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Dedicated to the Spirit
and Service of God

The Rift Over Black Characters In Fantasy

By Eric Deggans

GBH News

My first reaction when I saw the email was exasperation: This is not a debate we should still be having in 2022.

The note popped up from a listener a few days after my review of Amazon Prime Video's *The Lord of the Rings: Rings of Power* was broadcast on NPR.

"I was embarrassed for you about your review of *Rings of Power*," the message read. The author contended that author J.R.R. Tolkien created the world the TV show is based on as mythology inspired by English history. "Your 'discomfort' at fantasy being at [sic] Eurocentric and white centered betrays a profound ignorance of the material and smacks of irrelevance and narcissism. The story isn't about you and doesn't have to be."

I got similar feedback from a few sources on social media after my review was broadcast. In the piece, I admitted toward the end that the series still felt awfully white-centered to me, despite a few key characters portrayed by performers of color.

More recently, after the trailer dropped for Disney's live action reboot of *The Little Mermaid*, racists complained about Halle Bailey bringing her Black *Gone with the Wind* magic to the role, making bone-headed hashtags like #notmyariel and #gowokegobroke trend on social media.

Amid grousing about "white erasure" — as if white people are now or have ever been historically underrepresented in



fantasy films — it all felt like a twisted version of the argument former Fox News Channel anchor Megyn Kelly once made when she insisted that the fictional Santa Claus was white. (Fun fact: that outburst was triggered by a column NPR colleague Aisha Harris wrote back when she worked for Slate.)

But as columnists and late night hosts craft their snarky insults about pop culture racism, it's worth noting why so many fans are reacting this way: the original works that they love were super white-centered in the first place.

And these ideas about who gets to stand at the center of pop culture sorely need to be challenged.

Frankly, as a Black TV and media critic who speaks out often on race issues, it's not new

to find some audience members severely triggered whenever the topic comes up. You can try to place your comments in perspective, but all they see is a beloved piece of media "tarnished" by the observation that it was created to elevate white culture in a way that should be interrogated and changed.

And the louder they complain, the more on-target the observation usually is.

My letter-writer noted that English author J.R.R. Tolkien created *The Lord of the Rings* universe long ago — *The Hobbit* was first published in 1937 — and based its world on medieval culture, arguing its white-centeredness is inevitable and appropriate. The message compared the franchise's focus on white characters to the Black and brown-centrism of works like *Hamilton*

and *Roots*.

Leaving aside the fact *Roots* is not fantasy, but a story that's Black-centered because it's about a real-life Black family — sigh — such reasoning seems to assume we're talking about an evenly-populated pop culture landscape, where there is no need to compensate for the fact that so many iconic science fiction, superhero and fantasy stories over the years have reflexively excluded non-white character and cultures.

But read the stories highlighting how young Black girls reacted to seeing a non-white Ariel in a beloved children's story, and you get a sense of how much power comes from seeing someone like yourself at the center of such a moving pop culture property.

And how damaging it is when

people who look like you are rarely or never allowed in that spotlight.

That dynamic of enshrining beloved characters as forever white is the very definition of white privilege, communicating a sense of belonging and cultural domination that — if it isn't challenged by multicultural casting — gets passed down from generation to generation as a mechanism of marginalization that stubbornly resists modern mores.

Of course, none of this logic has pre-empted the nonsensical arguments pushing back against multicultural casting that fill social media and the entertainment press.

Rings of Power star Ismael Cruz Cordova — a native of Puerto Rico and the first person of color to play a major elf character in a *Lord of the Rings* movie or TV show — says his email inbox has filled with a constant deluge of "pure and vicious hate speech" since his casting was announced two years ago. (Fortunately, actors from Peter Jackson's *Lord of the Rings* movies and Cordova's castmates on *Rings of Power* have also stepped up to denounce racist

criticism of the new series' multiculturalism.)

Predictably, there are those who want to slap a left/right political lens on the situation, decrying "woke politics" at work (it's sad to see a term like "woke" — popularized by people of color describing how to make others aware of hidden and systemic oppression — turned into a demeaning catchphrase which short-circuits real thought and discussion).

Even Elon Musk weighed in, providing a criticism of the show that seemed more like a dog whistle to his tech bro fanbase. "Tolkien is turning in his grave," Musk wrote on Twitter. "Almost every male character so far is a coward, a jerk or both. Only Galadriel is brave, smart and nice." This comment, unsurprisingly, ignores Cordova's character, who is also pretty heroic.

But dunking on people who think a fantasy about elves, wizards and hobbits can somehow be made less "realistic" by casting some characters with Black and brown performers, misses an important part of this discussion.

These new visions of classic fantasy worlds and characters are simply a reflection of our new, more multicultural world. And that's probably what most scares fans who are used to white-centered fantasy.

TV shows set in the past are often about the present. Beyond the race of specific characters, this fantasy world — and the other major TV fantasy franchise inspired by it, *Game of Thrones* — embraces an ethos which sees white as the embodiment of good and dark as the embodiment of evil, including and especially in living beings.

Elves, the immortal superheroes of Tolkien's fictional universe, are blindingly white —

(See **FANTASY**, P. 2)

Voices Of The Black Birthing Experience

Black mothers die in hospitals at nearly four times the rate of White mothers — an appalling disparity that has persisted for decades despite state and national quality improvement initiatives, clinical safety innovations, and technological advances. These shocking statistics and outcomes persist regardless of patient income, insurance, educational level, comorbid conditions, or prenatal care.

The fact that many clinicians, decision-makers, and policy-makers continue to believe this excess incidence of death is the result of something inherently wrong with Black women is a symptom of America's entrenched obstetric racism.

