

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

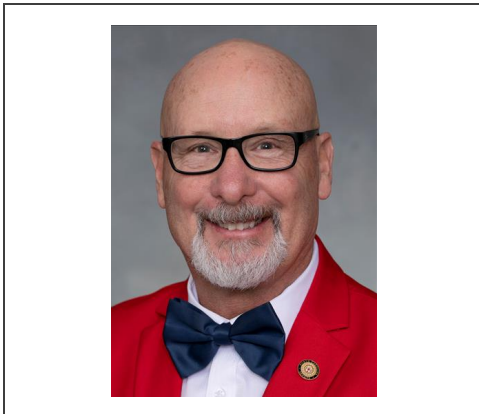


## Senator Bobby Hanig Weekly Newsletter



### District 3

Bertie, Camden, Currituck, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Martin, Northampton, Tyrrell, Warren



Since the adjournment of the General Assembly, I'm sure most legislators are busy meeting with constituents and meeting with various groups about they are serving their community. Seeing the people who make this district work is one of the things that makes my job as your State Senator that much more enjoyable.

I hope everyone has a safe and Happy Labor Day Weekend. See you all in September!!

## Biden Title IX Changes

For more than 50 years, Title IX ensured that women and girls had the same access to academic and athletic opportunities that men and boys did. The Biden-Harris administration's broad rewrite of the rules puts gender identity ahead of the safety and privacy of girls and women. The changes The Biden-Harris administration made to the Title IX rules include adding "gender identity" to the definition of sex discrimination. By adding "gender identity" to that definition and other Title IX rules, the Biden-Harris administration is endangering future educational and athletic opportunities for girls and women. That means that schools would be forced to open spaces traditionally reserved for women, like locker rooms, to individuals who claim to be female, or risk losing federal funds and being exposed to a harassment complaint. While other states have sued to block these rules from being implemented in their schools, Attorney General Josh Stein has been unwilling to protect our women and girls. Earlier this month the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed lower court decisions that temporarily halt the new Title IX regulations. But because of Josh Stein that decision does not extend to North Carolina. While Josh Stein

refuses to stand-up for our women and girls, parents still can block the new Title IX regulations at their schools. Currently, there are more than 350 schools in North Carolina that are now under that injunction due to parent membership in those organizations.

### **Is the legislature going to do anything to address this in September/October/November?**

- For the time being, the best way to put a dent in the Biden administration's Title IX rules in North Carolina is to have parents join those organizations that are part of the Kansas lawsuit. Members can also reach out to local school boards and encourage those members to ensure that the school board attorneys check the list every two weeks to determine which schools in their district are covered. Members of those groups can have their child's school covered by the injunction and block the Title IX rules. We are monitoring the ever-changing legal landscape and will evaluate what possible steps we can take.

### **What has the legislature done to protect women and girls in school?**

- The General Assembly passed the Fairness in Women's Sport Act in 2023 and it became law over Gov. Cooper's veto. This bill ensures that all teams participating in school athletics be designated as either male, female, or coed. Teams designated for females would not be open to males, and teams designated for males would not be open to females. Should a student be deprived of an athletic opportunity or subject to retaliation because of violation of these new designations, they may use that violation as a cause of action for remedies. Allowing biological men to compete in women's sports prevents fair competition and raises serious safety concerns.

### **Don't these new Title IX rules imperil the Fairness in Women's Sports Act?**

- No, but it would impact some related activities, like hotel stays for travel and access to locker rooms.

### **Can the legislature sue to block these rules statewide?**

- The General Assembly has the statutory authority to defend laws from constitutional attacks and there are legal considerations that make it difficult for the legislature to sue. Parents of students affected, organizations, and school boards are the better candidates to engage in litigation. Those challenges are likely imminent – there are already lawsuits across the country addressing the Title IX changes and the U.S. Supreme Court recently upheld a federal court decision to block the rule changes.

## **Warren County Agencies Join Together to Urge an End to Illegal Dumping**

**WARREN** - Warren County Emergency Services, Warren County Department of Transportation, Warren County Public Works and Warren County Sheriff's Office have joined together to urge the public to end illegal dumping alongside local roadways. County Fire Marshal Greg Henry said that the dumping of objects such as furniture, tires and oil drums on the side of the road has become a common and costly problem.

More information about what cannot be disposed at the Warren County Landfill is available on the Warren County Public Works website: <https://www.warrencountync.com/337/Public-Works>. If you want to ask whether an item will be accepted at the landfill or how to dispose of it, please call Warren County Public Works at 252-257-3795 or the Warren County Landfill at 252-257-2711.

