



IN ROBBINS, HELPING SOLDIERS GAIN SKILLS

Town Joins Transition Fellowship

BY JONATHAN BYM
Staff Writer

When soldiers transition out of the service and into civilian roles, many face fears and doubts. Having done the same thing, Robbins Town Manager Clint Mack understands, which is partly why he has aligned the town with a transition program for Fort Bragg soldiers that could help both soldier and town.

The International City/County Management Association recently contacted Mack about the town's interest in being included as a municipality where soldiers gain experience working in government through the Veterans Local Government Management Fellowship. Soldiers enroll in the program during their final year in the military.

"Local government is one of those things where every day is something different. I know soldiers like that," Mack said. "They like being busy and experiencing new things."

"That's where my passion is already and I'm excited about it. If I can do this, I know there's a lot of other guys coming out of Fort Bragg that can do this too. They might just not know about it. The more options given soldiers to broaden their horizons, I think the better off they are."

see **FELLOWSHIP**, page A5

Sanford in Running for Investment

BY DAVID MILDENBERG
Editor, Business North Carolina

Could Moore County's neighbor to the north be in line for perhaps an historic economic business investment?

The N.C. state budget approved last month included dozens of appropriations to N.C. municipalities, but a \$34 million outlay to Sanford stands out as a signal of a potentially gigantic economic development project.

The earmark is tied to a planned \$270 million expansion of Sanford's water plant to support a possible semiconductor chip manufacturing project in adjoining Chatham County that Sanford Mayor Chet Mann says may become the biggest economic development project in N.C. history.

The line item reflects the ambitious approach by the Lee County city to continue pro-business strategies that have attracted more than \$2 billion in investment in recent years, Mann says.

The multibillion semiconductor chip plant is being considered at Triangle Innovation Point on the eastern side of Chatham County near U.S. 1 between Raleigh and Sanford.

see **SANFORD**, page A5

YEAR IN PHOTOS: 2021

From high-flying stunts to homecomings, see the past 360 days through the lens of Pilot Photographer Ted Fitzgerald in this collection of his own favorites. **MORE AT THEPILOT.COM**



Clockwise: A member of the Zerbini Family Circus performs in Carthage; a dad takes part in a special school drop-off in honor of Veterans Day at Pinehurst Elementary; a woman looks for her father's flag at the Field of Honor in West End; a boy enjoys the water features at the Hillcrest Park Splash Pad



Cyclists pass by the blooming tulips on Carolina Vista Drive at the entrance to the Pinehurst Country Club; left, the Robbins Farmers Day Parade; below, the annual Bear Creek polar plunge; a Pinecrest baseball player slides home for a score



Above, a game of basketball in Pinebluff; right, an up-close encounter at Pinehurst's Flutterby Festival.



Center, a training exercise in Aberdeen; left, a volley is returned during a game of chair volleyball in Southern Pines.

OPINION

Final Round of '21 Full of Good Works
An Eagle and Birdies for local efforts that will benefit the community.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Bypassing Local Gas
Readers share their views on a number of current events.



SANDHILLS SCENE

Local Authors Stack Up
The Country Bookshop's annual best sellers list features tales with local ties.

SPORTS

Pats Rebound in Win
Pinecrest's veteran leadership shines through in team's clutch moments.

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TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
75° 52°	76° 56°	69° 55°
Sunny and Warm Feels Like: 74° Precip: 4% Winds: NW at 8 mph	Partly Sunny Feels Like: 74° Precip: 25% Winds: SW at 7 mph	Cloudy and Warm Feels Like: 68° Precip: 25% Winds: SW at 7 mph

