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The Carolinian



N.C.'s Twice-Weekly African-American Newspaper

\$1.00



RALEIGH, N.C.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY, JULY 14-20, 2022

VOL. 82, NO. 37

Dedicated to the Spirit
and Service of God

NC BUDGET: WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

By Dr. Joy Martinez

Staff Writer

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper signed the state budget into law this week, marking the second year in a row that he's accepted the Republican's comprehensive state spending plan after vetoing budget bills in 2017, 2018 and 2019. The budget alters the second year of the two-year budget bill Cooper signed last November. It also lifts the state of emergency in place since the coronavirus pandemic reached

North Carolina in March 2020. Cooper's office said the budget includes changes to "ensure flexibility" for the Department of Health and Human Services to respond to the pandemic and so the emergency order will lift on August 15. The final bill means more money for state employees and teachers and changes to downtown Raleigh. It also means a big savings account because of inflation and concern about the potential for a recession. What it doesn't mean: Medicaid expansion.

There are raises on the horizon. State employees will get a 3.5 percent raise this year, which is an increase of 1 percent beyond what they were already slated to receive this year. Retired state employees and retired teachers will get a 4 percent cost-of-living bonus this year, a 1 percent increase over what would have happened without a 2022 budget. Retirees or their beneficiaries will receive their 4 percent bonus between Sept. 1 and Oct. 31.

The State Employees Association of North Carolina called on Cooper to veto the budget. Ardis Watkins, executive director of the State Employees Association, said those raises don't go far enough to keep up with inflation and won't do enough to keep employees on the job. "That's a dire situation. We can't recruit and we can't even retain right now. Something has to be done," said Watkins. "The state employees we have are trying to cover everything, but it becomes physically impossible

at some point. And, so, I think the infrastructure collapses." The biggest pay raise in the budget is for teachers, who will get an average raise of 4.2 percent this year. That's an increase in the expected average raise of 2.5 percent written in the 2021 budget bill, which is a two-year spending plan. Medicaid expansion was notably absent from the budget. This has been a top priority for Cooper and would have provided health insurance to an estimated 600,000 low-income North Carolinians. Cooper said he thinks a deal can be reached in the future.

development, transportation and the state workforce. This budget does not include Medicaid Expansion, but the leadership in both the House and Senate now support it and both chambers have passed it. Negotiations are occurring now and we are closer than ever to agreement on Medicaid Expansion, therefore a veto of this budget would be counterproductive" the governor said. The governor's criticisms include one regarding the North Carolina Opportunity Scholarship Program, created in 2013 to helping low-income families send children to private schools and religious schools. This year's budget passed by the legislature

"I signed the state budget (HB 103) that includes critical investments in education, economic

(See NC BUDGET, P. 2)



Donald Lawson Is Poised To Rip Up Sailing Records

The 40-year-old captain is taking the sailing world by storm, aiming to break dozens of records, including the fastest solo, nonstop circumnavigation of the globe.

On a rainy fall morning in 2005, Donald Lawson got a phone call from his sailing hero, Bruce Schwab, asking if he would be willing to drop everything and join him on a trip down the East Coast.

Lawson, then 23, had been honing his sailing skills for more than a decade, first at Baltimore's Police Athletic League and Downtown Sailing Center, then on the Chesapeake Bay in prestigious regattas like the Governor's Cup. In these races, up to 20 boats are pitted against one another on courses that can reach 100 nautical miles in length. Lawson and his team-



(See SAILING P. 2)

State Lotteries Transfer Wealth Out Of Low Income, And Needy Communities

WARREN, Mich. (AP) — While the growing expansion of casinos and state-sanctioned sports betting steal the spotlight, state lotteries have nearly doubled in size over the past two decades, driving a multibillion-dollar wealth transfer from low-income U.S. communities to powerful multinational companies.

A nationwide investigation of state lotteries by the Howard Center for Investigative Journalism at the University of Maryland found that lottery retailers are disproportionately clustered in lower-income communities in nearly every state. The investigation's analysis of cellphone location data shows that the people who patronize those stores come from the same kinds of communities.

Once rare, lotteries now operate in all but five U.S. states. Driven by more than a half-billion dollars in annual ad spending, lottery ticket sales have grown from \$47 billion to \$82 billion since 2005, according to La Fleur's 2022 World Lottery Alma-



nac. In 10 states, lotteries generate more revenue than corporate income taxes.

The investigation also found that a key promise of lotteries across the country — that they support education — doesn't hold up. Instead, lotteries often compound inequities by disproportionately benefiting college students and wealthier school districts far from the neighborhoods where most tickets are

sold. "Poor people are collateral damage to a cause of raising money for what the legislators feel is good purposes ... public safety, local schools," said Gregory W. Sullivan, a former Massachusetts inspector general and now research director for a free-market think tank in Boston. The multibillion-dollar wealth transfer starts in places like Warren, Michigan, where Ashley

Standifer buys tickets in one of the state's poorest neighborhoods.

On a snowy April day, Standifer stopped by the Korner Party Store in this Detroit suburb, its largest sign advertising "Beer Wine Lotto," to buy scratch-off tickets.

She buys scratch tickets three times daily. Four years ago, she won \$1,000 on a \$3 ticket, but she hasn't won big since.

"Of course, you know, I'm expecting to get my money back," Standifer said. "But if I don't ... I'm still gonna buy it."

Standifer's spending is one small part of the \$82 billion spent annually by lottery players, the first input in a nearly nationwide system that brings state-sponsored gambling directly into a majority of U.S. neighborhoods through more than 200,000 stores.

Standifer — and millions of players like her — lose about 35 cents for every dollar they

(See LOTTERIES, P. 3)

US Cities Hone In On Tech Have-Nots

WASHINGTON: When Covid-19 first closed her children's schools in Chicago, it was a painful wake-up call for mother-of-five Karina Aguilar. Not only did the family have just one computer for remote classes — she didn't know how to use it.

"When they started talking about remote learning, it was very hard for many families, especially immigrants with various levels of language skills and digital literacy — including me," Aguilar, 47, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Until that point, she had only ever used a mobile phone to access the Internet, and did not know how to attach a document to an email — much less get connected for online doctor's appointments for her son with special needs.

But two years on, thanks partly to a city programme aimed at boosting digital inclusion, Aguilar has new skills and a new career — working with a local nonprofit to help other people get connected.

The city's Chicago Connected programme offers free laptops, computers and WiFi hotspots as well as classes for people with varying levels of knowledge.

"I started from zero — how to turn on the computer," said Aguilar, whose experience underscores a major new digital equity

push in cities across the United States that is about to receive an unprecedented funding boost.

A new US federal programme this year offers steep discounts on Internet service, and the government is preparing to put US\$65bil (RM288.40bil) into expanding broadband access, including more than US\$42bil (RM186.35bil) to "close the availability gap".

For officials in Chicago and beyond, the pandemic threw that gap into stark relief.

"In the spring of 2020, we learned that one in five public

school students didn't have Internet at home," said Devon Braunstein, digital inclusion policy fellow with the Chicago mayor's office.

That prompted the launch of Chicago Connected — and also led to a recognition of the impact of digital inequality among residents of all ages.

"It wasn't just the kids at home who needed Internet, but other members of the household," Braunstein said.

Now, the city is creating a Digital Equity Council, which is holding neighbourhood-level

meetings to plan further action.

Those meetings are finding significant need, but also strong interest in learning, said Dominique Smith, 32, a classroom assistant who is on the council, along with Aguilar.

"The biggest surprise has been the willingness of the older generations to learn," Smith said.

"They're interested and want to learn how to use devices, and be able to do things from home and not have to travel to get their needs met."

'Grandma and grandpa'

The pandemic made the Internet even more central to everyday life for Americans, with 90% saying being online was important or even essential, the Pew Research Center found in September.

Yet the survey also found nearly half of low-income users were worried about their Internet bills, and more than a quarter of all adults usually needed help using their devices.

For years, small organisations such as public libraries and senior centers have worked to bridge the digital gap, but "prior to the pandemic, there was no recognition that this work was essential", said Angela Siefer, executive director of the nonprofit National Digital Inclusion Alli-

(See TECH HAVE-NOTS, P. 3)



NC SENATE HOPEFUL BEASLEY SAYS \$7.4M RAISED IN LAST 3 MONTHS

(AP)—Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Cheri Beasley will report raising more than \$7.42 million during the entire second quarter, her campaign said, a robust figure to close out her primary victory and build up her coffers for a general election campaign against Republican Ted Budd.

Beasley's campaign said Tuesday that her next campaign filing, due at the Federal Election Commission by Friday, will mean the largest ever raised in a second fundraising quarter by a U.S. Senate candidate in North Carolina—exceeding \$7.40 million that Democrat Cal Cunningham reported in 2020. Beasley's campaign accounts had \$4.8 million entering July, her campaign said.

Beasley, a former chief justice of the state Supreme Court, cruised to an easy May 17 primary victory, winning 81 percent of the vote in a 11-candidate race. Her campaign already has been running campaign ads for the general election.

Budd's campaign, which has the same Friday deadline, didn't immediately release its numbers for the three months ending June 30. It used Beasley's news in a email fundraising appeal late Tuesday, telling supporters "we cannot let her overwhelm us in fundraising."

A current member of Congress, Budd handily won the 14-candidate GOP primary, finishing comfortably ahead of former Gov. Pat McCrory and ex-U.S. Rep. Mark Walker. Budd benefited greatly from former President Donald Trump's endorsement and from the independent expenditure group Club for Growth Action, which spent millions supporting him and criticizing McCrory.

The Budd and Beasley campaigns have already filed campaign finance reports for the first four weeks of April. Beasley has been the highest campaign fundraiser among all candidates seeking to succeed retiring Republican Sen. Richard Burr since she got into the race in April 2021.

JUDGE: NC VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES CAN CHOOSE WHO HELP THEM

(AP)—A federal judge has blocked North Carolina laws that greatly restrict who can help people with disabilities request absentee

(See STATE BRIEFS, P. 2)

NC Budget: What's In It For You? —CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

puts an extra \$56 million into the scholarship reserve fund - a program Cooper strongly opposes.

The bill actually spends \$1 billion more on K-12 schools, community colleges and the University of North Carolina system compared to last year, or nearly \$16.5 billion. But critics of Republican education policy say lawmakers have failed to comply fully with a

judge-approved step-by-step plan to address state educational inequities. The state Supreme Court will hear arguments next month on whether courts can transfer money from state coffers to fulfill what is known as the Leandro decision.

The Leandro case started in 1994, when school districts in five low-wealth North Carolina coun-

ties (Hoke, Halifax, Robeson, Vance and Cumberland) and families sued the state, claiming that children were not receiving the same level of educational opportunities as students in higher-income counties.

In 1997, the state Supreme Court agreed, and ruled that the North Carolina Constitution guarantees every child in the state "an opportunity receive a sound basic education." The court said that the state was failing to meet that standard. In 2004, the state Supreme Court said the state's efforts to provide a "sound basic education" to poor children were inadequate.

Leandro is back in the news because the courts — along with educational coalitions, Cooper and state Democrats — argue North Carolina is still not doing enough to uphold the Leandro ruling. They say that a new plan, developed by educational consultants, would help provide better educational opportunities for students.

The Republican-controlled General Assembly argues the plaintiffs and the court has no author-

ity to make them provide the funding. Terry Stoops, director of the John Locke Foundation's Center For Effective Education, said Lee's order is putting the state in line for a constitutional crisis.

The Leandro plaintiffs dispute this, saying the state Constitution empowers the courts to act when the other branches refuse to carry out their constitutional obligations. Democrats cite the current budget surplus as resources for the plan.

However, even with a projected surplus of more than \$6 billion, legislative leaders decided against additional tax cuts beyond those approved last year and put billions of dollars into reserve accounts as concerns of a potential recession mount.

In the House, Rep. Dean Arp, a Republican budget writer from Union County, referenced the 2009 Great Recession, and said that this year Republicans expanded the state's savings. Inflation and a potential recession on the horizon were cited as for not spending more.

"Today, we have put our house in order," Arp said during the House budget debate.

The budget puts \$1 billion into a new fund, called the State Inflationary Reserve, as Republican budget writers wanted to have a way to pay for inflation-related cost increases for construction and infrastructure projects.

STATE BRIEFS

Continued from page 1

ballots, fill them out and return them.

A disabled person needing help to vote by mail can now seek assistance from anyone they choose, not just from a close relative or legal guardian as state law has limited, the State Board of Elections told county election officials after the decision filed Monday by U.S. District Judge Terrence Boyle.

Boyle declared that such restraints in state law conflict with the federal Voting Rights Act, which allows people who are blind, can't read or write, or have a disability to pick whomever they wish to assist them with voting, other than the voter's employer or union.

The elimination of the state's restrictions applies to all citizens with such disabilities, and not just the thousands who reside in hospitals, clinics or nursing homes, Boyle ruled in a lawsuit filed last September against the state board by the nonprofit Disability Rights North Carolina.

Classifieds

WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following jobs:

NC DOT DIVISION FOUR LETTING

DE00377 Johnston Co. Bid Date: July 26th

These projects may involve some or all of the following aspects of construction: construction survey, clear and grub, trucking, drainage, milling, paving, incidental concrete, fence and guardrail, signs, structures, traffic control, utilities, signals, pavement marking, erosion control and seeding. Bids can be emailed to stw.quotes@stwcorp.com

Please contact S. T. Wooten at 252-291-5165, Fax 252-243-0900 no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the bid date.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42, U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to the advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award. In accordance with other related nondiscrimination authorities, bidders and contractors will also not be discriminated against on the grounds of sex, age, disability, low-income level, creed/religion, or limited English proficiency in consideration for an award.