Henry asked the public to contact the Warren County Sheriff's Office at 252-257-3364 if they see objects dumped along the roadside (or someone in the act).

## **Warren County Farmers Market Launches a Healthy Incentive**

**WARREN** - Warren County Farmers Market introduced a new Double Up Food Bucks program, starting in June and running until the end of the market season. The program was made possible by funding from the Triangle North Healthcare Foundation's strategic small grants program. The Double Up Food Bucks program matches Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) vouchers and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits used by customers, providing them with double the amount of money to spend on fresh produce, meats, seafood and other eligible items, and thereby increasing access to healthy and nutritious food options for a wider range of individuals and families.

To receive Double Up Food Bucks or SNAP tokens and instructions on how to utilize them, please locate the market manager on Saturday mornings at the market. The market is open from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. every Saturday at the Warren County Health Department. For more information, contact Tamara Small, the market manager, at 252-212-7246 or Warren County Cooperative Extension at 252-257-3640.

## County Ranks Seventh in State Tourism Growth

**HALIFAX** - Domestic and international visitors to and within Halifax County spent \$134.46 million in 2023, an increase of 10.4 percent from 2022. The travel and tourism industry directly employs more than 800 and indirectly more than 1,000 in Halifax County. Total direct payroll generated by the tourism industry in Halifax County was over \$31.9 million. State tax revenue generated in Halifax County totaled \$5.7 million through state sales and excise taxes, as well as taxes on personal and corporate income. About \$4.2 million in local taxes were generated from occupancy, sales, and property tax revenue from travel-generated and travel-supported businesses.

## N.C. County Pursues Experimental Plan to Revive Hospital

**MARTIN** - It has been little over a year since Martin County, a rural community of 22,000 in eastern North Carolina, lost its hospital. The problem, she said, was that the North Carolina General Assembly had yet to adopt a state budget with language allowing the state's hospitals to participate in the program. Quorum closed Martin General in 2023 before a budget finally passed — months behind schedule — that October. Earlier this year, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services confirmed that Martin General could reopen as a rural emergency hospital, clearing the first and arguably most important hurdle in the county's path. The aging facility must pass an inspection to ensure it meets CMS' requirements for the program. After that happens, the county will need to solicit proposals from providers who are interested in running the hospital.

Perhaps the biggest consequence of Martin General's closure has been the loss of the hospital's emergency department, which averaged about 16,000 visits a year. Residents in need of emergency services must now be transported to hospitals in neighboring counties. In addition to being the first hospital in the nation to reopen as a rural emergency hospital, Martin General would be the first hospital in the state to receive the designation. Because the program is not open to facilities that closed before 2023, it cannot be used to bring back the state's other shuttered hospitals. But Martin County's experience could provide a road map for other rural communities facing a similar situation in the future.

## Martin County High School Merger Now Complete, Set for New Year

**MARTIN** - The high school merger between South Creek High School and Riverside High School into Martin County High School is now permanent. After having numerous public high schools, the county is now down to just this one. They are expecting the school to have more than 700

students for this upcoming school year. The Martin County School Board voted to merge the schools a few months ago due to a teacher shortage. Without it, school officials said students would have gone all year with a substitute teacher.

## **\$490K Grant Funds Cameras for Bertie County Schools**

**BERTIE** - Bertie County Schools received a \$490,417 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice for school safety. The funds are being used to install cameras in each of the district's schools. The announcement was made during a recent Bertie County Board of Education meeting by IT Director Derek Bond. While there are numerous safety concerns for school administrators dealing with emotional, psychological and physical safety of school students, physical safety is top of mind. The system also has electronic door locking devices along with added cybersecurity. The system offers an advanced guest check system ensuring security upon entry. Bertie County law enforcement or other law enforcement entities can see what is occurring in each school. If there was an altercation at the school, the sheriff could look throughout the school and view the incident deciding on next needed steps. Bond believes the installation of the cameras throughout the district will act as a deterrent for violent outbreaks and altercations. The cameras also provide for witnesses to any disturbances.

## **Trash Pickup Fee Increase**

**NORTHAMPTON** - There will be a slight increase in the solid waste pickup fee for Northampton County citizens this year. The Board of Commissioners voted to increase the fee during their meeting on Monday, August 5. The proposal was first brought before the commissioners for consideration by the county's Public Works Director Becky Turner on June 27. She explained that the county hasn't increased their fee in a long time, while the company that does the trash pickup has continued to increase their price each year. Turner reported that there was a deficit of \$177,000 in the solid waste fund for the fiscal year which just ended (FY24). To avoid another deficit in FY25, Turner proposed the rate increase.