Traditional interventionists have focused on the victims of racism, with the goal of trying to teach patients to speak up. In contrast, Dr. Karen A. Scott, FACOG, MD, MPH — a community-based obstetrician/gynecologist for 20 years and a

self-proclaimed "reproductive justice avenger" — is working to disrupt birth inequities with the SACRED (examining Safety, Autonomy, Communication, Racism, Empathy, and Dignity) Birth Study.

As the Founder and Lead Researcher for Birthing Cultural Rigor, the former professor has taken her work to the next level and seeks to make a larger impact on a bigger scale. Dr. Scott has expanded on her research to fight anti-Black obstetric racism with the primary objective of building community hospital capacity and capability to recognize and respond to the phenomenon of obstetric racism with Black women, girls, and gender expansive people.

She is applying rigorous research methodology to anthropologist Dána-Ain Davis, PhD's obstetric racism framework to put the onus of behavior change on providers and hospital systems. To that end, she has de-

veloped a quality improvement tool — the Patient-Reported Experience Measure of OBstetric racism, or PREM-OB Scale. The aim of this work is to capture patient-reported experiences of obstetric racism among Black mothers and birthing people who seek help or health care in hospital settings during labor, birth, and postpartum.

"My vision is that by identifying areas for concrete action, hospitals, researchers, and policymakers will be able to examine associations between overall birth experience, patient experiences of obstetric racism, and clinical data to improve policy and practice," states Dr. Scott when asked about her work and vision for the impact of Birthing Cultural Rigor.

In May, Dr. Scott and Birthing Cultural Rigor made history as it announced its partnership with Boston Medical Center. This partnership is a part of efforts from Boston Medical Center

to address and eliminate racial inequities between white and BI-POC patients.

This collaboration is the first of its kind in the US to include a community-hospital partnership to implement a QI program to diagnose and dismantle obstetric racism through a program that is owned, designed, and led by a Black woman. It also is the first ever community-hospital partnership to implement a QI program that requires participation of Black mothers and birthing people as patient content, Black women and people as community experts, and hospital administrators, faculty, clinicians, and staff.

Through Birthing Cultural Rigor's current efforts and future work, there is a hope that action will finally be taken to reduce the number of pregnancy-related complications and deaths within the Black community.

About Birthing Cultural Rigor

(See **BIRTHING**, P. 2)



N. CAROLINA MAKES PITCH TO HOST 2027 WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES

(AP)—North Carolina has made one more pitch to host the 2027 World University Games, as the committee evaluating the state's bid visited the region.

A panel of the International University Sports Federation visited on Tuesday the Executive Mansion, where Gov. Roy Cooper presented its members with an official bid book. The other finalist is Chungcheong province, South Korea. A final announcement is expected in November.

North Carolina's proposal would cover the "University Hub" region designated as including Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, Cary and Greensboro. There are more than 130 colleges, universities and community college statewide.

The summer World University Games attracts 7,000 athletes from ages 18 to 25 from over 150 countries and more than 600 universities. The nearly two-week event features 15 required sports, including swimming, track and field and basketball, as well as optional sports proposed by the local host city.

The state has set aside \$25 million to support the games if North Carolina is named the host.

OFFICIALS: HIGHWAY PATROL MEMBER SHOT KIDNAPPING SUSPECT

(AP)—A female suspect in a kidnapping on a North Carolina highway was shot and wounded after she fired on a member of the State Highway Patrol early Tuesday, officials said.

The patrol was notified around 6:45 a.m. of multiple hit-and-run crashes between McDowell and Burke counties and a kidnapping on Interstate 40, officials said in a news release. When patrol Sgt. Aaron Johnson arrived, he found the truck on the shoulder and a female suspect in the truck bed fired at him, officials said.

When Johnson returned fire, he struck her, officials said. She was transported from the scene and is in stable condition. Officials are trying to identify her.

Johnson wasn't injured and was placed on routine administrative duty, officials said.

NC SENATE LEADER PANS EXEMPTING STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS TAX

(AP)—Efforts to exempt North Carolina residents from state income tax on the value of student loan forgiveness announced last month by President Joe Biden likely will be unsuccessful given that the state Senate's most influential member opposes them.

Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper asked legislators last week to change state law to correct what he called a "fundamental unfairness for many hardworking people who will get hit hard" through an income tax payment.

But Senate leader Phil Berger told reporters on Tuesday that he didn't see a need to take any action. He said such an exemption would be unfair when compared to people who must pay income tax on the monetary value of credit card debt and mortgage loan reductions. And Berger also questioned whether Biden had a basis in federal law to declare the forgiveness.

B&J Celebrating The Power Of Black Voters With Rebrand Of Change Is Brewing Flavor

On National Voter Registration Day, Ben & Jerry's, alongside Black Voters Matter, is unveiling a sweet new look and mission to their popular flavor, "Change is Brewing" — a cool combination of cold brew ice cream, marshmallow swirls, and fudge brownies. This rebranded flavor is focused on advancing racial justice through protecting voting rights and encouraging voter turnout ahead of November's midterm elections by connecting voters with the Ben & Jerry's Voter Resource Center.

At the founding of our nation, voting was limited to white, land-owning men. It was only in recent history that all Black people have had the right to vote, and even that was, and still is, a hard-fought right. The Voting Rights Act, landmark civil rights legislation passed in 1965, put important safeguards in place to protect the rights of Black voters. However, the Voting Rights Act was gutted in a 2013 Supreme Court decision that paved the way for a number of states to pass regressive voter suppression laws that make it harder, not easier, for people of color and young people to vote. Many states have since passed regressive voter ID laws, limited mail-in voting, and even limited distribution of water in voting

lines.