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T.A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Water and Sewer Rehabilitation** project for the **Town of Princeton** which bids **July 21, 2022, at 1:00 PM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: TA Loving Company, 400 Patetown Road, Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Princeton Town Hall; 503 Doctor Donnie H. Jones Blvd., West; Princeton, NC 27569 * Draper Aden Associates; 114 Edinburgh South Drive, Suite 200; Cary, NC 27511.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, hauling, asphalt paving, striping, traffic control, erosion control, seeding, linework, jack & bore, bypass pumping, flatwork, manhole lining, and manhole rehab. Please contact **Jeff Price** (jprice@taloving.com) if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-734-8400; fax 919-736-2148; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to bid closing time on bid date. TA Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Please advise if assistance is needed with obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or insurance/bonding to satisfy the work requirements. We are willing to accept quotations on all or partial quantities and items of work. We can offer 2-party check payments and quick payment agreements, but the agreements need to be negotiated prior to bid date.

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T.A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Winding Pine Pump Station—Off-Site Pipeline** project for the **Town of Cary** which bids **July 20, 2022, at 2:00 PM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: TA Loving Company, 400 Patetown Road, Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Town of Cary website: <http://townofcary.contractorsplanroom.com> * Hazen and Sawyer; 4011 Westchase Boulevard, Suite 500; Raleigh, NC 27607.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to clearing and grubbing, hauling, erosion control, seeding, linework, jack & bore, and bypass pumping. Please contact **Jeff Price** (jprice@taloving.com) if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-734-8400; fax 919-736-2148; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to bid closing time on bid date. TA Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

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Breaking Sailing Records —CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mates had broken several speed records—and each time, Lawson was one of the only Black sailors.

In those days, there was no bigger figure in American sailing than Schwab, who in the previous three years had been the only American to compete in and finish two of the sport's most hallowed planet-circling solo sailing races: the Around Alone and the Vendée Globe. Lawson had been bombarding Schwab with Myspace messages for months, asking for tips on how to race better and faster. Schwab had been helpful, but this was the first time he offered an invite to sail on his 60-foot yacht, Ocean Planet, the boat he had used on his circumnavigations.

Lawson's dreams had already stretched beyond those Chesapeake regattas—he wanted to ring the globe, too, and he wanted to do it faster than anyone ever had. But he needed practice. Immediately, he hopped

on a bus from Baltimore to Portland, Maine, where Schwab awaited. "It was an opportunity that I knew I had one chance to do," says Lawson. "That's part of the mentality you have to have, not coming from a wealthy family and being a Black guy in sailing—sometimes you only get one chance."

The first night Schwab and Lawson were on the water, a snowstorm hit as they steered into a freezing headwind. Most skippers wouldn't have left port in those conditions, but Schwab wanted to take advantage of the storm's winds, which could slingshot them south. Schwab loved speed, and it was clear that his new apprentice did, too. "The boat could sail perfectly fine under autopilot," Schwab says. "But Donald was so thrilled to be there that he refused to come below, preferring to sit outside and drive the boat for hours, upwind, in the snow."

Now 40, Lawson is an accomplished sailor on the precipice of realizing his dream of sailing around the world. In the fall, he'll begin a decade-long effort to break dozens of world records, including an attempt to become the fastest person, and the first Black sailor, to complete a solo, nonstop circumnavigation of the globe. That goal follows in the wake of both Teddy Seymour and Bill Pinkney, the only other Black Americans to sail alone around the world (they stopped along the way). Meanwhile, Lawson was selected to lead the diversity, equity, and inclusion committee at U.S. Sailing, the sport's governing body. He also established the Dark Seas Project, a foundation that aims to bring people of color into the sport.

Lawson was raised in Woodlawn, a predominately Black,

middle-class neighborhood in Baltimore County. His father was a Baptist preacher and an employee in NASA's Office of Inspector General, and his mother was a computer technician and community counselor. In a family that prided itself on regimented goals—his younger brother and sister both joined the military—Lawson was an outlier with an itch for adventure. In 1990, when he was nine, his mother enrolled him in the Police Athletic League and drove him to his first field trip, on the Lady Maryland, a replica of a 19th-century schooner that hosts educational outings on Chesapeake Bay. As the ship got underway, Baltimore's skyline dissolved off the stern. Ahead lay the wide mouth of the Patuxent River, and beyond that the Chesapeake. Lawson found the captain and asked him how far he could take this boat. Around the world if you wanted, he said.

Would it be that easy to escape? "When someone tells you there are people going around the world, and you can be one of them, that opens your mind to possibilities you never thought of before," Lawson says. But with all the white faces on the boats in the harbor that day, it was easy to think sailing had no place for a Black kid from Baltimore. At the time, he didn't know anything about Seymour, who'd circumnavigated the globe in February of 1986 in honor of Black History Month, departing from Frederiksted, Saint Croix, where an uprising in 1848 had led to the abolition of slavery in the then Danish territory. It would be another 17 years before he'd learn of Pinkney, who in 1992 became the first Black sailor to complete an around-the-world trip by way of the southern capes. Sailing, Pinkney wrote, was "about escape—escape from the bonds of conformity, racism, and lack of respect because of one's background." The sea, he continued, "has afforded me the chance to prove my potential when placed on a level playing field."

In 1999, after graduating from high school, Lawson began working for the Downtown Sailing Center, where he became its first Black instructor. Teaching sailing to novices on various types of boats in the busy waters of the Inner Harbor allowed Lawson to get good fast. Soon he was being invited to join crews for races up and down the East Coast and in the Caribbean. It was at this point that he discovered the sport's racist undercurrents. "You start experiencing people who aren't familiar with you, and they're not totally comfortable with you," he says.

After the trip with Schwab in 2005, Lawson began thinking about breaking speed records on his own terms, and doing so beyond the confines of a race schedule. To pay the bills, he got his captain's license at the Annapolis School of Seamanship, which allowed him to deliver ships for boat owners to different locations. That job provided him access to a multitude of boats and an opportunity on each delivery to break personal speed records.

In 2009, Lawson set out to find sponsorship that would allow him to acquire his own boat. This year it finally happened, in the form of a 60-foot trimaran, one of the world's fastest sailing vessels. Starting in September, weather permitting, he'll kick off a campaign to break 35 solo world records over ten years, beginning with a record attempt of the California-to-Hawaii trans-pacific route; in January 2024, he'll attempt the solo nonstop circumnavigation. For the sailing class that Lawson's journey will fit into, the current world record is 74 days. Lawson will attempt to do it in 70.

"Sailing teaches certain things—good planning and prioritization skills, problem-solving, self-reliance, resilience, high-level understanding of physics, math, and hydro- and aerodynamics," says Rich Jepsen, vice president of U.S. Sailing. "With tens of thousands of ocean miles under his belt, Donald has all that in abundance."

In the meantime, Lawson is helping break barriers onshore. After the murder of George Floyd in 2020, U.S. Sailing formed a task force to educate community sailing groups around the country about the importance of cultivating sailors of all racial and economic backgrounds. Lawson was one of the first people Jepsen thought of for the initiative, along with Debora Abrams-Wright, Quemuel Arroyo, Lou Sandoval, and Karen Harris. "I wish I could tell you that U.S. Sailing, out of wisdom or generosity, started the task force on its own," says Jepsen. But it was volunteer leaders in community sailing organizations who pushed the national governing body to act.

Lawson hopes that any Black kid who sets foot on a sailboat will have role models they recognize to show them the way. "I'm happy to say that, probably in the next five or ten years, you will be seeing more of me out there," he says. "And who knows? Maybe they'll be inspired to come along and break my records."

Story compliments of *Outside Magazine*, written by Andrew S. Lewis



The Carolinian

(ISSN 00455873)

1504 New Bern Ave, Raleigh, North Carolina 27610

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 25308

Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

Periodical Postage Paid at Raleigh North Carolina 27611

Warrenton Address: P.O. Box 536

Warrenton, NC 27589

Postmaster

Send all address changes to:

The Carolinian

1504 New Bern Avenue

Raleigh, NC 27610

PUBLISHED SIX TIMES MONTHLY

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year\$45.00

Payable in advance. Address all communications and make all checks and money orders payable to *The Carolinian*.

Founded by P.R. Jervay, Sr. in 1940

The Carolinian Newspaper, Inc. of Raleigh

Publisher Adria Jervay

Production Manager Howard Barnett

Sales Consultant Paul R. Jervay, Jr.

Circulation Manager Andrew Alston

Jervay Agency, National Advertising Representative

www.TheJervayAgency.com

Member:

North Carolina Black Publishers Association

National Newspaper Publishers Association

HUB Certified MWBE

The Publisher is not responsible for the return of unsolicited news, pictures or advertising copy unless necessary postage accompanies the copy.

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Business & Finance

State Lotteries Transfer Wealth Out Of —CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

spend. “Yesterday I spent like \$130 and I won like \$85,” Standifer said, meaning she lost \$45.

Those losses — \$29 billion a year nationally — are why lotteries exist. The losses fund government programs and enrich others, including a Canadian private equity billionaire and a Japanese convenience-store conglomerate.

In the popular imagination, the lottery is funded by people who spend a few dollars on a Powerball ticket when the jackpot gets big. This is not reality.

More than two-thirds of lottery sales are of instant scratch-off tickets, which range in price from \$1 to \$50. A sliver of players are responsible for most of that spending.

A 1999 report to the National Gambling Impact Study Commission found the top 10% of lottery spenders accounted for two-thirds of sales. The most frequent players, the study found, had lower incomes, were high school dropouts and disproportionately Black.

High school dropouts spent four times more per year than college

graduates. Black people spent, on average, nearly five times as much as white people.

Some states, like Massachusetts, are aware of frequent players’ importance. A 2016 study commissioned by the lottery showed that the top 10% of players account for about 40% of sales. The average player in that group reported lottery spending of nearly \$200 per week.

In South Carolina, players with a household income of less than \$35,000 a year spent more than twice as much as players with household incomes between \$100,000 and \$150,000, according to a 2014 state-commissioned study obtained by the Howard Center.

“When people get down, they probably take the last 10 or 20 dollars to try to make up 100 to 400 dollars,” said Cloyd White, 26, a construction worker from Jasper County, South Carolina, who estimated he spent \$40 every day. “It’s a gamble and it’s risky, but I feel like it’s all about God.”

It’s also about choices states make about who can sell lottery

tickets.

“There’s a reason why so many lottery outlets are concentrated in low-income areas across the United States,” said Les Bernal, national director of Stop Predatory Gambling.

The Howard Center found that stores in the vast majority of states with lotteries are disproportionately concentrated in communities with lower levels of education and income and higher poverty rates, with larger populations of Black and Hispanic people.

Only Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, Utah and Nevada lack lotteries. The Howard Center was unable to obtain lottery retailer locations in South Dakota, but did obtain them for the other 44 states, plus Washington, D.C.

The center’s analysis found:

— In neighborhoods with lottery retailers, the percentage of the population that lives in poverty is higher than in neighborhoods without lottery retailers in all 44 states analyzed and in Washington, D.C.

— The Black population was higher in neighborhoods with

lottery retailers than in neighborhoods without lottery retailers in 35 states and Washington, D.C.

— The Hispanic population was higher in neighborhoods with lottery retailers than in neighborhoods without lottery retailers in 37 states and Washington, D.C..

The store where Standifer bought her tickets is in a neighborhood that has a poverty rate almost three times Michigan’s average. It has four lottery retailers, with another 28 in bordering neighborhoods.

Neighborhoods with a lottery retailer in Michigan have a median poverty rate nearly double the rate in neighborhoods without lottery retailers, the center’s analysis found.

The North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries, an industry group, says on its website that it’s misleading to examine where stores are concentrated because people “don’t always buy their lottery tickets in the neighborhoods where they live.”

That’s true. But the Howard Center’s first-of-its-kind analysis of mobile phone location data to study customers of lottery retailers shows they are mostly local.

The center used mobile location data from SafeGraph, a location intelligence firm that collects information about store foot traffic at U.S. businesses. The aggregated SafeGraph data reveals the neighborhoods where a store’s customers live.

A Marathon gas station in Warren, Michigan — a five-minute drive from the Korner Party Store where Standifer played — sold more than \$725,000 in lottery tickets in 2020, ranking among the top 20% of retailers statewide.

More than two-thirds of its customers live in the same neighborhood as the gas station or in surrounding neighborhoods, with the average customer living within 1.1 miles of the store.

The Howard Center analysis, which examined store traffic patterns at nearly three-quarters of all U.S. lottery retailers, found similar patterns nationally. In all but Arizona and Washington, D.C, a majority of lottery retailers had

a customer base that mainly came from local neighborhoods.

The Marathon gas station’s visitors came from neighborhoods with a household income \$16,000 less on average than Michigan’s median of \$57,000. In 29 of 44 states it analyzed and in Washington, D.C., the Howard Center found a similar divide, where the average household income of neighborhoods that visited lottery retailers was lower than the state’s overall average income.

A Howard Center review found states recruit retailers based on factors like store security, the ability to hit sales targets and compliance with in-store advertising requirements. The review found no evidence that states consider racial or economic inequity.

As a group, players lose. But there are consistent winners: the multinational companies that run the lotteries on behalf of the states, the stores — including large chains — and advertising and media companies.

Of \$29 billion lost by players, those entities — plus state administrators who oversee the process — will keep more than a quarter: \$8 billion.

The lottery operations industry is dominated by two private companies, U.K.-based International Game Technology PLC and Canadian-owned Scientific Games Holdings LP.

