeking talented performers to join the cast of the show.

This year's auditions include:

- Kids Ensemble (singers and dancers)
- The Civettes (featured female dance ensemble)
- One featured male dancer

Auditions will be held at the Carolina Civic Center & Historic Theater at 315 North Chestnut Street in Lumberton. For more information call 910-738-4339 or email jonathan@carolinaciviccenter.com.

Kids Ensemble (singers and dancers)

Kids Ensemble auditions will be held Friday, Aug. 14 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Civic Center is seeking enthusiastic young performers who love to sing, dance and perform. Please prepare

a Christmas song or another selection that best showcases your voice. All Kids Ensemble auditionees should be prepared to sing, even if they are only interested in dancing.

The Civettes & featured male dancer

Auditions for The Civettes and one featured male dancer will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 16.

The Civic Center is seeking exceptional dancers with strong technique, stage presence and performance quality to join the high-energy production. The Civettes are the show's featured female dance ensemble, and this season we are also casting one featured male dancer for multiple production numbers throughout the show. Be prepared to dance.

Callbacks

Potential callbacks are scheduled for Monday, Aug. 17.

Selected performers will be invited to callbacks. Be prepared to dance.

Dance auditions for the Kids Ensemble will take place during callbacks by invitation only.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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.

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.

National Thrift Shop Day, Aug. 20, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Repeat Performance Thrift Shop will celebrate National Thrift Shop Day on Thursday, Aug. 20. Light refreshments will be served from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The store is located at 208 North Chestnut Street in downtown Lumberton.

ONGOING

Robeson County Farmers 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.

Biggs promoted to VFW department commander

Staff report

LUMBERTON —Mickey Joe Biggs has been promoted to Department Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

Biggs is a respected public safety leader, educator, military veteran and community servant whose career spans more than four decades. His work has combined law enforcement leadership, criminal justice education, workforce development and veterans advocacy in service to North Carolina and its citizens.

Before this promotion, Biggs served as Senior Vice Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Department of North Carolina, the organization's second-highest elected office. He provides leadership and oversight for 17 districts and 120 posts representing more than 21,000 members statewide and has earned both All-American and All-State recognition for his service.

A lifelong public safety professional, Biggs served as Director of Law Enforcement Training and Department Chair for Criminal Justice at Robeson Community College, where he led state-certified training programs, supervised faculty and instructors and helped prepare the next generation of law enforcement officers.

He was named Robeson Community College Faculty of the Year in 2017-18. He also served with the North Carolina Community College System as Workforce Development Training Specialist for Public



Biggs

Safety and previously supervised insurance fraud investigations across eastern North Carolina for the North Carolina Department of Insurance. Both roles strengthened public safety training, compliance, and investigative effectiveness statewide.

The foundation of Biggs' career was a distinguished 25-year tenure with the Lumberton Police Department. Rising through the ranks to senior lieutenant, he held leadership positions in administration, training, SWAT operations, criminal investigations, major crimes, narcotics enforcement and professional standards.

In addition to his leadership roles, Biggs spent decades teaching criminal justice and Basic Law Enforcement Training courses, mentoring thousands of public safety professionals throughout North Carolina.

A United States Navy veteran, Biggs served as an Operations Specialist Second Class aboard the USS Constellation (CV-64), supporting carrier battle group operations during deployments throughout the Western Pacific, Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf.

Biggs earned a master of public administration and a bachelor of arts in criminal justice from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, as well as an associate of applied science in criminal justice and protective service technology from Bladen Community College. His career reflects a lasting commitment to leadership, public service and professional excellence.

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MOVE IN SPECIAL

UNCP’s Mulvaney appointed to State Board of Education Task Force

Mark Locklear
For The Robesonian

PEMBROKE — Tracy Mulvaney, dean of the School of Education at UNC Pembroke, has been appointed to the State Board of Education’s Task Force on Educator Licensure and Advancement, a statewide initiative charged with strengthening how North Carolina prepares, licenses and supports educators throughout their careers.

Established as part of State Superintendent Mo Green’s Achieving Educational Excellence Strategic Plan, the task force will examine how North Carolina licenses, develops and advances educators. Its recommendations will help shape future State Board of Education advocacy and legislative recommendations aimed at ensuring every student has access to highly effective teachers.

Mulvaney said the appointment is an opportunity to help address one of education’s most pressing challenges.

“This is an opportunity to contribute to meaningful conversations about strengthening the educator pipeline and ensuring North Carolina students have access to highly prepared and effective teachers in every community,” Mulvaney said. “UNCP has

a long history of preparing educators who make a lasting difference in schools across our state and region. I look forward to bringing the perspectives of our faculty, teacher candidates, school partners and communities to this important work.”

Provost Diane Prusank said Mulvaney’s appointment reflects her expertise in educator preparation and UNCP’s leadership in developing teachers for North Carolina’s classrooms.

“Dr. Mulvaney’s appointment to the state task force is a well-deserved recognition of her expertise, leadership and unwavering commitment to strengthening the educator workforce,” Prusank said. “Having served as a special education teacher, school principal and now dean of UNCP’s School of Education, she understands educator preparation from every perspective. Her experience in educator preparation and her collaborative approach to leadership will bring valuable insight to this important statewide initiative while reflecting UNCP’s commitment to advancing excellence in education.”

UNCP offers undergraduate, graduate and licensure programs that prepare teachers,



Mulvaney

counselors and school leaders for classrooms across North Carolina. Programs span elementary, middle grades, secondary and special education, along with graduate programs in educational leadership, school administration and school counseling. The School of Education partners with districts across the state to prepare educators who serve communities ranging from rural counties to urban school systems.

North Carolina, like many states across the nation, continues to face teacher shortages, making the work of the task force especially significant.

“This task force will explore better ways to prepare and support highly effective teachers for our schools while strengthening both traditional and alternative pathways into the profession,” Mulvaney said. “Ultimately, our goal is to ensure students across North Carolina have access to outstanding educators.”

Mulvaney said UNCP’s history of serving rural, Indigenous and historically underserved communities gives the university an important perspective in statewide discussions.

“UNCP has always

been deeply connected to the needs of our region,” she said. “By participating in this task force, we can help shape recommendations that strengthen the teaching profession statewide while ensuring rural communities and historically underserved populations have access to the high-quality educators they deserve.”

Mulvaney added that the university’s expanding online graduate programs provide insight into the needs of school districts across North Carolina.

“This work will allow me to collaborate with education leaders from across the state while bringing back a deeper understanding of North Carolina’s workforce needs,” she said. “Together, we can identify innovative solutions that strengthen the educator pipeline and better serve students in every community.”

The task force will begin meeting in September and continue through spring 2027, with members participating in a series of virtual and in-person sessions to develop recommendations for the State Board of Education.

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

Hub

From page 1A

and confidence needed to succeed,” said Beth Wilkerson, executive director of the Thomas Entrepreneurship HUB. “Whether someone is just beginning to explore entrepreneurship or looking to strengthen an existing business, this program provides practical guidance every step of the way.”

GrowthWorks is open to participants regardless of where they live. While much of the coursework is completed online, participants may also elect to attend in-person sessions at the Thomas Entrepreneurship HUB at 202 Main Street in Pembroke.

Kauffman FastTrac is an entrepreneurship curriculum that equips aspiring and early-stage entrepreneurs with practical skills to launch, manage and grow successful businesses. Participants complete approximately 30 to 40 hours of coursework over 12 weeks, averaging three hours per week.

Throughout the program, participants explore topics including entrepreneurial mindset, business planning, marketing research, identifying target customers, pricing strategies, financial planning, legal considerations, intellectual property, team building and developing a business plan.

“The curriculum provides an excellent foundation, but what makes GrowthWorks unique is the personalized support participants receive throughout the

program,” Wilkerson said. “In addition to the online modules, participants have access to one-on-one business counseling and guest speakers from the entrepreneurial community and UNCP Thomas College of Business and Economics.”

Entrepreneurs, business professionals and faculty lead workshops and provide feedback as participants complete assignments designed to help refine business ideas and develop strategies for long-term success.

The program’s flexible format makes it especially appealing to working professionals and students.

“The self-paced structure allows participants to learn on their own schedule while still benefiting from synchronous live workshops, coaching and networking opportunities,” she said.

Wilkerson said providing affordable entrepreneurial resources is especially important in southeastern North Carolina, where many small businesses face limited access to the targeted professional business support.

“Small businesses are the backbone of our local economy,” Wilkerson said. “Our goal is to help entrepreneurs turn their ideas into successful businesses, create jobs and strengthen communities throughout our region.”

For more information or to register for GrowthWorks, contact the Thomas Entrepreneurship HUB or visit the HUB’s website at thethomashub.org.

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

Purnell Swett FFA members attend Washington Leadership Conference



Photo courtesy of PSRC
Purnell Swett FFA students attended the organization’s Washington Leadership Conference earlier this month.

Jessica Sealey
For The Robesonian

WASHINGTON — Purnell Swett FFA members recently attended the National FFA Organization’s Washington Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., and returned home inspired and eager to serve their community.

Purnell Swett FFA Chapter members Mackenzie Locklear, Aria Clark and Abigail Moore were among students from chapters across the nation to attend the conference from July 7-11. FFA members from various chapters across the nation spent the week learning from agricultural experts, leadership professionals, and FFA staff who led them through a variety of workshops, seminars,

small-group activities, and tours of national landmarks — including the National Mall, the National Archives, the Smithsonian Museums and the U.S. Capitol. Each day centered on a core principle — exploration, encouragement, advocacy, or service — brought to life through experiences in the heart of our nation’s capital.

“Attending WLC helped me learn important leadership and communication skills that I can use in the future. Even though I was only there for a week, I made great memories and met amazing people from all across the country. I am very thankful for the opportunity to attend WLC because it helped me become a better leader, step outside my comfort zone, and grow as a person,” PSHS FFA

member Aria Clark said.

The four-day session provided FFA members with a valuable opportunity to strengthen their leadership abilities. It is the second-largest student event hosted by the National FFA each year, surpassed only by the National FFA Convention and Expo, which attracts over 70,000 attendees.