"It is precisely because of the power of the Black vote that a number of states — all controlled by Republicans — are trying so hard to suppress it," said Maroni Minter, US Activism Manager

for Ben & Jerry's. "That's why today we are also excited to kick off a seven-week tour of Georgia in partnership with Black Voters Matter to engage voters across the state and connect them with information and tools

they need to ensure that their vote is counted and their power is felt. And yes, there will be free ice cream."

The seven-week tour, in con-

(See **BEN & JERRY'S**, P. 2)



Rift Over Black Characters In Fantasy—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

blonde-haired, blue-eyed and fair-skinned champions of the light. Orcs, the misshapen foot soldiers of evil forces, are swarthy and dark, twisted into hideously horrifying shapes.

As I have written before, a film or TV show set in the past — even a fictional past, inspired by real life history — is as much about the sensibilities and attitudes of the time when that work is created as the time it depicts.

Which means that Tolkien's original versions of The Hob-

bit and Lord of the Rings were wrapped up in pre-war and post war social issues — particularly, the evils of narcissistic authoritarianism (some experts have quoted from the author's personal letters to show Tolkien, who died in 1973, was opposed to Nazism, anti-Semitism and Adolf Hitler). Peter Jackson's white-centered films of Tolkien's stories reflected the obliviousness about race that big budget Hollywood films could get away with in the early and mid-2000s.

Jackson's films were also filled

with British actors and characters speaking English with a British accent, furthering the idea that this fictional universe was just some slightly twisted vision of a medieval-era adventure tale — rather than a bold new landscape where the audience's view of culture and heritage could be challenged.

Producers of the TV versions of Lord of the Rings and the HBO Game of Thrones spin off House of the Dragon are trying to figure out just how much of the world's current attention to multiculturalism they can feature without upending the series. (In a previous column, I wrote about how the sociological dynamic called Group

Threat Theory explains many of these negative fan reactions.)

Stuck in the middle are non-white fans with a simple question: Why can't we equally — at long last — be a part of this universe, too?

Why doesn't our exclusion feel inauthentic, given that some experts say non-white people have existed in Europe back to the Roman era? How does including a wider range of character types ruin a story which already features new characters and expanded storylines?

My arguments for such diversity don't focus on fairness or equity — which are, nevertheless, laudable goals. I say that these casting moves actually im-

prove the storytelling: potential roles are opened up to a wider range of talented performers, and writers have new depths to explore in future storylines, if they have the guts to try.

Will future stories explain why there are elves and hobbits of different skin colors? Does Ariel's skin color matter in the world of this new Little Mermaid, and will the film explore why or why not? In Rings of Power, we see human prejudice against elves, but what other prejudices or cultural differences may be at work? Can any of those characters among the dark villains, the Orcs, move toward heroism or be redeemed?

It may sound like I'm asking a

lot from these venerated works. But if the Game of Thrones prequel can spend time dissecting sexism in its world, surely they can find some space for racial issues as well. Now that producers have opened the door, they should take advantage of all the new storytelling opportunities they have created, echoing the debates underway right now in real life.

Placing a few actors of color in key roles doesn't fully challenge the thinking that's led so many fans to assume franchises like The Lord of the Rings and The Little Mermaid should always be the exclusive province of white characters and white culture.

BIRTHING

Continued from page 1

Birthing Cultural Rigor was founded by Dr. Karen A. Scott, MD, MPH, FACOG, with the primary objective to build community and hospital capacity and capability to recognize and respond to the phenomenon of obstetric racism as Black women, girls, and gender expansive people seek help or health care in hospital settings for any pregnancy-related condition, with a focus on hospital labor, birth, and immediate postpartum.

Part of the services offered by Birthing Cultural Rigor, is the use of the first and only validated Patient Reported Experience Measure of Obstetric Racism® (The PREM-OB Scale™ suite) that was developed and validated with a multi-generational, trans-disciplinary group of Black women scholars, Black women-led community organizations, and non-Black women scholars.

BEN & JERRY'S

Continued from page 1

junction with the Black Voters Matter We Won't Black Down tour, will crisscross the state of Georgia in a Ben & Jerry's Scoop Truck, hosting events and engaging voters in the run-up to the historic midterm election. The tour will visit HBCUs, big cities, and rural communities in partnership with Black Voters Matter, serving up free scoops of the decadent coffee-based flavor that is as delicious as it is inspiring. Black Voters Matter works 365 days a year, in Georgia and beyond, to build power in marginalized, predominantly Black communities. The tour is part of a larger campaign that will use digital and social media channels, radio, newspaper, and outdoor advertising to encourage participation in the midterms and connect people to the Ben & Jerry's Voter Resource Center, a tool that allows voters to check their voter-registration status, register to vote, find their polling place, and identify key election-related dates.

"Mobilizing and community-building with Black voters is mission critical for BVM," said Cliff Albright and LaTosha Brown, co-founders of BVM, in a joint statement. "There are so many pressing national and local issues at the forefront right now from healthcare to housing to basic needs like access to clean water, which we know disproportionately impacts Black communities. While voting is always an exercise in using our power, we know this year that our safety, our health, our freedom is also on the ballot. And change happens when we use our power collectively at the voting booth. We look forward to partnering with Ben & Jerry's while on our tour this fall, which has for so long been a voice for change in our communities, and will continue to do the necessary work of increasing progressive power through movement-building."

The rebranded "Change is Brewing" pint design features the work of Black multi-disciplinary artist Laci Jordan, and builds on her first pint design. "Last year when we launched the Change is Brewing flavor, I imagined my ideal version of the world for Black communities. This year, the new visual reflects what I see as one of the integral pathways to actualizing that world - voting. This artwork underscores how important it is for the Black community to have access to the ballot box and to use our votes to move our communities and each other forward."