State-level lobbying by Scientific Games in the 1980s was critical to the expansion of the lottery from one state, New Hampshire in 1964, to nearly every state. Scientific Games just sold its lottery business to Toronto-based private equity firm Brookfield Business Partners LP for nearly \$6 billion. Future profits will benefit Brookfield CEO Bruce Flatt, who is worth \$4.5 billion, according to Forbes.

Stores get a commission for selling tickets and cashing in winning tickets. They earn, on average, 6%, but also earn substantial bonuses when a customer wins big. They took in \$5 billion in 2020, according to the La Fleur’s almanac.

Convenience stores account for nearly two-thirds of lottery sales. Major multinational firms profit

from owning thousands of U.S. convenience stores, including the Japanese firm Seven & i Holdings, which has more than 10,000 7-Eleven and Speedway stores.

Many states permit sales at stores that specifically market to low-income clientele. Check-cashing stores, patronized by lower-income people who don’t have bank accounts, sell lottery tickets in 24 states, the Howard Center found.

After prizes are paid out and the costs of running the lottery are paid for, \$21 billion of the original \$82 billion remains for spending on government programs.

At least two-thirds of the \$21 billion is earmarked for education programs.

The Michigan lottery, where Standifer plays, has for decades billed itself as a win for education. The vast majority of the state’s share of lottery funding is used for K-12 education funding.

Studies show the state’s education funding formula is inequitable. Michigan received a grade of “D” for how it allocates funding to low-poverty districts, according to a 2021 report from the Education Law Center.

The report classified 15 states as regressive, which meant high-poverty districts received as much as a third less per student than their low-poverty counterparts. Six of the those states — Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire and Texas — have lotteries that use at least a portion of funds to finance K-12 education programs.

Some states use lottery revenue to fund college scholarships.

In Kentucky, nearly half of lottery scholarship funding supports the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES), which awards money based on a student’s GPA and test scores.

Nearly 10% of Kentucky high school students are Black, but they were awarded less than 5% of KEES merit-based scholarship funding, a Howard Center analysis of 2020 state scholarship data shows. The average white KEES recipient got an award of \$1,745, compared with \$1,244 for the average Black KEES recipient.

Tech Have-Nots —CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ance. Over the past two years, recognition of that gap grew, particularly in cities, Siefer said.

In Charlotte, North Carolina, officials used the pandemic to adopt a plan to make the surrounding county the most digitally equitable in the country within the next five years.

“We thought, let’s think about (responding) in an emergency context ... but also how do we capitalise on this moment to set ourselves up for the future?” said Bruce Clark, executive director of the new Center for Digital Equity, a public-private initiative at Queens University of Charlotte.

In Charlotte as in other cities, the impetus of online learning prompted recognition of broader needs.

“There’s the school system, but there’s also uncle and aun-

tie, grandma and grandpa — all of these constituencies are impacted by Covid and the digital divide,” Clark said.

A major part of the effort thus far has a goal of signing up 7,500 residents this year for low-cost broadband, in addition to supplying devices, digital literacy efforts and technical support, he said.

San Antonio, Texas, had just begun to focus on digital equity when the pandemic hit, but within months officials had made the issue one of five priorities for pandemic recovery, said Brian C. Dillard, the city’s chief innovation officer.

More than 38% of the city lacks Internet access, and the schools lost contact with nearly that proportion of students in the switch to remote classes, he said.

“We wanted to commit to solving that problem, but also wanted

to make sure we don’t face that problem in the future.”

San Antonio is now preparing to build a series of 60-foot (18-meter) telecommunications towers to bring internet to students in two school districts by August, and has pledged that 100% of the population will have access to affordable service.

“It wouldn’t be acceptable for anyone to be living here without water supply or electricity, and it shouldn’t be acceptable for this utility,” Dillard said.

Saving lives Nonprofits were a backbone of digital inclusion efforts for years and continued to play a major role amid the pandemic, often coming together or innovating on the fly.

In the Silicon Valley city of San Jose, California, youths last year started to collect and refurbish old devices for those in need.

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Health & Fitness

How Hot Is Too Hot And Dangerous For The Human Body?

PENN STATE UNIVERSITY—Heat waves are becoming supercharged as the climate changes – lasting longer, becoming more frequent and getting just plain hotter. One question a lot of people are asking is: “When will it get too hot for normal daily activity as we know it, even for young, healthy adults?”

The answer goes beyond the temperature you see on the thermometer. It’s also about humidity. Our research shows the combination of the two can get dangerous faster than scientists previously believed.

Scientists and other observers have become alarmed about the increasing frequency of extreme heat paired with high humidity, measured as “wet-bulb temperature.” During the heat waves that overtook South Asia in May and June 2022, Jacobabad, Pakistan, recorded a maximum wet-bulb temperature of 33.6 C (92.5 F) and Delhi topped that – close to the theorized upper limit of human adaptability to humid heat.

People often point to a study published in 2010 that estimated that a wet-bulb temperature of 35 C – equal to 95 F at 100% humidity, or 115 F at 50% humidity – would be the upper limit of safety, beyond which the human body can no longer cool itself by evaporating sweat from the surface of the body to maintain a stable body core temperature.

It was not until recently that this limit was tested on humans in laboratory settings. The results of these tests show an even greater cause for concern.

The PSU H.E.A.T. Project To answer the question of “how hot is too hot?” we brought young, healthy men and women into the

Noll Laboratory at Penn State University to experience heat stress in a controlled environment.

These experiments provide insight into which combinations of temperature and humidity begin to become harmful for even the healthiest humans.

Each participant swallowed a small telemetry pill, which monitored their deep body or core temperature. They then sat in an environmental chamber, moving just enough to simulate the minimal activities of daily living, such as cooking and eating. Researchers slowly increased either the temperature in the chamber or the humidity and monitored when the subject’s core temperature started to rise.

That combination of temperature and humidity whereby the person’s core temperature starts to rise is called the “critical environmental limit.” Below those limits, the body is able to maintain a relatively stable core temperature over time. Above those limits, core temperature rises continuously and risk of heat-related illnesses with prolonged exposures is increased.

When the body overheats, the heart has to work harder to pump blood flow to the skin to dissipate the heat, and when you’re also sweating, that decreases body fluids. In the direst case, prolonged exposure can result in heat stroke, a life-threatening problem that requires immediate and rapid cooling and medical treatment.

Our studies on young healthy men and women show that this upper environmental limit is even lower than the theorized 35 C. It’s more like a wet-bulb temperature of 31 C (88 F). That would equal 31 C at 100% humidity or 38 C (100 F)



at 60% humidity.

Dry vs. humid environments Current heat waves around the globe are approaching, if not exceeding, these limits.

In hot, dry environments the critical environmental limits aren’t defined by wet-bulb tem-

peratures, because almost all the sweat the body produces evaporates, which cools the body. However, the amount humans can sweat is limited, and we also gain more heat from the higher air temperatures.

Keep in mind that these cutoffs

are based solely on keeping your body temperature from rising excessively. Even lower temperatures and humidity can place stress on the heart and other body systems. And while eclipsing these limits does not necessarily present a worst-case scenario, prolonged exposure may become dire for vulnerable populations such as the elderly and those with chronic diseases.

Our experimental focus has now turned to testing older men and women, since even healthy aging makes people less heat tolerant. Adding on the increased prevalence of heart disease, respiratory problems and other health problems, as well as certain medications, can put them at even higher risk of harm. People over the age of 65 comprise some 80%-90% of heat wave casualties.

Staying well hydrated and seeking areas in which to cool down – even for short periods – are important in high heat.

While more cities in the United States are expanding cooling centers to help people escape the

heat, there will still be many people who will experience these dangerous conditions with no way to cool themselves.

Even those with access to air conditioning might not turn it on because of the high cost of energy – a common occurrence in Phoenix, Arizona – or because of large-scale power outages during heat waves or wildfires, as is becoming more common in the western U.S.

A recent study focusing on heat stress in Africa found that future climates will not be conducive to the use of even low-cost cooling systems such as “swamp coolers” as the tropical and coastal parts of Africa become more humid. These devices, which require far less energy than air conditioners, use a fan to recirculate the air across a cool, wet pad to lower the air temperature, but they become ineffective at high wet-bulb temperatures above 21 C (70 F).

All told, the evidence continues to mount that climate change is not just a problem for the future. It is one that humanity is currently facing and must tackle head-on.




FACT & FITNESS
By Jeneea Jervay-Bush, M.S.

WHAT ARE YOUR CHANCES? PART 2 ...continued from last week.

Also in the minority, from what I’ve seen, are people working for longevity health focused goals like a strong heart, strong bones, good posture, and good balance to reduce the probability of a fall.

Seldom discussed and rarely highlighted are the research-based factors that play a role in a person reaching and maintaining good health. Those factors include “genetics, the social and economic environment, health behavior, clinical care, and the physical environment” (www.sycamoreinstituten.org/drivers-of-health/). What does that have to do with the chances of a person losing weight and keeping it off? EVERYTHING, starting with the reframing of goals. Overall good health should be the goal, but even if a person is stuck only on the losing weight aspect of their being, the above factors need to be considered in any plan if it’s to have a realistic chance of long-term success.

The unchangeable factor is genetics. Some people have the genetics for six-pack abs and some don’t. Rather than six-pack abs being the goal, shift to reducing visceral fat and a strong core. The core is the stomach, lower back, and the sides of the middle of your body, oblique muscles. Social and economic environment ties directly to how much time and money a person has available to focus on a weight loss goal. It will be substantially harder for a person working 2-3 jobs without a car that’s lower income than for someone working 1 job with a car and disposable income to spend on fitness equipment/clothes/memberships. Health behavior includes, but is not limited to, things like nutrition, exercise, and relationships to food and exercise. Clinical care includes, but is not limited to, having access to effective medical care. A physical environment example would be whether a person lives in a walkable neighborhood and can do one of the most often recommended starter exercises of walking.

Feeling overwhelmed? A step back to view this framing of overall health reveals, in my opinion, why most people fail at weight loss and are usually miserable in the process. Less stressful, more productive, more impactful for longevity, and more likely to succeed is to focus on the components that make up good health that I wrote about a couple weeks ago. Weight loss may or may not happen, but that’s beside the point.

Bans Off Our Bodies

By Tyria McCray

Staff Writer

Just two weeks ago, in a historic and far-reaching decision, the U.S. Supreme Court officially reversed Roe v. Wade on Friday, declaring that the constitutional right to abortion, upheld for nearly a half-century, no longer exists. This decision means that abortion rights will be rolled back in roughly half of the states immediately, with more restrictions likely to follow; meaning that abortion will not be available in large swaths of the country.

In light of that news, Clayton community members gathered for a “Bans off our Bodies” rally Sunday, July 10. Kendall London, one of the organizers of the rally, stated “It all started with the idea of just, I want to be able to give myself a voice and to give all these women a voice, especially younger women who can’t vote yet and use their voice that way.”

Marchers and activists chanted “my body, my choice” through the town in response to the Supreme Court’s recent decision on Roe v. Wade.

“If you’re going to make decisions for my body, why can’t I have my voice to speak back about that?” London said.

Several organizers of the Clayton rally shared they also had some safety concerns but worked around them to make the rally possible. London stated that she specifically wanted the rally to be done in Johnston County because she did not see any other rallies being held.

“I know there’s a lot of people, especially the younger demographic, who support this,” London said.

As of right now, abortion does remain legal in North Carolina, and organizers say they want to keep it that way.

“This is proof right here that if we team up, we can definitely get it done and we can definitely save it here and make sure that every woman has access to a safe abortion here in North Carolina,” said Emma Pawlak, another organizer.

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Remediating The Three Main Types Of Soil, Farmer To Farmer

By Jason Lindsay

Staff Writer

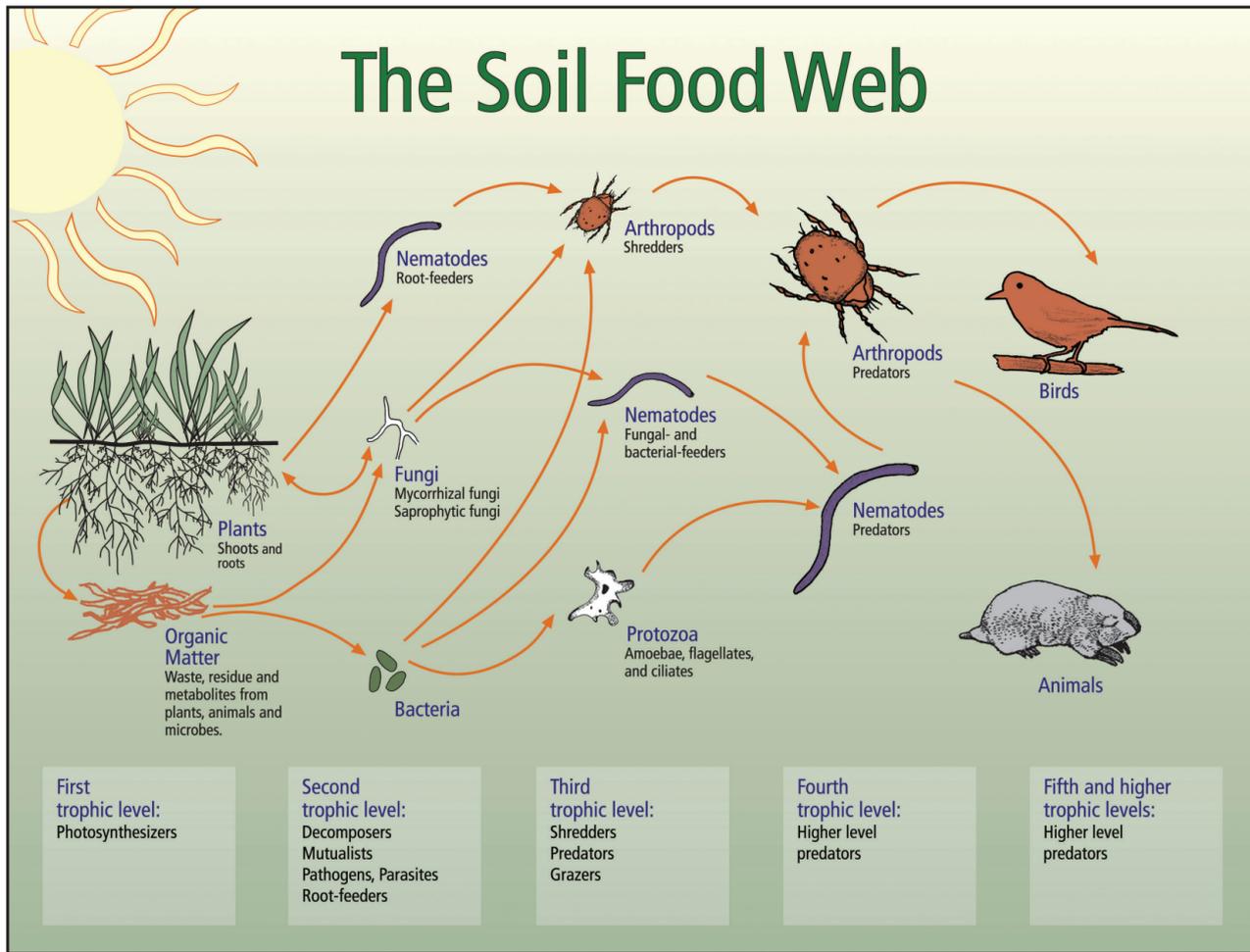
There are large amounts of farmland in America that are depleted due to the farming practices of "big ag." Other countries are experiencing similar, if not identical affects from these practices as well. Countries like: China, Brazil, and India.

