

Holding steady

Wilson tax rate to see no change PAGE 5A

The Wilson Times

WEEKEND EDITION

Online Daily • Printed Tuesdays and Fridays | MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER — A COMMUNITY INSTITUTION SINCE 1896 | wilsontimes.com | Friday, May 29, 2026 | \$2.50

City Council approves data center moratorium

By Christopher Long
clong@wilsontimes.com | 252-265-7821

Wilson will not be home to any data centers for at least the next year after the Wilson City Council unanimously adopted a moratorium at its Thursday, May 21, meeting prohibiting development approvals for large data operations.

The one-year moratorium, which passed unanimously, halts “any building or dedicated space with a building, houses, computer system and associated components, such as telecommunication and data processing systems, to be used for remote storage, processing or distribu-

tion of large amounts of data,” including data centers, data processing facilities, cryptocurrency mining operations, battery energy storage systems and other similar uses.

Council members held a public hearing prior to the adoption of the moratorium. Several members of the public spoke out against data centers as a whole.

Ricardo Dew said Wilson doesn’t need a moratorium, but an outright ban of data centers.

“We do not need it,” Dew said. “Those things put out anywhere from 85 to 100 decibels. Now, 100 decibels is the same sound that a jet makes when it’s rev-

ving up the engines. This is a 24-7 noise. It causes hypertension, sleep deprivation. It uses an excess of water.”

Dew said Wilson can’t add housing growth and data centers at the same time.

“The data centers, the amount of power that they use, actually will power over 200,000 houses,” Dew said. “We are going to be competing with the data centers for not only energy, but water. That’s not a good thing.”

City Manager Rodger Lentz said the point of the moratorium was to address those concerns.

“When you come in, you come

See COUNCIL, 5A



Councilwoman Gillettia Morgan, from left, Mayor Pro Tem Michael Bell and Mayor Carlton Stevens speak prior to the Wilson City Council meeting on Thursday, May 21. Christopher Long | Times

'RECYCLE AND REPURPOSE'

Wilson Mall bricks, blocks, concrete and metals saved



The majority of the materials that came from the demolition of the Wilson Mall were recycled, diverting most of the debris from landfills. Drew C. Wilson | Times

By Drew C. Wilson
dwilson@wilsontimes.com | 252-265-7818

When D.H. Griffin Co. first clawed into the 492,000-square-foot Wilson Mall, excavator operators were on a mission to recycle as much steel and masonry as possible.

“We recycle and repurpose everything we can just to keep it out of the waste stream,” said Rusty Watson, site supervisor on the job.

According to a Wilson Mall demolition waste manage-

ment summary that D.H. Griffin Co. shared with the city of Wilson, recycling efforts resulted in 66.78% of demolished construction materials diverted from a landfill, amounting to 8,560.59 tons. Of that, 6,135 tons, or 409 truck loads, included bricks, blocks and concrete.

“Masonry is used to fill properties and stuff around here in low-lying areas for people who are building for sub base,” Watson said.

The total construction and demolition debris that did go to a landfill amounted to

“The raw material that is being provided by this old, abandoned mall is going to be hundreds or thousands of different projects that are going to be used across the region and some almost certainly right back in your area there in Wilson”

SAM FISHLEDER, vice president and general manager at Nucor Steel Hertford County.

4,259.43 tons. That was 344 truckloads hauled to Meridian Waste sites around the state.

“There are several different ones. They take it to what-

See MALL, 2A

Hayes named executive editor

From staff reports

Justin Hayes has been named editor of The Wilson Times

and executive editor of Restoration NewsMedia, President and Publisher Keven Zepezauer announced.

Since October, Hayes has worked as editor of the Johnstonian News in Smithfield. He joined the company in May 2024 as news editor of The Enterprise, covering Spring Hope and southern Nash County.

Hayes succeeds Corey Friedman, who is relocating to South Carolina. Friedman held the Times editor role since May 2016 and has served as Restoration NewsMedia’s executive editor since the company’s founding in 2019.

“Justin brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in local journalism and has done great work for us in Nash and Johnston counties,” Zepezauer said. “We’re confident he will bring the same diligent, local-first approach to our newsrooms in Wilson, Wake and Granville counties.”

Based in Wilson, Restoration NewsMedia is a family-owned

See HAYES, 5A



WARBIRDS

SATURDAY, JUNE 6TH
6:00 PM GATES OPEN | 7:05 PM GAME TIME

STAR WARS NIGHT

FIREWORKS FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS



MINI - PLANS FOR EVERY FAN

MANY TO CHOOSE FROM
CALL 919-269-2287
FOR MORE INFO

FRIDAY Cloudy HI 82 LO 62 SATURDAY Cloudy HI 80 LO 53 SUNDAY Cloudy HI 76 LO 4 MONDAY Rain HI 83 LO 62



Wilson man dies in 3-car crash

By Drew C. Wilson
dwilson@wilsontimes.com |
252-265-7818

A Wilson man died in a three-vehicle crash on N.C. 42 West early Sunday, May 24.
Sgt. Eric McNerny, public information of-

ficer with the Wilson Police Department, said first responders responded to the 3300 block of N.C. 42 for a motor vehicle collision with serious injury at 12:32 a.m.
“During the investigation, officers located

Javaris Tiquane Hill, 32, of Wilson deceased inside the passenger compartment of one of the vehicles,” McNerny said. “Two of the drivers, Christopher Derek Allen, 38, of Wilson and Phaheem Rashawn Swinson, 33, of Wilson,

were transported to East Carolina University Health Medical Center for treatment of injuries sustained in the collision. The third driver, Malik Devonte Spells, 30, of Wilson, along with two passengers, were treated at Wilson Medi-

cal Center for non-life-threatening injuries.”
According to a spokesman from ECU Health Medical Center, Allen is in fair condition, and Swinson has been discharged from the hospital.
The Wilson Police

Department’s Strategic Traffic Enforcement Patrol Team (STEP) is investigating the incident.
Police ask anyone with information on the case to call the Wilson Police Department at 252-399-2323 or Crime Stoppers at 252-243-2255.



A D.H. Griffin Co. excavator claps a pile of metal being recycled from the Wilson Mall in April. Drew C. Wilson | Times

Mall

continued from page 1A

ever can sustain our needs to dump with,” Watson said. “It’s too much. We wish it was less, but unfortunately it is not. Unfortunately, the roof materials had a lot of inert material that we have to pay to have it hauled off.”
Watson said the tipping fees ranged on average from \$40 a ton to \$75 per ton.

'AIRCRAFT CARRIERS AND SUBMARINES'

Around 2,425 tons of metal came out of the project.
Of that, 1,110 tons of structural steel cut into 4-foot lengths was sent to Nu-

cor steel plants in Winton in Hertford County and in Lexington, Virginia.
“The raw material that is being provided by this old, abandoned mall is going to be hundreds or thousands of different projects that are going to be used across the region and some almost certainly right back in your area there in Wilson,” said Sam Fishleder, vice president and general manager at Nucor Steel Hertford County.
The company’s Winton plant has been making new steel out of old scrap steel for 25 years and currently melts more than a million tons each year. The various sized plate steel is sold to other companies for whatever they are manufacturing.
Fishleder said the Wilson Mall steel made into new plate steel at Nucor will be used for wind towers, bridges, big



D.H. Griffin Co. excavators work near a pile of metal being recycled from the Wilson Mall in April. Some 2,425 tons of heavy steel got recycled out of the mall demo project. Drew C. Wilson | Times

bucket loaders and big dump trucks.
“Transportation is a big market for us, so rail car construction, barge construction, general shipbuilding, all markets that will consume plate that we will make out of steel from your mall that is getting torn down,” Fishleder told the Times during the demolition.
“We make plate for aircrafts carriers and submarines for our Navy, so that is something we are quite proud of.”
Nucor Steel was used by Wilson-based Construct Inc. to make parts of the new Wilson Ballpark in downtown Wilson.
Nearby Rocky Mount Recyclers received 1,314 tons, or 248 truckloads of lighter gauge, shreddable metals.
“It was a big demolition project, no doubt,” said Gary Ward, owner of Rocky Mount Recyclers, “There were a ton of tractor trailers that came out of there.”
Ward said the mall metal has already been sent out to steel mills. “One mill makes I-beams. One makes plate steel.”

'WE HAD VERY SKILLED LABOR'

The D.H. Griffin Co. crew started the mall demolition on Feb. 17 and carried the last load of recyclables on April 21.
“This is a fairly small project compared to ones we do,” Watson said. “We implode stadiums. We do a lot of implosion work, bridge removals. We do a lot of big scale work, high-rise hotels, power plants, steam plants. We do a lot of industrial demolition.”
D.H. Griffin helped clean up lower Manhattan after the Sept. 11, 2001,

attacks on America and is currently handling a large demolition project for SpaceX. The company also imploded the BB&T towers in downtown Wilson.
Watson said the demolition project went “very smooth.”
The D.H. Griffin crew used excavators mostly to pull the mall sections to the ground. Recyclable materials were pulled out and piled into like kind before being loaded onto trucks.
“We do a very excellent job. We had very skilled labor. They are willing to do what it takes to get the job done,” Watson said. “We had 12 hours of daylight once the time changed, and they are all in, so we are here from 7 to 7 every day.”
Watson said that despite the fact that a head-high fence encircled the demolition site, people still came through.
“We had a lot of vandalism,” Watson said. “We have interrupted their path where they go every day when we put this fence up, so a lot of them just want to see what was going on, and we have had people rummaging through the mall as we were trying to demo it. Just typical, but all and all it has been a great job. I like the town of Wilson.”
Bill Bass, Wilson assistant city manager, said that when the project was put out for bid, prospective companies were asked to factor in recycling.
“The bids included a credit for recycling. D.H. Griffin was the low bidder. Their overall bid was \$891,331, they reduced that number by \$435,000 (recycling credit). The amount we paid was the remainder, \$456,331,” Bass said.



D.H. Griffin Co. excavators work near a pile of metal being recycled from the Wilson Mall in April. Drew C. Wilson | Times

Congratulations

Dr. Theodore R. Harris and brother Dr. Will J. Harris



On May 16, 2026 we celebrated a remarkable achievement of two brothers' successful completion of the Doctor of Philosophy and Divinity at North Carolina Theological Seminary Clinton N.C. Both receive a 4.0 GPA having earned straight A's, this reflects exceptional discipline, mastery of course material and a commitment to academic excellent. This is not merely an academic title; It is a testament to years of disciplined study, prayerful reflection, and unwavering dedication to both truth and service.

Earning a Doctor of Philosophy and Divinity is no small feat. It requires the mind of a servant, and the perseverance of a pilgrim on a long and sometime challenging journey. They have demonstrated all three in abundance. Through countless hours of research, writing, and theological reflection, they have deepened not only their own understanding, but also the well of wisdom from which others may draw.

Their work stands as a bridge between faith and intellect, showing that rigorous scholarship and deep spirituality are not opposing force, but partners in the pursuit of truth. In a world often divided between belief and reason, their achievement shines as a reminder that the two can walk hand and hand, illuminating the path for others.

This mantle of responsibility, using their knowledge to uplift, guide, and encourage those entrusted to their care. CONGRATULATION, to Doctor of Philosophy and Divinity to Dr. Theodore R. Harris and brother Dr. Will J. Harris

Special thanks to their mentors: Bishop Robert Gorham of (Wilson Chapel Church), Dr. James Johnson of (Manna Bible College) Dr. Julia Renfrow for support also of (Manna Bible College) Hattie Anderson for support, and prayer mother-in law; Dr. Shirley Harris the wife of Dr. Theodore Harris for all her support and love.



Buy 2 Boxes Of Cards Get 3rd **FREE**

GREAT GIFT IDEAS FOR GRADS & DADS
Gifts, Books, Bibles, Devotionals, Novelties & Much More!

2920-D SW Forest Hills Rd. • Wilson • 252-237-5524 • HOURS: Mon.-Thurs. & Sat. 9:30-6 • Fri. 9:30-7

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” - Psalm 46:1

20% Off Any One Item

With This Ad NOW SAT JUNE 20TH, 2026

(Excludes Boxed Cards, Robes, Clergy Shirts, Hymnals, Sunday School Books, Burn Bar Items, Rubber Stamps, Gift Certificates & Church Supplies)

The Wilson Times

Vol. 130, No. 43

Vice President of Sales and Marketing:
Sean O'Brien

Editor:
Justin Hayes

©2026 The Wilson Times

To report a missing or damaged paper:
252-243-5151 M-Fri 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

To subscribe, request a vacation hold or for account questions: 252-243-5151

To place an ad: 252-265-7816 or e-mail ads@wilsontimes.com

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION	
SINGLE COPY \$1.50 Tuesday \$2.50 Friday	MAIL \$15 + tax/month EZPay. Call 243-5151, option 1.
The Wilson Times subscriptions include our printed newspaper plus unlimited digital access. All subscription prices are nonrefundable. An additional \$22.25 fee will be assessed to each subscription for the following premium editions: 3/20, 6/12/1, 9/18, 12/11. Expiration dates will be adjusted accordingly. You may opt out at any time prior to each premium day by contacting customer service at 252-243-5151.	
RESTORATION NEWSMEDIA	
Restoration NewsMedia is a print and digital news and information company founded by The Wilson Times, North Carolina's oldest family-owned daily newspaper, dedicated to restoring and preserving community journalism.	

(USPS 685-660)

Published Tuesday and Friday by:
The Wilson Times
126 Nash St. W. • P.O. Box 2447
Wilson, NC 27894

Periodicals postage paid at Wilson, N.C.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
The Wilson Times
126 Nash St. W. • P.O. Box 2447
Wilson, NC 27894-2447

OBITUARIES

Margaret Hambright Hunt

Aug 22, 1938 — May 20, 2026

Margaret Susan Hambright was born August 22, 1938, to William Anderson and Sara Lee Goode Hambright in Spartanburg, SC. She passed away at the home she shared with her husband on May 20, 2026. She was reared on a farm in SC and graduated salutatorian from Blacksburg Centralized High School in 1956. She then attended Woman's College (now UNCG) and graduated cum laude in 1960. After a dietetic internship at Charity Hospital in New Orleans, she was employed as a clinical dietitian at NC Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill. Later she attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and received an MS in Public Health Nutrition. After graduate school, she was employed by the NC Board of Health in the Maternal and Infant Care project, based in Goldsboro, NC where she met her future husband.

Margaret married Robert Brame Hunt on May 13, 1967, at Shiloh Presbyterian Church in Grover, NC. After a honeymoon in Nova Scotia, they moved to Tallahassee where Robert attended graduate school and Margaret was head Clinical Dietitian at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital.

Later, the couple returned to NC where Margaret was a consultant in nursing homes and ended her career at WakeMed in Raleigh where she worked for over 20 years as a clinical dietitian.

Reared a Presbyterian, she and her fiancé became Episcopalians in 1967. She sang in the choir in various churches, and the couple most recently were communicants at Grace Episcopal in Clayton.

Margaret received the Borden Award at Woman's College at the School of Home Economics. She was president of the Charlotte Dietetic Association and president of the Clayton Elementary School PTA.

Margaret and her husband loved to travel, visiting all 50 states as well as cruising parts of Europe, Scandinavia, Australia, and New Zealand. They also spent much time at Indian Beach, NC. She was always glad to return home to her children and grandchildren who live nearby.

She was preceded in death by her parents, sister-in-law/maid of honor, Jean Dodd Hambright, and brother-in-law, Jimmy Hunt.

Margaret is survived by her husband of 59 years as well as her son, Mark Brame Hunt (Jill) and daughter, Sarah Ross Hunt Foster (Chad) as well as her adored grandchildren, Sonia Hunt and Ross Foster. She is also survived by her brothers, William Anderson Hambright, Jr. and James Robert Hambright (Margie). She is also survived by sister-in-law, Carolyn Leonard Hunt, and four niblings, Rebecca Hunt-Hawley (Jimmy), Baxter Hunt (Deb), Rachel Hunt (Olav), and Elizabeth Amigh (Kevin).

Margaret's family is grateful to the all-female UNC Cancer Physicians - Dr. Clark, Dr. Brooks, Dr. Harr, and especially Dr. Raugh who allowed Margaret to exhaust all treatment options she could tolerate.

The memorial service led by the Reverend Andrew Phillips, Grace Episcopal Church, will be at 11:00am on May 30, 2026, at McLaurin Funeral Home in Clayton, NC. A visitation with the family will be held at 10:00am, preceding the funeral service, also at McLaurin Funeral Home. Her ashes will be interred at the Hunt plot in Rock Ridge with some reserved for scattering on the grave of her grandfather, Ross Hambright in Kings Creek, SC.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Grace Episcopal Church, PO Box 752, Clayton, NC 27528.



Share Curiosity.
Read Together.

Ad Council

www.read.gov

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Doris F Then

Aug 14, 1931 — May 18, 2026

The family of Doris Then sadly announces her passing on May 18, 2026, in the presence of her family.



Doris F Then

Doris was born on August 14th, 1931 in Newark, NJ to Rose Cirlincione and Romolo Giacobbe. She happily married Joseph L. Then, also of Newark, on May 14th, 1955. Doris worked for the Department of the Navy until she & Joe started their family in 1958. They moved their young family to Wayne, NJ where they raised their three children. In 1983, Doris and Joe relocated to Wilson, NC where they lived together until Joe's death in 1996. Doris remained in NC until 2022 when she relocated to State College, PA to be near her daughters.