A key highlight of the conference is the creation of a Living to Serve Plan — a civic engagement initiative that participants design and carry out in their local communities after the event. In preparation for this project, members assessed the specific needs of their communities before attending the Washington Leadership Conference (WLC). Once back home, students are encouraged to work with their FFA chapter advisers

to bring their plans to life.

“WLC was a great opportunity for our students to grow, meet new people from across the country, and see leadership in a different way. I was proud to watch them become more confident throughout the week and start thinking about how they can bring what they learned back to our chapter,” said Purnell Swett FFA Adviser Taleek Harlee.

The National FFA Organization is a school-based national youth leadership development organization of more than 945,000 student members as part of 9,163 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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

FROM THE LEGISLATURE

Budd helps lead bill to strengthen U.S. leadership in civil nuclear energy

WASHINGTON — Last week, U.S. Sens. Ted Budd (R-N.C.) and Chris Coons (D-Del.) introduced the Foundational Infrastructure for Responsible Use of Small Modular Reactor Technology (FIRST) Act to codify the U.S. State Department’s FIRST program advocating for the responsible deployment of civil nuclear energy around the world.

The bipartisan bill would ensure that U.S. economic and national security interests are prioritized as we advance our nuclear industry and continue supporting the partnerships American companies have with other countries working to expand their nuclear energy programs.

“The responsible development of civil nuclear energy, on an international scale, contributes to U.S. national security and bolsters our economy,” Budd said. “The FIRST program has been a productive way for our nation to partner with good-faith actors who are building their nuclear arsenals, and continuing to leverage these public and private partnerships will help us advance our own energy dominance. Since North Carolina is a leader in next-generation nuclear technology, I am proud to partner with Senator Coons to bring this bipartisan solution forward and codify this program that will expand markets for our great innovators into law,” said

Senator Budd.

Launched in 2019, the State Department’s FIRST program is a multiagency initiative that leverages public-private partnerships to strengthen U.S. leadership in civil nuclear energy. Through engagement with more than 50 partner countries seeking to deploy advanced nuclear technologies, including small modular reactors (SMRs), the program supports the development of civilian nuclear power programs that adhere to the highest international standards for nuclear security, safety, and non-proliferation.



Budd

Budd chairs hearing to examine U.S. competition with China in science and technology

Last week, Budd chaired a hearing in the Senate Subcommittee on Science, Manufacturing, and Competitiveness yesterday entitled Measuring What Matters: Science, Standards, and Strategic Competition to discuss how the U.S. can more strategically align our scientific research, federal science agencies and assets, and the private sector to compete with China.

In his opening statement, Senator Budd emphasized three priorities to pave the way

for stronger American competition: prioritizing outcome-based metrics, streamlining our world-class science agencies, and identifying Chinese intellectual property theft undermining our national security.

“First, we need to better prioritize outcome-based metrics as a gauge of impact and competitiveness,” Budd said. “Influencing international standards, leading in high-impact research and measuring technology adoption and diffusion are paramount. Additionally, evaluating the strength of public-private partnerships and instances of industry funding university research could signal which lines of applied

research are most valuable and making the greatest impact.

“Second, this committee should look at ways to streamline, focus, and improve agencies under its jurisdiction, like the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the National Science Foundation. Dr. Copan, during your time as NIST Director, you authored an important 3 white paper titled, ‘Return on Investment Initiative for Unleashing American Innovation,’ which recommended improving tech transfer, strengthening R&D partnerships with the private sector, and improving access to federal R&D assets for businesses.

HIS VIEW

And that’s the way it is

For nineteen years up to March 6, 1981, Walter Cronkite ended each CBS Evening News with his classic statement “And that’s the way it is.” And that was the way the news of those days actually was for everyone. Solid reporting from the fields was double and triple-checked. And if a rare case of erroneous reporting did occur, it was corrected the next day and the field reporter might be fired.



John Richard Schrock
Contributing columnist

In today’s age of rapidly expanding AI, that sign off now more likely delivered on personal screens, could sound similar: “And that’s the way it is” — but JUST FOR YOU. The “way it is” will be different for every one of up to the 349,035,494 Americans receiving the news that day. We already suffer from the personal online tracking that has rapidly arisen in the last few years. Order something online, or speak of wanting to buy it in the presence of your “smart speaker” and you immediately receive advertisements for the products. Tracking of your location, your purchases and other personal actions is accelerating at a massive rate. It is one major driver for expanding “the cloud.”

In some cases, the new ability to use this technology can be a good service. Various apps allow you to keep track of your child via is/her cell phone location. Some insurance companies offer lower rates if you install a speed-tracking device that records how you drive safely and do not speed, etc. And there are some science and math calculations that can now be done more rapidly using AI.

But for every positive feature, there are a rapidly expanding number of new features that invade our privacy, feeding a huge amount of information to data centers that in turn sell your unique desires, behaviors and much more to industries ready to pay money to expand their sales and services to unique individuals. In a very short time, every American citizen who possesses a cell phone or accesses the internet will have a huge portfolio that makes them each different from the other 349 million Americans.

Watching television programs whenever we want is driving the medium to streaming and that is expanding to also provide listeners with just what they want to hear and anytime they want to hear it. And that anytime-we-want ability is also a data center storage function.

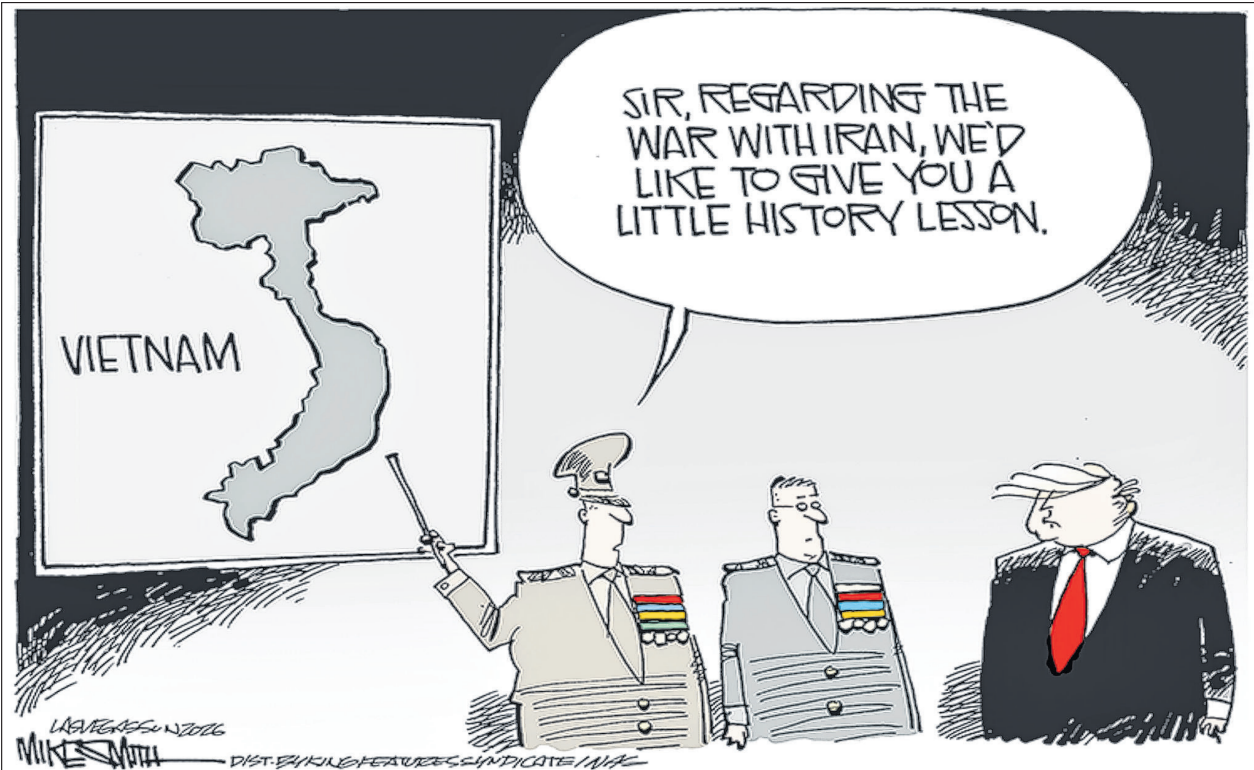
Data center proponents pitch how their proposed AI data centers (requiring huge new power grids) will provide economic development and tax income for local communities. Opponents bring up air and noise pollution and huge electricity demand. But the far greater danger being overlooked is the fact that the big corporations that will pay the data centers for the greatly expanded tracking of individual customers will in turn recover that cost in increased costs for the various products and services the public buys due to the individualized marketing the companies bought from the data centers.

The European Union has placed some limitations on the online tracking conducted by major U.S. internet services. But the country most active in preserving their expanding energy supplies for the service of their people, and not big business, is China. Real cryptocurrencies consume huge amounts of electric energy to generate cryptocoins. China rapidly made cryptocurrency — a major currency used by criminals — illegal in China. China continues their grid expansion with clean energy to serve the needs of their people, not criminals and rich corporations.

While the U.S. and China are portrayed as being in a race for superior AI capabilities, the U.S. is attempting to make all of our AI advancements private property, energy intensive and restricted. Meanwhile, China is releasing AI programs such as DeepSeek, Alibaba’s Qwen3.8 and Kimi K3 as “open-weight models” available free online and able to be downloaded and specialized for many different uses. They are also less intense users of electricity. At the World AI Conference recently held in Shanghai, 28 countries signed on to China’s proposal of “inclusive” AI “for all.”

The 1920’s song about how “the rich get richer and the poor get poorer” mainly plays in America.

John Richard Schrock, is a Roe R. Cross distinguished professor and biology professor emeritus at Emporia State University, Kansas. Contact him at 785-864-4530.



CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF ROBESON COUNTY

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

- John Cantey Jr., Precinct 5, jcan-tey@ci.lumberton.nc.us
 - Alfred Douglas, Precinct 6, alfred.douglas@ci.lumberton.nc.us
 - Eric Chavis, Precinct 7, echa-vis@ci.lumberton.nc.us
 - Owen Thomas, Precinct 8, otho-mas@ci.lumberton.nc.us
- ROBESON COUNTY**
- Wixie Stephens, Dist. 1, 910-733-4770, district1@co.robeson.nc.us.
 - Pauline Campbell, Dist. 2, 910-734-3024, pauline.campbell@co.robeson.nc.us. .
 - John Cummings, Dist. 3, 910-734-9604, district3@co.robeson.nc.us.
 - Faline Locklear Dial, Vice Chair-man, Dist. 4, 910-827-1005, falin-edial907@gmail.com.
 - Judy Sampson, Dist. 5, 910-374-8939, judy5rcc@gmail.com.
 - David Edge, Chairman, Dist. 6, 910-258-1166, dedge53@yahoo.com
 - Tom Taylor, Dist. 7, 910-608-9167, district7@co.robeson.nc.us
 - Lance Herndon, Dist. 8, 910-733-5472.
- NORTH CAROLINA (State Offices)**
- Sen. Danny Earl Britt Jr., R-Dist. 24 (Hoke, Robeson, Scotland), 300 N. Salisbury St., Room 525, Raleigh, NC 27603, 919-733-5651.
 - Rep. John Lowery, R-Dist. 47 (Robeson), 300 N. Salisbury Street, 306B2, Raleigh, NC 27603-

- 5925, 919-715-0875, John.Lowery@ncleg.gov.
 - Rep. Brenden H. Jones, R-Dist. 46 (Robeson, Columbus), 16 W. Jones St., Room 1227, Raleigh, NC 27601-1096, 919-733-5821 or 919-733-5821.
- UNITED STATES (Federal Offices)**
- U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., 310 New Bern Ave. Suite 122, Raleigh, NC 27601, 919-856-4630, or 113 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, 202-224-6342
 - U.S. Sen. Ted Budd, R-N.C., B85 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3154.
 - U.S. Rep. Mark Harris. R-N.C., 8th Dist., 126 Cannon House Office Building, 202-225-1976
 - U.S. Rep. David Rouzer, R-N.C., 7th Dist., 2333 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, 202-225-2731.
 - U.S. Pres. Donald Trump, 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

Free markets can promote affordability

RALEIGH — If formal surveys and social-media tracking offer useful signals — flawed as they may be, they’re superior to motivated reasoning or rank speculation — affordability tops the priority list for those most likely to cast ballots this fall.

Voters are particularly concerned about the costs of housing, energy, groceries, health care and child care. They worry that whatever wage or income gains they receive over the next few years will be more than outpaced by rising prices. They fret that when their children or grandchildren reach adulthood, their living expenses and quality of life will be materially worse than what they experienced at the same age.

Some of these concerns are overblown. Despite the rampant inflation of the COVID era, Americans as a whole are better off today than past generations were. Today’s Millennials and Generation Z aren’t poorer than my fellow Gen-Xers and I were in the 1980s and 1990s. During most of my lifetime, progressives claimed “the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer.” Their claim was erroneous, although in most cases mistakenly rather than misleadingly so.

There’s no guarantee these generally favorable trends will continue into the 2030s, however. Artificial intelligence may prove more disruptive to labor markets than past technologies revolutions were, at least in the short run. Federal debt has shot past 100% of gross domestic product and will reach unprecedented heights over the next two decades, putting upward pressure on interest rates and possibly leading to economically ruinous tax increases. And while poverty has never been rarer than it is now — most of the decline in the poverty rate occurred before the mid-1960s War on Poverty, by the way, not as a result of it — recent trends in education, family formation and labor-force participation do not augur well for the economic prospects of lower-income Americans.

What should an affordability agenda look like? Progressives and left-wing populists have long argued for regulating prices, socializing risk and redistributing income. Over the past decade, some right-wing populists have embraced a similar approach, albeit with culture-war characteristics. Neither approach is prudent. Neither targets the actual problem — insufficient innovation and competition to drive prices down and value up — and would worsen rather than enhance economic

growth and social dynamism.

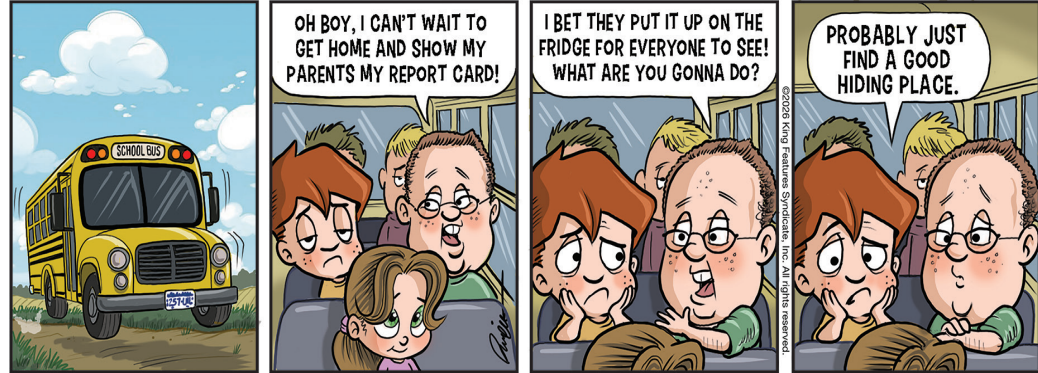
Here are ideas that policymakers in Washington, Raleigh, and local communities ought to pursue instead:

- On housing, modify regulations to make it easier for companies to add new inventory for sale or rent, for homeowners to rent out rooms and adjacent dwellings and for would-be homeowners to save for downpayments.
- On energy, modify regulations to accelerate new power plants, and to make cost and reliability the top priorities for utility companies and their regulators.
- On food, end federal subsidies and regulations that prop up prices for produce, milk, sugar and other products while reforming zoning to permit more groceries and corner stores near neighborhoods and focusing immigration enforcement on criminals and those without any visible means of support.
- On health care, modify regulations to foster greater competition among hospitals, drug companies, other providers of medical goods and services and health plans. Subject insurance premiums to income taxes and use the proceeds to expand tax-free health savings accounts and other arrangements that empower patients to seek bargains and pocket the savings.
- On child care, welcome and facilitate recent increases in remote and hybrid employment while easing zoning on new child-care centers and reducing administrative and immigration barriers to the use of in-home caregivers.
- And to alleviate more cost pressures in these and other sectors, including clothing and transportation, end the use of protectionist taxes that make imports of lumber, metals, textiles, furnishings, machine tools and other essential elements of supply chains artificially expensive.

Big-government approaches to the problem “treat high prices not as crucial signals of scarcity but as political nuisances to be suppressed,” wrote Ryan Bourne in the Cato Institute’s latest Handbook on Affordability. The better response is to champion “more economic freedom to supply goods and services.”

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).

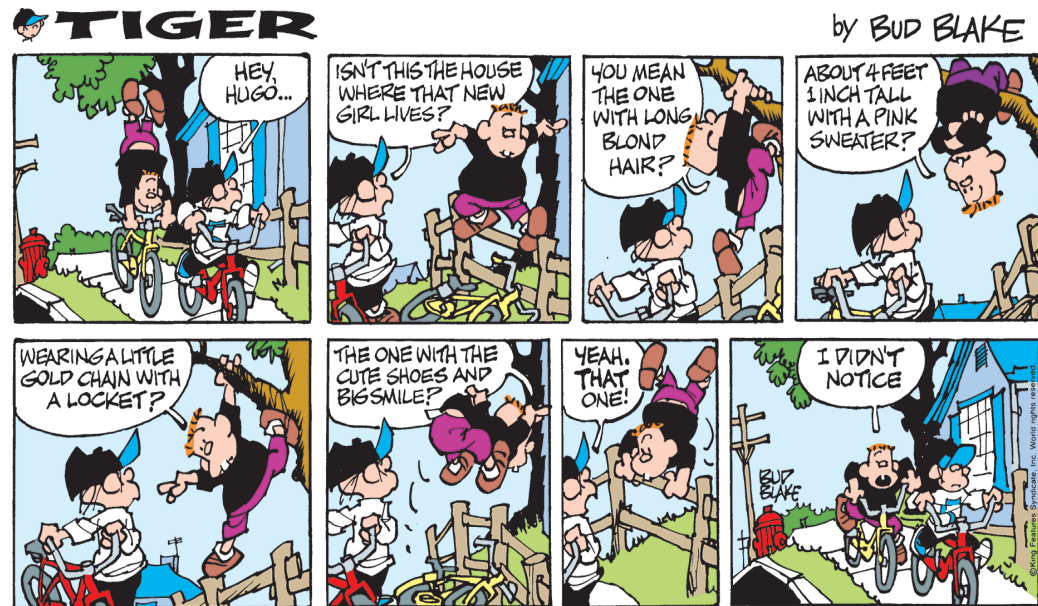
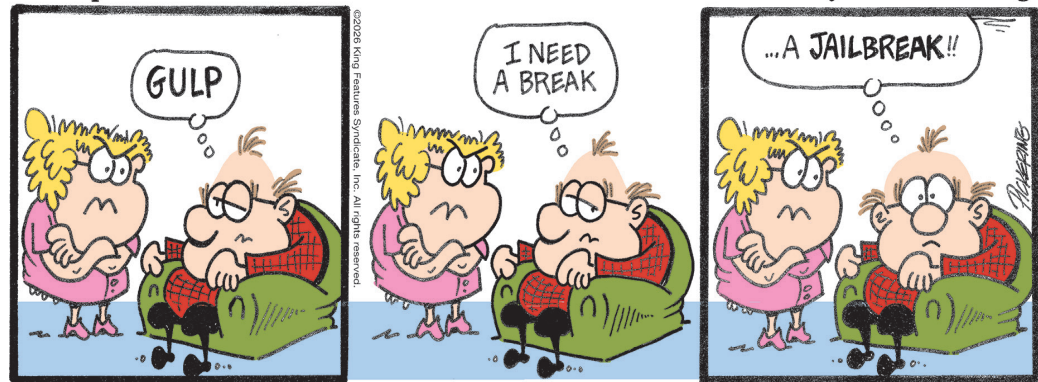
Amber Waves