In most places, including America, this has not yet led to food shortages due to the efforts of synthetic inputs, but has created an underlying cause of increasing prices to grow food. Those costs lead to an increase of grocery bills and it is important to note that a large percentage of this expense has been absorbed by the farmer.

The only way to make this right is to heal the earth, the farmland and gardening spaces. So here, we will go through the three main soil types and highlight generalized steps that both farmers and gardeners can take to remedy the overwhelming reality of depleted soil. It is important to note that there are over 70,000 types of soil in the United States and it is important to understand your soil type when it comes to remediation. The main three are: clay, silt, and sand. These are the three we will deal with.

Let's start with CLAY. For soil to be classified as clay it must have a make-up of at least 40 percent clay, less than 45 percent sand and less than 40 percent silt. Some may have heard folk speak of the clay hills of Georgia or piedmont clay throughout the piedmont region of the United States. Contrary to the understanding of most clay holds more minerals and nutrients than the other types of soil simply because of their small particle size and large capacity to hold water (clay also holds the most water out of the three).

Yet, farmers of clay soil often complain of the lack of nutrients within the soil. This is really dealing with the solubility of the soil. In to many cases clay soil is compacted. With clay being made up of such small particles (the smallest of the three types) the natural air ways structured within the soil are much smaller and so is the path for air is limited than so is the path for water and nutrients. This reality makes it easy to compress and closes



the pores in clay. Something as simple as constantly driving a vehicle over it could cause compaction (high tillage is a leading cause of compaction in farm land).

Sodium (Na) is also a factor with the compaction of clay soil. It is easy for sodium to leach itself to the small particles of clay. These salts make clay soil hard and denser than clay with lower levels of sodium. This makes it difficult for roots to penetrate the soil and establish themselves while simultaneously restricting water from entering as well.

With this being a crushing experience for many clay farmer and gardeners, compaction relief is the name of the game. With clay being commonly the most

nutrient dense soil type once the soil is properly broken up the nutrient content within the soil is plant soluble possibly granting greater yields.

So, to remediate this issue of compaction you will need to work soil while adding organic matter (carbon(C). This may come in the form of compost, fallen leaves, sawdust, or tree bark. Adding things such as these create those pockets of air within the soil that doesn't allow the clay to recompact.

There is also the use of commercial products like gypsum (sulfate mineral). Due to gypsum's ability to remain in the soil (not be washed away by rain and irrigation) it is able to go deeper into the soil while obstructing the aluminum in the ground keeping it from reaching the roots. Furthermore, gypsum dislodges sodium from the clay

with calcium relieving the soil of compaction.

Lets' move next to the opposite side of the spectrum: sandy soil.

Unlike its kin, clay, sandy soil is the most coarse of them all. While clay has small particles for its' physical make-up making it easy to compact, sand with its' coarseness leaves plenty of room for air and water. Some might say to much.

The coarseness of sandy soil is the leading contributor to it being the host of the least nutrients and minerals of the three soil types. Sandy soil also holds capacity for the least amount of water. This well-brained soil has limited ability to retain potash and nitrogen, generally making the ground acidic in nature at least more acidic than clay.

So, when it comes to remediating sandy soil we must think of

ways to aid moisture retention. Things like adding: compost, aged manures, woodchips (preferably aged), hay, leaves (make sure leaves have been shredded to prevent them from matting together and creating barriers), and grass clippings (if used in garden or field note that grass clippings are laced with grass seeds).

As in remedying clay, incorporate any of these things within the first 4"-8" of the soil. This will serve as sponge for the coarse soil allowing it to hold more water, minerals, and nutrients. Just like the sand on the beach when fast moving water hits it, it washes it away and after a rain it is the first to dry. The same is true with sandy soil, so the benefit of mulching is at its' highest when blanketing sandy soil. Through preventing runoff and evaporation by mulching,

moisture is trapped within the ground for longer periods of time. This also regulates the temperature of the soil creating comfort for the roots of crops.

Last but not least, personally my favorite, and I think it safe to say the peoples' favorite: silt or loamy soil. I know that silty and loamy soils are technically two different soil types, but are commonly used interchangeably within the farm/gardening community and for the sake of this article I will join them together. Just say I "did it for the culture."

Loamy soil holds the image of ideal soil within a health garden. It is known for its dark blackish brown hue and like it holds moisture well like clay, yet like sand it drains well and its' air pockets are sufficient. The silt particles are larger than that of clay, yet smaller than that of sand. Loam carries the attributes of sand and clay because it is part sand, part clay, and part silt and when the combination is harmonized and health, it cancels out the negative affects of each type. Because loam is a combination there are clay loams (high percentage of clay within there make-up) and sandy loams (high percentage of sand within there make-up). With this being said organic matter is again the savior. Composted manures, vegetable compost, tree bark, leaves and again, mulch is of very high benefit for the same reasons listed before.

If you haven't found the thread that runs through the remediating principles of these soil type it is Carbon (Organic Matter).

Both the enzymes and bacteria in the soil eat/breakdown organic matter. And as shown in the soil food web, mapped by Dr. Elaine Ingham a soil microbiologist, enzymes, bacteria, and fungi are the beginning of the food chain.

To deplete the soil of these things will ultimately bring hunger to us all. Carbon is the root of remediation, and it shows up in more than one way. For clay, it aerates and leaves the soil in a position that remedies compaction. In sand it holds things together, not allowing water and nutrients to runoff at unhealthy rates while preventing erosion. And for all it feeds creating an atmosphere of procreation for micro-organisms of many types.

Remediating soil is making it whole again, it is giving it back its natural ability to complete itself. Remember, the forest needs no farmer.



Solectrac Now Ramping Up Electric Tractor Production

PRNewswire— Solectrac, makers of electric tractors and an operating company of Ideanomics (NASDAQ: IDEX), today announced a partnership with Nolan Manufacturing establishing an east coast production facility to meet the increasing demand for electric tractors across the country. The 10,000-square-foot facility in Denton, NC broadens Solectrac's service for east coast customers and reinforces the company's continued nationwide growth.

Since Ideanomics' acquisition in June 2021, Solectrac has grown significantly, adding several dealers throughout the United States, including three recently added on the east coast in Alabama, Florida and Georgia. Partnering with Nolan Manufacturing increases Solectrac's production capacity in support of its growing dealer network. The primary production at Nolan Manufacturing is Solectrac's e25 electric tractor, with additional models planned for future production.

"As the demand for Solectrac's electric tractors continues to increase, I'm excited about our persistent progress on the East Coast towards a more sustainable future and regenerative agriculture," said Mani Iyer, Solectrac CEO. "With a 10,000 square foot manufacturing facility, 57 acres and three new buildings, we are ramping up production quickly and will be able to deliver tractors to dealer partners expeditiously and provide more efficient services to existing customers. As we achieve full production capacity, we are focused on making hiring and training a top priority."

Nolan Manufacturing has over 50 dealers from Maryland to Georgia, with four equipment dealerships in North Carolina. They are producers of equipment and landscaping trailers with plans to expand production and distribution operations to include farm tractor implements, alongside the distribution of Solectrac tractors.

"It's exciting to be in a partnership that will support Solectrac with meeting the growing demand for their tractors," states Chris Biesecker, owner of Nolan Manufacturing. "The demand for Solectrac tractors is growing on the East Coast, and we're proud to do our part in providing the market with the economical and environmentally friendly Solectrac tractor." Chris has worked in equipment retail for over 30 years and will oversee the day-to-day operations of Solectrac tractors.

USDA Makes It Easier For American Farmers To Grow Food, Get Insurance

WASHINGTON— The Biden Administration announced additional steps it's taking to support U.S. farmers in their work to stabilize food prices and feed Americans and the world amidst continuing challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, supply chain disruptions, and the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is reducing the economic risk of raising two crops on the same land in one year, making it easier for U.S. farmers to grow food in America, increase food supply, and lower food costs for American families. This action is part of a broader set of commitments made earlier this year by President Biden and Secretary Vilsack to increase domestic food production amid potential global food shortages related to the invasion of Ukraine.

To reduce the risk of raising two crops on the same land in one year – a practice known as double cropping - USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) is expanding double crop insurance opportunities in over 1,500 counties where double cropping is viable.

"In May, I joined President Biden at the O'Connor farm in Kankakee, Illinois, to announce a series of actions to help farmers do what they do — grow food for American families and the rest of the world. Today, USDA is making good on one of those commitments and making it easier to plant double crops and sharing some of the financial risk by making crop insurance more available in over 1,500 counties," said Secretary Vilsack. "We live in a challenging time, but I put my trust in the American farmer and U.S. agriculture to help keep the food we need affordable and available. The Biden administration and USDA will continue to find ways to ease burdens on American farmers and lower costs for American families such as expanded double crop options through crop insurance."



Improvements include:

For soybeans, double crop coverage will be expanded to or streamlined in at least 681 counties, including all of those that were initially targeted for review. While some additional counties were permanently added to be double crop counties, the majority of expansion removed barriers such as requiring production records and streamlined the process to get personalized coverage through a written agreement.

For grain sorghum, double crop coverage will be expanded to or streamlined in at least 870 counties that were initially targeted for review. Similar to soybeans, most of these changes included streamlining the administrative burden and requirements to obtain written agreements. Written agreements provide the producer with the maximum flexibility by allowing them to obtain crop insurance coverage, but not requiring the coverage of both the spring and winter crops as in permanent double crop counties. RMA will also work with the crop insurance industry and farm organizations to highlight the

availability and improvements in written agreements as an option for any farmer that grows a crop outside the area where a policy is automatically offered.

This expansion of coverage was guided by extensive outreach to nearly 70 grower groups covering 28 states. This includes a wide array of stakeholders such as producers, agents, university extension and other agricultural experts, commodity associations, state departments of agriculture and insurance companies. USDA may add additional counties as it explores these options with farmers this summer, with the final rules being locked in by the fall. Since farmers need to plan ahead for adding a winter crop to a rotation, USDA wanted to make sure they had time to consider this option and consult with local extension and agriculture experts and their crop insurance agent.

Additional resources released today by USDA include frequently asked questions as well as the Helping Farmers Address Global Food Insecurity webpage on farmers.gov.

Crop insurance is sold and

delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers and online at the RMA Agent Locator. Producers can learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at rma.usda.gov.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system and lowering food prices for Americans by focusing on more resilient local and regional food production, encouraging fairer markets for all producers, and ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities. USDA has also prioritized building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, has made historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and is committed to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit usda.gov.

Community

NC Entrepreneur Wins \$25k Grant For Eco-Friendly Furniture

As a combat engineer and civil affairs specialist in the United States Army, Doug Williams developed solutions for serious situations. Now, he's looking to solve a new problem: the high turnover of what he calls fast

furniture. Armed with an engineering management degree from West Point, an MBA from Wharton and a natural curiosity, Williams founded Calico Sol in 2020 - his North Carolina-based

company focused on providing furniture as a service to help environmentally conscious businesses achieve LEED V4.1 certifications.

"A lot of companies will mention sustainability as a perk with the main proposition of comfort or style, but sustainability is a core component of our value proposition," explained Williams.

His furniture concept is based on what's called a circular economy and its three principles: designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use and regenerating natural systems.

With the help of Bunker Labs - a cohort program for veterans interested in entrepreneurship - and a fundraising campaign of \$120,000 from friends and family, Williams developed his first prototype: a couch made of recycled polyester, polyurethane and steel. There is no glue

involved, making Calico Sol's couch 100% renewable.

Still early in development, Calico Sol caught the attention of Evergreen Climate Innovations and the U.S. Bank Foundation. They selected Williams as the winner of the 2022 U.S. Bank Foundation Cleantech Inclusion Award, which supports female and minority entrepreneurs who are building innovative companies.