Doris is survived by her children, Cindy Pellis (Mary Dickson) of Aaronsburg, PA; Linda Then (Sandy Hoyte) of Centre Hall, PA; Michael Then (Marla) of Leander, TX; as well as her sister, Sister Mary Catherine Rose Giacobbe of Harrisburg, PA. She has 5 grandchildren, Arielle Pellis, Hayley Pellis, J'ai Evan Brown, Brynne Gibbs, and Daniel Gibbs, as well as her 6 great-grandchildren, Io Brown, Ramses Ducello, Kalysto Brown, Souleil Gibbs, Mars Hathaway, and Lua Gibbs.

Doris enjoyed traveling the world with Joe, loved a good round of Bingo, was passionate about animals, and was an avid reader. Above all, she cherished her family and considered them her greatest joy. She will be missed.

Anna Sophia Wheeler

May 17, 1965 — May 22, 2026

Anna Sophia Wheeler, 61, of Wilson passed away Friday, May 22, 2026. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 28, 2026, at Joyner's Funeral Home, Wilson. Rev. Cliff Lewin will officiate.

The family will receive friends Thursday prior to the service from 1 - 1:45 p.m. at Joyner's Funeral Home, 4100 Raleigh Road Parkway, Wilson.

Anna loved to make flower arrangements, a faithful member of the Virginia Beach Neptune Goddesses. She never met a stranger, and she loved her family, friends and church family with all her heart. Anna was dearly loved and she will be greatly missed.

Anna is survived by her loving husband of twenty-five years, Brantley Wheeler; son, Reid Moss; step-son, Jason Wheeler; step-daughter, Kelly Massengill; step-grandson, John Fowler; step-granddaughter, Kelcey Masengill; brothers, Tom Herbert and wife, Nancy and Philip Hobbs and wife, Debbie; brother-in-law, Jimmy Wheeler and wife, Vika, and sisters, Dawn Lucas and husband, Wallace and Catherine Braswell and husband, William. Anna's fur baby, Scoot.

She was preceded in death by her son, Shane Moss; parents, Henry and Maxine Hobbs and her sister-in-law, Gail Davis and husband, Bob.

The family would like to send special thanks to Hospice of Wilson, Kristin Joyner and Lucy Gardner for the care and compassion that was given to Anna.

In lieu of flowers, consider memorials in Anna's memory to ALS United NC, 3733 National Drive, Suite 124, Raleigh, North Carolina 27612.

Condolences directed to Joyner's Funeral Home and Crematory at www.joyners.net.



BY GIVING JUST A FEW HOURS OF MY DAY
I HELP CHILDREN PREPARE FOR
A LIFETIME OF LEARNING
BECAUSE I DON'T JUST WEAR THE SHIRT, I LIVE IT.
GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER. LIVE UNITED.

Ad Council

United Way

Gerald Bass

WILSON, N.C. — Gerald Bass, 88, died Monday, May 25, 2026. Service arrangements are entrusted to Wilson Memorial Service.

Vernice Hines

WILSON, N.C. — Vernice Hines, died Wednesday, May 20, 2026. Service arrangements are entrusted to Stevens Funeral Home.

Adell McMiller

WILSON, N.C. — Adell McMiller, died Monday, May 25, 2026. Service arrangements are entrusted to Stevens Funeral Home.

93%

The number of advertisers that were pleased with the response to their classified ad in

The Wilson Times

Pulse Research, November 2013

Explore **WILSON** NORTH CAROLINA

WWW.EXPLOREWILSON.COM

Full Service is Back

GRAND OPENING

db *above and beyond*

400 Nash St., NE Wilson, NC 27893

CALL TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TODAY

252-265-3060

Holden *Temporaries, Inc.*

252-291-8985

Your Employment Needs Are Our Personal Concern

Clerical | General | Labor
Payroll Services | Construction
Industrial | Warehouse

We are a Drug Free Workplace

We offer Health Ins. & 401K Benefits to our employees.
252-291-8985 • 3101 Ward Boulevard, Wilson, NC

KARRIE LEWIS
Sales Representative

EVANGELIST STEVE EDMONDSON

First Pentecostal Holiness Church

2000 Ruann Drive, Wilson, NC

Revival - Evangelist Steve Edmondson

Sunday, May 31, 2026.
10:30 am & 6:30 pm
Monday, June 1, 2026
6:30 pm
Tuesday, June 2, 2026
6:30 pm

Missy Batten
Agent

North Carolina
Farm Bureau Insurance

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE
Auto • Home • Life

252-237-5654
3705 Nash St. NW
Wilson, NC 27896
missy.batten@ncfbins.com

Mason Lee
President

252.210.9383
Fax 1.888.772.7901
2507 Nash St. NW
Wilson NC 27896
mason@ffins.com
www.ffins.com

FAMILY FIRST INSURANCE
(252) 210-9383 | ffins.com

AUTO • HOME • LIFE • HEALTH • BUSINESS

THIRSTY THURSDAYS

3115 RALEIGH ROAD PKWY W
WILSON, N.C 27896

(252) 674-7022
(252) 674-7023

SUNDAY-THURSDAY 11AM-9PM
FRIDAY-SATURDAY 11AM-10PM

1/2 OFF BEER AND 10% OFF MIXED DRINKS

An Everlasting Memory
3670 Sunset Ave.
Rocky Mount, NC 27804
252-937-7399
Fax- 252-937-5767

Email: aneverlastingmemory@aol.com
(Heather) or mstrickland609@aol.com
(Michelle)

Rocky Mount
252-937-7399
Est. 2004

A MONUMENT IS MORE THAN A STONE, IT IS A SYMBOL OF LOVE AND DEVOTION. WE OFFER MANY DIFFERENT COLORS OF GRANITE, MARBLE AND BRONZE MONUMENTS, FOOTMARKERS, LEDGERS, BENCHES AND MAUSOLEUMS.



Sallie B. Howard presents awards

Sallie B. Howard School hosted its Senior Awards Day on Friday, May 22. The Class of 2026 awardees are pictured. In the front row, from left, are Destiny Worrell, Yareli Acosta-Arroyo, Breanca Batts, Uriyjah Chance, Amyah Newby, Zykerria Brockington, Kimora Walston, Kalisiah McMillion, Vanesa Avila, Daliyah Jackson, Gianis Cruz, Layla Guzman, Valeria Mariano-Jaguey and Blanca Orozco-Perez. Standing in back are Tegan El Jaouhari, Jewelz Taylor, Myianah Daniels, Guillermina Reyes-Vazquez, Jesus Valdivia-Morales, Christopher Salgado, Dianna Benitez-Mondragon, Sergio Alvarez-Arias, Ja'ir Taylor, Jacob Hilliard, Sadiyah McMillian, Evelyn Aguirre-Moranchel, Jesus Villareal, Messiah Williams, Helena Jenks, Benny Alvarez-Flores, Ava Barbosa, Sanquan Bynum-Hinnant, Quentin Chapman, Bresha Batts, Jehova' Polanco and Christopher Carabajal-Mejia. Luis "Cacho" Torres | Sallie B. Howard School



WAAT presents awards to seniors

Wilson Academy of Applied Technology held Awards Day on May 8. Award winners are pictured and include Azhar Ahmed, Zaylee Geannette Alston, Gabriela Anelsy Alvarado, Andrea Bahena Garcia, Jasmine Camila Baisano, Emily Balderas-Sanchez, Austin Thomas Bass, Laura Betancourt, Angel Nevaeh Blount, Shakyra My'Angel Boone, Walton Cole Burnworth, Semaj Zykeis Butler, Jimena Cabrera, Angelique Casarrubias-Javier, Erick Cruz-Fernandez, Alan Cruz-Fernandez, Bryanna Elise Durant, Dillon Harold Gay, Kalp Gosai, Kayla Mychelle High, Jah'Sim Juelz Sincere Jenkins, Taylor Grace Jordan, Brayan Leon-Resendiz, Gabriela Linares, Jessica Michelle Martinez, Benjamin Lee McBride, Evan Michael McDuffie, Braelin Nicole Narron-Speight, Gabriela Nieves, Hannah Nicole Olmos, Alexander Jafar Oveysey, Keidy Perez, Arely Michell Perez-Mariano, Mylee Nevaeh Pulley, Michelle Rodriguez, Conchita Lexany Rodriguez-Catana, Ethan Yahzel Rosales-Valverde, Yuridia Sanchez-Sanchez, Zulema Sanchez-Sanchez, Leslie Jackeline Sanchez-Sanjuan, Reina Jasmin Sanjuan-Chavez, Sergio Santiago-Jimenez, Xavier Jonas Shimel, Aaron Daniel Slate, Richard Alexander Spencer, Daniel Thomas Tew, Vanitza Ventura-Ramirez, Kristen Denise Wellington-Boseman, Nathan Henry Willoughby, Opal Rayne Wilson and Jennifer Estrella Zavala. Contributed photo



WECA honors seniors

Wilson Early College Academy held Awards Day on May 1. Students who received awards are pictured. In the front row, from left, are Brea Wilson, Mia Stevens, Claire Whitley, Abigail Hyderkhan, Lydia Simons, Leeah Coley, Paula Rodriguez-Sanchez, Madalyn Hernandez, Lydia Denton and Tamryn Finch. In back are Lauren Lasitter, Javonni Bynum, Leah Woodard, Madison Harrison, Matthew Wong, Taronica Urps, Javanni Bynum, Princess Locus and Emphyrean Wright. Contributed photo



Look for

COUPONS

After the Yellow Pages



WILSON COUNTY

Service Directory

www.wilsonyellowbook.com

WILSON COUNTY
SERVICE DIRECTORY 2026

"The book that works for YOU"

Wilson County
Humane Society

Foster Families
Needed



"Saving one dog will not change the world but...
for that one dog the world will CHANGE FOREVER."

wilsoncountyhumesociety.com

2026 Listings Include
Bailey • Black Creek
Elm City • Fremont
Kenly • Lucama
Middlesex • Pikeville
Saratoga • Sims
Stantonsburg • Wilson

SEARCH LOCAL
FIND LOCAL
SAVE LOCAL

Download Our
FREE Mobile App

www.wilsonyellowbook.com

Performance
HEATING & COOLING

3466 Airport Blvd., Wilson

399-1100

Bill's Grill

Home Cooked
Meats & Desserts
Catering
WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY
252-243-9003
119 Nash St. W., Wilson
252-239-1627
102 E. Main St., Fremont
billsgrill.com

GAS PRO

Propane Sales & Propane Services
252-289-6929
www.gasprollc.org
Licensed & Insured

252-265-7841

Sign up now for Jubilee Day to celebrate seniors

For the Times

Wilson County will hold Golden Jubilee Day on Friday, June 26, to honor seniors in Wilson County who are 55 and older. This year’s event will take place at Fike High School on Friday, June 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Attendees must register for the event by calling 252-206-1919 and pressing 6 for Golden Jubilee registration. The instructions will ask callers to leave their name, phone number and age. Registration is open through Monday, June 1. In the past, the Wilson County Department of Social Services held an annu-

al Senior Awareness Day and the Wilson County Senior Activity Center held an Age My Way event. Both events generally take place in May each year and both honor seniors. Now the two departments will join forces for a new event — Wilson County Golden Jubilee Day. This year the theme is based on “The Golden Girls” TV show, and the event will feature a vibrant space where participants can celebrate, learn and connect while receiving valuable resources designed to enhance their lives. There will be vendors, door prizes, entertainment, food and fun, all for free.

DriveNC.gov set for upgrade with new map tools, alerts and app

For The Enterprise

RALEIGH — The N.C. Department of Transportation is preparing to launch an updated version of its DriveNC.gov traveler information website, adding new features and a redesigned platform for users and agency staff. The website address, DriveNC.gov, will remain the same, but the underlying software system is being replaced. The upgrade will introduce new tools for the public and operational improvements for NCDOT employees. Users, including media outlets, will need to resubscribe to email alerts under the new system. Since Wednesday, May 27, visitors to DriveNC.gov can see an updated map interface, a revised legend and new navigation tools. New features will include the ability to:

- Sign up for email alerts

about traffic disruptions along customized routes or selected areas;

- View messages displayed on overhead digital highway signs;
- Watch live video from 1,100 highway traffic cameras.

For the first time, users also will be able to download a free mobile app, DriveNC, for iPhone and Android devices. Users will also be able to select “New Features” in the website’s top navigation bar to access tutorials. The department developed the original DriveNC.gov system following Hurricane Floyd in 1999, which caused widespread flooding in eastern North Carolina. “For more than 25 years, our current system has reliably served travelers across North Carolina,” said Kelly Wells, traveler information engineer for the department’s Traffic Systems Operations Unit. “This

new platform will provide even greater capabilities to support our travelers and our partners.” In 2025, more than 34,000 incidents were entered into DriveNC.gov, including crashes, scheduled maintenance, construction and storm-related traffic impacts. The system also maintains an archive of roadway events on state-maintained roads used by researchers and others. Nearly 1.4 million people used DriveNC.gov last year, accounting for about 2.2 million website visits. Current automatic alert sharing with navigation platforms such as Waze, Apple Maps and Google Maps will continue under the new system. The updated, mobile-friendly DriveNC.gov website will remain free to all users. Customized alerts will be available by creating an account and subscribing to email notifications.

CHURCH NEWS

Total Impact Outreach

The Total Impact Outreach Ministries Community Choir will celebrate its anniversary at 3 p.m. Saturday, May 30. The church is located at 502 Jordan St. SW.

St. Paul Church of Christ

St. Paul Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ will have worship service at 8 a.m. Sunday, May 31, with Bishop Chester L. Aycock preaching. Music will be provided by the Mass Choir. Intercessory prayer is at 6 p.m., and Bible study is 7 p.m. Thursday. The church is located at 4009 Lake Wilson Road.

Salisbury AME Zion

Salisbury AME Zion Church has Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. and worship service at 10 a.m. each week. The Rev. Michael S. Bell is pastor. Bible study is held at noon on Thursdays. Summer camp will be held for students in grades 1-7. Registration fee is \$25 per student. For more information call 252-668-

3004. The church is located at 2029 Lipscomb Road.

Calvary Missionary Baptist

Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, 704 E. Gay St., has Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. and worship service at 10 a.m. on first, second and fourth Sundays. Bible study is 6 p.m. Wednesdays. Pastor is Tawanda Moore.

Walking By Faith

Walking By Faith Church, located at 6747 U.S. 264 Alternate in Sims, has Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday, followed by worship service at 11. Bible study is via Zoom call at 6 p.m. Thursdays. Break Every Chain prayer call is 5 a.m., Monday through Friday.

St. James Christian

St. James Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. and worship service at 11 each week. Family

& Friends Unity Day is at 11 a.m. Sunday, May 31. The Rev. Della J. Owens-Barber is senior pastor. The church is located at 1739 Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway. The Community Mind and Wellness Initiative with have Zoom virtual meetings of the Caregivers Support Group every fourth Thursday at 6 p.m. with facilitator Tonnnette Artis. Meeting ID is 922 9306 3265 and the password is 494047. RSVP at wellness@stjamesdoc.org Bible study is 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. Youth Bible study is 1-3 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month. The next community food giveaways are at noon June 6 and June 20.

Life in the Word

Life in the Word Ministry will have Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. and worship service at 11 on Sunday, May 31. Speaker is the Rev. George Atkinson. Bible study is at noon Wednesday.

Abundant Grace

Abundant Grace Ministries will not have service on Sunday, May 31.

Trinity AME Zion

Trinity AME Zion Church has Sunday School at 10 a.m. and worship service at 11 each week. The Rev. Yolanda Alston-Foster is pastor. Bible study is 7-8 p.m. Wednesdays. The church is located at 1626 Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway SE.

Greater Harvest AME Zion

Greater Harvest AME Zion has worship service at 10:15 a.m. each Sunday. The Rev. Michael Moore is pastor. The church is located at 1210 Aycock St. Church

school is held at 9 a.m. weekly and Bible study Tuesdays at 7 p.m. via conference call at 605-475-4049, access code 460652#.

Tabernacle Baptist

Tabernacle Baptist Church will host the Christian gospel group Forever be Sure for a free concert at 6 p.m. Sunday, May 31, at Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1815 Airport Blvd.

Brown Chapel FWB

Brown Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, 1505 Hadley St., will have Youth and Young at Heart Revival, “Built Different and Set Apart,” at 7 p.m. Friday, June 5. Speakers are Minister Temesia Kirby, Ashley Thomas and Terry Chapman. The church will have Youth Day at 10:45 a.m. Sunday, June 7, with Minister Percy Robertson preaching.

Kingdom Believers International

Kingdom Believers International, 206 W. Wilson St., Elm City, will celebrate the anniversary of its pastor at 11 a.m. Sunday, June 14. Guest speaker is Pastor Elaine Morgan of Miracle Temple Church of Faith in Indianapolis. Kingdom Believers will celebrate its church anniversary at 4 p.m. Sunday, June 14, with guest speaker the Rev. Jacqui Hawkins-Morton of First Church of God in Raleigh. CHURCH NEWS submissions can be emailed to churchnews@wilsontimes.com, mailed to The Wilson Times, Attn: Church News, P.O. Box 2447, Wilson, NC 27894 or dropped off at the newspaper’s 126 Nash St. office during business hours. The deadline is 3 p.m. each Wednesday for publication in Friday editions.

RE-ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

COUNTY OF WILSON – SOUTHWEST WATER DISTRICT

WILSON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

FISH POND ROAD BOOSTER PUMP STATION –

PROCUREMENT CONTRACT

General Notice

The County of Wilson (Buyer) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:

Fish Pond Road Booster Pump Station

Project Number: 22-027

Bids for the specified booster pump station equipment will be received by the County of Wilson at the Wilson County Government Center, 2nd Floor Conference Room located at 2201 Miller Road South, Wilson, North Carolina 27893, until **Monday, June 8, 2026, at 11:00 A.M.** local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read.