Out on a Limb



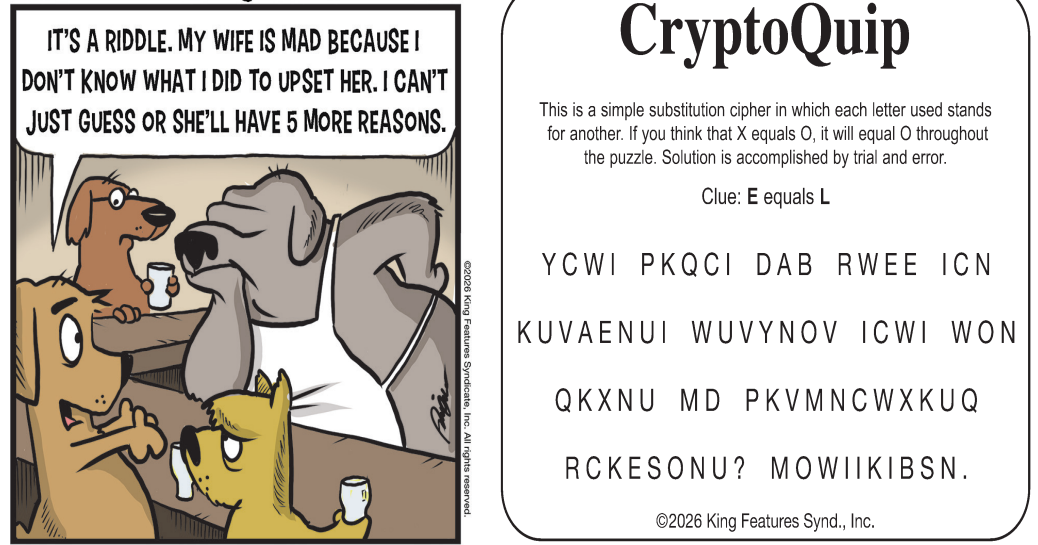
The Spats



OLIVE & POPEYE



Just Like Cats & Dogs



"It's _____ — I love it!"

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!

Middle
SPOON _____

Seep
CHALE _____

Copy
ONCLE _____

Pile
PHEA _____

TODAY'S WORD

by Dave T. Phipps

by Gary Kopervas

by Jeff Pickering

by BUD BLAKE

BY HENRY BOLTINGOFF



Differences: 1. Dog's leg is moved. 2. Woman's leg is moved. 3. Bush is reversed. 4. Arms are higher. 5. Dog's ear is different. 6. Fence has more boards.

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: E equals L

YCWI PKQCI DAB RWEE ICN
KUAENUI WUVYN OV ICWI WON
QKXNU MD PKVMNCWXXKUQ
RCKESONU? MOWI KIBSN.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Photo, for short
4 Senate staffer
8 Scoff
12 Rx overseer
13 Classic theaters
14 Bohemian
15 Tunes from Trinidad
17 Pinta's companion
18 MSN rival
19 Acapulco native
21 NAACP co-founder W.E.B.
24 Collection
25 — Cruz
56 Male deer
57 Notes after "do"
28 Serious
32 Overlook
34 Inherited
36 "Little Caesar" role
37 Group spirit
39 Rug cleaner, briefly
41 Buddy
42 Felon's flight
44 Arctic shoe
46 Bitter orange liqueur
50 French monarch
51 Unsigned (Abbr.)
52 All-important

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15			16					17		
		18				19		20		
21	22				23		24			
25				26		27		28	29	30
32			33		34		35		36	
37				38		39		40		
			42		43		44		45	
46	47	48			49		50			
51					52		53			54
56					57				58	
59					60				61	

- 7 Relaxes
8 Custodian
9 Rocker
10 Sicilian volcano
11 Vanna's "Wheel of Fortune" colleague
16 "— -hoo!"
20 Crosses (out)
21 Title for Judi Dench
22 One
23 Droop
27 "Mazel —!"
29 Scripture-based
30 Beige
31 Castle
33 Singer Knowles
35 Highland hat
38 Pouch
40 Actress Jamie Lee
43 PC shortcut
45 Japanese pond carp
46 Mama — Elliot
47 Golden Rule word
48 Den noise
49 Black-and-white cookie
53 Little rascal
54 Hollywood's Gardner
55 Sass

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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™

Atlantic escape

O	U	T	E	R

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

FiveSpot is a trademark of Michael McLinden
See more at www.sproutspuzzle.com

02649

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

Solution time: 25 mins.

King Crossword — Answers

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- GAMES: What is the goal space in the board game Candy Land?
- GEOGRAPHY: How many countries and territories border Spain?
- TELEVISION: What are Captain Picard's two favorite catchphrases in "Star Trek: The Next Generation"?
- FOOD & DRINK: What is brioche?
- CHEMISTRY: Which metal has the highest melting point?
- LITERATURE: Who is credited as the author of "The Odyssey"?
- U.S. STATES: Which state is home to Acadia National Park?
- MOVIES: What is the name of Dottie's team in "A League of Their Own"?
- COMICS: Who is the archenemy of the Fantastic Four?
- SCIENCE: What is the thickest layer of Earth?

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SCRAMBLERS

S	K	N	V	B
E	A	K	S	
S	A	R	N	E
E	O	R	E	S
R	O	R	E	T
E	R	O	U	T

Solution

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

What might you call the insolent answers that are given by misbehaving children? Bratitude.

- King Kandy's Castle
- Five — Portugal, France, Andorra, Morocco and the British territory of Gibraltar
- "Make it so" and "Engage"
- A rich French bread
- Tungsten
- The poet Homer
- Maine
- The Rockford Peaches
- Doctor Doom
- The mantle