"We are inspired by the talented entrepreneurs looking to solve challenges in our communities," said Reba Dominiski, head of Corporate Social Responsibility at U.S. Bank and President of U.S. Bank Foundation. "As part of our focus on environmental sustainability, we are excited to support once again one of these entrepreneurs. Calico Sol has a unique business model creating 100% renewable furniture and we are excited to see where Doug takes

his company and the impact it will have on our environment."

As this year's award recipient, Calico Sol will receive a \$25,000 grant from U.S. Bank Foundation along with 12 months of mentorship and programming provided by Evergreen Climate Innovations.

"We're excited by Doug's commitment to tackling an industry with a long-overlooked waste problem," said Dylan O'Reilly, Senior Program Manager at Evergreen Climate Innovations. "It is estimated that, on average, Americans generate 12.1 million tons of furniture waste per year, and that 80% of these items end up in landfills. Calico Sol's furniture-as-a-service model enables a closed-loop system, where individuals can return their used Calico Sol furniture once it is no longer needed."

Williams plans to use the money to fund production of a small batch of products for further testing, with a goal of getting to market later this year. To start, Calico Sol is targeting businesses like hotels, universities and offices that are already

focused on sustainability.

"Recent studies have shown that over a typical 60-year life span of a building, if you change out furnishings multiple times, the cumulative impact frequently exceeds the greenhouse gas emissions of the structural footprint of the building - sometimes significantly," said Williams. "Calico Sol is an attempt to keep products out of the landfill and lower the carbon footprint of these buildings using sustainable furniture and interior design."

Williams is still building out the technical components of his furniture but plans to use QR codes for customers to scan and return their products to the manufacturer once they need replacement. He'd also use technology to physically track the product's overall life cycle and provide his customers more accurate analysis of their carbon footprint.

This is the third year of the U.S. Bank Foundation Cleantech Inclusion Award. Information on how to apply for the 2023 award will be available later this year.



Solar Energy For Those Who Need An Option

The Clean Energy Initiative (CEI) of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Community Development Action Coalition (HBCU CDAC) is bringing more cost-efficient solar savings, clean energy access, and advanced energy technology to underserved residential neighborhoods.

These 14 no-cost solar systems are all installed on owner-occupied low-to-moderate-income homes, with installations by Southern Energy Management, utilizing SolarEdge Technologies, Inc. ("SolarEdge") inverter, and monitoring technologies.

Currently, 10 solar systems have been installed in Greensboro, with four installations in progress in Winston-Salem.

These projects are part of a national initiative spearheaded by HBCU CDAC, which was charged by the Department of Energy (DOE) to increase awareness and equitable access to clean energy solutions through the direct engagement of the nation's HBCUs and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs).

In the Spring and Summer of 2021, HBCU CDAC identified HBCU North Carolina A&T University in the City of Greensboro as the first university for community-based deployment in North Carolina.

Their efforts with HBCU CDAC & SolarEdge are not only helping move the needle for North Carolina's clean energy industry but reducing the gap in clean energy access.

"We are thrilled to expand our collaboration with this innovative program, where we can increase homeowners' access to clean, affordable energy and create cost-savings solutions in the communities that need it most," said Bob Kingery, co-founder, and CEO of Southern Energy Management.

Southern Energy Management (SEM), was chosen as a local installation partner through HBCU CDAC's evaluation process.

Powered by the funding and community partnerships of HBCU CDAC, SEM installed SolarEdge systems on the homes of 10 low-to-moderate-income resi-

dents in Greensboro at no cost to the homeowners.

"The Clean Energy Initiative of HBCU CDAC is thrilled to bring action-oriented and measurable change to underserved communities. The disparities and inequities are clear. It is imperative that our most vulnerable neighborhoods in Greensboro, and across the country have access to clean energy and advanced technology solutions that will bring about cost savings and are supportive of balancing growth, equity, and environmental injustices," said Karen Soares, Director of the HBCU Clean Energy Initiative.

Additionally, each installation includes SolarEdge optimizers, inverters, and consumption and production monitoring applica-

tions, allowing homeowners to track solar usage and savings in real-time.

Therefore, HBCU CDAC will be able to demonstrate measurable impact within the community and advocate for funding to grow the program across the country. The systems that are completed so far are covering an average of 76 percent of the homeowner's electricity usage through May of this year.

"The system is running great! I believe I have the lowest bill I can get. We officially feel like we live off the grid. The bill has gone down literally 90 percent. I'm very thankful and grateful for this energy-saving system and your entire team and partnership!" said Victoria C., a homeowner in Greensboro.



BRIGHT FUTURES— The winning RDU Leaders Of Tomorrow Business Case Team and LOT Director Shirl Davis pose with the 15K check. *Mathias Bishop Photo*

Key Senate Race Comes Down To A Few Unaffiliated Voters

POLITICO—If Democrats hope to win North Carolina's Senate race and open House seat in the 13th Congressional District, they will need to run up their score in the highly educated urban centers of Wake County.

Home to North Carolina's affluent Research Triangle and capital city Raleigh, fast-growing Wake is the most populous county in the state at over 1 million residents.

Unaffiliated voters - typically less engaged than registered party affiliates - dominate Wake County as well as the state, making up 41 percent of Wake's roughly 800,000 registered voters. Democrats, by contrast, constitute 36 percent of the county's registered voters while Republicans make up just 23 percent.

The trend is even more pronounced among young residents. In Wake, 51 percent of the Gen Z voting population is registered unaffiliated, compared with 47 percent statewide.

GOP strategist Charles Hellwig compared it to a doughnut, with "a red circle around a deep blue middle." Republicans are banking on inflation woes to give them the boost they need in rural pockets of the state, such as Johnston County, which borders Wake.

In 2020, President Joe Biden trounced incumbent Donald Trump by more than 160,000 votes in Wake County, but it wasn't enough to carry the state's 15 electoral votes. Similarly, in a Senate race that year, Democrat Cal Cunningham led Republican incumbent Sen. Thom Tillis 68 percent to 32 percent in the urban areas, but that margin dropped outside the central cities and Tillis retained his seat.

Yet Republicans stand to gain ground in southern Wake, where Trump-backed candidate Republican Bo Hines will face off against Democratic nominee Wiley Nickel in the highly contested 13th District.

Hellwig, the strategist and former county GOP chair, said that Republicans will need to focus their messaging on pocketbook issues, public safety and parental rights. If they veer off track, he said, they risk losing the suburban areas of Wake. They're also counting on the bruising effects of the pandemic on schools.

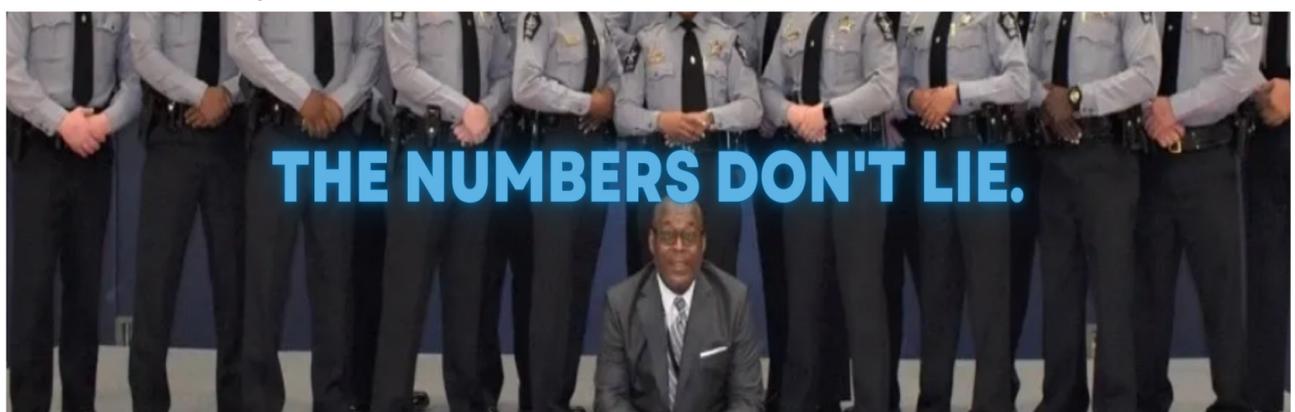
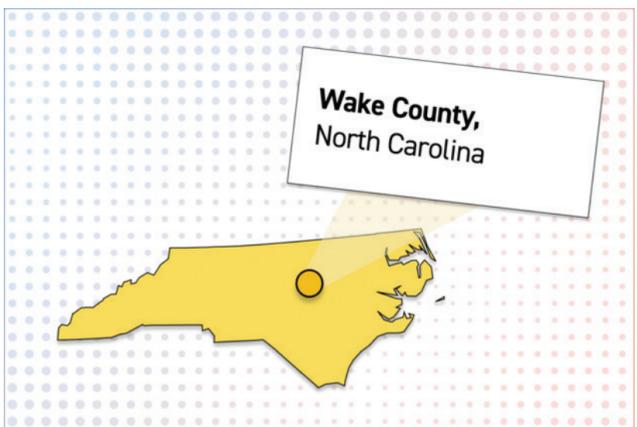
Donna Williams, chair of the county Republican Party, said that throughout the pandemic, parents could "see what the heck was happening with the education of their children."

Party leaders and organizers said Democrats will need to focus on issues such as abortion, school safety, funding for public schools and housing affordability.

For all of their apparent advantages in the county, Democrats fear enthusiasm among their base is waning.

"We do have some areas that are so blue that the people are completely unmotivated to do anything," said Kevyn Creech, chair of the Wake County Democratic Party. "They do not feel the urgency and the existential threat the way the rest of us do."

For Democrats, she said, Wake County is "the tip of the spear."



In the 2014 race for Wake County Sheriff, Democratic Candidate Willie Rowe was defeated by Republican Candidate Donnie Harrison by over 50,000 votes.

In 2018, Sheriff Gerald M. Baker was victorious obtaining over 84,000 more votes than Harrison. Since being elected, Sheriff Gerald M. Baker has been serving and protecting the Capitol County through difficult times, utilizing strong and proven leadership.

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 - Sworn: 104
 - Civilian: 108
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 - BLET: 4
 - DOCC: 11
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 - Responded to 15,324 Domestic Violence Calls
 - Responded to 978 Overdose Related Calls
 - 15,133 Traffic Stops
 - 47,188 CCW Permits Completed
 - 28,441 Pistol Permits Completed
 - WCSO Processed 26,986 Sets of Fingerprints for Pistol Permits

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PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT BAKER FOR WAKE, TREASURER: PENNIE GRAHAM

Protestors Storm Sr Home

By Tyria McCray

Staff Writer



Dozens of activists gathered in Raleigh on Wednesday of last week to demand a 67-year-old arrest warrant be served to Carolyn Bryant Donham. The protesters had gotten word on where Carolyn now resides in Raleigh, and dozens of demonstrators marched at a facility for the elderly as well as other locations to demand that the 88-year-old woman be held accountable for her role in Emmett Till's death.

Last week, *The Carolinian* reported on the arrest warrant for Donham was found, in a basement of a Mississippi courthouse last month, reigniting the Till family's call for justice. The warrant against Carolyn was publicized at the time, but the Leflore County sheriff told reporters he did not want to "bother" the woman since she had two young children to care for. Members of Till's family shared their concerns on this matter.

"You cannot ignore this. That is the reason why the warrant needs to be served, and it will help create change," said Emmett's cousin Priscilla Sterling. "If this is what's needed to do for us to change our mindset, our behaviors, and attitudes in society, then this will do it. This will do it. Execute the warrant." "She lied. Carolyn lied," activist and attorney Malik Shabazz

said. He and dozens of other activists delivered eviction papers to two addresses where they believe Donham could live. Wednesday, they called on Donham to leave the state of North Carolina and turn herself in.

"She lied on Emmett Till. Her lies and her conspiring with her husband led to the gruesome death of Emmett Till, whose death was a major spark behind the entire civil rights movement," Shabazz said.

Community members also stated that Carolyn Bryant-Donham is a fugitive from justice. Attorney Shabazz also said that Carolyn Bryant-Donham has run and hid and ducked from justice long enough.

Shabazz told news sources Wednesday that he's planning to be in Mississippi this week to pressure the Leflore County District Attorney to enforce the warrant that was never served on Donham.

Church

The Hajj Has Always Had A Commercial Aspect Historically

By Noorzehra Zaidi

University of Maryland Baltimore County

In early June, Saudi Arabia announced a hajj "lottery" for Western pilgrims that made it mandatory for people from Europe, the Americas and Australia to apply for visas through a random draw through the Saudi government-backed website. This new website also offered customized and VIP packages while attempting to replace the services that tour agencies had offered for decades.

This year, an estimated 1 million people will perform the hajj, which is considered one of the five pillars in Islam. Under the lottery, only 50,000 permits were allowed from these 50 countries, compared with 25,000 for U.K. Muslims alone in previous years. The resulting chaos left both pilgrims and travel agencies frustrated. Many Muslims who had already made their plans found they could not rebook under the new plan because of malfunctioning websites, among other issues. Several among those who were able to arrive in Saudi Arabia found that the hotel rooms they had paid for were no longer available or were double-booked.

The impact extends beyond individual pilgrims. Tour agencies will potentially lose out on thousands of dollars in revenue per prospective pilgrim. The cost of hajj packages has been rising for many years across the globe. For pilgrims leaving from the United States, trips can range between \$12,000 and \$20,000. Cutting out travel agencies that function as middlemen might help reduce these costs. But under the new system, the money will be channeled to the Saudi government, which aims to decrease its dependence on oil revenue through an increase in tourism activities. This has reignited an ongoing debate on the commercialization of the hajj under Saudi Arabia's influence.

While Saudi Arabia sought to cut out the Western tour agencies reaping profit from hajj, their own offerings outlined "silver," "gold" and "platinum" packages, boasting of "luxurious services," five-star stays in Mecca and Medina, and "superior camping spots equipped with excellent facilities and modern furniture."