The Project includes the fabrication and delivery of one (1) factory-built, packaged variable speed constant pressure booster pump station to provide potable water service to County residents. Station to include four (4) 18 gpm vertical multi-stage pumps for domestic water service and two (2) 264 gpm vertical multi-stage pumps for fire service.

The Project has an expected duration of **90** days.

Obtaining the Bidding Documents

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is:

Green Engineering, P.L.L.C.

303 Goldsboro Street East, P.O. Box 609

Wilson, North Carolina 27893

Prospective Bidders may obtain or examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm, and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.

Printed copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Issuing Office upon receipt of a non-refundable payment of \$25.00 for each set. Make checks for Bidding Documents payable to Green Engineering, P.L.L.C.

Instructions to Bidders.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all BIDS.

Small, minority and women’s businesses and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit BIDS.

The County of Wilson is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.

For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

This Advertisement is issued by:

Owner: **County of Wilson – Southwest Water District**

By: **Ron Hunt**

Title: **County Manager**

Date: **May 29, 2026**

St. Timothy’s gives donation to church
Father Daniel Pinell of LaGuadalupe Episcopal Church receives a check for \$1,500 from Melba Martin. The money is part of the proceeds from St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church Women’s fundraiser. Contributed photo

82%

of consumers who purchased or leased a new vehicle read

The Wilson Times

in an average week.

American Opinion Research, April 2013

Opinion

The Wilson Times WILSON'S 24/7 NEWS SOURCE IN PRINT AND ONLINE
MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER — A COMMUNITY INSTITUTION SINCE 1896
Keven Zepezauer PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER **Justin Hayes** EDITOR
Morgan Paul Dickerman, III CEO **Lisa Boykin Batts** ASSOCIATE EDITOR

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Jesus said, “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit — fruit that will last — and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.” (John 15:16)

PRAYER: Dear Father, when times are good, may we remember to thank you. When times are bad and we need help, may we remember to reach out to you, trusting that you will answer. Amen.

Editorial page pursued ‘righteous fights’



COREY FRIEDMAN

Ever the contrarian, the late Max Fitz-Gerald had a compelling way with words. “I like a good, righteous fight — and this is a good fight,” Fitz-Gerald said on the witness stand during a June 2016 hearing, one of his many tussles with state regulators over the operation of his nonprofit animal shelter, For the Love of Dogs. I’d started work as editor of The Wilson Times a month before the hearing. As I leave the Times newsroom after 10 years, I’d like to think I picked my share of righteous fights as author of the Times’ editorials — unsigned opinion pieces written in this 130-year-old newspaper’s institutional voice.

- From mid-2017 through early 2018, this editorial page supported Brewmasters of Wilson in its fight to preserve artist Dave Matthews’ mural on the side of the 2117 Forest Hills Road W. restaurant. Because the artist used negative space between illustrations to form the word “Brewmasters” in uneven block letters, the city of Wilson labeled the mural an oversize sign and initially demanded its removal under the city’s sign ordinance. Rhyan Breen, then a lawyer representing Brewmasters who now serves as an assistant district attorney, made an airtight First Amendment case against the artwork’s erasure. After months of public debate, the Wilson City Council adopted a new ordinance regulating signs and murals that left Matthews’ evocative painting undisturbed.
- In April 2018, the Wilson County Board of Education chair censored a parent speaker under an unconstitutional public comment policy that prevented people from naming school employees during their remarks. The school board’s lawyer agreed with our First Amendment analysis, and the board passed revised public comment rules at its next meeting. Case closed? Not quite.

The new policy required speakers to sign up three full days in advance, a move that seemed designed to discourage public input. Confronted with a rule that was awful but lawful, this editorial page spent months prodding the school board to change the policy a second time. In December 2018, board members adopted a much-improved comment policy.

- In the spring and summer of 2019, we urged the Wilson County Board of Commissioners to accelerate its plans to build a new animal shelter on the heels of damning state inspections that showed the old shelter was threadbare and sinking into the ground. On June 1, 2019, we published the first front-page editorial in The Wilson Times’ storied history. “This unusual presentation reflects both the urgent need for a new public animal shelter in Wilson County and the groundswell of community support for our position,” I wrote in a column telling readers why the day’s editorial appeared in a more prominent place.

County commissioners ultimately did the right thing, appropriating more money and starting construction on the Wilson County Animal Services Center on Tucker Court.

- On numerous occasions over the past several years, we urged the Wilson City Council to abandon its bizarre past practice of excluding the public comment session from live broadcasts and recorded videos of its regular monthly meetings. The council changed course this February after District 2 Councilman Michael Bell, who was unable to attend the January meeting due to an illness, told his colleagues that he didn’t appreciate being left out of the loop on Wilson residents’ concerns.

These fights were righteous. The Times’ editorial position on these issues was correct. And though elected officials eventually saw things our way, it would be naïve and vainglorious to claim credit for the outcomes. Neither I nor any other editorial writer can “make” a public body do anything. The best an opinion journalist can hope for is to spark a conversation that sows the seeds of change.

If our reporting and commentary on these issues prompted you to call or write your City Council member, school board member or county commissioner, speak at a public meeting, write a letter to the editor or encourage friends and relatives to share their views, then we’ve done our job. The true muscle behind a free and independent press is an informed and engaged citizenry. “You need to know where your power lies,” comedian Dave Chappelle thunders in a 2021 special. “You are Americans, so your power lies in each other.”

Same goes for Wilsonians. Don’t underestimate your collective influence. It can move mountains. The world can take me out of Wilson, but it can’t take the Wilson out of me. After moving out of state, I plan to contribute to the Times’ editorial page in a freelance capacity. The responsibility of overseeing this page is now in the capable hands of Justin Hayes, the new editor of the Times and executive editor of Restoration NewsMedia.

My advice for Justin? Pick some righteous fights.

Corey Friedman served as editor of The Wilson Times from May 2016 through May 2026. Reach him at corey.s.friedman@gmail.com.

Tell us what’s on your mind

The Wilson Times welcomes opinions from readers on topics of public interest. Letters that promote a commercial product, contain either libelous material, personal attacks on individuals or vulgar language, and those addressed to a third party, will not be published. Consumer complaints and letters containing unverifiable factual claims are ineligible for publication. Letters should be no more than 350 words, must be signed and should include the writer’s address. A telephone number, which will not be published, should be included for verification purposes. Letters selected for publication may be edited and all letters become property of The Wilson Times.



LETTERS

Vote to save America from socialism

In six months, we will go to the polls to choose candidates for the Congress and Senate. Part of this decision will be whether we as Americans want to be governed by conservatives or socialist Democrats. Across the country, we have seen socialist Democrats gaining a foothold in numerous cities and states with disastrous results. Before you vote, you must look at the agenda of the socialist Democrats and decide “Is this what I want for my country and my children’s future?”

Over 600 groups and \$2 billion came together to organize a series of socialist protests in the past two months. The Democratic Socialists of America, Code Pink, the Communist Party of America and the Federation of Teachers, along with local Democratic parties, gave schoolchildren a Communist holiday experience — they were given the day off. These protests called for a revolution to fight Trump’s agenda, abolish ICE and more. Words like extremism and fascism and phrases like “threat to democracy” are being used as weapons against the very institutions

that built America. Socialism and Communist ideology don’t work. Examples: Cuba, Venezuela, California, New York City, Chicago, Seattle and on and on. Socialist Democrats are targeting the system, and once that system starts to crack, no one on either side will like what comes next. The bigger the lie and the more it is repeated, the more likely it will be believed. Remember that when you vote, you are voting to save America.

William E. Biddle
WILSON

Expand options for behavioral health



JOHN HOOD

Do you or someone you know suffer from mental illness? I suspect most readers will say yes. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, behavioral health disorders affect a fifth of adults and a sixth of school-aged children in North Carolina. One in 18 of us lives with a “severe mental illness,” defined as “a mental, behavioral or emotional disorder that results in serious impairment and interferes with or limits one or more major life activities.” My own family history is full of such cases, ranging from alcoholism and depression to schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Several of my ancestors and relatives died as a result of their afflictions. Others were incarcerated or institutionalized. Again, none of this sets me apart. Mental illness isn’t rare. It directly or indirectly touches millions of North Carolinians and tens of millions of Americans.

One way our state is distinct from others, however, is that it is particularly challenging to seek treatment for such conditions here. A North Carolina Institute of Medicine study published in 2025 ranked us last in the nation for access to behavioral health. All but six of our 100 counties are considered “professional mental health shortage areas,” with nearly a quarter of counties lacking a single practicing psychiatrist and more than a quarter lacking a single practicing psychologist. Although funding is always an issue, we don’t appear to be significantly out of alignment with our peers. According to an analysis published last year, per-capita public expenditures on mental health in North Carolina were higher than

Here’s a set of reforms state lawmakers and regulators can tackle right now: strike a better balance between provider access and training.

those of any of our neighbors, or of such large states as Ohio, Florida, Texas and Illinois. It’s a complicated picture, one so daunting to interpret that some policymakers may be tempted to throw up their hands in confusion. That would be unwise. In addition to the obvious human suffering, untreated mental illness has larger social consequences. It imperils public safety and lowers student achievement. It reduces labor force participation and makes it hard for employers to fill key jobs. And despite North Carolina’s many attractive assets and amenities, it harms our ability to compete for households, businesses, investment and talent. Here’s a set of reforms state lawmakers and regulators can tackle right now: strike a better balance between provider access and training. A massive, costly effort to train and deploy psychiatrists with M.D.s all across North Carolina would likely yield modest results and fail a cost-benefit test. Behavioral health encompasses a far broader spectrum of providers, including advanced-practice nurses, psychologists, social workers, marriage and family therapists and peer and pastoral counselors. We should remove any barriers that unnecessarily limit their capacity to meet the behavioral health needs of North Carolinians. Seven states allow specially trained psychologists to prescribe medications to treat mental illness. This practice “is not only safe and evidence-based,” wrote researcher and licensed psy-

chologist Jacqueline Marie Gallios in Regulation magazine, “but also a vital solution to America’s escalating mental health crisis.” Other states allow nurse practitioners to operate independently, social workers and counselors to deliver a broader array of services and peer counselors to obtain certification with less time and expense. Telehealth is another promising tool. North Carolina has taken some steps in these directions but should go further. Jarrett Dieterle, a Manhattan Institute fellow, noted that studies conducted before and after the COVID-19 pandemic found comparable results for behavioral health treatment in the office vs. treatment by telehealth — but the latter is, naturally, less expensive and more accessible. “American’s mental health challenges are complex, nuanced and multi-variated,” Dieterle wrote in National Affairs. Any single reform, or even set of reforms, “cannot be expected to magically ‘fix’ the problem overnight. But policymakers are not powerless to respond, and neither are the rest of us.” I agree. My argument isn’t merely that, given the stakes, we can’t afford to let the perfect be the enemy of the good. There is no such thing as perfection here. There are only differences in priorities. Let’s elevate access to the top.

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

WCS hires 2 assistant principals

By **Drew C. Wilson**
dwilson@wilsontimes.com |
252-265-7818

Two new assistant superintendents and other personnel changes were approved by the Wilson County Board of Education at the May 18 regular meeting.

Charles “Chase” Ferrell is the new assistant superintendent of administrative services and Michael Zalewski is the new assistant superintendent of human resources.

Ferrell, who is currently the safety and security officer for Johnson County Public Schools, is taking the position of Ben Williams, the new superintendent of Wilson County Schools.

“He has 25 years of experience in education and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in mass communication, a Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education and a master’s degree in school administration from North Carolina

State University,” according to Amber Lynch, public relations director of Wilson County Schools.

Zalewski, who is currently assistant superintendent of operations for Franklin County Schools, will succeed Cheryl Wilson following her retirement.

“He has 19 years of experience in education and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in childhood education from Buffalo State College and a master’s degree in educational leadership from Arkansas State University,” Lynch said.

Ferrell and Zalewski will start work on July 1.

“We are excited to welcome Mr. Ferrell and Mr. Zalewski to Wilson County Schools,” Williams said. “Both bring strong leadership experience, a commitment to supporting students and staff and

a proven track record of service in public education. We look forward to the positive impact they will have on our district and school communities.”

Other personnel changes approved included the following:

HIRINGS

- Christine Mitchell, executive director of technology and innovation, instructional services
- Douglas Barron II, part-time instructional tutor, instructional services
- Lashon Lucas, administrative assistant to the superintendent and board clerk, superintendent’s office
- Angela Nichols, student information system training and outreach coordinator, technology
- Shirley Silver, part-time instructional tutor, instructional services

- Pamela Weston, transportation safety assistant, transportation

RESIGNATIONS

- LaToya Abram, kindergarten teacher, Vick Elementary School
- Rashika Bowden, sixth grade English language arts teacher, Darden Middle School
- Anthonia Bragg, exceptional children teacher, Vick Elementary School
- Erica Esparza, third grade teacher, Lee Woodard Elementary School
- Kara Haddock, science teacher, Wilson Early College Academy
- Hunter Hemphill, social studies teacher, Fike High School
- Shannon Lawless, seventh grade math/academic enrichment teacher, Springfield Middle School
- Bobbi Mallol, occupational therapist, Jones Elementary School
- Grayson Mills, sixth

- grade science teacher, Elm City Middle School
- Stephanie Muller, EC teacher, Beddingfield High School
- Udoamaka Nwoko, seventh grade science teacher, Springfield Middle School
- Larisha Rhodes, EC teacher, Vinson-Bynum Elementary School
- Naomi Ruffin, fifth grade teacher, Jones Elementary School
- Marsha Smith, eighth grade ELA teacher, Speight Middle School
- Robert Staley, sixth grade math teacher, Forest Hills Middle School
- Angelique Barnes, teacher assistant/bus driver, Speight Middle School
- Carol Johnson, after-school care enrichment program assistant, Rock Ridge Elementary School
- Alayisa Lynch, teacher assistant/bus driver, Vinson-Bynum Elementary School
- Cheresa Lynch, teacher assistant/bus driver, Hearne Elementary

- School
- Tiffany Mann, teacher assistant/bus driver, New Hope Elementary School
- Cornell Mercer, restorative justice facilitator, Forest Hills Middle School

RETIREMENTS

- Renee Bunn, second grade teacher, Rock Ridge Elementary School
- Miriam Davis, multi-classroom leader III, Vick Elementary School
- Reginia Dawson, seventh grade ELA teacher, Darden Middle School
- Elizabeth Dollar, media coordinator, Fike High School
- Sherry Edwards, media coordinator, Springfield Middle School
- Amy Peele, second grade teacher, Rock Ridge Elementary School
- Andreal Taylor, second grade teacher, Barnes Elementary School
- Leigh Anne Turner, academically and intellectually gifted specialist, instructional services

Bailey board adopts data center moratorium

By **Corey Friedman**
cfriedman@estorationnewsmedia.com | 252-265-7813

BAILEY — Commissioners voted 3-1 to impose a 10-month moratorium on data center development in Bailey, but not before Commissioner David Evans expressed concerns that the town’s definition of “data center” is overly broad and could apply to retail and service businesses’ on-site computer networks.

Shawn Lucas, the town’s zoning administrator and code enforcement officer, presented Resolution 2026-02 during the Bailey Board of Commissioners meeting on Monday, May 18.

“We’re looking at a change in eastern North Carolina that eastern North Carolina is not prepared for,” Lucas said, referencing news reports of a planned data center development in Tarboro. “It’s still a learning curve that we are all learning

right now.”

Modeled after a one-year data center moratorium approved May 4 in Spring Hope, a town where Lucas also serves as code enforcement officer, the resolution is meant to block artificial intelligence data centers due to their high electricity and water use.

Evans objected, saying data centers could have positive effects that hadn’t been sufficiently studied and arguing that the definition of “data center” provided in the resolution could sweep in existing Bailey businesses that maintain computers and servers.

“I think there needs to be more study on this, to be honest,” Evans said. “Under this definition, we have data centers in Bailey already. I know that’s not the intent. I know what the intent is, but this is not what it says.”

The resolution defines data centers as “a facility or group of facilities

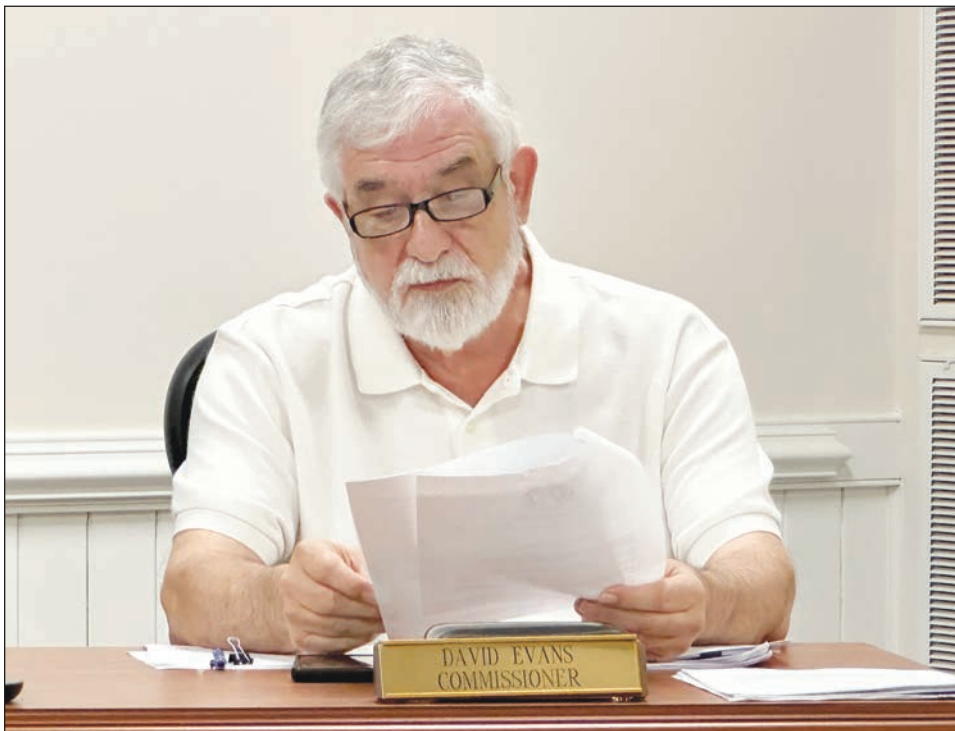
used to house computer systems and associated components, including but not limited to telecommunications systems, servers, data storage systems, cooling systems and backup power generation equipment.”

