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The Gaston Gazette

WEEKEND

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Bar manager Anthony Paige pours a pint of beer inside Cavendish Brewing Company on North Chester Street in Gastonia on, Sept. 18, 2025. MIKE HENSILL/THE GASTON GAZETTE

Brewery workers regroup after unexpected closure

What is next for former Cavendish Brewing Company employees

Chloe Collins
Gaston Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

On Jan. 7, Anthony Paige was working behind the bar when he found out that Cavendish Brewing Company, which he had managed for the last two years, would permanently close the following day.

Cavendish's former owner Scott Cavendish said in a previous interview that his decision to sell the brewery to Sugar Creek Brewing Company was a long time in the making, but according to Paige, the brewery's staff did not learn of the sale until they were working their last day.

When they found out, he said reac-

tions from employees ranged from shock and concern over where they would work to sadness over losing a community hub they helped build.

In the upheaval, Paige said employees initially believed Sugar Creek's new facility would be opening after a brief pause, and that they could potentially retain their jobs.

However, in recent interviews the company announced that it would not be opening its new Gastonia facility for at least six months to one year.

For one former Cavendish employee, the sudden loss of her job led to a new position at CityCade, located in downtown Gastonia. Two former Cavendish brewmasters are currently looking for positions with other companies, ac-

cording to Paige.

Another group of employees is working on a concept to launch their own employee-owned cooperative taproom, he said.

"I hope Sugar Creek accomplishes great things with this space," Paige said. "However, that said, there is no changing the fact that what has made that taproom successful ... was the workers being so intertwined with the community. Getting to know people, knowing their names, knowing their stories, and knowing what they are going through."

According to Paige, he and his fellow employees operated Cavendish

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CaroMont sued over alleged lack of payment

Kara Fohner
Gaston Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Charlotte construction company filed a lawsuit against CaroMont Regional Medical Center alleging that CaroMont owes it more than \$25 million for work on the hospital in Belmont.

The Robins & Morton Group alleges in the lawsuit filed Jan. 9 that the company worked on CaroMont's hospital at 223 Beatty Drive in Belmont, which opened in January 2025. The business served as the construction manager for the project and provided labor and materials for the construction of the new hospital, the lawsuit states.

The Robins & Morton Group completed its work on July 14, 2025, and CaroMont still owes the construction company \$25,141,225, according to the lawsuit. On Aug. 21, 2025, the Robins & Morton Group put a lien on the hospital property, the lawsuit states.

The lawsuit accuses CaroMont of breaching its contract with The Robins & Morton Group and asks that the construction company recover the principle sum of more than \$25 million, plus interest from the first date of the alleged breach, along with legal costs.

In addition, the lawsuit asks that a judgment be issued against the property and that the hospital property be sold, and that the proceeds be applied to the payment of the judgment, the cost of the sale and the cost of the lawsuit.

The contract between The Robins & Morton Group included a clause that states that any disputes related to the contract shall be resolved in arbitration administered by the American Arbitration Association. The lawsuit asks that a stay be issued until arbitration is completed.

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A lawsuit was filed against CaroMont Regional Medical Center in relation to the construction of its Belmont campus. MIKE HENSILL/USA TODAY NETWORK

Data centers emerge as part of campaigns

Jessica Guynn
USA TODAY

Voter anger over surging electricity prices is spreading across the country as energy-guzzling data centers increasingly strain the power grid and ratepayers' wallets.

Now analysts warn that the rising opposition to the massive warehouses powering the artificial intelligence revolution is shaping up to be a major factor in the 2026 midterm elections.

Data centers that provide the computing capacity and storage needed to power AI models like ChatGPT are emerging as the "villain" as Americans face high utility bills, Jefferies analysts said in a new report.

Every candidate running for office,



Rising opposition to the massive warehouses powering the artificial intelligence revolution is shaping up to be a major factor in the 2026 midterm elections. LEAH MILLIS/REUTERS

from local to state to federal, will be forced "to take a position whether they are pro or con data centers/AI," adding, "We think many still underestimate the

pivot in the Trump administration to focus on these issues."

President Donald Trump has championed data centers as critical to the U.S. economy and to the AI race with China, but he's facing growing pressure to lower costs for Americans who have soured on his handling of the economy.

Trump addressed voters' data center concerns on Jan. 12, saying his administration was working on deals with technology companies to ensure that Americans would not pick up the tab.

"I never want Americans to pay higher Electricity bills because of Data Centers," Trump said on Truth Social. "We are the 'HOTTEST' Country in the World, and Number One in AI. Data

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