The current changes to the hajj system are just one example of centuries of economics mixing with tradition. Generally, pilgrims try to emulate the hajj rituals in the order of the Prophet Muhammad's own last pilgrimage

before his death. Those rituals emphasize the cleansing of the soul, detachment from worldly concerns and rejection of status distinctions among Muslims, symbolized by the donning of the white garments that all pilgrims wear.

Pilgrims continue to wear these robes in the service of these goals, but they also travel to the various sites in luxurious high-speed trains and buses.

In the past, too, the commercial, technological and secular aspects of the hajj have been a topic of much debate about whether they change the spiritual nature of the pilgrimage. As a scholar of pilgrimage, ritual and Islam, I know that the focus on commerce and profits has been part of the long history of the hajj.

Across religious traditions, pilgrimages have always had a commercial component. From pilgrimage caravans and markets that grow around religious sites to the gifting of relics and souvenirs, religion and commerce have been deeply linked.

The hajj is no different. As F.E. Peters, an eminent scholar of Islamic studies, noted in his 1994 significant study on the hajj, the Quran itself acknowledges that Muslims were permitted to indulge in commerce around the pilgrimage:

Verse 2:198 in the Quran says, "There is no blame on you for seeking the bounty of your Lord during this journey." Quranic commentaries have explained this verse to mean that Islam allows commercial activity before and after the days of hajj rituals.

As Islam spread, so did the commerce. While the narrow set of ritual acts of hajj remained, the total pilgrimage experience was shaped by business. For centuries, major overland caravan routes traveled through Damascus, Cairo and Baghdad, with merchants attaching themselves to these caravans.

Traders targeted the pilgrims as consumers, and many pilgrims themselves engaged in trade to pay their way. As traveling overland for the hajj journey could take up to two years, pilgrims traded fruits, wines, silk, carpets and other items. They purchased goods such as coffee and pearls for their return journey.

The evolution of technology and means of travel inevitably brought new economic considerations into the organization of the hajj. The invention of the steamship was central to the development of mass pilgrimage to Mecca in the 19th century—the total

number of pilgrims per year rose from an estimated 112,000 participants in 1831 to some 300,000 in 1910.

European liner companies controlled major pilgrim sea routes, linking hajj to imperial business opportunities. In 1886, the British government called in the famed Thomas Cook & Son, the original package holiday entrepreneurs, to become official travel agents of the hajj.

The use of a for-profit tourism company to regulate the hajj may have seeded a new development, but agents and intermediaries had been central to the process for centuries. The "mutawwifin," the hereditary guilds of pilgrimage guides, provided pilgrims with guidance in carrying out the rituals of the hajj and were central to Mecca's government and its economy.

Over the centuries, these local guides would develop contacts in foreign lands, encouraging Muslims to perform the pilgrimage. In addition to linguistic and ritual guidance, the mutawwifin would also arrange meals, lodgings and tents—acting in ways that were similar to modern-day tour operators.

The steamship was just one technological innovation that altered the hajj landscape into a more commercial venture. At the turn of the 20th century, Sultan Abdul Hamid II of the Ottoman Empire was an adamant promoter of the construction of the Hejaz Railway, meant to establish a connection between Istanbul, the capital of the Ottoman Empire, and the holy cities of Mecca and Medina.

Proponents of the railway argued that it would both significantly improve conditions for pilgrims on the overland routes and help the establishment of commerce and trade.

The establishment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1932 and the eventual replacement of shipping and rail with air transport transformed the nature of the hajj further. The new Saudi state adhered to the doctrine of Wahabism, an Islamic reform movement originating in the 1700s that rejected all forms of innovations outside of the Quran and the traditions of the Prophet Muhammad in his time.

Yet despite this condemnation of innovation, the Saudi government has overseen decades of commercial development of the hajj, encouraging the tourism atmosphere and deriving significant profits from the obligatory pilgrimage.

SERMON of the WEEK



LET THE REDEEMED SAY SO

By: Mother Belinda McKoy

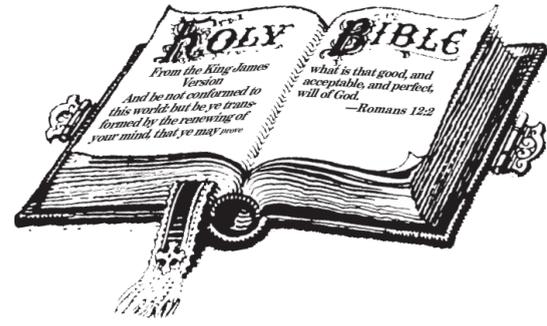
Psalm 107:1-2 KJV "O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;"

If we look at the world today and what's going on with the natural eye, it is easy for us to complain. We find so much to complain about that we tend to overlook the goodness of the Lord. The price of gas is high, the price of food is high, housing prices are high, car prices are high, mass shootings etc., etc., etc. I could go on and on, but for what purpose?

Romans 8:28 KJV "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Let the Redeemed Say So.

The 107-150 Psalm is considered the Fifth Book of Psalms. These Psalms praise God's works, tell us about the blessings of righteous living, thank God for His deliverance, and let us know that being faithful and obedient is the best sacrifice we can make to God.

Psalm 107 begins with the statement "O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever."



We ought to be willing to give God thanks at all times because He is good and his mercy endureth forever. The second verse, which is very important, states, "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;"

This Psalm lists 4 different types of people that God delivered:

Wanderers, the prisoners, the sick, and the storm-tossed. Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! Psalm 107:31.

I am sure that we can find ourselves in one, if not all, of these categories. If we are redeemed, if you have been delivered, if you have been rescued, if you are saved, you ought to give thanks. We the delivered should be the one crying loud that God is Good and His mercy endureth forever.

Oh, that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! Let the Redeemed of the Lord Say So.

If I was able to tell David's story, we would know that at some point in David's life, he found himself in different situations, good and bad. One thing David did not forget to do was give God thanks. David always recognized where his help

came from, as noted in these familiar scriptures.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein;

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

Let the Redeemed of the Lord Say So.

I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth.

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side... Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

Let the Redeemed of the Lord Say So.

To view complete sermons by Pastor William Eli Ratcliff and other guest ministers, please visit our website at lincolnparkchurch.com or on our YouTube Channel.

Practical Biblical Principles

WHEN GOD INTERFERES IN THE AFFAIRS OF MEN

Read: Numbers 23:19; Titus 1:2-3

God was so intent upon His people arriving in the Promised Land, He allowed nothing or nobody to get in the way of His objective. In the Book of Numbers (meaning census) God had given the leaders strict, religious instruction which were to be followed by the people before they entered the Land of Promise. During this time, the people complained against Moses about having no water as they traveled through the desert. Moses and Aaron disobeyed God's instructions in providing the people water. God then interfered in the affairs of Moses and Aaron and sentenced both to die. Moses and Aaron never got into the Promised Land.

Moses continued to lead the people of God as they began to travel through the land of Canaan. In the meanwhile, the kings of the land through which the Israelites were traveling became afraid of God's people coming through their lands and fought against them, in spite of the fact that Israel begged of the kings to just allow them to pass through and they would not even drink of their wells unless they paid for the water. Some Moabite and Canaanite kings refused to allow the people of God to pass through their land and warred against them and were soundly defeated.

There was a Moabite king named Balak, who chose not to war against God's people as they passed through his land simply because he was afraid of them being so many. Instead, he chose to try and have them cursed by a charlatan priest, named Balaam, whom he called to curse the Israelites wanting to pass through his land. Balaam had an international reputation for placing curses on people and places.

He made himself rich in doing this kind of work. Balaam was a hypocritical priest.

Yet God intervened in the affairs of this hypocritical religious priest, Balaam. As Balaam traveled to meet Balak God intervened in the form of a dumb donkey and a Mighty angel. The donkey saw the likes of this powerful angel standing in the way with His sword raised ready to strike Balaam if he came any closer. The donkey refused to go any further. Balaam began to beat the donkey in a merciless way wanting to kill him. Then the donkey began to speak to Balaam in a human voice, "Why are you beating me?" Have I ever been disobedient to you?" Balaam said, No! At this time, the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam and he saw the huge angel standing in front of Him with His sword drawn. The Lord said to Balaam, "Why have you beat the donkey this way, I have come to stand against you. For you are about to do something stupid (my words)." Balaam sensed his situation and fell flat on his face before the Lord. The donkey saved your life. Had you come any closer, I would have killed you and allowed the donkey to live, said the Lord (Numbers 22:33).

Balaam said to the Lord, "Lord, I have sinned, I didn't know it was you. If I have displeased You, I will turn back." The Lord told Balaam to continue with his escort to meet Balak, but only speak what I tell you to speak to him and no more. When Balaam finally met Balak who came out to meet him on the way. "Why are you so late?" said Balak to Balaam. Balaam said unto Balak, "I have come to you as requested however, I can only say to you what the Lord told me to tell you."

The Lord of heaven has now intervened in the affairs of Balaam and have now overpow-

ered this heathen, non-believer with His Spirit. God is now in control not allowing anything to interfere with His plans for His people.

Balak was so intent upon cursing God's people wanting to pass through his land, He made a total of four additional attempts to persuade Balaam to curse God's people but failed.

Each time Balaam, the false priest, told king Balak, "I cannot curse what God has blessed (Numbers 24:25).

Greedy Balaam realized the loss of gold and profit he was losing by not cursing God's people as Balak had wished. In order to get around God's blessing on His people, Balaam came up with a deal with Balak to not curse the people of God but to encourage them to start intermingling and mixing with the Midianite people. If you can't beat them, join them was the plan. This resulted in the young men of Israel mingling with the women of Moab. This resulted in the Israelites sinning big time in the sight of God. Israel began to worship the idol gods of Moab and pull away from the commandments of God. (Numbers 25:6-9). God interfered in the affairs of Balaam and Balak and had them killed (Numbers 31:8).

God then ordered Moses to perform his last act as leader of the people and that was to take vengeance on the Midianites and kill them all. (Numbers 31:1-2).

Today God's children must always be conscious of the fact God still interferes in the affairs of men when men take God's plan of salvation and grace in the opposite direction God intends it to go.

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Editorials

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Unsigned editorials in this space are the opinion of the newspaper. All other opinion pieces, including those from regular columnists, are the opinion of the writers themselves. The Carolinian strives to provide provocative commentary that is likely to spur thoughtful debate, regard-

Communities of Color on Leandro: Still An Unfulfilled Promise

Leandro vs. North Carolina is a landmark education case filed in 1994, by parents and students from five low-wealth school districts in rural Cumberland, Halifax, Hoke, Robeson and Vance counties.

The basis of the claim was that students in rural and low-wealth school districts are disproportionately underfunded compared to those in the wealthier districts. This lack of funding significantly impacts: rural, low-income Black, brown, students with disabilities and English language learners.

The case went to trial in 1997 and Judge Howard Manning ruled that the state of North Carolina was in violation of the state's Constitution and denied students the right to a sound basic education. The state was ordered to provide a remedy by fully funding Leandro.

While some relief was made, it's been more than 25 years and legislators have still not fully funded Leandro and thereby denying the opportunity for a sound basic education, especially for vulnerable and marginalized populations.

In November 2020, Judge David Lee took over the case. He gave yet another ruling on Leandro which declared denial of funding was a violation of North Carolina's constitution. He ordered \$1.7 billion in funds to be allotted over the next two years to fulfill the state's obligation to provide students with access to a sound basic education. This ruling was also met with opposition by Republican General Assembly members who claimed that the courts have no power to override the legislators' role in the allocation of money. Right now the state is sitting on more than \$8.6 billion in reserve and non allocated funding.

It boils down to elected officials' greed and disdain for vulnerable and marginalized students' right to a sound basic education.

As in the era of the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Black, brown, children with disabilities and English language learning students continue to be openly discriminated against and denied equal resources in public education. So why have Black and brown people been so quiet? For more than 400 years the quest for equal resources has continued. Blacks have been denied any education, stuck in dilapidated and underfunded schools, often times with biased and underqualified teachers, and who often in today's times don't care to be there.

Supposedly, the Civil Rights Act guaranteed equal rights under the law. The Leandro lawsuit is evidence that inequity is as much a problem today, as it was prior to the signing of the Civil Rights Act in 1964. The signing of the Civil Rights Act is simply just another unfulfilled promise for the poor, Black, brown, children with disabilities and English language learners. They have not been given what they were promised under the North Carolina Constitution, nor the U.S. Constitution which states all children have the right to free public ed-

ucation and will have equal access to educational opportunities no matter their race, ethnicity, religion, sex, nor social or economic background, or whether citizen or non citizen.

What has been even more disturbing is the silence within Black and brown communities. While many benefit off the backs of failing students, they fail to speak out, even though they see the destruction from denial of equal resources. They don't speak out even though the courts have ruled "blatant discrimination."

The social and economic hierarchies formed by those who have passed through the fire has left a deep divide blaming the most vulnerable for their own demise, therefore saying nothing on their behalf.

Many organizational leaders provide services to low performing students for a fee, but do not open their mouths to speak out against educational injustices for the same students they supposedly serve. While it is the children from marginalized and vulnerable communities who are most affected by the denial of fully funding the Leandro court mandate; it is the adults who are their parents, neighbors, community, church and political leaders, who look like them who turn their heads in silence.

It is no wonder so many young people have lost the will to get out and vote in black communities. All hope of having representatives who stand up for the needs of the poor and marginalized has been lost. Many have experienced that voting for Black candidates has only satisfied their own lust and greed for money, social and political powers. Backstabbing candidates such as Lt. Governor Mark Robinson, Chairman of the State Board of Education who pushes back on the use of the words systemic racism, calling it "Leftist Dogma," usually favors the interest of the politically elite and states that systemic racism is only an opinion.