CLASSIFIEDS

LEGALS NORTH CAROLINA ROBESON COUNTY 26 E 452 NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS All persons, firms or corporations having claims against Johnny Maurice Edwards a/k/a Johnny M. Edwards, deceased, late of Robeson County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before October 29, 2026, or be barred from any recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 29th day of July, 2026. Johnnie Lou Butler, Administratrix of the Estate of Johnny Maurice Edwards a/k/a Johnny M. Edwards, Deceased, c/o Jonathan L. Morton Attorney for the Estate Huggins, Davis & Associates, LLP P.O. Box 1571 Lumberton, NC 28359 7/29 8/5 8/12 8/19 2026 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, ROBESON COUNTY Estate File No. 26E000763-770 NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF ADRIANA MOLINA The undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of ADRIANA MOLINA, Deceased, late of ROBESON County, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of 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 23rd day of JULY, 2026 Paul Truett Canady, II, Administrator of ADRIANA MOLINA Estate , c/o Canady & Canady, Attys., P.O. Box 7, St. Pauls, NC, 28384-0007 ***NOTE TO PUBLISHER OF THE ROBESONIAN Please publish once a week for four consecutive weeks to include JULY 29, AUGUST 5, 12, & 19 7/29 8/5 8/12 8/19 2026 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS Stormwater Improvement Projects Town of Pembroke The Town of Pembroke is inviting sealed bids from licensed general contractors for the construction and rehabilitation of five (5) stormwater improvement projects designed to mitigate flooding and improve area drainage. Sealed bids will be received for the Stormwater Improvement Projects, in accordance with the project plans, and project manual. Project Scope and Locations: The work generally consists of the removal and replacement of culverts and addition of stormwater piping and includes installation of headwalls, catch basins, junction boxes and associated channel grading, erosion control, temporary access paths, and any required utility relocations, at the following locations: Project A: Jones Road Project B: Joseph H Street Project C: Mabe Street Project D: East 2nd Street Project E: Union Chapel Road, 1st Street and N Jones St. Anticipated Timeline: A pre-bid meeting will be held on July 30, 2026, at 10:00 AM (EDT). Sealed bids must be submitted no later than August 20, 2026, at 2:00 PM (EDT). Administrative notice to proceed for the construction is expected to be issued in October with the work scheduled to begin in October-November 2026. Document Access and Bid Submission: Complete plans, specifications, and contract documents may be examined and downloaded through www.ljbinc.com/project-planroom . Bids shall be submitted to the Town of Pembroke, 98 Union Chapel Road, Pembroke, North Carolina 28372, before the bid submission deadline stated above. Bids received after the stated deadline may not be considered. Minority, Women, and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (MWBE) are strongly encouraged to submit bids. The Town of Pembroke reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive informalities, and to award the contract in the best interest of the Town. Contact: Tyler Thomas, Town Manager tyler@pembrokenc.gov 7/29 2026 	LEGALS 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 NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION ROBESON COUNTY FILE NO. 24CvD000525-770 COUNTY OF ROBESON Plaintiff, VS. NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION OLA ELIZABETH GRAHAM BOYD a/k/a ELIZABETH GRAHAM-BOYD, et al Defendants. TO: The HEIRS, ASSIGNS, and DEVISEES of VEOLA GRAHAM and spouse, if any, any other person or entity claiming thereunder, The HEIRS, ASSIGNS, and DEVISEES of THERESA GRAHAM-JOHNSON and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, and ANTHONY GRAHAM and spouse, if any, and ANY HEIRS, ASSIGNS, or DEVISEES of ANTHONY GRAHAM 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 29, 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 29, 2026, or by September 7, 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 21st day of July, 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 29, 2026 August 5, 2026 August 12, 2026 7/29 8/5 8/12 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 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	LEGALS 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 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	LEGALS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, COUNTY OF ROBESON IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO.: 26CV001924-770 COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina; Plaintiff, VS. ANY AND ALL ASSIGNEES, HEIRS AT LAW AND DEVISEES OF DAVID HENRY HAMILTON, Owner; and CRYSTAL GRAHAM, GUARDIAN AD LITEM OF ANY AND ALL ASSIGNEES, HEIRS AT LAW AND DEVISEES OF DAVID HENRY HAMILTON; Defendants. GENERAL NOTICE OF TAX FORECLOSURE SALE Under and by virtue of an order of the District Court of Robeson County, North Carolina, made and entered in the action entitled "County of Robeson vs Any and all assignees, heirs at law and devisees of David Henry Hamilton, Owners; and Crystal Graham, Guardian ad Litem of Any and all assignees, heirs at law and devisees of David Henry Hamilton, the undersigned Commissioner will on the 11th day of August, 2026, offer for sale and sell for cash, to the last and highest bidder at public auction, at the courthouse door in Robeson County, North Carolina, in Lumberton at 12:00 noon the following described real property, lying and being the aforesaid State and County, and more particularly described as follows: DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Owner(s) of Record: David Henry Hamilton, Title Reference: Deed Book 677, Page 009 PIN No: 101803003, Tax Account No: 14310003 Property Location: Lumberton Township, Hestertown Rd. Lots 6-9 of Map Book 5 Page 45 – Division 1 of Troy Musselwhite Farm. In Lumberton Township, Robeson County, North Carolina, on the east side of the Old Creek Road, and the west side of Old Hayeswood Street: Being all of Lot Numbers Six (6), Seven (7), Eight (8) and Nine (9), as shown and designated upon a map entitled, "Division No. 1 of Troy Musselwhite's Farm at Hestertown", prepared by L.T. Bryan, under date of February 7, 1942, and recorded in Book of Maps No. 5 at page 45, Robeson County Registry, AND BEING Lots Nos. 6, 7, 8, and 9, a portion of the lots conveyed from Joe Hardin to Roy Junious Hunt by deed dated December 7, 1977 and recorded in Book 424 at Page 56 of the Robeson County Registry. The above-described property is subject to all Right of Ways and Easements of record. The sale will be made subject to all outstanding city and county taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above-described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. A deposit of twenty (20) percent of the successful bid will be required. This 16th day of July, 2026. Edward K. Brooks, Commissioner 7/29 8/5 2026 	LEGALS 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 Negrón 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 Classifieds Get Results LEGALS NORTH CAROLINA ROBESON COUNTY IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION BEFORE THE CLERK FILE NO. 25SP001191-770 IN THE MATTER OF THE FORECLOSURE OF THE DEED OF TRUST EXECUTED BY CHRISTINA NICHOLE LOCKLEAR, MARRIED AND WILLIE VAN CHAVIS, MARRIED, Recorded in Book 1940, Page 9, 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 CHRISTINA NICHOLE LOCKLEAR, MARRIED AND WILLIE VAN CHAVIS, MARRIED to Jay B. Green, Attorney at Law, PC, Trustee, dated February 18, 2014 and recorded in Book 1940, Page 9 in the Robeson County Registry of North Carolina. RECORD OWNERS OF THE REAL PROPERTY: The record owner(s) 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 or are Christina Nichole Locklear and Willie Van Chavis. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF SALE: The sale will be held on August 12, 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 175 Aberdeen Dr, Lumberton, NC 28358 and is otherwise more particularly described as follows: Being all of Lot No. 24 as shown on that certain Map entitled, "Map of Popes Crossing Subdivision", prepared by Powers Land Surveying, P.A., dated May 21, 2001 , and recorded in Map Book 38, Page 76, Robeson County Registry, North Carolina. Included is a 2011 CLAY manufactured home bearing serial no. OHC021035NC. 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 24, 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 7/29 8/5 2026	LEGALS 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
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LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, COUNTY OF ROBESON, IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE, DISTRICT COURT DIVISION, FILE NO.: 26CV001897-770. COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina; Plaintiff, VS. ANY AND ALL ASSIGNEES, HEIRS AT LAW AND DEVISEES OF THERESA RENEE HAMILTON, Owner; and CRYSTAL GRAHAM, GUARDIAN AD LITEM OF ANY AND ALL ASSIGNEES, HEIRS AT LAW AND DEVISEES OF THERESA RENEE HAMILTON; Defendants. **GENERAL NOTICE OF TAX FORECLOSURE SALE** Under and by virtue of an order of the District Court of Robeson County, North Carolina, made and entered in the action entitled "County of Robeson vs Any and all assignees, heirs at law and devisees of Theresa Renee Hamilton, Owners; and Crystal Graham, Guardian ad Litem of Any and all assignees, heirs at law and devisees of Theresa Renee Hamilton, the undersigned Commissioner will on the 11th day of August, 2026, offer for sale and sell for cash, to the last and highest bidder at public auction, at the courthouse door in Robeson County, North Carolina, in Lumberton at 12:00 noon the following described real property, lying and being the aforesaid State and County, and more particularly described as follows: **DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:** Owner(s) of Record: Theresa Renee Hamilton, Title Reference: Deed Book 517, Page 255. PIN No: 101803004, Tax Account No: 14930000, Property Location: Lumberton Township. Hestertown Rd. Lots 10-13 of Map Book 5 Page 45 – Division 1 of Troy Musselwhite Farm. Being Lot Numbers Ten (10), Eleven (11), Twelve (12) and Thirteen (13) in Division Number One (1) of the Troy Musselwhite Farm at Hestertown, according to a Map or Plat of said division as made by L.T. Bryan, Surveyor, on February 7, 1942, and which map or plat is fully registered in Book of Official Maps Number Five (5) at page Forty-five (45), Robeson County Registry; reference to said map or plat is hereby made for a more complete and particular description of said lots. Being the same property described in Deed dated July 12, 1982, from Lee Roy Hamilton and wife, Leatha H. Hamilton to Theresa Renee Hamilton (Book 517 Page 255), and in Deed dated May 23, 1979, from W.D. Reynolds and wife, Evelyn M. Reynolds to Lee Roy Hamilton and wife, Letha H. Hamilton (Book 455 Page 159), as appears of record in the Robeson County, North Carolina, Registry. The above-described property is subject to all Right of Ways and Easements of record. The sale will be made subject to all outstanding city and county taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above-described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. A deposit of twenty (20) percent of the successful bid will be required. This 16th day of July, 2026. K. Robert Davis, Commissioner

7/29 8/5 2026

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

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

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, COUNTY OF ROBESON, IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE, DISTRICT COURT DIVISION, FILE NO.: 26M000068-770. COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina; Plaintiff, VS. HEIRS OF DOTTIE L. VAIN A/K/A DOTTIE LOU OXENDINE VAIN AND **If they be deceased then their legal representatives, heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in esse or en ventre sa mere, known or unknown, resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved corporations, who might have or claim any right or title to the property which is the subject of this action;** Defendants. **NOTICE OF SALE OF LAND UNDER EXECUTION** To the Clerk of the Superior Court of Robeson County: By virtue of a certain execution directed to the undersigned from the Superior Court of Robeson County in the action entitled County of Robeson v. Heirs of Dottie L. Vain aka Dottie Lou Oxendine Vain, this office will hold an execution sale pursuant to Article 29B of Chapter 1 of the NC General Statutes. Said sale will take place on August 11, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the Robeson County Courthouse door, in the city of Lumberton, State of North Carolina. Said sale shall be to the highest bidder FOR CASH to satisfy the execution on the parcel of real property described following the name of the judgment debtor hereinafter set out. The execution was issued pursuant to judgment duly recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court for Robeson County, and the execution is in the amount specified in this case and the description of the real estate, plus costs of sale, follows: The following described property is located within Burnt Swamp Township, Robeson County, North Carolina and owned by the Heirs of Dotti L. Vain aka Dottie Lou Oxendine Vain: **DESCRIPTION: Parcel #04030202014, BURNT SWAMP TWP. – TR 24 HANNAH O WOOD ET AL. MAP 44@85-86. 1.95 ACRES +/- WITH EASEMENTS FOR INGRESS, EGRESS AND UTILITIES** **The above tract or parcel of land is subject to all right-of-way and easements of record.** The highest bidder at public sale shall be required to pay IN FULL the amount of the successful bid at the conclusion of the sale (subject to the confirmation of the sale as by law provided). The successful bid amount shall be paid in cash or certified funds (payable to Robeson County Tax Administration). Robeson County Tax Administration, in its discretion, will determine and allow a reasonable time within which to deliver the successful bid amount to that office. Amount due under judgment, including costs: \$1,110.39. The sale will be made subject to 2026 ad valorem taxes, any and all existing liens, and all outstanding taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above-described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. In accordance with NCGS 105-375(i) this Notice of Sale has been sent to the taxpayer and any lienholder(s) of record by first class and Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested; and will be posted on the property. The Notice of Sale will be published as required by NCGS 1-339.52. This 8th day of July 2026. Deidre Howell, Deputy Sheriff Robeson County Badge No.: 501

7/29 8/5 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF GARY ALTON BLUE DECEASED 26E000448-770

The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Gary Alton Blue, deceased, late of Robeson County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 31st 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 29th day of July, 2026.

Frances Blue Hunt Administrator

Jessica B. Scott Hunt & Brooks Post Office Box 999 Pembroke, N.C. 28372 (910) 521-3413 (910) 521-1027 (fax)

7/29 8/5 8/12 8/19 2026

Reach potential buyers! Post your home in the classifieds!



LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, COUNTY OF ROBESON, IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE, DISTRICT COURT DIVISION, FILE NO.: 26CV002030-770. COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina; Plaintiff, VS. GARRET LOCKLEAR AKA GARRETT LOCKLEAR, LIFE ESTATE AND SPOUSE, IF ANY, AND FLOYD TEMPLE CHURCH NUMBER ONE, REMAINDERS. Owner; and CRYSTAL GRAHAM, GUARDIAN AD LITEM OF GARRET LOCKLEAR AKA GARRETT LOCKLEAR, LIFE ESTATE AND SPOUSE, IF ANY, AND FLOYD TEMPLE CHURCH NUMBER ONE, REMAINDERS; Defendants. **GENERAL NOTICE OF TAX FORECLOSURE SALE** Under and by virtue of an order of the District Court of Robeson County, North Carolina, made and entered in the action entitled "County of Robeson vs Garret Locklear AKA Garrett Locklear, Life Estate and spouse, if any, and Floyd Temple Church Number One, Remainders, Owners; and Crystal Graham, Guardian ad Litem of Garret Locklear AKA Garrett Locklear, Life Estate and spouse, if any, and Floyd Temple Church Number One, Remainders", the undersigned Commissioner will on the 11th day of August, 2026, offer for sale and sell for cash, to the last and highest bidder at public auction, at the courthouse door in Robeson County, North Carolina, in Lumberton at 12:00 noon the following described real property, lying and being the aforesaid State and County, and more particularly described as follows: **DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:** Owner(s) of Record: Garret Locklear aka Garrett Locklear, Life Estate and Spouse, if any and Floyd Temple Church Number One, Remainders. Title Reference: Deed Book 1165, Page 316, Parcel #101803015, Tax Account Number: 1247546, Property Location: Lumberton Township. East Side S.R. #2202. Lying and being in Lumberton Township, Robeson County, North Carolina, about 2 miles south-east of the City of Lumberton, about 135' East of Secondary Road No. 2202, East of and adjoining Hayeswood Street (20' R/W) and bounded by the R.A. Phillips Estate lands on the East, lands of Sarah Cromartie and Hester Chapel Baptist Church on the North and lands of Ida Floyd on the South. BEGINNING at an iron axle on the edge of Hayeswood Street, northwest cor. orig. tract and runs as said Street S19-15' E 213.5' to an iron pipe, Ida Floyd's cor.; thence as Floyd line N71-41' E 427.3' to an iron pipe in Phillips line; thence as said line N5-10' W 17.5' to an iron stake; thence N84-00' W 477.0' to the BEGINNING containing 1.14 acres, more or less. Being a part of the lands conveyed to Leroy Hamilton and wife, Letha Hardin Hamilton by Deed recorded in Book 19H at Page 49, in the Robeson County Registry. The above-described property is subject to all Right of Ways and Easements of record. The sale will be made subject to all outstanding city and county taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above-described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. A deposit of twenty (20) percent of the successful bid will be required. This 16th day of July, 2026. K. Robert Davis, Commissioner