“I know facilities right now in town that already have all that,” Evans said.

Evans said the resolution seeks to block “massive data centers with work being done to create AI — but that’s not what it says.”

“There are too many holes in this document,” he said. “You can drive a bus through it.”

Asked for his legal opinion on the matter, Town Attorney Mark Edwards acknowledged that “the definitions are never as precise as you would like for them to be.” But he said the resolution could still protect the town of Bailey if a developer sought to construct an AI data center during the 10-month moratorium.



Commissioner David Evans reviews a resolution establishing a 10-month moratorium on data centers during the Bailey Board of Commissioners meeting on Monday, May 18. The resolution passed 3-1. Corey Friedman | Enterprise

is getting our ducks in a row prior to someone coming to see us.”

The Bailey Planning Board reviewed the resolution during its May meeting and recommended approval.

Bissette joined Commissioners Richard Wilson and Ervin Powell in voting to adopt the resolution and enact the moratorium, with Evans

voting in opposition.

Commissioner Walter Wells, who was absent for the vote but arrived later in the meeting, said he shared Evans’ concerns about the language and would have voted against the measure.

“The way it’s worded is atrocious,” Wells said. “I would have been a no. The vote would have been 3-2.”

TRY THE WILSON TIMES
BUSINESS ADVANTAGE



Manna Bible College holds commencement

Manna Bible College held its 2026 commencement ceremony May 17 at Evening Light Holiness Church. In the front row, from left, are Julia Renfrow, faculty; Yolanda Nadine Evans, associate and bachelor’s degrees; Innette J. Barnes, bachelor’s degree; Amanda Allen Batts, master’s degree; Patricia Parker Kelly, associate degree; Yvonne Woodard, doctoral degree; Marilyn B. Prince, bachelor’s degree; Cleo Barnes, faculty; and Tamesia Kirby, hostess. In the second row are Steven Smith, faculty; Preston Charles, faculty; Sharon Farmer Walker, doctoral degree; Evon Best Milton, faculty; Berl V. Owens, doctoral degree; and Randolph Barnes, faculty. In the third row are Donald Whitley, Darrick W. Barnes, Sellers Jenkins and James Johnson, faculty, and Latoya A. Vaughn associate degree. Contributed photo

MEDICAL EYE ASSOCIATES

We provide Full Service Routine, Medical & Surgical Eye Care For All Ages

Dr. Shawn Putman

Dr. Milan Genge

Welcoming new patients!

1707 Medical Park Drive
Wilson, NC
252-291-7008

3044 Sunset Avenue
Rocky Mount, NC
252-443-6129

The number of advertisers that were pleased with the response to their classified ad in

The Wilson Times

Pulse Research, November 2013

Sports

The Wilson Times

www.wilsontimes.com

FARRIS & THOMAS LAW MALE STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Hunt’s Gesell never stopped running, cheering

By Paul Durham
paul@wilsontimes.com | 265-7808

While cheerleading was not officially one of the five separate varsity sports that Hunt High senior Mason Gesell was part of this year, he proved to be quite a vocal supporter for his teammates in cross-country, indoor and outdoor track and field, swimming and tennis.

“A champion in support of his teammates, he leads by example,” said Hunt cross-country and track coach Rusty Boyette. “It’s one thing to be a good runner and tell others you need to do this and do that, but to show them how to do it, he is the epitome of what a team captain should be.”

Gesell’s excellence on the track helped the Warriors reach the NCHSAA 5-A championship meets in cross-country and winter and spring track. Swimming for the first time at Hunt, he qualified for the 5-A East Regional and played No. 2 singles for the Warriors tennis team that reached the second round of the state 5-A playoffs.

A stellar student with a 4.33 GPA and No. 18 class ranking with a busy schedule of activities at school beyond sports and in the community, Gesell is the choice for the Farris & Thomas Law Male Student-Athlete of the Year. For Gesell, the son of Stacy and Tony Gesell of Wilson, it’s all part of the same equation.

“Well, my parents always raised me



Hunt senior Mason Gesell runs on the course during the Wilson County Cross-Country Championships on Sept. 29, 2025, at Hunt. Paul Durham | Times

to make sure I have everything done, and they’re always looking on top of me about that, which is annoying

See **HUNT**, 3B

FARRIS & THOMAS LAW FEMALE STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Fike’s Skinner leaves her own legacy

By Paul Durham
paul@wilsontimes.com | 265-7808

Undaunted by a family legacy of athletic excellence at Fike High, Emory Skinner made an impact when she arrived there as a freshman four years ago and authored her own chapter by the time she was done.

An all-conference selection in all four sports in which she played as a senior, Skinner’s Golden Demons career peaked in October when she and classmate Holland Ellis won the NCHSAA 5-A girls tennis doubles championship to earn a place in school history.

Skinner was just as solid academically, boasting a 4.6 GPA and a No. 7 senior class ranking with a host of school, church and community activities, making her the choice for Farris & Thomas Law Female Student-Athlete of the Year as presented by The Wilson Times.

“It feels really, really good,” she said following Fike’s Awards Day ceremony Friday morning, May 22. “It’s a lot of practices, a lot of games, a lot of hard work on and



Fike High senior Emory Skinner is the Farris & Thomas Law Female Student-Athlete of the Year after earning all-conference acclaim and team MVP honors in three of the four sports she played while maintaining a 4.6 GPA. Paul Durham | Times

SEE ACADEMIC ALL-AREA FOR MORE. 2B

off the court. So, it feels really good to have it pay off.”

The daughter of Alysun and Kris Skinner of Elm City, Skinner was a four-year starter in basketball, soccer and tennis while spearheading Fike’s first girls flag football team last fall. She maintains that basketball remained at the top of her list, but, “flag football was a lot of

fun.”

“I think, had I had a couple years to settle in, it might have taken my favorite spot, but basketball had held on by just a little bit,” she said.

Her role her first three years at Fike was that of perimeter sniper, earning 3-A All-Quad County Conference acclaim as a junior, as the Golden Demons went 76-12 and won three conference

See **FIKE**, 2B

WARBIRDS NOTEBOOK

Wilson’s play peaks in 12-game homestand



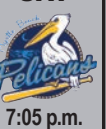
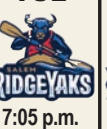
Wilson Warbirds shortstop Brady Ebel (32) celebrates with his teammates in the dugout after hitting his first professional home run during a game May 19 at Wilson Ballpark. Kayla Ruffin | Special to the Times

By Paul Durham
paul@wilsontimes.com | 265-7808

As May heads into June, the Wilson Warbirds are playing their best baseball of the Single-A Carolina League season thus far. Despite coming up short in a 4-3 loss to the Delmarva Shorebirds in the second game of a doubleheader Sunday, May 24, at Wilson Ballpark, the Warbirds went into Monday’s off day with wins in eight of their last 10 games and stand 23-22 (.521) and tied for second place with the Hill City Howlers in the North Division.

“It seems like it’s a different guy, like every game, or a couple different guys,” said manager Eddy Morgan. “It’s not one or two guys carrying us, particularly on the offensive side, even on the pitching side.”

Wilson’s pitching has been solid all season as the Warbirds rank fourth in the Carolina League with 450 strikeouts although their team ERA has slipped to ninth at 4.66.

WARBIRDS WEEK						
May 29-June 4, 2026						
FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
 7:05 p.m.	 7:05 p.m.	 6:35 p.m.		 7:05 p.m.	 7:05 p.m.	 7:05 p.m.
Home games in cream.						

Jarrette Bonet, who earned the Milwaukee Brewers Minor League Pitcher of the Month for April, has been stellar, if not consistent, while another right-hander, Carlos Carra, has been resilient despite losing his first five decisions. Nearly everyone on the staff has had a lights-out performance along with a not-so-memorable one.

“It’s like different pieces when you have them, when you can get production from your bullpen, from the starters, from up and down the lineup on different days,” Morgan

continued, “then I think everybody’s like, hey, if I’m not going well, they don’t necessarily feel the pressure that they have to carry us.”

Offensively, however, is where the Warbirds have improved the most. From ranking at or near the bottom of most significant offensive categories, Wilson sits sixth in runs with 229 and RBIs with 196. The Warbirds are still at the bottom of the league in team batting at .211 and slugging percentage at .335 but the latter num-

See **WARBIRDS**, 2B

Losing Wanda Etheridge and holding on to her lessons



E.J. PROCTOR

Last week, one of my mentors and my closest friends — my former assistant principal at Fike, Wanda Etheridge — unexpectedly passed away and losing her has caused me to think in ways I have not in a while.

Wanda and I became close when I was at Fike, and we have re-

See **LESSONS**, 3B

FARRIS & THOMAS LAW
ATTORNEYS

STUDENT-ATHLETE
OF THE WEEK

Yuliana Ugalde Carbajal

From her center back position, Yuliana Ugalde Carbajal helped her Beddingfield High varsity girls soccer team enjoy one of its best seasons in years, making her the final Farris & Thomas Law Student-Athlete of the Week for the 2025-26 school year.

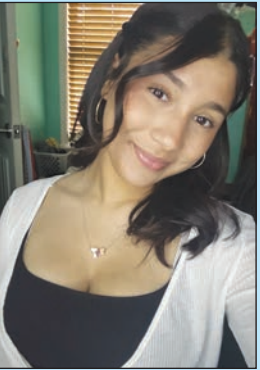
Yuliana was a two-year captain for the Lady Bruins, who won the 2-A/3-A Eastern Plains Conference championship and reached the third round of the NCHSAA 3-A playoffs to finish 11-4. She helped Beddingfield post nine shutouts on its way to its first winning season since 2019.

The daughter of Rosa Carbajal and Jose Ortiz of Wilson County, Yuliana has a 3.81 GPA at Beddingfield while taking Honors and Advanced Placement courses as well as Career and College Placement dual-enrollment classes through Wilson Community College.

Yuliana serves as treasurer for both National Honor Society and Future Farmers of America chapters at Beddingfield, where she is also in the National Technical Honor Society.

She has worked part-time at Crab Du Jour restaurant for more than a year.

Yuliana plans to attend Wilson Community College in the fall and enroll for the spring 2027 semester at North Carolina State University, where she will major in criminology.



FARRIS & THOMAS
ATTORNEYS

104 West Nash Street, Downtown Wilson

2025-26 Farris & Thomas Law Academic All-Area as presented by The Wilson Times

From staff reports

Each year, the Times partners with Farris & Thomas Law to salute as Academic All-Area the top 20 — 10 male and 10 female — senior student-athletes from the 15 institutions — public, private, charter, Christian and home school — in the readership area, including the Male and Female Student-Athletes of the Year.

Candidates are selected on the basis of their achievements and contributions in athletics, academics and community endeavors based on each applicant's submission for candidacy.

Male

PETE BOLT
Ralph L. Fike High School
Three-sport athlete competed in soccer, tennis and golf for the Golden Demons while excelling academically throughout his high school career ... Ranked No. 1 in his graduating class with a 4.67 GPA while taking Advanced Placement, Honors and Career and College Promise classes ... Earned Wilson Community College President's All-honors and was recognized as a Fike Academic Champion ... Served as vice president of Fike's Youth And Government legislative delegation and was active in National Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society ... Selected as a Morehead-Cain Scholarship nominee and served as chief marshal ... Helped lead the Golden Demons soccer team to the NCHSAA 5-A quarterfinals ... Volunteers with the Miracle League, Meals on Wheels and the Foundation YMCA Youth Leadership Board ... Also serves on the audio/visual team at First Presbyterian Church and works during the summer as a boat detailer at Ultimate Yachts in Atlantic Beach.

SETH DAVIS
Southern Nash High School
Student-athlete competed for the Firebirds golf team while balancing Honors and college-level coursework through Nash Community College ... Quipped for the NCHSAA 5-A East Regional golf tournament during his second season playing for Southern Nash ... Maintained a 4.2 weighted GPA and 3.9 unweighted GPA while earning A Honor Roll recognition ... Active member of Beta Club and Future Farmers of America ... Works for the Nash County maintenance department while also attending Midpoint Church in Mid-Idex ... Has combined academics, athletics and work experience throughout his high school career.

WILL DOLL
James B. Hunt Jr. High School
Three-sport standout excelled in football, soccer and baseball for the Warriors during his senior year ... Served as captain in both football and soccer while helping Hunt football reach the NCHSAA 5-A state championship game as Eastern Regional champions ... Earned all-conference honors, Big East Special Teams Player of the Year recognition and first-team HighSchoolOT all-state honors as a kicker/punter ... Participated in the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas and set a Wilson County record with a 51-yard field goal while finishing his career with more than 100 touchdowns and 159 points ... Also earned all-conference recognition in baseball after helping Hunt win the Big East Conference championship while posting a .373 batting average and .098 ERA during his senior season ... Helped the Warriors soccer team reach the second round of the 5-A playoffs and scored five goals from his center back position ... Maintained a 4.143 GPA while taking Advanced Placement, Honors and college-level courses ... Member of National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Club Unify ... Served as National Honor Society historian and was selected Hunt's Prom King and an Academic Excellence honoree ... Also involved with Wilson Recreation Department Miracle League and Special Olympics of Wilson County.

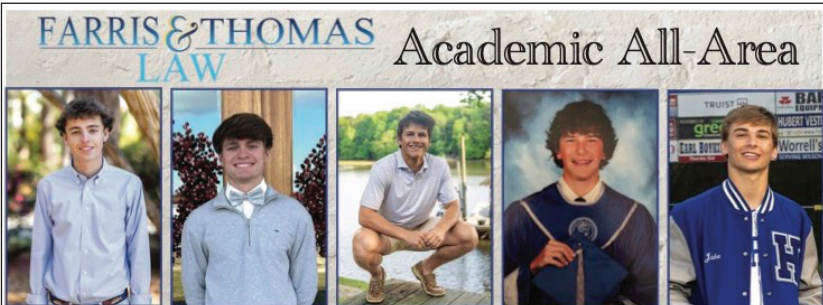
MASON GESELL
James B. Hunt Jr. High School
Four-sport athlete excelled in cross country, swimming, tennis and track and field for the Warriors while maintaining a 4.333 GPA and ranking 18th in his graduating class ... Took Advanced Placement and Honors coursework throughout high school, including AP Literature, AP Calculus, AP Precalculus and AP Calculus ... Served as a leader in Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society and Future Farmers of America ... Captained the Hunt cross-country and swimming teams while helping lead the Warriors boys cross-country team to the state meet for the first time since the 2000s ... Earned all-region honors in cross-country, competed in the state championships in cross-country, indoor track and outdoor track and won the 5-A/6-A Big East Conference championships in the 1,600- and 3,200-meter runs ... Also qualified for tennis regionals while serving as a prayer leader ... Volunteered with the Warriors' leaders with YMCA and church events and participated in a mission trip to Asheville for hurricane relief efforts, helping build homes and assist food shelters ... Works as a lifeguard at the YMCA and is CPR and First Aid certified.

JACOB HARRIS
James B. Hunt Jr. High School
Two-sport athlete competed in football and baseball for the Warriors while excelling in the classroom throughout his high school career ... Maintained a 4.31 weighted GPA and ranked ninth in his graduating class while taking numerous Advanced Placement and Honors courses ... Served as treasurer of National Honor Society and was active in National Technical Honor Society, Student Government Association, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Club Unify and Future Farmers of America ... Helped Hunt football win the 5-A Big East Conference championship and Eastern Regional title while finishing as NCHSAA 5-A state runner-up ... Earned the Coaches Award, Academic All-Conference honors and an All-Area team nomination in football ... Also helped lead Hunt baseball to an undefeated conference championship, a 19-3 regular-season record and the No. 1 seed in the 5-A East state playoffs ... Volunteers with Meals on Wheels and Raleigh Road Baptist Church ... Works part-time at Marshalls and is spending the summer working full-time at Stephenson Millwork.

CHRISTOPHER K. HILL
Ralph L. Fike High School
Three-sport athlete starred in soccer, tennis and golf for the Demons during his senior year ... Earned all-conference and all-region honors in soccer while serving as captain and leading Fike from his center midfielder position ... Advanced to the regional tournament in tennis as the only unseeded player to qualify and posted a 17-3 record playing the No. 6 spot for the Demons ... Helped Fike reach the fourth round of the NCHSAA dual team tennis playoffs ... Ranked No. 3 in his graduating class with a 4.643 GPA ... Completed numerous Honors, Advanced Placement and dual-enrollment college courses through Wilson Community College ... Earned President's List honors at Wilson Community College along with induction into Phi Theta Kappa, National Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society ... Served as Youth and Government student delegation leader and participated in civic engagement programs ... Volunteers with Meals on Wheels, Waymakers, Unified Hoops and Miracle League Baseball ... Worked as a counselor at Camp Sunshine for children with special needs and served as a Teen Court juror ... Member of the YMCA Youth Board, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Young Life ... Also training toward his private pilot license through Total Flight Solutions with more than 43 logged flight hours.