The deep, rich coffee flavor in "Change is Brewing" is from BLK & Bold, the first Black-owned, nationally distributed coffee company — 5% of their profits go to programs to provide resources to youth in need. Greyston Bakery — a values-led supplier and longtime Ben & Jerry's partner known for their groundbreaking Open Hiring program — provides the scrumptious fudge brownies. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of Change is Brewing will go to Black Voters Matter to support their work.

To check your voter registration, eligibility status, and to pledge and make a plan to vote, visit action.benjerry.com/vote and then treat yourself to a pint of our new "Change is Brewing" to celebrate (in stores soon).

40M Will Receive Student Loan Forgiveness

By Stacy M. Brown

NNPA

An estimated 3.55 million California borrowers are eligible for student debt relief under President Joe Biden's recent loan forgiveness plan, including more than 2.3 million Pell Grant recipients.

In Texas, those figures stand at 3.3 million and 2.3 million respectively, while in New York, more than 2.2 million are eligible for forgiveness, including 1.3 million Pell Grant recipients.

Students and borrowers across the country are preparing to cash in on the president's plan.

About 165,900 borrowers from the District of Columbia are eligible for student debt relief under President Joe Biden's recent loan forgiveness plan, including 60,300 Pell Grant recipients.

Those figures swell in comparison to Virginia and Maryland.

In Virginia, 965,100 borrowers are eligible for relief, including 566,500 Pell Grant recipients. In Maryland, 747,100 enjoy eligibility, including 419,400 Pell Grant recipients.

In state-by-state data released on Tuesday, Sept. 20, by the U.S. Department of Education, it estimated that more than 40 mil-



lion borrowers nationwide could benefit from the student debt relief plan, and nearly 20 million might see their entire remaining balance discharged.

Last month, Biden announced his plan to forgive borrowers up to \$10,000 in debt relief, and up to \$20,000 for Pell Grant recipients.

"The Biden Administration's student debt relief plan will help

borrowers and families recover from the pandemic and prepare to resume student loan payments in January 2023," administration officials wrote in a fact sheet.

They said about 90% of relief dollars will go to those earning less than \$75,000 per year — and no relief will go to any individual or household in the top 5% of incomes in the United States.

Officials said by targeting relief

to borrowers with the highest economic need, the administration's actions are also likely to help narrow the racial wealth gap.

The White House noted that nearly 71% of Black undergraduate borrowers are Pell Grant recipients, and 65% of Latino undergraduate borrowers are Pell Grant recipients.

The Department of Education plans to soon release additional details on how individuals across the country can benefit from the Administration's student debt relief plan.

"President Biden believes that a post-high school education should be a ticket to a middle-class life, but for too many, the cost of borrowing for college is a lifelong burden that deprives them of that opportunity," administration officials said ahead of Biden's scheduled announcement.

"During the campaign, he promised to provide student debt relief. Today, the Biden Administration is following through on that promise and providing families breathing room as they prepare to start re-paying loans after the economic crisis brought on by the pandemic."

For more information, visit StudentAid.gov/debtrelief.

Detroit Sues Census In Fight Over Counts

DETROIT (AP) — Detroit sued the U.S. Census Bureau on Tuesday over population estimates from last year that show it lost an additional 7,100 residents, opening another front against the agency in a battle over how the city's people have been counted in the past two years.

Mayor Mike Duggan told reporters that the city wants the Census Bureau to reveal how it produced its population loss estimates for Detroit. Duggan claimed the bureau was going against its own policy by refusing to divulge to Detroit the way the estimates for the city were calculated and not allowing chal-

lenges this year.

The lawsuit appears to be the first litigation to challenge population results since the release of 2020 census data, which traditionally has formed the foundation of the annual population estimates.

The Census Bureau's refusal this year to consider evidence that the 2021 population estimates were wrong perpetuates racial inequality and threatens the city's reputation, Detroit said in its lawsuit.

"The Bureau's failure to consider evidence of its inaccurate 2021 estimate costs the City and its residents millions of dollars of funding to which they are entitled while threatening

the City's historic turnaround by advancing the narrative that Detroit is losing population," the lawsuit said.

The Census Bureau said in an emailed statement that it doesn't comment on litigation.

The bureau two years ago temporarily suspended its program allowing local governments to challenge their population estimates so more resources could be devoted to the execution of the once-a-decade census. The program isn't expected to resume until next year.

Detroit's lawsuit follows the city's appeal of the 2020 census data that showed Detroit with 639,111 residents, while estimates from 2019 put the city's

population at 670,052 residents.

Undercounts from the census and population estimates could cost Detroit tens of millions of dollars in federal funding over the next decade. Over the past decade or so, the city has received around \$3.5 billion in annual federal funding tied to census figures.

"We have absolutely no idea what formula they could have possibly used," Duggan said Tuesday. "We don't know what formula they used because they won't tell us."

Duggan said 14 new apartment buildings opened in Detroit last year. DTE Energy has said 7,544 new utility accounts have been added, while the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department said new service has been added to 6,964 housing units, he added.

The U.S. Postal Service also has said it is delivering mail to 4,475 more residences in the city, according to Duggan.

"It's now clear the data coming out of the U.S. Census Bureau is completely divorced from reality," he said. "We're drawing a line in the sand, and we're going to try to force accuracy out of these guys one way or the other."

"I think what the formula would show — it would show the error in their calculations, but if we get a formula that turns out they're right, we'll admit they're right," Duggan added.