7/29 8/5 2026

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Gregory S. McIntyre, having qualified as Administrator over the Estate of Shaun Ricky Thompson deceased, late of Robeson County, North Carolina [21E000889-770], this is to notify all parties, firms, corporations having claims against said Estate to the undersigned on or before October 31, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate settlement with the undersigned Administrator.

Gregory S. McIntyre, Administrator McIntyre Elder Law 112 S Tryon Street Suite 700 Charlotte NC 28284

7/29 8/5 8/12 8/19 2026

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, COUNTY OF ROBESON, IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE, DISTRICT COURT DIVISION, FILE NO.: 26M000067-770. COUNTY OF ROBESON, a political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina; Plaintiff, VS. GLENDA MCMILLIAN; AND **If they be deceased then their legal representatives, heirs and assigns; and any and all other interested persons, whether sane or insane, adult or minor, in esse or en ventre sa mere, known or unknown, resident or non-resident, live corporations or dissolved corporations, who might have or claim any right or title to the property which is the subject of this action;** Defendants. **NOTICE OF SALE OF LAND UNDER EXECUTION** To the Clerk of the Superior Court of Robeson County: By virtue of a certain execution directed to the undersigned from the Superior Court of Robeson County in the action entitled County of Robeson v. Glenda McMillian, this office will hold an execution sale pursuant to Article 29B of Chapter 1 of the NC General Statutes. Said sale will take place on August 11, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the Robeson County Courthouse door, in the city of Lumberton, State of North Carolina. Said sale shall be to the highest bidder FOR CASH to satisfy the execution on the parcel of real property described following the name of the judgment debtor hereinafter set out. The execution was issued pursuant to judgment duly recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court for Robeson County, and the execution is in the amount specified in this case and the description of the real estate, plus costs of sale, follows: The following described property is located within Burnt Swamp Township, Robeson County, North Carolina and owned by Glenda McMillian: **DESCRIPTION: Parcel #04030202009, BURNT SWAMP TWP. – TR 29 HANNAH O WOOD ET AL. MAP 44@85-86. 3.97 ACRES more or less.** **The above tract or parcel of land is subject to all right-of-way and easements of record.** The highest bidder at public sale shall be required to pay IN FULL the amount of the successful bid at the conclusion of the sale (subject to the confirmation of the sale as by law provided). The successful bid amount shall be paid in cash or certified funds (payable to Robeson County Tax Administration). Robeson County Tax Administration, in its discretion, will determine and allow a reasonable time within which to deliver the successful bid amount to that office. Amount due under judgment, including costs: \$1,783.57. The sale will be made subject to 2026 ad valorem taxes, any and all existing liens, and all outstanding taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above-described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. In accordance with NCGS 105-375(i) this Notice of Sale has been sent to the taxpayer and any lienholder(s) of record by first class and Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested; and will be posted on the property. The Notice of Sale will be published as required by NCGS 1-339.52. This 8th day of July 2026. Deidre Howell, Deputy Sheriff Robeson County Badge No.: 501

7/29 8/5 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF LINDA LOMBARDI DECEASED FILE NUMBER 26 E 000775-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of LINDA LOMBARDI, 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 31st 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 29th day of JULY 2026

JOSEPH ALAN PETEK 1717 MCGIRT RD MAXTON NC 28364

7/29 8/5 8/12 8/19 2026

LEGALS

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

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of LINDA LOU CHAVIS, deceased, late of ROBESON COUNTY, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 12th day of OCTOBER 2026 or be barred from their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are asked to please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This is the 8th day of JULY 2026

ELLA W EVANS 1122 PAUL ROAD PEMBROKE NC 28372

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

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ROBESON NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF GAYLE LAWSON WILKES DECEASED FILE NUMBER 26 E 000536-770

The undersigned having qualified as Administrators, of the Estate of GAYLE LAWSON WILKES, 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

ELIZABETH W WILKERSON 67 BARLEY GREEN DRIVE LUMBERTON NC 28360

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

LEGALS

NORTH CAROLINA ROBESON COUNTY IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION BEFORE THE CLERK FILE NO. 26SP000009-770 IN THE MATTER OF THE FORECLOSURE OF THE DEED OF TRUST EXECUTED BY LAKISHA MURPHY (an unmarried person), Recorded in Book 2078, Page 762, Robeson County RegistryNOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE DEED OF TRUST BEING FORECLOSED:

The Deed of Trust being foreclosed is that Deed of Trust executed by LAKISHA MURPHY (an unmarried person) to Jay B. Green, Attorney at Law, PC, Trustee, dated March 17, 2017 and recorded in Book 2078, Page 762 in the Robeson County Registry of North Carolina. RECORD OWNERS OF THE REAL PROPERTY: The record owner(s) 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 or are Lakisha Murphy. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF SALE: The sale will be held on August 12, 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 61 Paris Street, Lumberton, NC 28358 and is otherwise more particularly described as follows: In Back Swamp Township, Robeson County, North Carolina and being all of Lot No. 24 as shown and designated on a map entitled "Survey for Roger W. Neal" prepared by Johnny W. Nobles & Associates, Surveyors, dated October 12, 1982 and duly recorded in Book of Official Maps No. 28 at Page 11, Robeson County Registry, to which said map reference is hereby made and the same is incorporated as part hereof. The above described property is the same property as conveyed in Deed dated February 3, 2016 from Marian Randolph Holmes to Lakisha Murphy recorded in Book 2027, Page 725 of the Robeson County Registry. Subject to the Restrictive Covenants as shown in Book 2027, Page 725 of the Robeson County Registry. Included is a 2013 CLAY manufactured home bearing serial no. OHC022731NC. 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 10, 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

7/29 8/5 2026





Count the Money you will save using your classifieds

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Funeral services held for Sen. Lindsey Graham

Staff report

WASHINGTON — Multi-day funeral services for the late U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham began Tuesday in the nation’s capital and will conclude Wednesday in his home state of South Carolina, according to family and congressional officials.

Graham, a Republican who served more than two decades in the Senate, died July 11 at age 71 following an aortic dissection.

His sister, newly

appointed Sen. Darline Graham Nordone, released the final itinerary detailing a series of public events and private ceremonies expected to draw high-profile global figures. She also announced she would suspend campaign events this week out of respect for her late brother.

President Donald Trump, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy were among the dignitaries scheduled to

attend.

The events commenced Tuesday morning at the U.S. Capitol with an arrival ceremony inside the Capitol Rotunda. An Armed Forces body bearer team was scheduled to carry Graham’s remains, accompanied by a U.S. Capitol Police memorial guard. While the Rotunda ceremony was closed to the public, the U.S. Senate did provide a live broadcast feed.

On Tuesday afternoon,



Graham

a formal funeral service took place at the Washington National Cathedral. Trump was scheduled to deliver a personal tribute during the invitation-only service. The public could view the proceedings via livestreams hosted by C-SPAN and the Washington National Cathedral’s website.

The late senator’s remains will be returned to South Carolina on Wednesday for public

honors in the state capital of Columbia.

A formal procession is scheduled to begin at 10:45 a.m. at the South Carolina State House. The South Carolina State Guard will transport Graham’s remains via caisson along a route open to the public along Main Street. At approximately 11 a.m., the 169th Fighter Wing is scheduled to execute a military flyover featuring F-16 fighter jets above the State House.

The procession will culminate at the First Baptist Church of Columbia, where a public funeral service will begin at noon. Officials noted that seating inside the church will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Though he was eligible for burial at Arlington National Cemetery as a retired U.S. Air Force colonel, his family chose to return him to his hometown. Following the church service, the Graham family will hold a private burial at Mount Zion Cemetery in Central.

Duke

From page 1A

request of 10.95% to a revised 9.8%, though this is still above the attorney general’s recommendation of 7.4%.

“In light of the cost pressures our customers are facing, along with continued conversations with other stakeholders, we felt we had to do more,” said Bowman.

“We appreciate our stakeholders’ engagement in finding a path that allows us to more cost-effectively serve the Tar Heel State.”

Duke also agreed to participate in a fast-track process that will establish new rules for data centers and other large energy users, a press release said. Jackson says this will protect North Carolinians from having to absorb the costs of energy created by data centers and other large users.

“We need these protections to make sure the costs of serving new data

centers do not shift onto families,” said Jackson. “This proposal moves in that direction, but the details will determine whether families are actually protected.”

An additional concession from Duke Energy was that its shareholders will pay \$10 million into programs that will help struggling customers to pay their bill and will help weatherize homes to lower energy costs.

Duke Energy also joined the federal government’s Ratepayer Protection Pledge, a set of regulations that will ensure data centers and other large users “build, bring, or buy the new generation resources and electricity needed to satisfy their energy demands, and pay for all new power delivery infrastructure upgrades to service their data centers.”