COOKE RHODES
Greenfield School
Standout soccer player helped lead the Knights to the NCISAA 2-A state semifinals while earning all-state and Coastal Plain 2x all-conference honors ... Finished his senior season with 20 goals and 15 assists for Greenfield ... Named Wilson Times Student-Athlete of the Week during the fall sports season ... Maintained a 4.84 GPA while taking Advanced Placement courses in calculus, statistics, government and literature along with dual-enrollment classes through Wilson Community College ... Member of National Honor Society and earned A/B Honor Roll recognition ... Achieved the rank of Eagle Scout with Boy Scouts of America Troop 6 and served as Senior Patrol Leader ... Volunteers as a youth soccer coach with Wilson Parks & Recreation and with Meals on Wheels in Wilson County ... Also works part-time at Pups Steakhouse.

QUINN SHIOSAKY
Greene Central High School
Academic and athletic standout excelled in the classroom and the pool for the Rams during his senior year ... Ranked No. 1 in his graduating class while helping Greene Central win a conference championship while qualifying for the regional and state meets ... Finished among the top 15 at the state championships in both the 200 freestyle and 100 butterfly events ... Maintained a 4.7 GPA and ranked third in his graduating class while completing an extensive list of Advanced Placement and Honors courses ... Earned AP Scholar recognition and completed the AP Capstone program while also participating in Governor's School ... Member of Beta Club, National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, student government and Project Please Stay ... Also recognized as a swimmer ... Swims year-round with ECA club swimming while working as a turf maintenance specialist and lifeguard for Farmville Country Club and the City of Greenville ... Also teaches swim lessons in his community.



CONNOR SPENCER
Ralph L. Fike High School
Three-sport athlete competed in football, swimming and baseball while maintaining a 4.339 GPA and ranking 25th in his graduating class ... Completed numerous Honors and Advanced Placement courses ... Earned all-conference honors in football while serving as team captain and being named Defensive Player of the Year ... Also selected to the Wilson Times Iron Man Team and qualified for the regional meet in swimming ... Active in Youth and Government, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and National Honor Society while earning Academic Excellence recognition ... Volunteers through First Baptist Church youth programs, Wilson County schools and The Arc of Wilson ... Works for Wilson Parks and Recreation and Jenkins Paint and Pressure Washing LLC.

JANESON STEELE
Charles B. Aycock High School
Multi-sport standout excelled in football, basketball and baseball while maintaining a 4.339 GPA and ranking 25th in his graduating class ... Completed numerous Honors and Advanced Placement courses, including AP Calculus, AP Literature, AP Language and AP American History ... Served as class president all four years and was active in National Honor Society, DECA and Aycock Youth Council, helping organize school events and activities ... Earned all-conference honors in both football and basketball for two consecutive years ... Played three seasons of varsity baseball, hitting nine home runs during his senior year, and signed to continue his baseball career at East Carolina University ... Played showcase baseball with the Dirt Bags organization ... Volunteers through Aycock Youth Council highway cleanups, the Fremont Daffodil Festival and elementary school field days ... Works part-time at PT's Grille in Goldsboro and is active at Stony Creek Church.

Female

ANA ALONSO
Southern Nash High School
Multi-sport athlete competed in soccer, cross country and indoor track and field for the Firebirds during her senior year ... Served as captain of the Southern Nash soccer team and earned all-conference honors ... Maintained a 4.43 GPA while taking all Honors courses throughout high school and ranked ninth in her graduating class ... Senior class president and active member of Student Council Association, Key Club, Beta Club and Future Farmers of America ... Participated in dual-enrollment courses through Nash Community College ... Works for Nash County Parks and Recreation and volunteers as a teacher at the DAR Good Citizens Award and the State Employees' Credit Union Foundation "People Helping People" Scholarship ... Led the North Johnston tennis team to a conference championship while earning all-conference honors, winning a doubles conference championship and qualifying for the state tournament ... Named Offensive MVP in flag football and earned MVP in her graduating class ... Completed the 2025 fall season ... Captained both the cheerleading and volleyball teams and earned an All-American cheer nomination to apply for the NCA traditional staff ... Will continue her cheer career at Barton College on scholarship ... Helped Community Christian win Mid-Atlantic Christian Athletic Association 2-A championships in volleyball and soccer while earning all-conference and all-tournament honors in volleyball and all-tournament honors as a goalkeeper in soccer ... Also earned offensive award recognition with her Carolina Patriots travel volleyball team ... Recognized as Student-Athlete of the Week during a season ... Volunteers extensively through her church, school and community, including vacation bible school, food drives, school supply drives, elementary reading programs and outreach to shut-ins and the elderly ... Also works at Brooke's Tumble and Cheer in Pine Level, where she coaches tumbling and cheer students while creating lesson plans and promotional materials.

SYDNEY DAUGHTRY
North Johnston High School
Three-sport standout served as captain of the tennis, flag football and soccer teams for the Panthers during her senior year ... Ranked second in her graduating class with a 4.5 weighted GPA while excelling in Honors and Johnston Community College courses ... Served as senior class president, National Honor Society president, FFA secretary and honors choir choreographer ... Earned recognition as a Spectrum News High School Scholar along with the DAR Good Citizens Award and the State Employees' Credit Union Foundation "People Helping People" Scholarship ... Led the North Johnston tennis team to a conference championship while earning all-conference honors, winning a doubles conference championship and qualifying for the state tournament ... Named Offensive MVP in flag football and earned MVP in her graduating class ... Completed the 2025 fall season ... Captained both the cheerleading and volleyball teams and earned an All-American cheer nomination to apply for the NCA traditional staff ... Will continue her cheer career at Barton College on scholarship ... Helped Community Christian win Mid-Atlantic Christian Athletic Association 2-A championships in volleyball and soccer while earning all-conference and all-tournament honors in volleyball and all-tournament honors as a goalkeeper in soccer ... Also earned offensive award recognition with her Carolina Patriots travel volleyball team ... Recognized as Student-Athlete of the Week during a season ... Volunteers extensively through her church, school and community, including vacation bible school, food drives, school supply drives, elementary reading programs and outreach to shut-ins and the elderly ... Also works at Brooke's Tumble and Cheer in Pine Level, where she coaches tumbling and cheer students while creating lesson plans and promotional materials.

MORGAN DAVIS
Greene Central High School
Academic and athletic standout ranked No. 1 in her graduating class with a 4.661 GPA while excelling in numerous Honors, Advanced Placement and college-level courses ... Served as president of both HOSA and National Honor Society while also participating in Student Government Association, National Technical Honor Society, Beta Club, STEM Ambassadors and Project Please Stay, where she was a co-leader ... Earned Eastern Plains Regional doubles tennis championship honors ... Active in community service through blood drives and as a Special Olympics buddy ... Also participates in competitive dance and works part-time as a hostess at Ribeyes.

EMILEE FINBERG
Community Christian School
Three-sport athlete excelled in volleyball, soccer and cheerleading while maintaining a 4.2 GPA and tying for the top rank in her graduation class ... Completed Honors and Career and College Promise coursework through Wilson Community College ... Served as secretary of the Student Government Association and was active in Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Beta Club and Community Christian's worship team ... Recognized as Student-Athlete of the Week during the 2025 fall season ... Captained both the cheerleading and volleyball teams and earned an All-American cheer nomination to apply for the NCA traditional staff ... Will continue her cheer career at Barton College on scholarship ... Helped Community Christian win Mid-Atlantic Christian Athletic Association 2-A championships in volleyball and soccer while earning all-conference and all-tournament honors in volleyball and all-tournament honors as a goalkeeper in soccer ... Also earned offensive award recognition with her Carolina Patriots travel volleyball team ... Recognized as Student-Athlete of the Week during a season ... Volunteers with children's ministry, vacation bible school, quarterly service projects and Camp Willow Run.

CALLIE MOORING
James B. Hunt Jr. High School
Valedictorian and standout tennis player balanced elite academic achievement with leadership, athletics and community service throughout her high school career ... Ranked No. 1 in her graduating class with a 4.661 GPA while completing numerous Advanced Placement, Honors and college-level courses through Wilson Community College ... Will graduate with both her high school diploma and associate degree and earned Dean's List honors along with induction into Phi Theta Kappa ... Served as senior class vice president, head event chair for Student

Government Association and secretary of National Honor Society while also participating in Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Club Unify ... Earned AP Capstone recognition along with local and regional honors through the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award ... Starred on the Hunt girls tennis team as MVP, all-conference selection and co-captain while helping lead the Warriors to a second-place conference finish and the third round of the dual-team playoffs ... Finished her career with 75 total wins and earned a scholarship to continue her tennis career at Barton College ... Volunteers with Wilson County Special Olympics, Unified Aces tennis, tutoring and domestic violence outreach programs while also working for The Sugar Plum Shoppe and Signs Now.

ALLERIE JORDAN PITT
Ralph L. Fike High School
Standout soccer player balanced athletic success with strong academic achievement while dual-enrolled at Fike High School and Wilson Community College ... Maintained a 4.5 GPA and ranked 13th in her graduating class while completing Career and College Promise coursework ... Member of National Honor Society and Student Booster Club while earning Principal's List recognition at both Fike and Wilson Community College ... Missed the 2025 soccer season with a torn ACL before returning to lead the Golden Demons in goals during the 2025-26 season ... Scored the game-winning goal against Hunt that snapped Fike's eight-year winless streak in the rivalry series ... Earned a soccer scholarship to continue her career at Barton College ... Worked as a seasonal employee at Wilson Paint & Wallpaper and maintained a steady babysitting job while also volunteering at the annual Whirligig Festival.

DONLEY PHILLIPS
Greene Central High School
Academic and athletic standout ranked second in her graduating class with a 4.0 GPA while completing numerous STEM, Honors and Advanced Placement courses ... Active member of National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, Beta Club and Greene Central's STEM program while also serving as a junior class marshal ... Four-year captain of the varsity volleyball team and recipient of the team's Most Valuable Player Award ... Earned recognition on the AVCA Phenom Watchlist along with ENC Moments All-Area honorable mention honors and was named Neuse News Female Athlete of the Week ... Works as a swim instructor at Greene Ridge Racquet Club and babysits children ranging from newborns to 8-year-olds ... Volunteers with the Greene County Intermediate Christmas Store and Greene County Pre-K reading program while also serving as Greene County Schools' high school representative on the Special Olympics steering committee for four years.

KATHRYN PITTS
North Johnston High School
Three-sport athlete served as captain of the volleyball, basketball and softball teams during her senior year ... Earned all-conference honors in volleyball and softball while also being named defensive player of the year in basketball and earning all-tournament recognition at the Christmas basketball invitational ... Maintained a 4.37 GPA and ranked sixth in her graduating class while taking Honors courses throughout high school and completing dual-enrollment classes through Johnston Community College ... Served as student government president, FFA vice president and a leader in Unified Club while also participating in National Honor Society and Fellowship of Christian Athletes ... Represented North Johnston on the Johnston County Athletic Committee and helped organize the school's agricultural fair and plant sale ... Earned her FFA state degree and completed more than 300 volunteer hours ... Volunteers extensively through Temple Church, Special Olympics, school camps and community outreach programs ... Works part-time at Breeze Nutrition and also babysits during the summer.

EMORY SKINNER
Ralph L. Fike High School
Four-sport standout served as captain of the basketball, soccer, tennis and flag football teams for the Demons during her senior year ... Earned MVP honors in basketball, tennis and flag football while also receiving all-conference recognition in all three sports ... Won an NCHSAA state championship in individual doubles tennis ... Maintained a 4.607 GPA and ranked seventh in her graduating class while excelling in numerous Honors, Advanced Placement and college-level courses ... Selected to attend North Carolina Governor's School East for mathematics and earned AP Scholar recognition along with academic excellence honors ... Leader in Fellowship of Christian Athletes and active member of National Honor Society and Environmental Club ... Volunteers with the Wilson Community Soup Kitchen, FCA outreach projects and First Christian Church, where she assists with vacation bible school, children's Sunday School and community events ... Worked at The Wilson Scoop Truck and Gaffers in Emerald Isle ... Recipient of the Good News Award for Governor's School.

MAKAYLA WEEKS
Southern Nash High School
Three-sport athlete excelled in softball, golf and flag football for the Firebirds during her senior year ... Helped Southern Nash softball win a conference championship while also earning academic excellence honors ... Qualified for the regional and state golf tournaments and received all-conference and scholar-athlete recognition ... Member of Southern Nash's first flag football team, which advanced to the fourth round of the playoffs, while also earning scholar-athlete honors ... Maintained a 4.379 GPA while taking Honors classes throughout all four years of high school ... Ranked 14th in her graduating class ... Served as student body president and was active in Beta Club, Future Farmers of America and Fellowship of Christian Athletes, where she was a leader ... Played travel softball for the Rocky Mount Debuttes ... Volunteers with Sleep in Heavenly Peace, the Nash County Sheriff's Office Christmas program, Beautification Day, Trunk or Treat events and the Coopers Ruritan Club barbecue fundraiser ... Also volunteers with children's church, Ripe Revival and as a babysitter in her community.

Academic All-Area Honorable Mention
Beddingfield — Valeria Armenta-Barajas; Yuliana Ugalde Carbalaj
Community Christian — Samuel Allegood; Tyler Spivey
Hunt — Naariah Barnes; Noah Cheney; Braxton Riley
North Johnston — Callie Lancaster
SW Edgecombe — Justin Bridgers; Mackenzie Moore
Wilson — Tazian Barnes; Jonathan Powell-Battle; Travon Usher;



Wilson Warbirds reliever Jose Meneses is 3-0 with three saves so far this season. Kayla Ruffin | Special to the Times

Warbirds

continued from page 1B

ber should grow as they settle into hitter-friendly Wilson Ballpark.

Individually, outfielder Pedro Ibarguen and shortstop Brady Ebel have led the May turnaround. Ibarguen now is hitting .314 with a .429 on-base percentage and .442 slugging percentage overall after posting .373/.492/.569 in May so far.

Ebel is hitting .324/.443/.521 with 14 RBIs, two homers and 13 stolen bases so far this month. That boosts the No. 32 overall pick of the Milwaukee Brewers last summer to .242/.388/.362. Center fielder Jose An-

derson leads the Carolina League with 10 homers while ranking fifth with 30 RBIs. He also leads the league with 76 strikeouts.

The Warbirds have shown a penchant for striking out with 477 but that number ranks fourth after Wilson led the Carolina League in that category for much of the early going. Still, the players seem to shrug off the strikeouts.

"For as young as they are, it's a very mature group," Morgan said. "They don't let frustration boil over too much. They don't have bad body language, for the most part. Where you can see maybe some other teams, when they get down a little bit, it's like a lot of that."



Emory Skinner was half of Fike's first NCHSAA 5-A girls tennis doubles champion with teammate Holland Ellis last fall. Paul Durham | Times

Fike

continued from page 1B

titles. But graduation losses were heavy and Skinner found herself as the primary ball handler and scorer along with classmate Kylar Horvath as the Demons finished 4-14 overall and in last place in the 5-A Big East Conference.

She still earned all-conference honors as well as in flag football and soccer. Skinner was in goal for the second straight season after moving over from outside midfield.

"I think the best way to describe her is the ultimate teammate, willing to do whatever needs to be done to help team succeed and put her teammates in a position to have some success, whether that was playing on the field or when we're in need of a goalkeeper, playing as a goalkeeper, and trying their best to learn the position," said Fike girls soccer head coach Chris Mizelle. "I just can't say enough about how good of a person she is and what it means to have success as a team and her be a part of that, whether it's a big part or a little part. She didn't care, she just wanted to win, and we appreciated that."

Skinner said just knowing that she couldn't fill the shoes of her predecessor, Ainsley Cato, in goal helped take off some of the pressure.

"I liked soccer, but I didn't love it, and so I was willing to switch up my position, and then I ended up loving goalkeeping, so that made it really easy," Skinner said. "I've always been better with my hands than my feet, so it ended up working out."

Ironically, tennis was the sport that Skinner always seemed like she could take it or leave it.

"Tennis, I mean, it was more so a place filler, and my whole family loves tennis, so I was kind of like obligated to play, but it was interesting that that's the one that ended up being the best accolade," she said.

Her 5-A doubles title with Ellis, the fifth state doubles championship in school history, came after the two long-time friends paired up for the first time. They went 22-0 for just the second unbeaten doubles season for the Demons.

But as Fike head coach Lee Matthews, who coached four of those five state champion duos, pointed out, Skinner's excellence on the court went much deeper. She started out playing Nos. 5 and 6 singles as a freshman, moved up to No. 4 as a junior and then played No. 2 this past year. Skinner finished her Fike career with a 153-19 mark, winning 89% of her matches.

Skinner's father, Kris, was a basketball and tennis standout in the 1990s at Fike and older brother, Dylan, a 2024 Fike graduate, excelled in soccer, basketball and tennis.

"I wouldn't play basketball if it wasn't for him," she said of her brother. "We had a goal in our driveway all childhood. I mean, putting up one-handed form shots started at like 3 years old. Started me early, found a love for it, and he was really gentle in the way he coached us, too. Nothing harsh, nothing that made us want to stop ever playing."

By the time she got to Fike, she leaned on her older brother, who earned Academic All-Area honors as well as a senior two years ago, to light her pathway.

"I think I owe that more so to Dylan," she said. "Just being able to follow in his footsteps was really fun."

Lessons

continued from page 1B

mained in contact consistently since that time. In the last couple of years, after my life took some unexpected turns, she became more than a mentor to me — she truly became one of my best and most trusted friends. Even though Wanda was even older than my parents, the day of her death, I turned to my girlfriend and said, “I lost one of the closest people I have in my life today.”