Because of delays in releasing the 2020 census numbers, the Census Bureau broke with tradition and didn't rely only on census figures for creating the foundation of its 2021 estimates of the U.S. population. Instead, statisticians "blended" the 2020 census numbers with other data sets to form the base of the annual population estimates used to help distribute \$1.5 trillion in federal funding each year and measure annual population change through 2030.

Detroit is among several large cities to file a challenge of their figures from the 2020 census, following a national head count in which the Census Bureau acknowledged that a higher percentage of African Americans and Hispanics were undercounted than the previous decade. About 77% of Detroit's residents are African American, and Hispanics make up almost 8% of the population.

Leaders of Michigan's largest city had questioned the results of the 2020 census since December 2021, when they released a report suggesting that more than 8% of the occupied homes in 10 Detroit neighborhoods may have been undercounted.



NCDOT TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING REGARDING A PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE THE INTERSECTION AT N.C. 42 AND PINEY GROVE-WILBON ROAD IN WAKE COUNTY

STIP Project No. W-5805A



FUQUAY-VARINA - The public is invited to a public meeting with the N.C. Department of Transportation this month to discuss the proposed roundabout at the intersection of N.C. 42 and Piney Grove-Wilbon Road in Wake County.

Project details, including maps and a video, can be found on the NCDOT project web page: <https://publicinput.com/NC42-PineyGroveWilbonRd>. The information will be presented at the meeting allowing for one-on-one discussions with engineers but no formal presentation.

The meeting will be held **Sept. 29 at Piney Grove Baptist Church, 3217 Piney Grove-Wilbon Road, Fuquay-Varina**. The public is invited to attend at any time between 5 - 7 p.m.

People may also submit comments by phone at 512-580-8850 (project code 4594), email NC42-PineyGroveWilbonRd@PublicInput.com, or mail at the address shown below by **Oct. 13, 2022**.

By Mail: Reid Davidson
NCDOT Highway Division 5 –
Division Design Engineer
2612 North Duke Street
Durham, N.C. 27704

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled people who wish to participate in this meeting. Anyone requiring special services should contact Tony Gallagher, Environmental Analysis Unit, at 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1598, 919-707-6069 or magallagher@ncdot.gov as early as possible so arrangements can be made.

Those who do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, may receive interpretive services upon request prior by calling 1-800-481-6494.

Aquellas personas no hablan inglés, o tienen limitaciones para leer, hablar o entender inglés, podrían recibir servicios de interpretación si los solicitan llamando al 1-800-481-6494.

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Business & Finance

US Is Becoming A 'Developing Country' On Global Rankings

By Kathleen Frydl

The Conversation

The United States may regard itself as a "leader of the free world," but an index of development released in July 2022 places the country much farther down the list.

In its global rankings, the United Nations Office of Sustainable Development dropped the U.S. to 41st worldwide, down from its previous ranking of 32nd. Under this methodology—an expansive model of 17 categories, or "goals," many of them focused on the environment and equity—the U.S. ranks between Cuba and Bulgaria. Both are widely regarded as developing countries.

The U.S. is also now considered a "flawed democracy," according to *The Economist's* democracy index.

As a political historian who studies U.S. institutional development, I recognize these dismal ratings as the inevitable result of two problems. Racism has cheated many Americans out of the health care, education, economic security and environment they deserve. At the same time, as threats to democracy become more serious, a devotion to "American exceptionalism" keeps the country from candid appraisals and course corrections.

The Office of Sustainable Development's rankings differ from more traditional development measures in that they are more focused on the experiences of ordinary people, including their ability to enjoy clean air and water, than the creation of wealth.

So while the gigantic size of the American economy counts in its scoring, so too does unequal access to the wealth it produces. When judged by accepted measures like the Gini coefficient, income inequality in the U.S. has risen markedly over the past 30 years. By the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's measurement, the U.S. has the biggest wealth gap among G-7 nations.



These results reflect structural disparities in the United States, which are most pronounced for African Americans. Such differences have persisted well beyond the demise of chattel slavery and the repeal of Jim Crow laws.

Scholar W.E.B. Du Bois first exposed this kind of structural inequality in his 1899 analysis of Black life in the urban north, *The Philadelphia Negro*. Though he noted distinctions of affluence and status within Black society, Du Bois found the lives of African-Americans to be a world apart from White residents: a "city within a city." Du Bois traced the high rates of poverty, crime and illiteracy prevalent in Philadelphia's Black community to discrimination, investment and residential segregation—not to Black people's degree of ambition or talent.

More than a half-century later, with characteristic eloquence, Martin Luther King Jr. similarly decried the persistence of the "other America," one where "the buoyancy of hope" was transformed into "the fatigue of despair."

To illustrate his point, King referred to many of the same factors studied by Du Bois: the condition of housing and household wealth, education, social mobility and literacy rates, health outcomes and employment. On all of these metrics, Black Americans fared worse than Whites. But as King noted, "Many people of various backgrounds live in this other America."

The benchmarks of development invoked by these men also featured prominently in the 1962 book *The Other America*, by political scientist Michael Harrington, founder of a group that eventually became the Democratic Socialists of America. Harrington's work so unsettled President John F. Kennedy that it reportedly galvanized him into formulating a "war on poverty."

Kennedy's successor, Lyndon Johnson, waged this metaphorical war. But poverty bound to discrete places. Rural areas and segregated neighborhoods stayed poor well beyond mid-20th-century federal efforts.

In large part that is because federal efforts during that critical time accommodated rather than

confronted the forces of racism, according to my research.