Over 10,000 parcels throughout Northampton County are billed for solid waste pickup. In the past, that was at a yearly rate of \$210.86. The increase will bring that total to \$240 annually, which is a monthly increase of \$2.43 compared to what citizens paid previously.

## **Alzheimer's Association's Free Support Group Now Open for All Local Caregivers Impacted by Dementia**

**CURRITUCK** - The Alzheimer's Association – Eastern North Carolina Chapter has formed a local Currituck County Caregiver Support Group for family, friends and caregivers who care for someone living with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia. The meeting will be held on the third Thursday of each month from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Currituck Senior Center 130 Community Way, Barco, NC 27917

Alzheimer's Association support groups, conducted by trained facilitators, are a safe place for caregivers. They allow participants to develop a support system and exchange practical information on challenges and possible solutions. The groups also allow opportunity to talk through issues and discuss ways of coping and share feelings of needs and concerns. Group members also learn about community resources that can help them in their caregiving role.

For more information on the Currituck Senior Center Caregiver Support Group, email [bbvallely@alz.org](mailto:bbvallely@alz.org) or call 919-241-5960.

## Electric Bus is One of Three New Buses Added in Camden

**CAMDEN** - Camden County school officials announced last week that three new school buses have been added to the district fleet, one gas-powered bus, a small activity bus and the school district's first-ever electric bus. Mike Reaves, chief student services and auxiliary officer for Camden County Schools, made the announcement during his presentation to the Camden Board of Education. However, the electric bus is "such a new thing" in the district, Camden County Schools has scheduled some training for the bus's drivers.

The \$396,701 electric bus was funded by the national Volkswagen settlement. The German carmaker agreed in 2016 to spend up to \$14.7 billion to settle allegations it cheated emission tests and deceived customers on 2.0 liter diesel vehicles, with about \$4.7 billion of that amount to be spent on mitigating pollution created by its cars and investing in green vehicle technology. Both the yellow bus and the electric bus Camden are getting have 24 seats while the small activity bus has 12 seats. With the additions, Camden County Schools now has 23 yellow school buses and six activity buses.

## Workshop Offers Information for Medical Caregivers

**GATES** - The Albemarle Commission Area Agency on Aging is now accepting registration for its upcoming Powerful Tools for Caregivers workshop in Gates County. The workshop opens on Aug. 30 and run for six consecutive Fridays (10:30 am until 12 noon) through Oct. 4 at the Gates County Public Library. As it is a progressive workshop, participants are encouraged to attend each session.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is intended for family caregivers. The workshop gives them the tools to help reduce stress, improve self-confidence, manage time, set goals, solve problems, better communicate their feelings, make tough decisions, and locate helpful resources. Participants are given a copy of the Caregiver Helpbook to help them navigate the class as well as providing additional information on available resources. The workshop is free to attend, but pre-registration is required.

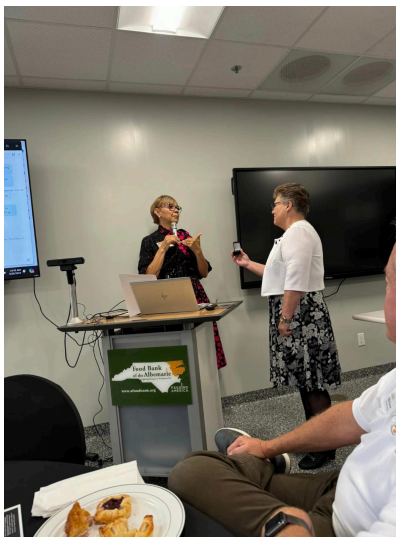
Contact Ashley Lamb at 252-404-7090 (weekdays between 7 am and 3:30 pm) to register or for more information.

## Gallery of Pictures





Last Friday, I was joined by Senator Lisa Barnes in Conetoe for the tour of the FarmShare Food Hub. We also engaged in a discussion on FarmShare's benefit from the grower/farmer perspective, as well the perspective of the faith community and those they serve.





On Tuesday, I had privilege of presenting a resolution to the Food Bank of the Albemarle to celebrate their commitment to the citizens of Northeast North Carolina! September is hunger awareness month. Please get involved and volunteer to help fight hunger!





On Tuesday night, I broke bread with the Northampton county Farm Bureau annual meeting in Jackson. Their commitment to the farming community and the community as a whole sets the bar for others to follow!

Sen. Bobby Hanig, District 3 | 300 N Salisbury St, room 629 | Raleigh, NC 27603 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!