I think it was in that moment that I realized I had grown to see Wanda as one of my closest friends, and not just a mentor, though that was often how I described her to others.

Wanda, or Ms. Etheridge, as we knew her at Fike, had her own unique personality and humor that was sometimes misunderstood, and she was one of the kindest souls we had in this world. In her years as an administrator in Wilson, she was sometimes perceived as a bit too sarcastic, but most of us students knew her as someone who truly gave students the benefit of doubt. She often protected students who may have needed protecting. There were times she covered for students who weren't safe at home to be sure they were not made even more unsafe. There were times students came to her in tears about things they were hesitant to talk to their parents about. There were times I went to her simply because I needed one of her natural oil remedies to heal an ailment before a game (We called her the “witch doctor” at Fike because of her oils and essences)!

She had such a good sense of humor, though. My senior year at Fike, I often gave our morning announcements, and every day I sat at the intercom, she came up with a new way to make me laugh and mess up. One Friday, I closed the door to the principal's office prior to announcing, thinking I had snuck passed her, and as soon as I started talking, the door swung open, and in came Ms Etheridge wearing a retro Fike football helmet, doing the pharaoh dance. That one got me.

While we had many laughs during my high school years, our friendship deepened later when I moved home from Salt Lake City. In recent years, I learned so much about myself and my spiritual relationship with the world because of my friendship with Wanda. You see, Wanda grew up Mormon and later left the church, which was a really hard thing to do when you are young and your family is still a part of it, but she was brave. In her 20s, she then moved to Kenya after joining the Peace Corps. After her stint there, she moved to Turkey and began teaching English at a school. Through these times living overseas, she deepened her belief in God and our spiritual

connection to the world and each other. From our conversations, it seemed that going to other places and learning how others connect with their God (whoever that is) helped her see that God is not defined by a specific ideal, but instead by a belief in something larger and more beautiful than we know and by our decisions to treat others well.

Wanda once told me that she believed we all choose our spiritual family prior to our souls entering this world. She said that she thinks there are souls that we will each find in every lifetime, universe, heaven, Earth, because we have people who were always meant to be a part of our lives. Perhaps these souls show up as your parents, your best friend, your partner, your pet — whatever form, though, they are always there. I love this idea because to me, it means that we will always find a way to be near those we are meant to love and be good to, even if one life is not as long as another.

Author James Clear said in his newsletter this week, “If your family inherited only your habits (not your things or your money), which ones would be your richest gifts?” To me, Wanda's richest gift was her belief in the good in the universe, in her nonjudgemental love of those in it, and her friendship to me and so many others.

In one of Wanda's last messages to me, she said, “Things should get better after today!” when I asked how she felt about her last medical procedure. Wanda always had a way of “knowing things,” and I think a part of her knew that that may be one of the last messages she sent. I take peace in knowing that maybe she knew things in fact would get better because she believes so strongly in our own versions of heaven. Well, while I sure do believe she feels better, I know my world, and the world of others, has felt a little less bright since she left.

One of the greatest lessons she taught me, though, was believing our souls always find whom they need to, and in the meantime, to live a life of goodness and service. I trust that our souls will reunite in the future, and I think there is peace in that. Until then, I hope we all find ways to serve each other and provide as much “good” in the world as we can.

E.J. Proctor, a 2014 graduate of Fike High, was the starting goalkeeper for Duke's 2015 NCAA runner-up year, 2016 Elite 8 finish and 2017 Final Four finish. Currently the Duke record holder for shutouts and goals against average, she went on to play one season professionally with the Utah Royals FC after graduating from Duke. Now back in Wilson, E.J. is assisting with coaching youth soccer players and is employed as a physical therapist.



Mason Gesell, playing in a match March 17 at Fike, was a solid No. 2 singles player for the Warriors as a senior. Paul Durham | Times

Hunt

continued from page 1B

at times, but it definitely helps,” he said. “Then just like everything I do, I don't really do anything alone. Like all these teams and stuff, I have great friends that hang out with a lot of the times on these teams, so really keeping each other accountable. It's all about community and my social life with keeping friends by me. We all care about each other.”

That extends beyond school boundaries and colors for Gesell, who could often be heard exhorting runners from other teams at meets where the clock is always the opponent.

“Well, I have a lot of friends that do it from all across the county,” he said. “From great friends from Fike that I hang with all the time, and childhood friends from Wilson Christian and some people from Greenfield and from Beddingfield. So it's just really a community sport because you're racing each other, but you're also trying to do your best to get a new personal best. So it's really like a community sport where everyone's just rooting for each other, no matter what.”

Running came naturally

for Gesell (sounds like “gazzelle”), who started as part of a run club in elementary school.

“It was the only kind of sport thing offered at Vinson-Bynum,” he said. “I was like, hey, like I'm kind of good at this, like let me just keep going with it. I kind of liked it. Sometimes it got hard and boring, but sometimes you love it. It's kind of a love-hate relationship with running anyways. I feel like most runners know that, but I just kept doing it.

“I like the community. It's always good to PR, and I like cheering on my teammates. In cross-country, the boys run first. I get my race out of the way, so all the stress is gone, then the girls run, and I can just cheer without having to worry about anything, so it's kind of fun, just like running all over the course, like getting to the next place.”

Gesell was a big part of the boys cross-country team that was the first at Hunt to qualify for the NCHSAA championship meet in more than 20 years. He was team MVP as he earned all-county, all-conference and all-region acclaim. He was part of the 4x800-meter relay that competed in the indoor and outdoor state championships. Gesell was the 5-A/6-A Big East Conference champ in the 1,600 and 3,200 runs and earned a

spot in the state meet in the 3,200 as well. How he finished in the 3,200 at the 5-A East Regional meet sticks with Gesell.

“Yeah, so I was in eighth place with two laps to go,” he recalled. “I had all my friends on the fence, my family, some people from my church. They were all cheering for me. I thought it was over, but I dug deep and I found an extra gear, and I was able to get third and qualify for states. So that's probably one of my best sports memories.”

Gesell was a solid No. 2 in tennis and earned a spot in the 5-A East Regional swim meet in his first year of competitive swimming at Hunt, but running — and cheering on others has always been Gesell's thing.

“He's definitely been the backbone of the distance running program at Hunt for the last two years,” Boyette. “He is such a good role model, mentor, supporter of not only his younger teammates, or the younger athletes at Hunt, but for his friends at Fike or his competitors at Northern and Southern (Nash), I mean, even at state meet he knew the names of the guys he's running against from Croatan and West Carteret and these other schools. He is everything you look for in a role model and leader in a team.”



Serving Together

Doing the Most Good



God's breath gives us life. If we look back at Genesis 2:7, we see it was the breath of God that gave life to Adam and set humanity apart from the rest of creation. It's also God's breath that gives life to the Scriptures. The book of Hebrews puts it this way: "For the word of God is alive and active." (Heb. 4:12).

Anything that has life also has purpose, and it's the same with God's word. The word of God has a purpose. God's inspired scripture speaks to our hearts, our spirits, and our minds. His word is alive and active. In Isaiah 55:11 we read, "so is my word



To donate or learn about volunteer opportunities, please scan for more details.

that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it". Nothing can hold back the word of God; it will accomplish all that God wants it to.

Not only is God's word alive, it is useful and beneficial

to the lives of believers. Paul tells Timothy that the word of God is "useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." God's word is useful. The world doesn't see it this way, but God's word is just as alive and useful today as it was when Paul first wrote to Timothy. God's word is still relevant. As believers we have so many distractions competing for our attention, things to entertain, mislead, and sedate our minds. Let us remember that God's word is alive, purposeful, and useful to us in our daily lives. (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

WILSON OPTICAL CENTER
"Make Worship A Family Thing"
Donna W. Teague, LDO ABCC
1707 Medical Park Dr.
237-9141
www.medicaleyenc.com

WOODWORK OF DISTINCTION
SINCE 1945

WILSON, NORTH CAROLINA
(252) 237-1141
StephensonMillwork.com

Hornes Methodist Church
145 West Hornes Church Road
Wilson NC, 27896
252-237-4616
Pastor John Check
Sunday School - 9:45am
Worship Service - 10:30am

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

202 Goldsboro Street N, Wilson, NC
252-291-8220
Sunday Worship - 8am & 10:30am
Sunday School - 9:30am
Wednesday Worship - 12pm

Joyner's Funeral Home & Crematory
4100 Raleigh Road Parkway
237-3197
joyners.net

Global Methodist Church Wilson
Sundays at 9am | All Welcome!
2512 Nash St N
(Site of Ascension Lutheran Church)
252-270-5133


Wilson First Seventh Day Adventist Church
4430 Lake Wilson Rd.,
Elm City 27822
wilsonfirstnc.adventistchurch.org
Christians worshipping on the Sabbath

If you would like to include your business or church as a sponsor of the Serving Together page, please contact **Beth Howell at 910-417-8287** or **bhowell@wilsontimes.com**

Creative Kids

Showcasing the creative spirit of Wilson County Students

This feature is a collaboration between the Wilson Times, our advertisers, and some of Wilson County’s students. This provides a spotlight for some of our youngest residents to demonstrate their creativity and ingenuity.

The Wilson Times



Student: Bassma Alshahari, 4th grade. Teacher: Ms. Bunn, Vinson-Bynum Elementary School.



EASTERN CAROLINA
PEDIATRICS

1702 Medical Park Dr., Wilson • 252-243-7944





Student: Joselyn Sanjuan Chavez, 5th grade. Teacher: Casea Bunn, Wells Elementary School



S & J Foods, Inc.



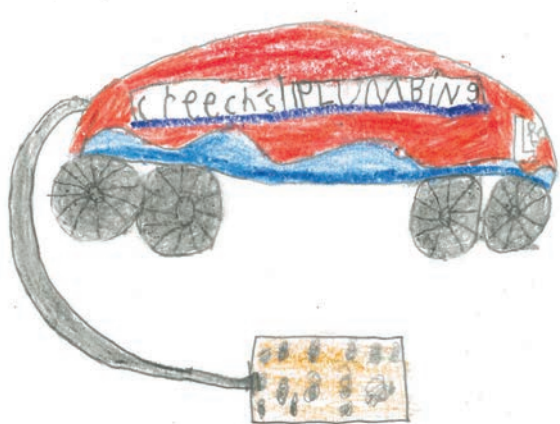
Student: Emma Walston, 3rd Grade. Teacher: Mrs. Ethridge, Lucama Elementary.



110 Nash Street SW Wilson, NC 27893
252-237-0709 • @acculistwilson



(252) 237-7733
www.creechplumbing.com



Student: Madison Davis, 3rd Grade. Teacher: Mrs. Ethridge, Lucama Elementary School.

Creech's PLUMBING | SEPTIC | PORTABLES

(252) 237-7733
www.creechsplumbing.com





Authentic Mexican food

Only Mexican Breakfast In Town!!
Breakfast Served All Day!!

We offer catering service for any type of event.
Ofrecemos servicio de banquete para todo tipo de evento.

Monday - Thursday 6:00am - 3:00pm,
Friday 6:00am - 9:00pm

1905 Poythress Rd NE, Wilson, NC 27893
252-289-1034

Student: Boone Bennett, 5th grade. Teacher: Casea Bunn, Wells Elementary School.



35178 Airport Blvd NW,
Wilson 27896
252-293-6253
www.bjplumbing.com



Student: Daniela Gonzalez Soreno, 5th grade. Teacher: Casea Bunn, Wells Elementary School.

PUZZLES

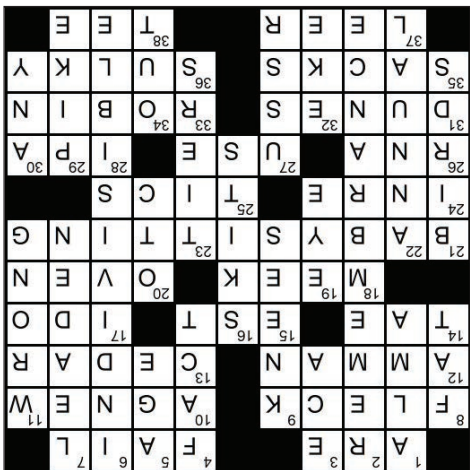
Across

- 1 "--- we there yet?"
- 4 Fall short
- 8 Bit of color
- 10 Veep disgraced in 1973
- 12 Capital of Jordan
- 13 Shingle material
- 14 Menlo Park initials
- 15 Superlative ending
- 17 Fiancé's last words?
- 18 Like a lamb
- 20 Where Gretel shoved the witch
- 21 Teenager's occupation
- 24 Concerning, in le-galse
- 25 Nervous twitches
- 26 Viral gene material
- 27 Exploit
- 28 Pronunciation guide
- 31 Beach formations
- 33 "Dead Poets Society" actor --- Williams

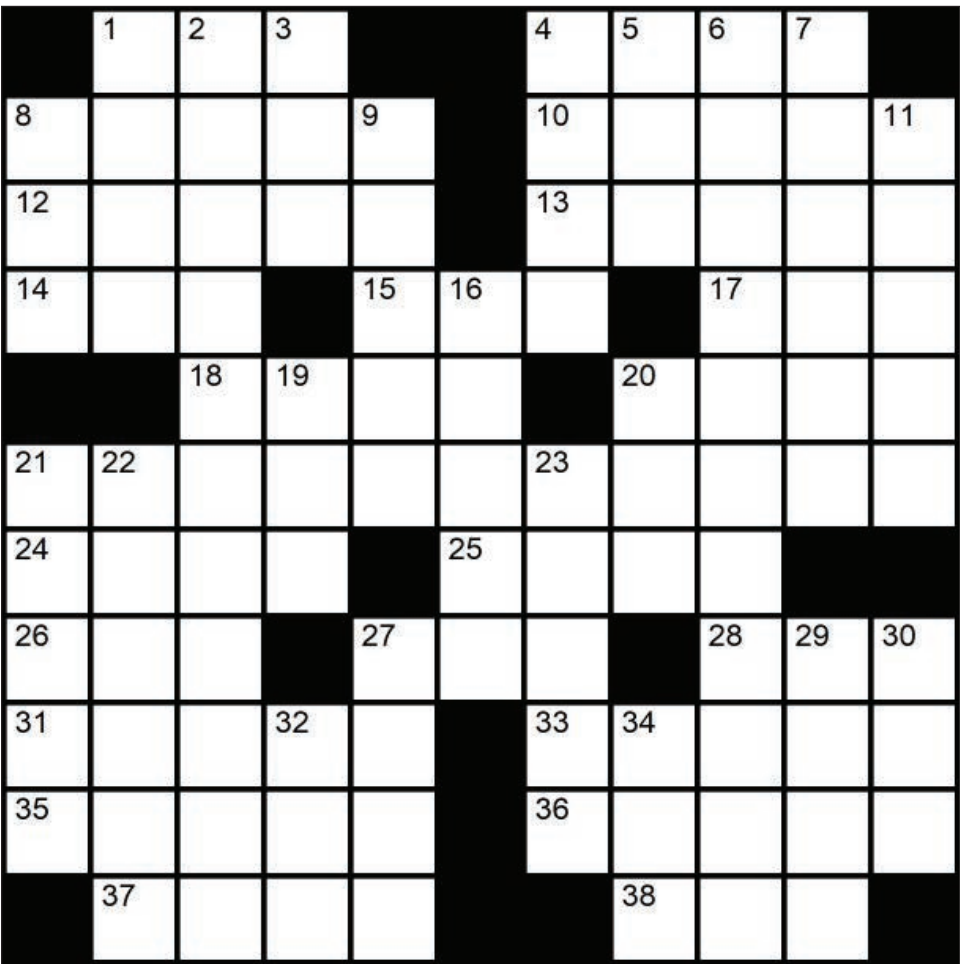
Down

- 1 Michigan college
- 2 Recognition
- 3 Federal cultural exchange organization
- 4 It's not fiction
- 5 Subdivision of an epoch
- 6 Ibis lived in chaos, as recited in the Pledge of Allegiance
- 7 Heavy
- 8 Trainer's target
- 9 Prayer supports?
- 11 Off base
- 16 Short satires
- 19 Scrutinize
- 20 One way to trade stock
- 21 Shuttlecocks

Answer to Today's Puzzle

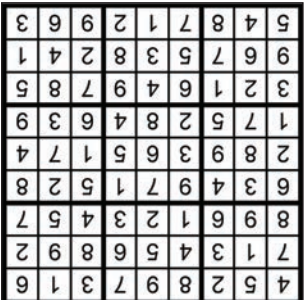


- 22 Once-a-year publication
- 23 Rows
- 27 Former Red giant?
- 29 Medieval weapon
- 30 "Unsafe At --- Speed" (Ralph Nader book)
- 32 Duke Ellington, initially
- 34 "Shoo!"



SUDOKU TIME!

(suh-Doe-koo) is a Japanese puzzle based on logic, reasoning, and patience. To solve Sudoku, just fill in each 3x3 subgrid with a digit 1-9; some digits are already given. Every column, row and subgrid must contain the digits 1-9 only once. Now get your pencils ready and give it a try! You'll see why it's so addicting!



Your Local News All in one place

Stay connected with trusted reporting from Wilson, Wake, Johnston, Granville and Nash Counties.

Use the link or scan the QR code to keep up to date!

<https://linktr.ee/restorationnewsmedia>

JUMBLE

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ALICL

FOYCM

GIONRI

ARPYTS

©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved.