Across a number of policy domains, the sustained efforts of segregationist Democrats in Congress resulted in an incomplete and patchwork system of social policy. Democrats from the South cooperated with Republicans to doom to failure efforts to achieve universal health care or unionized workforces. Rejecting proposals for strong federal intervention, they left a checkered legacy of local funding for education and public health.

Today, many years later, the effects of a welfare state tailored to racism is evident—though perhaps less visibly so—in the inadequate health policies driving a shocking decline in average American life expectancy.

There are other ways to measure a country's level of development, and on some of them the U.S. fares better.

The U.S. currently ranks 21st on the United Nations Development Program's index, which measures fewer factors than the sustainable development index. Good results in average income per person—\$64,765—and an average 13.7 years of schooling situate the United States squarely in the developed world.

Its ranking suffers, however, on appraisals that place greater weight on political systems.

The Economist's democracy index now groups the U.S. among "flawed democracies," with an overall score that ranks between Estonia and Chile. It falls short of being a top-rated "full democracy" in large part because of a fractured political culture. This growing divide is most apparent in the divergent paths between "red" and "blue" states.

Although the analysts from *The Economist* applaud the peaceful transfer of power in the face of an insurrection intended to disrupt it,

their report laments that, according to a January 2022 poll, "only 55 percent of Americans believe that Mr. Biden legitimately won the 2020 election, despite no evidence of widespread voter fraud."

To address the poor showing of the United States on a variety of global surveys, one must also contend with the idea of American exceptionalism, a belief in American superiority over the rest of the world.

Both political parties have long promoted this belief, at home and abroad, but "exceptionalism" receives a more formal treatment from Republicans. It was the first line of the Republican Party's national platform of 2016 and 2020 ("we believe in American exceptionalism"). And it served as the organizing principle behind Donald Trump's vow to restore "patriotic education" to America's schools.

In Florida, after lobbying by Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis, the state board of education in July 2022 approved standards rooted in American exceptionalism while barring instruction in critical race theory, an academic framework teaching the kind of structural racism Du Bois exposed long ago.

With a tendency to proclaim excellence rather than pursue it, the peddling of American exceptionalism encourages Americans to maintain a robust sense of national achievement—despite mounting evidence to the contrary.

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FUNdraising Good Times

By Mel & Pearl Shaw
Saad & Shaw

NONPROFIT CEOS, BEFORE YOU COMPLAIN...

As a nonprofit leader you may feel "your" board isn't doing its job. You may feel frustrated and blame them for all that is not going well. We've heard of these frustrations, but before you think about expressing them, we suggest a moment for self-assessment. It might be that you play a role in the challenges you are experiencing.

In our last column we cautioned board members about complaining without prior self-assessment. We feel the same way about executive leadership—you must self-assess; and, if you do complain, you must share potential solutions.

We know that nonprofit CEOs are busy. You are pulled in many directions and expected to be perfect at everything all the time. The demands placed on you may make it difficult to take time to fully engage and support your board. Yes, that's right: your responsibilities include communicating and working with the board. You may think that the board is "your" board, but really, you are "their" executive leader. They hire you. And, as all business coaches teach: you have to manage your boss!

Here are questions to ask as part of your self-assessment. Have you shared your vision, goals and fundraising priorities with the board? Do you have a clear, concise, and compelling plan of action? If yes, do all members agree with where you want the organization to go; if no, it's time to meet and share! When meeting with individual board members, have you shared your thoughts and ideas, and listened to learn their interests and how they want to provide support? Do you know how you want to engage each board member? Bottom line: Are you in sync with your board?

Talking about communication... Have you prepared and shared an honest "state of the organization?" Does the board know what is really going on? Do you have a management system and style that is open and transparent? Are there open lines of communication between the board and you and your staff? Are you contributing to open communication with the board by having your team send out board minutes, agendas, and other documents in a timely manner? Are these documents accurate, easy to read? Are next steps clearly marked so that items don't get overlooked? What about board meetings: are they structured to encourage meaningful discussion and productive planning? Are all members engaged, or are the meetings so boring that people consider them a mere formality? You play a role in what happens in board meetings, and we encourage you to invest time—before, during, and after—to contribute to the success of these meetings.

Embedded within the above assessment questions are actions you can take to help change the dynamics and your relationship with the board. You are not alone in your frustrations: you just have to remember that you may be contributing to the situation! Challenges in the relationship between a CEO and the board is nothing new. Learn more in our book: *Strong Leaders, Better Results: Learn to Optimize Your Nonprofit Board*.

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Food Supply Stays Tight As Disappointing U.S. Harvest Adds To Global Challenges

By Patrick Thomas

WSJ

A lackluster U.S. harvest this year is setting back efforts to relieve a global food supply that has been constrained by Russia's war in Ukraine, agriculture industry executives said.

Senior executives from companies such as Bayer AG, Corteva Inc., Archer Daniels Midland Co. and Bunge Ltd. said worldwide crop supplies remain tight, and some said at least two more years of good harvests in North and South America are needed to ease the pressure. Persistent drought conditions in the U.S. and agricultural countries in South America, along with uncertainty over crop production in Ukraine, are making that harder, they said.

"When it comes to the global food-supply situation, I think things are going to continue to be tight for the time being," said Werner Baumann, Bayer's chief executive.

High temperatures this summer exacerbated drought conditions in the U.S. West and the country's Great Plains. Intense heat in states such as Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma set in as corn crops were pollinating in many parts of the Grain Belt, when the plants require the most water. Some corn crops were also planted late this year after a wet spring, causing some yield loss, according to agriculture analysts.

The U.S. Agriculture Department on Sept. 12 lowered its nationwide corn-production estimate to 13.9 billion bushels, 3% lower than its August projection, and 8% below 2021's total.