Far too many Black politicians like Robinson are leaders with a lost soul and a willingness to become a pawn for the unrighteous and gatekeepers for already oppressed people at a price. He does not even pretend to represent the Black and brown students.

In Black and brown churches the congregants shout "Hallelujah" every Sunday, praising a Jesus, who was an avid advocate for righteousness, but do not follow his example to cry out and spare not when it comes to unrighteousness. Yet they call themselves "Christians." They also have a willingness to make money off the backs of failing students by offering afterschool programs funded by 21st Century and other government funding sources. They provide poorly-run mentoring programs, that do more harm than good or technology programs for a fee much higher than these students can afford. Many Black-led organizations supposedly advocate for students and teach parents to navigate the educational process but provide no leadership when it comes to policy advocacy.

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CONSERVATIVELY Speaking

By Paris Dennard

DIVERSITY OF CANDIDATES SHOWS THE GOP'S GROWING STRENGTH

The Republican Party made historic gains with minority communities in the 2016 and 2020 elections. Black, Asian, and especially Hispanic American voters compelled by the bold leadership of President Trump and our inclusive Republican message of opportunity and patriotism shifted towards the GOP. Today, the RNC, under the leadership of Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel, remains committed to making the GOP a more diverse, big-tent party. And our diversity goes far beyond race. The unique backgrounds and experiences of Republicans running for office across the nation exemplify our party's broadening coalition.

We need not look further than Virginia to see what I'm talking about. There, Republicans have nominated a compelling slate of candidates to build off our 2021 victories. Yesli Vega, our nominee in the 7th Congressional District, is the daughter of Salvadoran immigrants and a former deputy sheriff who won a resounding victory in her 2019 campaign for a seat on the Democrat-leaning Prince William County Board of Supervisors. Karina Lipsman, challenging a Democrat incumbent in the 8th District, came to America as a Ukrainian refugee when she was a small child. She put herself through college, then worked in the defense and intelligence industries for over a decade. Hung Cao, running for Congress in the 10th District, arrived in America as a Vietnamese refugee before serving in the Navy for more than 20 years. These incredible candidates are a testament to a growing reality of Republican politics: no matter who you are, you will find people who look like you in the GOP. And their unique backgrounds in law enforcement and national security will be immensely useful in the GOP's efforts to make our streets safe and our nation strong.

But stories like these are not limited to Virginia. Working moms fed up with Democrats' war on women are leading the GOP charge to take back the Senate. Katie Britt served as CEO of the Business Council of Alabama, promoting pro-growth policies that create jobs and help small businesses thrive. Now, she'll do the same as Alabama's U.S. Senator. Tiffany Smiley, running for U.S. Senate in Washington, took on VA bureaucrats when they failed to deliver an adequate standard of care for her husband, an Army soldier who was severely wounded and blinded by a suicide bomber in Iraq. She'll bring that indefatigable fighting spirit to D.C., relentlessly advocating for the people of Washington.

In Texas, newly elected Congresswoman Mayra Flores won a historic victory earlier this month to become the first Mexican-born person in Congress. After legally immigrating to the U.S. a child, Rep. Flores became a respiratory care practitioner where she was on the front lines fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. She won in a district which is 84 percent Hispanic, much of which had not been represented by a Republican since the Ulysses S. Grant administration. Her victory shows that Republican outreach to traditionally-Democrat communities is working. For decades, Democrats have counted on minority votes while failing to deliver results. Not anymore.

A trio of congressional candidates in the Upper Midwest will bring unique perspectives to the House of Representatives in a new Republican majority. Madison Gesiotto Gilbert, running in Ohio's 13th District, is a 30-year-old attorney and small business owner. Jennifer-Ruth Green, seeking to represent Indiana's 1st District, is a graduate of the Air Force Academy who served in the military for 12 years before founding a non-profit promoting STEM careers to at-risk youths. John James is a West Point graduate who served as a helicopter pilot in Iraq before taking over his family business in Detroit, Mich. Sure, each of these candidates are racially diverse. But just as important is their diversity of experience. They know the struggles of hard-working business owners and combat veterans firsthand. They'll take this knowledge to Congress as they push back against the reckless, far-left agenda of the Biden-Harris administration.

This November, we are poised to elect an incredibly diverse class of Republicans. Our party is growing, and there is no better proof than the tremendous group of candidates that Republicans have united behind. Whether you're a mom or a dad, a city kid or a rural dweller, a business owner, a veteran, or a nurse, know one thing: Republicans have nominated candidates who understand your struggles and your desire to live the American Dream!

Our 2022 Republican nominees are ready to lead and pass conservative policies that put every American first and gets our country back on track.

Paris Dennard is the National Spokesperson and Director of Black Media Affairs for the Republican National Committee. Follow him on Twitter: @PARISDENNARD.

A Different Voice

By Dorothy Shaw Thompson



SEGREGATION

This week on Facebook someone posted a picture of some young kids, maybe 6 to 12, looking through a fence across a field where White kids in an elementary school were playing. You couldn't see the faces of the Black kids but the idea of the picture was that they were looking longingly at the other children. The picture brought back a conversation I had with one of my friends. She asked me if I'd always gone to segregated schools and I answered that until graduate school, yes, though I'd experienced a few White teachers at college. She then said, "Well, how was that for you?" I answered, "Wonderful." My answer surprised her. It wasn't until later that I realized I could have asked her the same question.

The fact is that the schools were segregated. That means that she who is 12 years older than I went to segregated schools all her life too. Frankly, I never thought of myself as attending schools that were less than schools across town. If you think that the teachers I had or my mother or church members or neighbors sat us down and told us that we went to inferior schools and/or in fact were inferior, it never crossed my mind. I went to Washington Elementary and Junior High School. It was first through ninth grades. All my teachers were Black (with the exception of one Puerto Rican), all the students were Black, the principal, gym teacher, art and music teachers, everybody was Black and though I can't say that I loved it because of that, I didn't think about it, I just loved it. It was all I knew and for me it was enough and it still is.

This week as a part of the inspiration I share with about 30 of my friends each morning, I texted a picture and my commentary on who God was to me as a young child. I got more long responses from that text than I've gotten in the two years since I've been doing this. All echoing the way I felt about the so-called "segregated schools" and their impact on us. We talked about our teachers and what they did to contribute to who we are today. One person, Clennis Nobel, shared one that had me "eye leaking" as I read it. She said that there was a woman at Lucille Hunter, a librarian, who had gone through a barrel of discarded books at another school and selected books to bring back. Her name was Miriam Ricks and she had gotten Clorox and erasers and cleaned the books up to make them presentable for her students. Thinking of her doing this touched me in ways that brought back what those teachers and principals and others did for the students they served through teaching and creating a full environment at those schools. Some things were beneath their dignity (I won't even repeat what they had to do but I will say it wasn't anything criminal or salacious) as men and women but they did it. These teachers that were some of the best God created have largely died out without getting the praise and certainly not the pay they deserved.

I not only attended Washington School but I also attended J.W. Ligon Junior and Senior High and the respect is due there as well. Let me hasten to say that these teachers weren't perfect, some had flaws just as all people do, but if you got ill treated (rarely) it was not because of the color of your skin or anything you couldn't change. We were a mixture of poor, middle-class (I don't think anybody was rich) kids enjoying school as best we could. We had academic clubs, social events, glee clubs, art and drama clubs, self-made social clubs, sports, operettas. I've heard that some didn't feel as welcome as others but it was not because we were Black. We weren't perfect either, but something happened in those schools that made the majority of students become successful at whatever their economic home life or scholarships allowed. There is a proof of this for me... if there is an occasion for a speech anywhere... students from our "segregated" schools can make one. If an occasion calls for someone to speak, be it a funeral, political meetings, church service or whatever, it doesn't matter if a person was the valedictorian in the top 10 or the last on the academic chain, you will hear us stepping up to speak. Washington School and Ligon produced neurosurgeons, pediatricians, lawyers teachers, secretaries, executive assistants, auto mechanics, brick masons, cooks, chiefs and bottle washers, parents, principals, psychiatrists, politicians, millionaires, record producers, you name it. Ph.D.s or no D or M.A. or social workers or simply high school graduates who have done well. This isn't brag, this is fact and if required I can name names. Did I say choir directors, preachers, presidents of banks, need I say more?

I'm just saying not only did segregated schools produce but they produced a lot out of a little not because we were innately superior but certainly we were not innately inferior. It's a book that needs writing, a testimony that needs to be widespread because the truth about segregated schools has not been fully told and if somebody doesn't explain how and why we got from point A to point B history will be incomplete.

Classifieds

LEGALS

DURHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
**NOTICE OF SERVICE
OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 22 E 798**

The Undersigned, having qualified as Co-Administrator of the Estate of Merrill Patton Knight Jr., late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 26th day of September 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 23th day of June, 2022.

Gary Merrill Cross
Co-Administrator
Walter John Cross III
Co-Administrator
627 E Hammond Street
Durham, NC 27704
6/23,6/30,7/7 and 7/14/2022
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE
OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 2022 E 000833**

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Margaret Anne Biddle, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 26th day of September 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 23th day of June, 2022.

John K Biddle III
Executor
3 Kara Place
Durham, NC 27712
6/23,6/30,7/7 and 7/14/2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Francisca Cortell of Durham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 23rd day of September, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons, firms, corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This is the 23rd day of June, 2022.

Jose Cortell
Executor
c/o Richard F. Prentis, Jr., Stubbs, Cole, Breedlove, Prentis & Biggs
4 Consultant Place
Durham, NC 27707

6-23, 6-30, 7-7 & 7-14, 2022
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE
OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 22 E 000811**

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Joreen Cates Evans, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 26th day of September 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 23rd day of June 2022.

Lisa Evans Watts
Executor
4321 Hope Valley Dr
Hillsborough, NC 27278
6/23,6/30,7/7 and 7/14/2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against William S. Cline AKA William Scherer Cline, deceased, of Rowan County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the

same to the undersigned on or before 9-26-2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This 23rd day of June, 2022.
Cosby Swanson AKA Cosby Swanson, III

Executor of the Estate of William S. Cline AKA William Scherer Cline c/o Lori M. Bernstein
Attorney at Law
2726 Croasdaile Dr. Suite 202
Durham, North Carolina 27705
6-23, 6-30, 7-7, 7-14-2022
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE
OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 2022 E 000834**

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Sadie Burton, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 30th day of September 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 30th day of June 2022.

Norris Burton
Administrator
2606 Hitchcock Drive
Durham, NC 27705
6/30,7/7,7/14 and 7/21/2022
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE
OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 2022 E 001959**

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Ajeurai Ciara Hands, late of Wake County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 30th day of September 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 30th day of June 2022.

Aryvette M Patterson
Administrator
8613 Riley Hill Road
Zebulon, NC 27597
6/30,7/7,7/14 and 7/21/2022
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 22 E 875
RAVI NAIR ESTATE**

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Ravi Nair late of DURHAM County, NC does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned at the address below on or before the 30th day of September 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 30th day of June 2022.

Paul R Nair
Executor of the Estate of Ravi Nair
c/o The Law Office of Anne Page Watson, PLLC
3400 Croasdaile Drive Suite 205
Durham, NC 27705
6/30,7/7,7/14 and 7/21/2022
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 24th day of June, 2022, as Executor of the ESTATE OF WILLIAM PAUL BOYETTE, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 30th day of September, 2022 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 30th day of June, 2022.

HEATHER BOYETTE JENNINGS
EXECUTOR
ESTATE OF WILLIAM PAUL BOYETTE
c/o Shirley M. Diefenbach, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
6/30,7/7,7/14 and 7/21/2022

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 24th day of June, 2022, as Executor of the ESTATE OF CLAUDIA JOYCE GOLLOP, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 30th day of September, 2022 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 30th day of June, 2022.

CHRISTINA GUNTER
EXECUTOR
ESTATE OF CLAUDIA JOYCE GOLLOP
c/o Rupe S. Gill, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
6/30,7/7,7/14 and 7/21/2022
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against STEVE MISHUE, deceased, of Durham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before September 30, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery.

Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 30 day of June, 2022.

Janet C. Mishue
Executrix
1607 Baptist Road
Durham, NC 27704
6/30,7/7,7/14 and 7/21/2022
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE
OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 2022 E 000867**

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Steven Dean Parker, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 30th day of September 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 30th day of June, 2022.

Christian Parker
Executor
4832 Swift Creek School Rd
Whitakers, NC 27891
6/30,7/7,7/14 and 7/21/2022
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE
OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 22 E 751**

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Elizabeth L. Clanton a/k/a Elizabeth Lewis Clanton, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 30th day of September 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 30th day of June, 2022.

Marian Clanton Black
Administrator
921 Windcrest Road
Durham, NC 27713
6/30,7/7,7/14 and 7/21/2022
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE
OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 22 E 861**

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Delois Ann Johnson, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 30th day of September 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the

Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 30th day of June 2022.

Michele Lee Smith
Administrator
1000 Sparrow Trail Apt B
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
6/30,7/7,7/14 and 7/21/2022
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE
OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 22 E 801**

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Darlene Sams, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 7th day of October 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 7th day of July 2022.

Joseph D Sams, Jr.
Executor
314 Bridget Way
Creedmoor, NC 27522
7/7,7/14,7/21 and 7/28/2022

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No. 22 E 874**

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Norma James Paschall of Durham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of October, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This is the 7th day of July, 2022.