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

THE BIGHORN SHEEP LOVED BUTTING HEADS, EVEN WITH THE ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

This Edition's Answers

Jumbles: LILAC COMFY ORIGIN PASTRY

Answer: The bighorn sheep loved butting heads, even with the RAMIFICATIONS

FOR YOUR HEALTH

Living Beyond Cancer: A journey of strength, hope and healing



LISA HERNDON

Cancer survivorship is more than completing treatment. It is the journey of learning to live with strength, courage and hope after a cancer diagnosis. At Wilson Cancer Services, we believe survivorship begins at diagnosis and continues through every stage of healing, recovery and renewed purpose. Every patient's journey is unique. Survivors often face physical, emotional, mental and spiritual challenges while navigating life during and after treatment. Whether patients have undergone surgery, chemotherapy, immunotherapy or radiation therapy, the road to recovery can bring both victories and obstacles. Through it all, survivors continue to demonstrate incredible resilience and determination.

Many cancer treatments save lives, but they can also leave lasting side effects such as fatigue, neuropathy, nausea, memory changes, anxiety or emotional distress. Survivorship is about more than overcoming cancer itself. It is about restoring quality of life and helping patients regain confidence, independence and wellness.

At Wilson Cancer Services, our Oncology Navigation Team walks alongside patients and families every step of the way. We are committed to ensuring no one faces cancer alone. Our navigators help connect patients with education, emotional support, community resources, financial assistance and guidance throughout treatment and survivorship. Sometimes, it's something simple that makes daily obstacles more manageable and is always a comforting voice on the other end of the phone.

PHYSICAL HEALING AND RECOVERY

Recovering physically after cancer treatment can take time. Many survivors spend months rebuilding their strength, stamina and energy levels. Wilson Cancer Services encourages patients to stay engaged in their follow-up care, attend recommended screenings, maintain healthy nutrition and participate in regular physical activity when able. Small steps forward are meaningful victories, and every milestone deserves celebration.

EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL WELLNESS

Cancer impacts not only the body but also relationships, emotions and daily life. Survivors may experience feelings of isolation, fear or uncertainty as they adjust to a "new normal." Support from

family, friends, caregivers and health-care professionals plays an important role in emotional healing.

At Wilson Cancer Services, we encourage patients to seek support and stay connected. Counseling services, support groups and survivorship resources can help patients and caregivers navigate the emotional aspects of recovery. Many survivors discover renewed appreciation for life, deeper relationships and a stronger sense of purpose through their journey.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SUPPORT

Our multidisciplinary team includes nurses, oncology navigators, physicians, therapists and dietitians dedicated to providing compassionate care, encouragement and education throughout survivorship. We are honored to care for patients not only during treatment, but also as they move forward into healing and hope.

CELEBRATING SURVIVORSHIP

June is National Cancer Survivors Month, a time to honor the courage and resilience of cancer survivors in our community. Wilson Cancer Services proudly celebrates every survivor and the strength they inspire in others each day. We proudly post our bellringers every month on Facebook, celebrating the journey of every patient as they reach their own milestones in their treatment. It's gratifying to see the community celebrate these wins on that platform with us!

We also offer Cancer Support Groups every other month on the third Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in the auditorium at Wilson Medical Center. These groups welcome patients currently receiving treatment, survivors who have completed treatment, caregivers and loved ones seeking support and connection.

At Wilson Cancer Services, survivorship represents hope, healing, resilience and the promise that no patient walks on this journey alone.

Wilson Medical Center's Cancer Service team provides a variety of services to support patients and their families throughout their journeys. Our survivorship support group welcomes anyone on this journey in Wilson County. For more information about survivorship resources or support groups, please contact me at 252-399-7470 or lisa.herndon@wilmed.org.

Lisa Herndon is Wilson Cancer Services' patient navigator. She is a member of the multidisciplinary Oncology Navigation Team at Wilson Cancer Services.



Dining room furniture like this at Jones Elementary School and other Wilson County Schools elementary schools will be replaced soon. Drew C. Wilson | Times

Schools get new dining furniture

By Drew C. Wilson
dwilson@wilsontimes.com | 252-265-7818

Elementary school students across the district will have new dining room seating after the Wilson County Board of Education voted unanimously Monday, May 18, to replace aging dining room furniture.

The \$487,330 contract with Universal Equipment Co. will pay for the purchase and installation of new dining room seating and removal and disposal of old dining room seating.

The contract includes seating for Barnes, Gardners, Jones, Lee Woodard, Lucama, New Hope, Rock Ridge, Stantonburg, Vick and Vinson-Bynum elementary schools.

New dining room seating will be purchased for Frederick Douglass and Wells and Hearne elementary school students once those new school

construction projects have been completed.

Other contracts unanimously approved by the board included the following.

- A \$293,028 contract for one year of services with Saffelle, Inc. to extend a custodial services agreement with Wilson County Schools for an additional year for cleaning supplies and custodial training starting July 1, 2026, and concluding on June 30, 2027.

The board was notified of the following contracts more than \$30,000 and up to \$90,000:

- A \$44,937 contract with Seating Safety Solutions for the purchase and installation of aisle handrails on the home and visitor football bleachers at Beddingfield and Hunt high schools.

- A \$30,734 contract with Petroleum Equipment Services of Wilson for the purchase and installation of new fuel

pumps at the WCS Transportation Department.

- A \$61,103 contract with The Center for Inquiry-Based Learning for student activity packs.

- A \$41,138 contract with ClassLink for the ClassLink annual license and server fee.

- A \$69,670 contract with Imagine Learning for Engenuity site licenses.

- A \$88,000 contract with Newsela Inc. for Newsela for grades K-8.

- A \$55,426 contract with Renaissance for Fastbridge subscriptions for grades K-5.

- A contract not to exceed \$85,000 with Venture Rehabilitation Group Inc. for exceptional children contracted personnel.

- A contract not to exceed \$35,000 with Venture Rehabilitation Group, Inc. (Private School Plan Student Services) for exceptional children contracted personnel.

CHESSONAGENCY.COM

A TRADITION OF RESULTS SINCE 1959

BROKERED BY: Chesson Realty of Wilson

2403 NASH ST. NW • WILSON, NC 27896 (252) 291-3600

WE HAVE RENTALS TOO! CALL (252) 206-5401 WWW.CHESSONRENTALS.COM

GO DIRECTLY TO
THE LINK BELOW OR
SCAN THE QR CODE
[BIT.LY/SUBMIT-
CLASSIFIEDS](https://bit.ly/submit-classifieds)

Now You Can Submit Your Own
CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

Your ad will run in all other Restoration News Media properties at no extra charge



BUSINESS ADVANTAGE

BAILEY'S Roofing & HOME REPAIR
DECKS, SIDING, FENCES,
ROOFING, PAINTING,
REPLACEMENT WINDOWS
& DOORS, GUTTERS,
PRESSURE WASHING
and ODD JOBS
Insured - Free Estimates
SENIOR DISCOUNT
Call Kent at
252-245-1464

Forest Hills Manor
Applications being taken for 1,
2, and 3 bedroom apartments in
Wilson. Affordable Section 8
community with rent based on
income. Professional staff, 24 hr.
on call maintenance. EHO

Wilshire Apartments
506 Old Wilson Road, Pinetops NC 27864
Phone (252) 827-4414;
TDD Relay 1-800-735-2962
Applications being taken for 2 & 3
BR apartments. Affordable Rural
Development community with rent
based on income. Professional
staff, 24 hour on-call maintenance.
EHO

Blair Maintenance
Bathroom/Kitchen
All Types Of Leaks & Repairs
Painting - Vinyl - Plumbing
All Roofing - Seamless Gutters
Decks - Insulations, All Types Of
Flooring, Replace Windows &
Door, Fences & More!
BEST DEALS IN TOWN!!
Just call: (252) 469-0449
blairmaintenance.com

**COX AUTO
SALVAGE**
We Pay
Top Dollar!
For Junk Cars & Trucks
Scrap Metal & Appliances
Pick Up Service
252-236-4127
252-977-0005

FREE ESTIMATES • LICENSED • INSURED
20 + years experience BBB

Allen's
Roofing & Home Repair
TEAR OFFS • RE-ROOF • SHINGLES • METAL ROOFS
WINDOWS AND DOORS • WOOD REPAIR • SIDING
PAINTING • GUTTERS • DECKS • SCREENED PORCHES
252-292-4535

ELMHURST APARTMENTS
Affordable income-based housing
community for the Elderly/Disabled
families now accepting applications
for 1-bedroom apartments.
Applications can be submitted online
via <https://westminstercompany.com/property/elmhurst-apartments> or in
person (960 Simmons St. Tarboro, NC.)
Office hours are Tuesday & Thursday
from 9am-4pm

**TACO BELL
& KFC**
Are now hiring experienced
RESTAURANT MANAGERS
for the following
areas: Greenville,
Greensboro, Wilson
and Tarboro.
Call 1-800-919-8226, ext. 103

L. D. JONES
JUNK CAR SERVICE
We Pay Good Money!
For Junk Cars & Trucks
Scap Metal & Lawn Mowers,
Appliance, ETC.
We Pick up
Monday to Saturday (6 days)
Call **252-315-5065**
No answer
please leave message
ANY DAY ANYTIME

**Frank's New & Used
Furniture**
BUY • SELL • TRADE
Furniture • Appliances • TV's
MasterCard • Visa • Financing
Layaway • Delivery Available
1305 Herring Ave. • 291-7770
Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 10-5:30
Wed. & Sat. 10-3

**Vehicle,
Boat & RV
Storage
available.**
Contact
252-289-6281
for details and rates.



Don't Delay - Place Your Ad Today
Contact Beth Howell
910-417-8287 • bhowell@wilsontimes.com

For Sale

**Wilson - Commercial
Space For Rent**
601-C Harper St. - 1200 sq ft plus
240 on mezzanine. Insulated, no
HVAC. Good for storage, hobby/
craft workshop. No commercial auto
repair. Rent is \$400.00 per mo. Will
consider short term.
Tel 252-230-1187.

Oxford - For Sale
Oxford - Three lots in Elmwood
Cemetery in section P-32 for \$1500.
Contact Gary at 919.819.6458.

Yard Sale

Wilson - Yard Sale
Yard Sale May 30, 7:00 until. Trailer
cycle, wood router, furniture, truck
bed tool box, clothing, housewares,
funky
Corner Nash and Brentwood

Wilson - Yard Sale
Garage Sale! Great Deals.
Saturday, May 30, 2026 @ 7:30 am
12:00 pm 300 North Ave, Wilson,
NC Office furniture, women's
clothing (sizes 6-18 casual & dressy),
coats, bedding, shoes
(sizes 9, 11 and more!)

Wilson - Yard Sale
Three Family Yard Sale - Friday May
29 12pm -4pm and Saturday May
30 7am-11am @ 5803 Lamm Road
furniture, clothes, household items
and much more

Selma - Yard Sale
Church Yard Sale 5/30/26 - 8am-
2pm Edgerton Mem UMC is having
a yard sale on Saturday, May 30
from 8am-2pm at 401 W Anderson
St in Selma

**HUGE Yard Sale-
Something for Everyone**
Come shop items at bargain prices:
Household items, home decor, wom-
en and men's clothing, some
children's clothing, couponing
overflow and much more Everything
must go 3303 feldspar court 7-12

Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
**ESTATE OF DARLENE D RODG-
ERS**
FILE NO. 26E000133-970
Aaron Ray Daughtry, having qual-
ified as the Executor of the estate of
Darlene D. Rodgers, deceased, of
Wilson County, N.C., this is to notify
all persons having claims against
the Estate to present them to the
undersigned on or before 29th day
of August, 2026 or this notice will be
pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors

Public Notices

of the decedent are asked to make
immediate payment.

This the 29th day of May, 2026.
Aaron Ray Daughtry, Executor
PO Box 847
Nashville, NC 27856
The Wilson Times
May 29, June 2, 9, 16, 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF HELEN JENKINS
OWENS
FILE NO. 25E001768-970
WILLIAM OWENS, having qualified
as the EXECUTOR of the estate
of HELEN JENKINS OWENS, de-
ceased, of Wilson County, N.C., this
is to notify all persons having claims
against the Estate to present them
to the undersigned on or before 29th
day of August, 2026 or this notice
will be pleaded in bar of recovery.
Debtors of the decedent are asked
to make immediate payment.

This the 29th day of May, 2026.
WILLIAM OWENS, EXECUTOR
4904 WILLOW CREEK DRIVE
WILSON NC 27896
The Wilson Times
May 29, June 2, 9, 16, 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF James Richard Green
FILE NO. 26E00282-970
Kimberly Greene Millinder, having
qualified as the Administrator of
the estate of James Richard Green,
deceased, of Wilson County, N.C., this
is to notify all persons having claims
against the Estate to present them
to the undersigned on or before 29th
day of August, 2026 or this notice
will be pleaded in bar of recovery.
Debtors of the decedent are asked
to make immediate payment.

This the 29th day of May, 2026.
Kimberly Greene Millinder
937 Brookside Drive
Wilson, NC 27893
The Wilson Times
May 29, June 2, 9, 16, 2026

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WILSON
The undersigned Administrator of
the **ESTATE OF MAMIE D. SUT-
TON** gives notice that all claims
against said decedent are to be
presented to the undersigned on
or before August 22, 2026 or this
notice will be pleaded in bar of their
recovery. All persons indebted to
said estate, please make immediate
payment.
This notice is given pursuant to the
provisions of G.S. 28A-14-1.
This the 22nd day of May 2026.

Danny Sutton, Administrator
for the Estate of Mamie D. Sutton
Andrew J. Whitley, Attorney for the
Estate of Mamie D. Sutton

Public Notices

Post Office Box 1486
Wilson, NC 27894

Publish: May 22, 2026
The Wilson Times
May 22, 29, June 5, 12, 2026

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WILSON
The undersigned Executor of the
**ESTATE OF TERRY ALLEN BAT-
TEN** gives notice that all claims
against said decedent are to be
presented to the undersigned on
or before August 15, 2026 or this
notice will be pleaded in bar of their
recovery. All persons indebted to
said estate, please make immediate
payment.
This notice is given pursuant to the
provisions of G.S. 28A-14-1.
This the 15th day of May 2026.

Brandon Michael Skinner, Executor
for the Estate of Terry Allen Batten
Andrew J. Whitley, Attorney for the
Estate of Terry Allen Batten
Post Office Box 1486
Wilson, NC 27894

Publish: May 15, 2026
The Wilson Times
May 15, 22, 29, June 5, 2026

*The Individuals with Disabilities
Education Act (IDEA-Part B, Public
Law 108.446) Project is presently
being amended. The Project
describes the special education
programs that Sallie B. Howard
proposes for Federal funding for the
2026-2027 School Year. Interested
persons are encouraged to review
amendments to the Project and
make comments concerning the
implementation of special education
under this Federal Program. All
comments will be considered prior to
submission of the amended Project
to the North Carolina Department of
Public Instruction in Raleigh, North
Carolina. The IDEA-Part B Project
is open to the public for review and
comments during the days of May
30, 31st, 2026 in the office of Sade
Mitchell located at Sallie B. Howard
School, 1004 Herring Ave., Wilson,
NC 27893.*

The Wilson Times
May 26, 29, 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF BENJAMIN HOLMES
FILE NO. 24E000703-970
Having qualified as Administratrix of
the Estate of Benjamin Holmes of
Wilson County, NC, this is to notify
all persons having claims against
the Estate to present them to the
undersigned on or before August 17,
2026, or this notice will be pleaded
in bar of their recovery. All persons
indebted to said Estate, please
make payment immediately.

Public Notices

This Notice is given pursuant to the
provisions of N.C.G.S. 28A-14-1.
This 15th day of May, 2026.
Brittney Holmes Vines
Administratrix of the Estate of Benja-
min Holmes
3401 Baybrooke Drive Unit A
Wilson, NC 27893
W. Earl Taylor, Jr.
Taylor Law Office
605 W. Nash Street
Wilson, N.C. 27893-3044
Telephone: (252) 243-5500
PUBLISH DATES: May 15, May 22,

EXPERIENCE DOES MATTER!!!
Selling Wilson One Family At A Time For Over 40 Years.
CALL HARRY!



HARRY GAUSS
252-903-9900



**First Wilson
Properties**
INCORPORATED
2700 W. Nash St
Wilson, NC 27896
Email: harrygauss@cocentral.com
Website: www.harrygauss.com

BUYING? SELLING?
CALL FIRST WILSON PROPERTIES AND
TALK TO ONE OF OUR REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS.

Weekend Duty Agent



Gene Bass
252-292-0459



Harry Gauss
252-903-9900



Johnson Bissette
252-245-0905



Selby Brewer
252-315-5265



Brady Windham
252-674-8789



Randi Ricks
910-916-2596



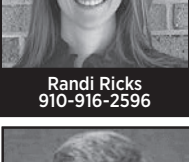
Bill Adams
252-289-6900



Scott Windham
252-230-7727



Steve Irvin
252-399-3710



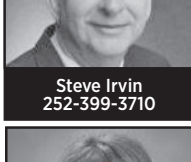
Richard Smith
252-236-2731



Rhonda Luther
252-245-4240



Holly Green
252-230-0856



Ann Brice
252-373-0326



Luke Page
252-373-3288



Sandra Speziale
252-230-5710



Terri Stutts
252-290-0750



Ruthe Farmer
252-290-1498



Ryan Bain
252-230-6197



Rebecca Tew
252-363-4095

www.firstwilsonproperties.com

Leading REAL ESTATE
COMPANIES
OF THE WORLD®
"We're Local, We're Global"

**First Wilson
Properties**
INCORPORATED
252-237-9900
2700 Nash Street North, Suite B
OFFICE OPEN:
Weekdays 8:30-5:30
Saturday 9:00-1:00

700 Kenan Street W • \$289,000
Beautifully updated duplex in Broad-Kenan Historic
District. Built in 1924, this property is designed for
versatile use. Unit A - a spacious residence featuring
3BR, 2BA, luxury LVP flooring, updated kitchen w/quartz
countertops, new cabinets, stainless steel appliances.
W/D, modern bathroom finishes and new windows. Unit B
-(Upstairs) is a private unit w/ 1BR, 1BA, kitchen and LR.