Soybean-production estimates this month were down 3% from a record projection in August, and down slightly from a year earlier. Agriculture advisory firm Professional Farmers of America Inc. last month cut its outlook for corn yields by 13% in Nebraska and 22% in South Dakota, compared with last year.

The corn harvest this year is currently expected to come in below typical recent yields in North America and Europe, hindering 2022 from being a year of restocking worldwide supplies, said Chuck Magro, chief executive of seed and pesticide maker Corteva, at an investor presentation this week.

"The current market expectation is that global grain and oilseeds markets need two consecutive normal crop years to stabilize global supplies," Mr. Magro said.

Futures prices for wheat at the Chicago Board of Trade are up 17% over the past 12 months, while corn prices are up about 28% and soybeans roughly 14%.

Years of bad weather affecting big crop-producing regions, including in South America, had stretched global crop supplies, industry executives said. This year, Russia's invasion of Ukraine disrupted shipments from one of the world's top grain-exporting regions.

Those factors have driven up food prices this year, especially for poorer countries. In a September report on global food security in 77 low- and middle-income countries, the USDA estimated the number of food-insecure people at 1.3 billion, up about 10% from the 2021 estimate.

After rocketing higher following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in late February, crop prices have eased in recent months. An agreement between Russia and Ukraine, completed in July, has enabled more than a million tons of grain trapped in Ukrainian silos to be exported via the Black Sea, and helped alleviate some of the squeezes on food. Fears of a possible global recession also

have weighed on agricultural commodity markets. Archer Daniels Midland CEO Juan Luciano said at a Sept. 7 investor conference that between March and August, Ukraine exported about 40% of the grain it would normally ship in that particular period. Under the Black Sea grain deal this summer, the country has shipped about 60% of what it has done in past years, he said. For September, he said it could improve further to be closer to 80% or 90%.

"It has recovered pretty quickly," Mr. Luciano said. "Hopefully, that continues to happen because I think that it goes a long way to alleviate any pressure in the food system."

It would likely take two or three years of good crops in the Southern and Northern hemispheres for the world crop supply to reach sufficient levels, he said.

The Black Sea grain-export deal has helped free up grain storage space for Ukrainian farmers, and provide them with cash for next year's crop. Without sufficient sales, farmers could struggle to buy the seeds, fuel and other goods needed for fall planting, executives and analysts said. Companies such as Bayer have stepped in to supply them with products, including equipment to remove mines from their fields, said Bayer's Mr. Baumann.

The export deal is under fresh pressure after Russian officials warned in recent weeks that they are unhappy with the terms, raising the threat that Moscow could leverage the arrangement in its widening economic war with the West.

The report also stated that the recovery of macroeconomic activity in a low-interest environment has created favorable conditions for household wealth last year.

This comes as the number of U.S.-based millionaires individuals increased by 2.5 million last year, bringing the total number in the country to 62.5 million. The U.S. currently holds the largest number of millionaires in the world.

'Ultra High Net Worth' Individuals Hit Record High

By Olafmihan Oshin

The Hill

A new report from Credit Suisse has found that individuals with assets worth more than \$50 million, referred to as "ultra high net worth" (UHNW) individuals, spiked to a record high last year. Credit Suisse's Global Wealth Report, published on Tuesday, found that the number of UHNW individuals globally grew by 46,000 in 2021 to a total of 218,200.

"The strong rise in financial assets resulted in an increase in inequality in 2021," the report said, stating that "the global wealth inequality has fallen this century due to the faster growth achieved in emerging markets."

Forty-six thousand UHNW individuals also saw their wealth double by 50 percent within the two-year period.

"This is 46,000 more than the 218,200 recorded at the end of

2020, which in turn was 43,400 higher than in 2019. These increases are more than double the increases recorded in any other year this century," the report said.

"Taken together, it means that



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State Reps In S.C. Are Well-Positioned To Support Bitcoin

An Analysis

By Dennis Fassuliotis

Founder of South Carolina Blockchain Inc

Why, you may ask? For starters South Carolina is on the verge of a financial revolution so to speak in terms of building a confluence of support for emerging blockchain technologies that can transform our state.

That's important because although the industry was recognized in 2020 by Senator Tom Davis (R-Beaufort) with a state Senate resolution, the pandemic forced the nascent state advocacy group to postpone its first major statewide conference. However, now armed with a four year history of Wyoming style legislation, S.C. Senate Resolution 1158, and funding from the General Assembly for the State Treasurer's Office to assess the role of digital currency literacy and emerging technologies for the benefit of the state, we have a clear direction and high-speed rail heading into the station via the member driven South Carolina Emerging Tech Association (SCETA).

The SCETA Bitcoin-centric education and policy initiative SC-BlockchainWeek.com is planned for the first week of October, and State Treasurer Curtis Loftis will be one of several noteworthy speakers to share their visions about how digital currency education, Bitcoin policy guidance and economic investments in Bitcoin can positively impact the Palmetto State.

Some may say that's a lot of window dressing but not yet a first class ticket, or simply "Cool," but here's the next junction. In a letter to the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC), our state treasurer and 21 other state financial officers opposed the proposed environmental, social and governance (ESG)

disclosure rule. Loftis also supports West Virginia State Treasurer Riley Moore leading the charge against big banks pulling back on credit for new projects in West Virginia and other states where the needs of the state don't quite match up with the woke mentality of stakeholder capitalism whose interests and goals often conflict.

