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# N&R SUNDAY

Sunday, April 19, 2026

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## ENVIRONMENT

# Dan River makes endangered list

The organization American Rivers says two planned gas pipelines could harm the waterway

**JOHN DEEM**  
Staff Writer

Concerns over a pair of planned major natural gas pipeline projects have landed the Dan River on a newly released ranking of the nation's 10 most threatened waterways.

The organization American Rivers announced Tuesday that it has placed the Dan eighth on its America's Most Endangered Rivers list for 2026.

The Transco Southeast Supply Enhancement Project and the Mountain Valley Pipeline Southgate Project would cross the river near Eden in Rockingham County.

State and federal permits have been issued for both pipelines, which American Rivers says could harm the Dan by increasing sedimentation, releasing hazardous chemicals and destabilizing banks.

"Energy production can't come at the

expense of our most vital of resources — our nation's freshwater," said Alice Broderick, spokesperson for American Rivers. "There is always a risk when pipelines are built along our rivers. These pipelines have to be constructed with the most stringent protections in place for the Dan River and the people that depend on it."

The Dan originates in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia and flows 214 miles east into North Carolina, where it cuts diagonally across the Triad before joining the Roanoke River at Kerr Reservoir in Wilkes County.

The reservoir supplies drinking water

for hundreds of thousands of people, while also providing habitat for endangered species including the James spiny mussel and Roanoke logperch, as well as freshwater mussels, otters and migratory fish.

### Tribal connections

The Dan also is important to Indigenous peoples, including the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, Saura and related Siouan-speaking communities whose ancestral villages, burial sites and ceremonial landscapes line the river's banks.

Please see **DAN**, Page A4



# 'I JUST LOVE HISTORY'



WOODY MARSHALL, NEWS & RECORD

Sarah Lanse, chair of the America250 Guilford County Committee, stands for a portrait at the Nathanael Greene monument at Guilford Courthouse National Military Park in Greensboro on Friday.

## Lanse helping Guilford County celebrate America250

**NANCY McLAUGHLIN**  
Staff Reporter

Middle school homework with the kids.

Fledgling businesses including Sarcastic Shirts with "Running late is my cardio" in the inventory.

And guiding Guilford County's contribution to America250, celebrating the 250 years since the Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776.

Sarah Lanse likes busy. And that's a good thing. The most recent addition to the list, taking on that role

### America at 250: The story still unfolding

This story is part of an ongoing series exploring the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026. Visit our website to read other stories in the series and share your own.

of chair of the America250 Guilford County Committee, has been a gift, she says.

Coming together for the assignment of a lifetime is a past as a

television news producer, history buff and marketing professional with several local people-focused organizations, such as Goodwill and Greensboro Pride.

We sat down with Lanse to talk about it. Here's that interview:

### Why take this on?

So, it's actually kind of a funny story. Well, I say funny. It's not funny, "Ha, Ha." It's funny like, eye roll.

Please see **HISTORY**, Page A4

# Zoning fight over townhomes continues

Residents say plan threatens their neighborhood while city says more housing needed

**KEVIN GRIFFIN**  
Staff Reporter

New Irving Park residents opposed to a townhome development in their neighborhood are continuing their fight against the development.

In June 2025, 14 of the residents sued the city arguing the rezoning, which was approved by the Greensboro City Council a year ago despite their objections, was an illegal action. The lawsuit alleges council applied a zoning classification which was far out of line with existing uses in the area and that benefited the developer to the detriment of the community.

The residents won an early victory in December when Superior Court Judge William Long rejected the city's effort to have the lawsuit dismissed.

A resolution to the larger case could be coming in the near future. The court has ordered the parties to take part in mediated settlement discussions through the middle of May. If that process is not successful in resolving the matter, a trial date is scheduled for June 29.

At the same time, residents are concerned about a new rezoning proposal that would affect both the land under dispute in the lawsuit and some adjoining land.

The new rezoning is on the agenda for the Greensboro Planning and Zoning Commission's Monday meeting, but a member of the city planning staff has said the developer is seeking to delay the matter.

### Plaintiffs say they are making a stand for neighborhoods

The residents opposed to the Pisgah Church rezoning have raised a number of concerns, from the impact on property values to safety concerns related to traffic.

Please see **ZONING**, Page A6

How did a Triad church get over 42,000 pounds of potatoes, and what's being done with them?

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