1009 Walnut Street W • \$169,900
An inviting single-story residence which offers
3BR, 2BA, large family room w/FP and much
more. Additional features include, a covered
detached building with strong curb appeal
thanks to its spacious, well-kept front lawn.
The lot is approximately 0.26 acres and is
located in the Westover subdivision.

919 College Circle N • \$172,000
Prime investment or starter home opportunity
near Barton College. Featuring a 0.45-acre
lot, covered front porch, carport, fenced
backyard, this property has seen recent
updates including updated Kitchen w/island,
stainless appliances, upgraded Bath, new
roof, new flooring, paint and much more.

**The
Whitfield
Agency, LLC**



Penny Whitfield
Broker/REALTOR®
252-315-9318

2231 Nash St. NW STE G, Wilson, NC
252-234-7653
www.whitfieldagencync.com
pennywhitfield@myginc.com
HUD REGISTERED BROKER
TOP PRODUCER



Public Notices

May 29, June 5 2026
The Wilson Times
May 15, 22, 29, June 5, 2026

NORTH CAROLINA
WILSON COUNTY
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF
JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
FILE NO. 25CV003589-970

ANTHONY M. SHAW, THERISA
LOUISE SHAW, and TEAVEN
RUFFIN
Plaintiffs
v.
MARQUISE ISAAC ROLLINS,
Defendant

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**
TO: DEFENDANT, MARQUISE
ISAAC ROLLINS
Take notice that a pleading seeking
relief against you has been filed in
the above entitled action. The nature
of the relief being sought is dam-
ages for personal injuries.
You are required to make defense
to such pleading not later than June
24, 2026, and upon your failure to
do so, the party seeking service
against you will apply to the court for
the relief sought.
This the 15th day of May, 2026.

TAYLOR LAW OFFICE
Luke Taylor
Attorney for Plaintiff

Public Notices

605 Nash Street W.
Wilson, North Carolina 27893-3044
Telephone: (252) 243-5500
PUBLISH DATES: 5/15; 5/22; 5/29
The Wilson Times
May 15, 22, 29, 2026

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
26E000304-970

Having qualified as Executor of the
Estate of Joanna Mary Waida of
Wilson County, NC, this is to notify
all persons having claims against
the Estate to present them to the
undersigned on or before August 31,
2026 or this notice will be pleaded
in bar of their recovery. All persons
indebted to said Estate please make
immediate payment.

Barbara Carroll, Executor
Janice A. Walston, Attorney
PO Box 279
Wilson, NC 27894-0279
The Wilson Times
May 29, June 5, 12, 19, 2026

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S NOTICE
OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF
REAL PROPERTY

THIS ACTION BROUGHT PUR-
SUANT TO THE POWER AND
AUTHORITY contained within that
certain Deed of Trust executed and
delivered by Robin F. Stephenson
and James C. Stephenson dated
January 12, 2007 and recorded on

Public Notices

January 17, 2007 in Book 2225 at
Page 82 in the Office of Register
of Deeds of Wilson County, North
Carolina. As a result of a default in
the obligations contained within the
Promissory Note and Deed of Trust
and the failure to carry out and per-
form the stipulation and agreements
contained therein, the holder of the
indebtedness secured by said Deed
of Trust made demand to have the
default cured, which was not met.
Therefore, the undersigned Substi-
tute Trustee will place for sale that
parcel of land, including improve-
ments thereon, situated, lying and
being in the City of Wilson, County
of Wilson, State of North Carolina,
and being more particularly de-
scribed in the heretofore referenced
Deed of trust. Said sale will be a
public auction to the highest bidder
for cash, at the usual place of sale
at the Wilson County Courthouse,
Wilson, North Carolina, on **June 8,
2026 at 10:00 AM.**
Address of Property: 2201 Tunstall
Pl Sw, Wilson, NC 27893
Tax Parcel ID: 3711543822.000
Present Record Owners: Robin F.
Stephenson

The terms of the sale are that the
real property hereinbefore described
will be sold for cash to the highest
bidder. A deposit of five percent (5%)
of the amount of the bid or Seven
Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00),
whichever is greater, is required

Public Notices

and must be tendered in the form
of certified funds at the time of the
sale. The successful bidder will be
required to pay revenue stamps
on the Trustee's Deed, any Land
Transfer Tax, and costs for recording
the Trustee's Deed.

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

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

Additional notice required for

Public Notices

Residential Real Property with Less
Than Fifteen (15) Rental Units:
An order for possession of the prop-
erty may be issued pursuant to G.S.
45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser
and against the party or parties in
possession by the clerk of superior
court of the county in which the
property is sold.

Any person who occupies the prop-
erty pursuant to a rental agreement
entered into or renewed on or after
October 1, 2007, may, after receiv-
ing the notice of sale, terminate the
rental agreement by providing writ-
ten notice of termination to the land-
lord, to be effective on a date stated
in the notice that is at least ten (10)
days, but no more than 90 day, after
the sale date contained in the notice
of sale, provided that the mortgagor
has not cured the default at the time
the tenant provides the notice of
termination. Upon termination of a
rental agreement, the tenant is liable
for rent due under the rental agree-
ment prorated to the effective date
of the termination.

Witness:
Assistant/Deputy clerk of Superior
Court
s/**Franklin L. Greene**
Albertelli Law Partners North
Carolina, P.A. Franklin L. Greene,
ESQ., NC Bar # 37896 205 Regency
Executive Park Drive

Public Notices

Suite 100
Charlotte, NC 28217
Tel: 704-970- 0391
fgreene@alaw.net

25SP001134-970/25-002282
The Wilson Times
May 22, 29, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
TOWN OF SIMS

The Town of Sims Board of Commis-
sioners will hold the following Public
Hearing on Monday, June 8, 2026
at 6:00 PM in the new Community
Center at 6249 Main St., Sims,
North Carolina, to consider the
following:
1. Proposed Rezoning
REZ-2026-01, approximately 1.989
acres off Sims School Rd. from
RA (Residential-Agriculture) to CH
(Highway Commercial District),
described as part of tax parcel 2782-
19-3001.

The public is invited to attend. The
purpose of the public hearings is to
provide interested parties with an
opportunity to comment on the pro-
posal. If you wish to make written
comments, please send them to the
Town of Sims, PO Box 161 Sims,
NC 27880 address or email to info@
townofsimsc.com.
The Wilson Times
May 29, June 5, 2026

DEED TRANSFERS

Wilson County deed transfers recorded week of May 11-15
The following deed transfers for the week of May 11-15 have
been recorded in the Wilson County Register of Deeds Office:
From Kristina K. Randolph to Shei-
la Jean Rousseau, 1128 Knollwood
Drive NW, Wilson, \$270,000;
From Timothy G. Shelton, Joni
W. Shelton, Terrill Shelton Skinner
and Grace and Bones Farms LLC to
Grace and Bones Farms LLC, 8024
U.S. Highway 264 Alternate E., Wal-
stonburg, no stamp;
From Xieu Van Nguyen to Abra-
ham C. Aguilar, 6342 Speight
School Road, Wilson, \$12,000;
From State Employees Credit
Union to SECURE Inc., 2432
Winding Creek Drive SW, Wilson,
\$162,000;
From Rodney B. Howard Jr. to
Chatney Howard, one lot on Chad-
wick Road, Elm City, no stamp;
From Charles Lee Black and Eliza-
beth Diane Black to Don Lyons and
Angela Lyons, 1.5 acres on Healthy
Plains Church Road, Sims, no stamp;
From Rodney B. Howard Jr. to Ro-
dina Howard and Bryan Schmidt,
2.82 acres near Stagecoach Road,
Elm City, no stamp;
From Rodney B. Howard Jr. to
Ryan Howard, 3.49 acres on Ever-
ette Lane, Elm City, no stamp;
From Sebastian S. Kairouz and
Jeanne Marie Kairouz to Mazella
Fuller and Alfonza Fuller, 4902
Pebble Beach Circle N., Wilson,
\$95,000;
From Kevin Gardner Lamm and
Shannon Merritt Lamm to Ben-
nett Gardner Lamm and Jennifer
Kitchen, one lot in Wilson County,
no stamp;
From Michael C. Worley and
Becky B. Worley to the Worley
Family Trust, Michael C. Worley,
trustee, and Becky B. Worley,
trustee, 8183, 8210 and 8220 N.C.
Highway 42 W. and four adjacent
lots, Kenly, no stamp;
From Donald G. Aycock, agent,
and Clara Jane Lucas Aycock to
Troy Allen Aycock, 5509 U.S. High-
way 117 Alternate, Wilson, \$3,000;
From Donald G. Aycock, agent,
and Clara Jane Lucas Aycock to
Paige Renee Aycock, 503 E. Center
St., Black Creek, \$1,500;
From Trident Realty Investments
REO LLC to Roberto Alvarez and
Sandra Alvarez, 209 Daniel St. W.,
Wilson, \$46,000;
From Travis Baines and Micah
Baines to Bread of Life Family
Worship Church Inc., 6354 N.C.
Highway 222 and 16.28 acres near
Stantonsburg and 214 Ward Blvd.,
910 Granger St. S., 911 Granger
St. S., 1004 Granger St. S., 1009
Granger St. S., 1000 Randolph St. S.
and 1003 Randolph St. S., Wil-
son, no stamp;
From Adele J. Gray, trustee, the
Marvin Bynum Revocable Trust

\$210,500;
From B&B Home Rentals LLC
to ENK Wilson LLC, 401 and 403
Denby St., Wilson, \$127,500;
From Polly Fulghum Brown to
Irlanda Sanchez Vega, 1106 Tarboro
St. W., Wilson, \$50,000;
From D.R. Horton Inc. to Roscoe
Assing, 3907 Falcon Court NW, Wil-
son, \$55,000;
From Patriot Development LLC
to Nugen Building LLC, 6470, 6474
and 6478 Huckleberry Road, Lu-
cama, \$112,500;
From Darwin Edwards, Gregory
Edwards, Telesha Stewart, Lavidia
Williams, Terence A. Williams,
Dexter Vick, administrator, Don
Traulane Edwards and the Brenda
Vick Edwards estate to Guillermo
Espino, 7712 Gardners School Road,
Stantonsburg, \$50,000;
From Edwin Rufus Jones Jr. to
Courtney J. Price and Tara J. Brown,
1709 Chamberlain Drive NW, Wil-
son, \$3,000;
From B.W. Skinner Construc-
tion Inc. to Roger Carl Luther and
Heather Jo Luther, 3910 Redbay
Lane N., Wilson, \$513,000;
From Georgia B. Manning to
Theola Ward and Georgia B. Man-
ning, 1403 Carolina St. E., Wilson,
no stamp;
From Ruth S. Gardner, Cornelia
Gardner Clodfelter, associate in af-
fairs, Maynard C. Gardner Jr., Mary
Ann Gardner, Edward W. Clodfel-
ter, Cathy Ann Gay and Harvey R.
Gay Jr. to William Blake Boykin,
one lot in Wilson County, no stamp;
From Christopher A. Mizelle and
Ashley B. Mizelle to Janie P. Weav-
er, 2809 Canal Drive NW, Wilson,
\$235,000;
From Rodney Denton Properties
LLC to Daniel Penn, 628 Viola St.,
Wilson, \$70,000;
From Sandra Neal to Prime
Choice Rentals LLC, 1403 West-
wood Ave. W., Wilson, \$138,500;
From Fortner Properties LLC to
Taylor Patrick Furlough and Steph-
anie M. Furlough, 4502 Fairhaven
Drive W., Wilson, \$390,000;
From Donna J. Winders to Gus-
tavo Vazquez and Gloria S. Vazquez,
1810 Hermitage Road NW, Wilson,
\$293,000;
From Don R. Godwin and John
Bradford Godwin, associate in af-
fairs, to Opendoor Property Trust I,
305 Lucas St., Lucama, \$180,500;
From Fortner Properties LLC and
Tidewater Development Group LLC
to JP & SES LLC, 3922 Gloucester
Drive W., Wilson, \$432,000;
From Tidewater Development
Group LLC to Fortner Properties
LLC, 3920 Gloucester Drive W., Wil-
son, no stamp;
From Fortner Properties LLC to JP
& SES LLC, 3920 Gloucester Drive
W., Wilson, \$432,000.

Man charged with January attempted murder

By Drew C. Wilson
dwilson@wilsontimes.com | 252-2675-7818

The Wilson Police Department has
charged a Wilson man with multiple
counts of attempted murder following
an investigation into a January shots-
fired incident.
Shalum Zykei Joyner, 20, of the 4700
block of Winthorp Court NW, is charged
with five counts of attempted murder
and four counts of discharging a weap-
on into an occupied dwelling, according
to a news release from Sgt. Eric McIn-
erny, public information officer with the
Wilson Police Department.
McInerny said Joyner was identified
as a suspect following an investigation
into an incident on Starship Lane.
A 9:28 p.m. on Jan. 14, officers re-
sponded to a report of shots being fired
in the 1100 block of Stoddard Road.
Arriving officers determined that a
residence that had been struck by gun-

fire but no one was injured.
Hours later, at 4:49 a.m. on Jan. 15, of-
ficers responded to another
shots-fired call in the 3700
block of Starship Lane.
Again, a residence had
been struck by gunfire, but
there were no injuries.
“Through their investiga-
tion, it is believed that the
two incidents are related
and not isolated incidents,” McInerny
said in the initial release regarding the
incidents.
Warrants were obtained on Joyner on
Friday, May 22, and he was arrested and
booked into the Wilson County Deten-
tion Center under no bond.
McInerny said the case remains under
investigation.
Police ask anyone with information
about the case to call the Wilson Police
Department at 252-399-2323 or Crime
Stoppers at 252-243-2255.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Maggiepalooza at the Market is Saturday, May 30

Maggiepalooza at the
Wilson Farmers and Ar-
tisans Market is 8 a.m. to
noon Saturday, May 30,
at the Whirligig Park.
The fundraiser for The
Maggie Society Canine
Rescue, Rehabilitation
and Education offers a
dog and family fun day.
Adoptable dogs will be
part of the event, which
takes place alongside
the weekly farmers mar-
ket.

Register for Wilson Arts' June 1 Mahjong fundraiser

Wilson Arts will host
a Mahjong fundraiser

on Monday, June 1, at
the Wilson Arts Center
to support the Maker-
Space expansion. Pro-
ceeds from the event
will contribute to the
organization's capital
campaign and help
unlock a \$100,000 chal-
lenge grant.
Participants are in-
vited to form teams of
four and bring their
own Mahjong sets. Two
sessions will be offered:
1-3 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at
Wilson Arts Center.
Team registration
is \$200 for four and
includes admission,
snacks, beverages and
opportunities to win door
prizes and raffle items.
For more information
or to register, visit www.
wilsonarts.com/maker-
space.

Washington Carver Heights plans Youth Day in the Park

Washington Carver
Heights will have Youth
Day in the Park from 2-6
p.m. Saturday, June 6, at
the Washington Carver
Heights Park, 1506 Fike-
wood St. Ext. There will
be free refreshments,
games, activities and a
drawing for bikes. Par-

ents are welcome.
The event will be re-
scheduled if it rains.
**NARFE plans Fun
Day Tuesday, June 9**
The National Asso-
ciation of Retired Federal
Employees Chapter 0781
will have Fun Day from
11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tues-
day, June 9, at Tavern 19
Restaurant at Belmont
Lake Preserve in Rocky
Mount featuring bingo,
games and finger foods
with non-alcoholic bever-
ages. This event is open to
all active and retired fed-
eral employees. Cost is \$8
for non-NARFE chapter
members. RSVP at nar-
ferm0781@gmail.com.
**Post 13 hosts blood
drive June 13**
American Legion Post
13 will hold an American
Red Cross blood drive
from 8 a.m. to noon Sat-
urday, June 13, at the Wil-
son County Fairgrounds,
front gray building.
To schedule an ap-
pointment, visit Red-
CrossBlood.org and enter
Post13.
COMMUNITY BRIEFS
are published as a public
service of *The Wilson
Times*. Email submis-
sions to editor@wilson-
times.com.

wRe
Womble
REAL ESTATE CO.

SALES and RENTALS
www.womblereal.com
For weekend assistance call . . .

ALLYSON MOYE
REALTOR®,
Broker, GRI
252-230-2641

252-230-2641

PENNY WOMBLE
REALTOR®, Broker
252-291-1123

NEW LISTING
2309 Alyson Dr
Cute home close to everything! 3 BR, 2 BA fenced yard, deck and electric car charger!
\$249,90

FOR SALE
201 E Thompson Ave Stantonburg
4 BR, 2 BA home in the heart of Stantonburg. Hardwoods floors, updated kitchen.
\$155,000.

TWO HOMES FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!
714 Pender St. S
Room for the whole family - one three bedroom one bath home, and a second two bedroom one and a half bath home.
\$225,000

FOR SALE
5036 Hwy 58 N
Spacious one-level brick home in highly sought after school district. 3 BR, 2 BA with garage, 2 fireplaces and bright sunroom.
\$239,000

FOR SALE
3300 Nash St. N
Great location for professional or service business! Brick home on a large lot in bustling commercial area.
\$299,000

602-B Nash St. NE, Wilson • 252-291-1123

TRY THE WILSON TIMES
BUSINESS ADVANTAGE