Carlos James Lopez
Executor
c/o Richard F. Prentis, Jr., Stubbs, Cole, Breedlove, Prentis & Biggs
4 Consultant Place
Durham, NC 27707
7-7, 7-14, 7-21 & 7-28, 2022

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No. 22 E 872**

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Mildred H. Neal of Durham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of October, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This is the 7th day of July, 2022.

Lori Lynn Neal Phillips
Administrator
c/o Richard F. Prentis, Jr., Stubbs, Cole, Breedlove, Prentis & Biggs
4 Consultant Place
Durham, NC 27707
7-7, 7-14, 7-21 & 7-28, 2022
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE
OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 22 E 877**

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Jean Ledbetter, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 7th day of October 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 7th day of July, 2022.

Tarik Ledbetter
Executor
4 Jua Valley
Durham, NC 27707
7/7,7/14,7/21 and 7/28/2022
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE
OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 22 E 499**

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of Leona W. Goss, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having

claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 7th day of October 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 7th day of July, 2022.

Deborah G. Morgan a/k/a Deborah Kay Goss
Executrix
620 Balcombe Road
Rocky Point, NC 28457
7/7,7/14,7/21 and 7/28/2022
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE
OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 22 E 892**

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Joseph D. Rogers, Sr., late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 7th day of October 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 7th day of July, 2022.

Joseph D. Rogers, Jr.
Administrator
3708 Appling Way
Durham, NC 27703
7/7,7/14,7/21 and 7/28/2022
NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

**In The General Court of Justice
District Court Division
File No. 22-CVD-686
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
To: JOHN DOE, Defendant.**

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 for child custody. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than the 17th day of August, said date being at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, MARTINA EUNICE PEREZ ROBLERO, will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This, the 7th day of July, 2022.

Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
7404 Chapel Hill Rd
Suite M
Raleigh NC 27607
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
7/7,14,21/22

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE
OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 22 E 918**

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Ida Elaine Sherron Alford, a/k/a Elaine S. Alford late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 14th day of October 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 14th day of July, 2022.

Judy A. McDuffie
Executor
Stephen V. Alford
Co-Executor
411 Sherron Rd
Durham, NC 27703
7/14,7/21,7/28 and 8/04/2022
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND
DEBTORS OF GENEVIEVE
AGNES LARSON**

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against Genevieve Agnes Larson, late of Durham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit them to Pamela J. Larson as Executrix of the decedent's estate on or before October 15, 2022, c/o Gregory Herman-Giddens, Attorney at Law, 1340 Environ Way, Chapel Hill, NC 27517, or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above named Executrix.

This the 14th day of July, 2022.

Pamela J. Larson
Executrix
c/o Gregory Herman-Giddens, Atty.
Galbraith, PLLC
1340 Environ Way
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
7/14,7/21,7/28 and 8/4/22
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE
OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 22 E 921**

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Douglas Eric Griffin, Jr., late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 14th day of October 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 14th day of July, 2022.

Janet Wales Brown
Administratrix
PO Box 62622
Durham, NC 27715
7/14,7/21,7/28 and 8/04/2022
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 22 E 900
JUANITA MABLE HAEFLING
ESTATE**

The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Juanita Mable Haefling late of DURHAM County, NC does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned at the address below on or before the 14th day of October 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 14th day of July 2022.

Stephan M. Haefling
Administrator of the Estate of
Juanita Mable Haefling
c/o The Law Office of Anne Page
Watson, PLLC
3400 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 205
Durham, NC 27705
7/14,7/21,7/28 and 8/4/2022

WAKE COUNTY

**In The General Court of Justice
District Court Division
File Number: 22 CVD 07467
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
Christopher Winston Davenport,
PLAINTIFF**

vs.

Katrina Adell Sanders Davenport,
DEFENDANT.

TO: Katrina Adell Sanders

Davenport, DEFENDANT.

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Plaintiff is seeking judgment for absolute divorce.

You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than the 11th day of August, 2022, which is 40 days from the first publication of this notice. Upon your failure to file a pleading by the above date, the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This the 30th day of June, 2022.

Christopher Winston Davenport
Plaintiff
PO Box 24951
Raleigh, NC 27611
6/30, 7/7,14/2022
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE
OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 2022 E 000225**

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Rozita Vanessa Harrell, late of Wake County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 7th day of October 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 7th day of July, 2022.

Desha J Posey
Executor
410 Rolling Pine Lane
Duncan, SC 29334
7/7,7/14,7/21 and 7/28/2022

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The North Carolina Department of Public Safety has the following contract in Edgecombe County out for bid: C-11491 Edgecombe YDC Retrocommissioning. The bid opening is scheduled for: Thursday, 07/28/2022. To obtain the Notice to Bidders, any Pre-Bid Requirements, and any Addenda visit: <https://www.ips.state.nc.us/ips/AGENCY/PDF/148905100.pdf>

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T.A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE subcontractors and suppliers for the following projects that bid for NCDOT:

Bid Date: 07/21/2022 at 2:00 PM

Project: Replace Bridge #104 Over Burn Middle Swamp in Brunswick County (Division 3)

Plans and specifications are available for inspection at the following locations: TA Loving Company, NC DOT Division office.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, demolition, clearing and grubbing, hauling, asphalt paving, striping, traffic control, earthwork, erosion control, seeding, sodding, linework, and directional drilling.

Please contact Justin E. Hill at our office as soon as possible if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Quotes may be emailed to **Justin E. Hill—jehill@taloving.com**. All quotations will be accepted up to bid closing time on bid date. Our address, phone number, and fax number is as follows.

T.A. Loving Company PO Box 919 Goldsboro, NC 27533 919-734-8400 (phone) 919-736-2148 (fax).

TA Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T.A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE subcontractors and suppliers for the following projects that bid for NCDOT:

Bid Date: 07/19/2022 at 2:00 PM

Project: Replace Bridge #38 Over Trent Creek in Pamlico County (Division 2)

Plans and specifications are available for inspection at the following locations: TA Loving Company, NC DOT Division office.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, demolition, clearing and grubbing, hauling, asphalt paving, striping, traffic control, earthwork, erosion control, seeding, sodding, linework, and directional drilling.

Please contact Justin E. Hill at our office as soon as possible if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Quotes may be emailed to Justin E. Hill—jehill@taloving.com. All quotations will be accepted up to bid closing time on bid date. Our address, phone number, and fax number is as follows.

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WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following job:

NC GLOBAL TRANSPARK AUTHORITY PARALLEL TAXIWAY REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENTS Kinston Regional Airport

Project: 2019.0162.01 Lenoir Co. Bid Date: July 21st

These projects may involve some or all of the following aspects of construction: construction survey, clear and grub, trucking, drainage, milling, paving, incidental concrete, fence and guardrail, signs, structures, traffic control, utilities, signals, pavement marking, erosion control and seeding. Bids can be emailed to stw.quotes@stwc.com

Please contact S. T. Wooten at 252-291-5165, Fax 252-243-0900 no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the bid date.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42, U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to the advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award. In accordance with other related nondiscrimination authorities, bidders and contractors will also not be discriminated against on the grounds of sex, age, disability, low-income level, creed/religion, or limited English proficiency in consideration for an award.



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The North Carolina Department of Public Safety has the following contract in Granville County out for bid: C-XXXX C.A. Dillon Youth Development Center—Mini Split HVAC. The bid opening is scheduled for: Thursday, 08/11/2022. To obtain the Notice to Bidders, any Pre-Bid Requirements, and any Addenda visit: <https://www.ips.state.nc.us/ips/AGENCY/PDF/14923500.pdf>

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Massey Holt Road Waterline Extension** project for the **Town of Princeton** which bids **July 21, 2022, at 1:30 PM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: TA Loving Company, 400 Patetown Road, Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Princeton Town Hall; 503 Doctor Donnie H. Jones Blvd., West; Princeton, NC 27569 * Draper Aden Associates; 114 Edinburgh South Drive, Suite 200; Cary, NC 27511.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, hauling, erosion control, seeding, linework, and jack & bore. Please contact **Jeff Price (jprice@taloving.com)** if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-734-8400; fax 919-736-2148; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to bid closing time on bid date. TA Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Please advise if assistance is needed with obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or insurance/bonding to satisfy the work requirements. We are willing to accept quotations on all or partial quantities and items of work. We can offer 2-party check payments and quick payment agreements, but the agreements need to be negotiated prior to bid date.

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T.A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Falls Lake Raw Water Intake Structure Rehabilitation** project for the **City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department** which bids **July 19, 2022, at 2:00 PM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: TA Loving Company, 400 Patetown Road, Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Black & Veatch International Company; 175 Regency Woods Place, Suite 200; Cary, NC 27518 * Dodge Data and Analytics website * ConstructConnect website * Construction Journal website * NC Institute of Minority Economic Development (NCIMED) website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to demolition, electrical, roll-up doors, concrete forms, concrete rebar, and painting. Please contact **Michael Cox (mcox@taloving.com)** if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-734-8400; fax 919-736-2148; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to bid closing time on bid date. TA Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Please advise if assistance is needed with obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or insurance/bonding to satisfy the work requirements. We are willing to accept quotations on all or partial quantities and items of work. We can offer 2-party check payments and quick payment agreements, but the agreements need to be negotiated prior to bid date.

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T.A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Large Meter Replacements— Phase 3** project for **Cape Fear Public Utility Authority** which bids **July 19, 2022, at 11:00 AM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: TA Loving Company, 400 Patetown Road, Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Cape Fear Public Utility Authority, Procurement Department; 235 Government Center Drive; Wilmington, NC 28403 * Carolinas AGC Website * Dodge Data and Analytics website * ConstructConnect website * Construction Journal website * Hispanic Contractors Association of the Carolinas website * North American Procurement Council website * The Blue Book Building & Construction Network website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, hauling, asphalt paving, striping, traffic control, erosion control, seeding, linework, SCADA, manhole rehab, and manhole lining. Please contact **Jeff Price (jprice@taloving.com)** if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-734-8400; fax 919-736-2148; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to bid closing time on bid date. TA Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Please advise if assistance is needed with obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or insurance/bonding to satisfy the work requirements. We are willing to accept quotations on all or partial quantities and items of work. We can offer 2-party check payments and quick payment agreements, but the agreements need to be negotiated prior to bid date.

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T.A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE subcontractors and suppliers for the following projects that bid for NCDOT:

Bid Date: 07/21/2022 at 2:00 PM

Project: Replace Bridge #82 Over Rowan Branch in Sampson County (Division 3)

Plans and specifications are available for inspection at the following locations: TA Loving Company, NC DOT Division office.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, demolition, clearing and grubbing, hauling, asphalt paving, striping, traffic control, earthwork, erosion control, seeding, and sodding.

Please contact Justin E. Hill at our office as soon as possible if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Quotes may be emailed to **Justin E. Hill—jehill@taloving.com**. All quotations will be accepted up to bid closing time on bid date. Our address, phone number, and fax number is as follows.

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D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE subcontractors and suppliers for the following projects that bid for NCDOT:

Bid Date: 07/13/2022 at 2:00 PM

Project: Replace Bridge #214 Over Buffalo Creek in Wake County (Division 5)

Plans and specifications are available for inspection at the following locations: TA Loving Company, NC DOT Division office.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, demolition, clearing and grubbing, hauling, asphalt paving, striping, traffic control, earthwork, erosion control, seeding, concrete flatwork, concrete rebar, fencing, vertical barrier rail and guardrail.

Please contact Justin E. Hill at our office as soon as possible if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Quotes may be emailed to **Justin E. Hill—jehill@taloving.com**. All quotations will be accepted up to bid closing time on bid date. Our address, phone number, and fax number is as follows.

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RE-ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Town of Lucama
P.O. Box 127
Lucama, NC 27851

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of 2019 CWS-RF Sanitary Sewer Improvements Contract No. 6—Sewer Replacement and Pump Station Rehabilitation will be received by the ENGINEER at the Lucama Town Hall, 111 South Main Street, Lucama, NC 27851 until 2:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time, August 2, 2022, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

Lucama Town Hall, 111 South Main Street, Lucama, NC 27851

McDavid Associates, Inc., 3714 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828-0049

Dodge Data and Analytics, 2860 South State Highway 161, Suite 160, #501, Grand Prairie, TX 750527361
(View online at www.construction.com)

ConstructConnect, Attn: DPC, 30 Technology Parkway South, Suite 100, Norcross, GA 30092
(View online at www.constructconnect.com)

Construction Journal, 400 SW 7th Street, Stuart, FL 34994
(View online at www.constructionjournal.com)

Builders & Contractors Exchange, Inc., 1118 Azalea Garden Road, Norfolk, VA 235025612
(View online at www.bceva.com)

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of McDavid Associates, Inc. located at 3714 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828-0049 upon a nonrefundable payment of \$151.00 for each set.

The OWNER reserves the right to reject any and all BIDS. BIDDER shall be properly licensed under Chapter 87, General Statutes of North Carolina.

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

This PROJECT is subject to the good faith efforts and goals for participation by minority businesses required by G.S. 143128.2. The OWNER has adopted a verifiable ten percent (10%) goal for participation by minority businesses in the total value of the WORK.

BIDDERS shall, within the time frames specified in the BID documents, submit all required affidavits and documentation demonstrating that the BIDDER made the required good faith effort in compliance with G.S. 143128.2. Failure to file all required affidavits and documentation within the required time frames is grounds for rejection of the BID.

Prospective BIDDERS who have been found guilty of discrimination within the last two (2) years are debarred from bidding.

July 14, 2022

Jeffery Johnson

Mayor

Town of Lucama



I Got This!

COVID is unpredictable. I need to protect myself, my family, friends, and my community. So, I got my booster for extra protection against COVID's worst outcomes and for powerful peace of mind.

Find COVID boosters near you at [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov)



Paid for by the
U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services.