Jackson and Gov. Josh Stein each said they will hold Duke Energy to account for that pledge to ensure that those protec-



Stein

tions for consumers become and remain a reality.

“We agree (with the pledge), but a promise in Washington doesn’t lower a power bill in North Carolina,” Jackson said. “We’re calling on Duke to make that same promise to the Utilities Commission, in writing, where it can be enforced.”

“Duke Energy must make that voluntary pledge real,” Stein said. “The North Carolina Utilities Commission and Duke Energy must create a legally binding large load tariff to charge data centers their full freight, and they must establish a program that allows data centers to directly select and pay for their generation. North Carolinians are struggling to make ends meet, and data centers must pay their own way to protect families from rising electricity costs.”

Large tech companies such as Amazon, Google, Meta, OpenAI and xAI

have also agreed to the pledge.

After Duke’s initial proposal was filed last fall, public hearings were held around the state this spring, including one in Lumberton, with many of those who gave testimony saying that their electric bills have spiked and become unaffordable, even before the proposed rate increase.

After Duke’s initial proposal of an 18% rate increase for residential customers, Jackson gave testimony on May 29 that residential consumers should not have to pay for the return on equity that Duke was asking for, arguing that setting it at an “acceptable level” — he proposed 7.4% — would save ratepayers nearly \$1.4 billion dollars, or approximately \$435 per residential customer over the two-year span.

“This proposed increase is too high for families, and it’s more than Duke needs to meet our growing demand for energy,” said Jackson. “We can bring that

number way down, save families money, and still build everything we need to keep up with growth. That’s what I’m fighting for.”

A press release from Jackson’s office following that testimony stated that the average Duke Energy household pays an average of about \$143 per month, and from that, about \$25 was solely profit that went to Duke’s shareholders. Under the proposed rate increase at that time, bills would have averaged \$168, with \$38 of profit, the release said.

Duke Energy announced on June 22 it was lowering the proposed rate increase to 11.6%, before a further reduction to the aforementioned rate of about 9.5% currently proposed.

“Our case was that Duke could afford a lower rate while still meeting its needs. Duke just agreed,” Jackson said after the June 22 announcement. “They’ve taken a step in the right direction by bringing the new rate

down, but it is still too high. Our case is about lowering this rate hike and making sure rates for data centers and other large users are handled in a way that is fair to families. We are making that case right now on behalf of families across the state. I’m grateful for the people who showed up and spoke up about what higher power bills would mean for them. You made a real difference.”

The NCUC will hold an evidentiary hearing beginning on Aug. 11 in Raleigh, to hear all evidence and testimony from both Duke Energy and consumers regarding the proposal. After the hearing, the Commission will decide whether to approve, reduce or reject the rate hike.

Duke Energy provides electric service to eastern North Carolina, including the Sandhills and Border Belt region.

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

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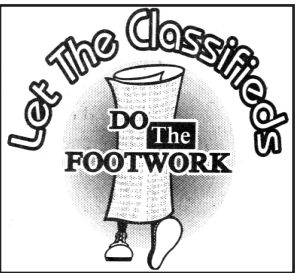
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Bowen part of no-hitter for Wichita Wind Surge

Chris Stiles
The Robesonian

WICHITA, Kan. — St. Pauls native Darren Bowen pitched two innings on Saturday, just as he's done in most of his recent appearances for the Wichita Wind Surge, the AA affiliate of the Minnesota Twins.

But this appearance was a little bit different, as he threw the sixth and seventh innings of a combined no-hitter, becoming a part of just the second no-hitter in team history and the first in the Texas League this season.

Wichita beat the Midland RockHounds 11-0.

"It was cool. I got to do it once before in college, that's obviously something you don't see every day," Bowen said, referring to a UNC Pembroke game on Feb. 5, 2022. "Doing it in pro ball, probably a little bit cooler, just because the hitters are a little more advanced."

Bowen says he didn't realize that the Wind Surge had a no-hitter in progress when he came in to pitch the sixth inning, relieving starter Chris

Vallimont. After getting through the sixth, he noticed the zero in the Midland hit column on the scoreboard before going back out for the seventh to finish his 15th scoreless outing of the year.

A stellar defensive play by left fielder Jay Thomas in the seventh kept the no-hitter alive.

"The second guy hits a bloop; he's a righty and he just flares one into left field, into no-man's land," Bowen said. "I'm



Bowen

like 'there it is.' And our left fielder just comes out of nowhere and just makes an amazing diving catch. That gave me two outs in the seventh and then got the last guy out on a groundout. After the left fielder made that play, it was like 'OK, we've got a real chance at the no-hitter.'

Ruddy Gomez pitched the final two innings for Wichita, completing the no-hitter.

While Bowen did realize between innings that

a no-hitter was in progress, he said the lopsided score meant there was no added pressure during his appearance.

"The worst case scenario, they get a hit, or if they score a couple of runs, we were up probably 11-0 at that time, 10-0," Bowen said.

"There's never really any pressure; if it happens, it happens, and if it doesn't, it doesn't. It's just really cool when it does. It's part of the game, but that's why they're so rare, they don't happen that often."

Bowen is playing his second straight season with Wichita, but after being primarily a starter for his first three professional seasons, all 29 of his appearances this year have come in relief. Changing roles has been a callback to his college career at UNC Pembroke, where he made 24 starts and 18 relief appearances from 2020-22.

"I'm a scheduled reliever, so I know exactly when I'm going to throw," Bowen said. "I get two innings every time I go

See BOWEN | 2B



Contributed photo | Kiwanis Club of Robeson-Lumberton
Kiwanis All-American Golf Tournament winners Mark Lassiter, center left, and Scott Benton, center right, take a photo with Kiwanians after the tournament's conclusion on Aug. 10, 2025 at Pinecrest Country Club in Lumberton.

Kiwanis All-American Golf Tournament set for Aug. 8-9

Staff report

LUMBERTON — The 49th annual Kiwanis All-American Golf Tournament will be held at Pinecrest Country Club on Aug. 8-9. This event has long been the premier two-ball championship in this area.

Prior champions include virtually all of the golfing greats in Robeson County history. Last year's championship team was Mark Lassiter and Scott Benton.

The format of play is two-person best ball. The tournament will be flighted after the first day of play. Prizes will be awarded in all flights as well as closest to the pin and longest drives on Saturday. There will be a raffle run by Kiwanis Young Professionals available to all the golfers and guests.

The tournament is sponsored by Kiwanis of Robeson-Lumberton, and 100% of the proceeds from the tournament will be used to fund children's programs right here in Robeson County. If you or your business would like to sponsor the tournament, there are several sponsorship levels available. Please call Carey Read at 910-258-5341 for details.

UNC football GM Lombardi placed on leave

Aaron Beard
AP Sports Writer

CHAPEL HILL — North Carolina football general manager Michael Lombardi has been placed on paid administrative leave.

The school announced the move with a statement Monday morning, coming days before the Tar Heels open preseason camp. The school didn't provide details as to the reason, noting that employees and athletes aren't permitted to address the topic "as is standard procedure with personnel matters."

Lombardi joined Bill Belichick in making the NFL-to-college move when the school hired the former New England Patriots coach in Dec. 2024. Lombardi's career as an NFL executive had included being the GM of the Cleveland Browns in 2013, and he was an immediate hire by the six-time Super Bowl-winning coach in Chapel Hill.

The school had hired Belichick to jolt a football program that had largely been an Atlantic Coast Conference also-ran while making periodic but unsustained climbs into national relevance.

A few months into Belichick's tenure, Lombardi said the goal was running a college program in a way similar to the NFL, saying the Tar Heels "consider ourselves the 33rd (NFL) team" due to the staff connections to the pros.

The Tar Heels went just 4-8 in Belichick's first season. They open his second against TCU in Dublin, Ireland, on Aug. 29.



Photos by Chris Stiles | The Robesonian
St. Pauls football coach Mike Setzer, left, speaks as wife Erica Setzer, right, stands alongside during a 2025 signing ceremony in St. Pauls. Setzer was picked as an assistant coach for the East-West All-Star Game.

Setzer, Johnson picked to coach East-West games

Jacob Husson
The Robesonian

LUMBERTON — Coaching or playing in an All-Star game is a tremendous honor for all those selected. Robeson County will be represented over the next year as St. Pauls football coach Mike Setzer and Lumberton girls basketball coach Ivy Johnson were each selected as assistant coaches for the East-West All-Star Games, organized by the North Carolina Coaches Association.

"It's a blessing and it speaks to my staff," Setzer said. "I thank God and my staff."

Setzer received this selection after leading the Bulldogs to a 10-2 record as they reached the third round of the 5A state playoffs last year.

St. Pauls sees this as another opportunity to receive buzz about their football program, a privilege they intend to take advantage of.

"It allows us to be in different discussions we deserve to be in," Setzer said.

Setzer has amassed an 89-49 record as the head coach at St. Pauls in two stints spanning 12 seasons, and is the winningest coach in school history.

Last season was further proof of the dominant program St. Pauls has become as the Bulldogs proved to be the best team in Robeson County.

Despite the tremendous honor, Setzer will not use that to motivate his team, preferring a more humble, team-first approach.

"We're not about individuals," Setzer said. "We try to stay as humble as possible."

Johnson led the Lady Pirates to an 18-7 record and a third-round 7A state playoff berth last season on the hardwood.

"I'm just happy to be selected for this opportunity," Johnson said. "It shows the hard work we put in



Lumberton coach Ivy Johnson gives her team instructions during a 2025 Robeson County Shootout game against Hoke County in Lumberton. Johnson was picked as an assistant coach for the East-West All-Star Game.

and I'm happy to represent Lumberton."

The Pirates got off to a slow start last season, losing their first three games before winning their next five after that. From there, they went an impressive 13-4 the rest of the way to end the season as one of Robeson County's top teams.

Johnson heads into her sixth season as the Pirates' girls basketball coach and has built the team into a contender in the last two years. They've gone a combined 36-18 in the last two seasons after only winning eight games in each of her first three years leading the way.

Johnson is excited to work with some elite talent across the state in this game.

"I'm looking forward to meeting some of the best players from across the state," Johnson said.

After leading Lumberton to the second-best record in Robeson County, Johnson looks to lead them deep into the state playoffs this year after a third-round exit last season.

Johnson downplayed the possible impact coaching in this game could have on our team.

"This could possibly help me motivate my team," Johnson said.

"The dots may connect but we have a job to do."

Johnson is eager to work with the top players in the state and will look for things that can help Lumberton in the upcoming season.

The East-West football game will be played in December, the week after the NCHSAA state championships, at Grimsley High School's Jamieson Stadium.

The East-West basketball games will be played on July 20, 2027 at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex's Novant Health Fieldhouse, with the girls game at 6:30 p.m. and the boys at 8:30 p.m.

Setzer will be joined on the East football coaching staff by head coach Craig Underwood of Hoggard, and assistants Cory Barnes of Harnett Central, Jermaine Jones of Rocky Mount, Adam Seronce of Hobbton and John Wheeler of Martin County.

Johnson will be joined on the East girls basketball coaching staff by head coach Khadijah Bryant of Goldsboro.

West Bladen's Travis Pait was picked as the East head coach for boys basketball.

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

Renovations planned for Panthers stadium

Steve Reed
AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE — Carolina Panthers owner David Tepper is investing an additional \$500 million into ongoing stadium renovations to improve overall fan experience with an eye toward potentially bringing the Super Bowl, NFL draft, 2031 Women's World Cup and other major sporting events to Charlotte.

The investment coincides with the team announcing it has reached a long-term extension on a stadium naming rights deal Thursday with Bank of America.

The additional investment in the 30-year-old downtown stadium brings the total cost of renovations to \$1.3 billion.

The project is expected to be completed by 2030.

The Panthers released new stadium renderings highlighting enhancements and a broader vision of what is referred to as the new “Charlotte corridor,” which includes a 4,400-seat music venue designed to help make the city a more attractive year-round weekend destination.

“The long-term extension with Bank of America reflects the strength of our partnership and our shared commitment to the Carolinas,” Tepper, the owner and chairman of Tepper Sports & Entertainment (TSE), said in a statement. “For over three decades, Bank of America Stadium has helped create lasting memories for our fans and we’re excited for them to see what’s ahead. Our goal is to create experiences that enhance the passion and energy of the region while transforming this corridor into a weekend destination for world class sports, entertainment and community events.”

Bank of America Stadium is currently home to the Major League Soccer’s Charlotte FC, as well

as the Panthers. It regularly hosts concerts as well as the Atlantic Coast Conference football championship, the Duke’s Mayo Bowl and, most recently, a soccer match between the United States and Senegal which served as a precursor to the World Cup.

What about a first-ever Super Bowl in Charlotte?

When asked directly if the Panthers are considering submitting a bid to host a first-ever Super Bowl in Charlotte, team president and TSE CEO Kristi Coleman replied, “We would love to get a Super Bowl. ... I think doing projects like this help you get it. It for sure helps your resume.”

Of course, there are other factors that go into ultimately landing the NFL’s biggest event, including number of hotels and other infrastructure.

“Does this guarantee (a Super Bowl)? No. But does this help? Yes,” Coleman said.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, who was in Charlotte on Thursday night for a ceremony celebrating the stadium renovations, was asked about the feasibility of Charlotte hosting a Super Bowl.

“I think if the growth (in this city) continues that is probably somewhere down the line,” Goodell said.

Who is paying for the additional renovations?

The additional renova-

tions are privately funded with no additional taxpayer money required.

TSE will pay for any overage costs and ongoing maintenance associated with the project.

The city of Charlotte originally contributed \$650 million to the project in 2024 with TSE adding the additional \$150 million, bringing the original cost of stadium renovations to \$800 million after Tepper decided to remain in the stadium rather than build a new one.

What’s going to be new at the stadium?

The entire stadium and its surroundings are being reimaged.

Renderings released Thursday showcase expanded indoor-outdoor gathering spaces across all levels, a 500-level social patio with sweeping views of Uptown Charlotte. There will also be larger and more dynamic scoreboards and displays and improved audio.

Seating options have been upgraded with premium offerings including technology designed to create a more connected and personalized experience.

When finished, the entire exterior of the stadium will look completely different to Panthers fans with a fresh, modern, open-air look that includes a signature illuminated crown for the Queen City skyline.

The black metal gates that surround portions



In this Aug. 16, 2012 file photo, the skyline of Charlotte, N.C., rises behind Bank of America Stadium in this aerial photo.

of the stadium will be removed, creating a more welcoming park-style setting.

The renderings also include expanded retail and food and beverage options, increased restroom capacity, and flexible event spaces that will support game days while serving community, corporate and other special events during the offseason.

Included in what Panthers officials now call the “corridor” is the new entertainment venue outside of the North gate.

The goal: Making Charlotte a weekend destination

Coleman said the goal of everyone involved has been to bring Tepper’s vision to life.

Over the past few years the Panthers have

brought some of the team’s fans to opposing cities to see what they like about other stadiums. They have also listened to suggestions and criticisms from existing permanent seat license holders about the game day experience in Charlotte.

“Our fans from Raleigh or Charleston and other places would say ‘we want this to be a weekend destination, not just for Sundays,’” Coleman said.

The need for music was high on the fans’ wish list, Coleman said.

Such was the impetus for the building of the entertainment venue that will host 80 to 100 concerts and events during the year, as well as provide enhanced hospitality on NFL game days.

“So now people can come on a Friday and go to a concert, go to a soc-

cer match on Saturday and then stay for a Panthers game on Sunday,” Coleman said. “That was really the vision.”

Coleman said the renovations have something everyone throughout the stadium can benefit from whether sitting in the lower bowl, upper bowl or luxury suites.

“I’m so excited that every fan will experience something different,” Coleman said.

Charlotte Mayor Rob Harrington called the project an investment in Charlotte’s future “preserving an iconic venue, enhancing the fan experience, and ensuring Bank of America Stadium continues to create unforgettable memories while giving visitors countless reasons to return to our city for years to come.”

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Daring pass sends Heim to Brickyard 400 win

Michael Marot
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Corey Heim started Sunday by talking about being more aggressive on his restarts. Then he showed everyone — including his team co-owner Denny Hamlin — what he'd learned. The 24-year-old part-time NASCAR Cup Series driver first made a daring outside move to pass Hamlin then slow him down on the final restart with 35 laps to go, then held off the hard-charging cars of Christopher Bell and Joey Logano to capture his first Brickyard 400 title. Heim beat Bell by 0.287 seconds and Logano, last week's race winner, by 0.972 seconds to become the first Cup driver to win twice in his first 15 career starts since 1965. A.J. Foyt, one of four four-time Indianapolis

500 champions, was the last to do it and, like Foyt, Heim didn't even need a full-time ride to finish the job. "Just had to be aggressive, man, it's for the win," he said after his second win of the season. "I would have to see it back to see if I really did anything wrong. You know, he has every right to be frustrated with me, but don't get me wrong, I just had to be on top of it. Got to go quick for the 22 (Logano) to be in position, so thanks to him. Man, it's crazy." Hamlin seemed more frustrated with Bell's mistimed push, which allowed Heim to get past him, and that was all Heim needed to take charge. Hamlin wound up falling from first to fifth, a descent he never recovered from as his winless streak at Indianapolis hit 18. It's the only crown



Michael Conroy | AP Photo
Corey Heim celebrates after winning the NASCAR Cup Series' Brickyard 400 Sunday at Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis.

jewel race of NASCAR's four Hamlin hasn't won. "I mean everyone's trying to fight to win the race, and you know you're clear by an inch, you're going to take that inch," Hamlin said. "It's really the 20 and (Bell) and the 19 (Chase Briscoe) not orchestrating good pushes there and we came detached for a long time. I thought the 20 was on board with giving us a push, it was just way too early before the restart zone." With Hamlin fading, Bell and Logano spent the final 34 laps trying to catch Heim's increasingly loose car. Each driver consistently closed the gap by running consistently quicker lap times, but neither could get

close enough to try to pass Heim. And with no more caution flags to bunch up the leaders, the stage was set for Heim. "It's a good second place," said Bell, Hamlin's teammate with Joe Gibbs Racing. "We've had a lot of bad second-place finishes, but this is a good one with where we were after qualifying. When we had the restart on the second row, I was really happy with our position. Really proud of our team, we pulled together a really good day." Heim wasn't the only big winner Sunday. Hamlin extended his points lead over Heim's teammate, Tyler Reddick, who was 10th. Ty Gibbs, who is fourth in points,

clinched a playoff spot with a stage win and a 12th-place finish. And Todd Gilliland of Front Row Motorsports defied the odds by collecting the \$1 million prize in the final round of NASCAR's second In-Season Challenge. But nobody was more satisfied with the results than Heim. "That was a damn handful," the Georgian said. "I was hanging on for dear life once the shade went down and the pace picked up. My car got really loose and I never really got a lot of clean air throughout the day, so that was the hardest I've ever fought in my life to make sure I focused on the exits and get through dirty air."

Larson's drought
Defending Cup champ Kyle Larson's winless streak hit 36 on Sunday, this time the result of a flat left rear tire that sent Hendrick Motorsports' No. 5 Chevrolet hard into the wall coming out of Turn 3 during the first stage. He was the first car out and finished 39th. "We just had a tire let go. I wouldn't say pushing had anything to do with it," Larson said. "Just a little bit of bad luck, I

guess." Larson has finished 39th, 15th, 34th and 34th over the last four weeks and is in the longest winless drought since he joined Hendrick's team in 2021. Yet Larson is still in eighth in points with four regular-season races remaining.

Surprise payday
Ryan Blaney's streak of consecutive top-11 finishes ended at 11 on Sunday and came with a hefty cost — missing out on the \$1 million payday. The 2023 Cup champ and Team Penske driver started and stayed ahead of Gilliland most of the race, only to see his hopes unravel when he was collected in a nine-car crash that damaged the right side of his car with 41 laps to go. Blaney's team got him back on the track and he wound up 26th, but finished two spots behind Gilliland.

Up next
After 16 straight weeks of racing, the Cup drivers will get a break to open August. The series then heads to Iowa's 0.875-mile oval Aug. 9. William Byron is the defending race winner. Blaney was the 2024 winner, a night race marred by tire problems.

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