Taking on financial powerhouses like BlackRock, Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, Wells Fargo and JPMorgan may sound foolhardy — but not if you're a Bitcoiner. Wasn't it Jack Mallers who said at Bitcoin 2022 that he can see a future where these dinosaurs become extinct if they don't wake up to the open-source financial revolution? While the critics of this position may say this will cost taxpayers more money, I say principals are expensive. Protecting constitutional rights is not a dollars and cents or even a bitcoin and sats issue. It's all about the cost of freedom and freedoms lost today are gone forever tomorrow.

Since when did the cost of freedom outstrip the risks of maintaining the status quo or the mainstream movement? Tell it to the colonists that founded this nation and look back on the economic freedoms that created the behemoth banking industry that is at the heart of the decentralized financial movement. We can be critical of the past and how we got here, but redistribution of wealth in 2022 and beyond is about free markets, education and hard work, not handouts.

So for Bitcoiners there's a clear path forward. Identify the states and leadership within them that already support common causes and court them as allies in the fight against woke politics. Let's sync our narrative with state financial officers that have taken up the gauntlet

to fight against the tyranny of stakeholder capitalism espoused by the WEF, the financial institutions that align with them and fight back together. This isn't about proof-of-work versus proof-of-stake. Just look at the policy of regulation by enforcement being waged by the U.S. Treasury against open source projects like Tornado Cash or the overreach in securities enforcement by the SEC. As an industry, we are at a crossroads. This is about survival, not letting politicians or regulators pick winners and losers in technology, and thriving once we insist on having meaningful legislation, like Lummis-Gillibrand, passed so we can innovate and maintain our leadership in world financial markets.

With that as a backdrop let's take a look at another S.C. favorite son, Senator Tim Scott (R-S.C.) and his Opportunity Agenda.

As a single voter issue there are not many other incumbent members of Congress that you may want to get to know from the standpoint of policy already aligned with Bitcoin. They just don't see that yet.

Sen. Scott's Opportunity Agenda is a rural economic development initiative focusing on 8,764 opportunity zones all around this great country focused on financial inclusion, quality education, bridging the wealth gap, empowering the innovation economy and balancing the scales of justice. Sound familiar?

Let's court Sen. Scott and educate leadership on how Bitcoiners are working tirelessly to do the exact same things, not just domestically, but globally. Let's all learn together from the experiment in El Zonte and Bitcoin Beach. We should educate ourselves on how Galoy has developed an open-source wallet to create a community bank with



Bitcoin and provide custodial services for their trusted leadership to HODL their Bitcoin for their communities benefit and long-term wealth creation. Show them how you can transfer any amount of Bitcoin, \$10 in sats or just one satoshi, instantly, with no bank involved. You can't do that with Zelle, Venmo, PayPal, Cashapp or any other service today that isn't the Lightning Network. That's huge!

In South Carolina some of the areas where 135 opportunity zones have been designated may look to out-of-staters like developing countries. In a lot of S.C. rural areas residents still deal in cash and cannot get a bank account. In upstate counties, infrastructure left behind by the migration offshore of the textile industry are stranded resources, otherwise unused or underutilized as part of the electricity infrastructure that powered that industry. Facilities that once employed hundreds and even thousands are now warehousing, ironically enough, solar panels.

Let Bitcoin lead in those areas ripe for redevelopment with the mining industry in front. They bring hard dollar investment

and innovation to any place they locate. The growing number of state associations should be supported by Bitcoiners and can work with local businesses to educate them so mining operations in these areas can pay local vendors in Bitcoin and create a flow of new bitcoin into the community while local high schools open their STEM programs up and develop #STEMFORALL curriculums with MiPrimerBitcoin-type programs teaching anyone that wants to learn.

And let's change the lexicon a bit. Mining requires explanation, but when you first explain to a politician about how transactions are generated through a "digital asset data center," (DADCs) they get it immediately. We can share the nuances later. We are in a race with well-established lobbying interests from banking to climate and they don't care about your personal freedoms. DADCs form the base for a Bitcoin circular economy to develop in partnership with local leaders to break the chain of poverty.

Here's a final thought. In both South and North Carolina we have political leaders that jumped on board the centralized

model of data centers. These are massive facilities built by Google, Apple and others that have become household names that require even more natural resources and just as much electricity as DADCs. In a push to get more, both states crafted tax incentives to bring in more. But that didn't happen.

Manufacturing incentives are still bringing home the bacon with industry flocking into the Southeast. Economic developers know they can add more jobs with manufacturing and give up less power rather than data centers but when these laws were written no one ever contemplated the production of an intangible asset and the pursuit after that industry. Think about that.

So let's get this train moving. SCBlockchainweek is very pro-Bitcoin and just in time for the midterms, and right after that, presidential candidates will begin coming through early for the primary. There are photo ops, town hall meetings, BBQs, shrimp boils and established political strategists testing concepts in S.C. Why? Because it's less expensive to lobby in South Carolina. Just about every whistle stop is an hour and a half from Columbia S.C., the state capital, and we pick winners on both sides of the aisle in South Carolina.

Let's run this Bitcoin policy bullet train into the stations that align with Bitcoiner values and impact national policy the old fashion way, as a ground swell of support that tells state legislators what matters to their federal counterparts, making it happen through the power of incumbency. Take a small state with political muscle, add a cohesive national dialogue that benefits the heartland as well as the inner city and let's beat the banks and the special interest groups at their own game.

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Health & Fitness

The U.S. Pours Money Into Health Care, Then Holds Back

MILWAUKEE — What Amy Kind observed during her residency as a physician at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston often frustrated and angered her.

She could admit a poor person to the hospital again and again, each time potentially costing tens of thousands of dollars.

“Yet changing someone’s ability to have safe housing — even getting an air conditioner for someone with breathing problems — was not something I could do,” said Kind, now a professor at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health.

One of the realities of our health system — the world’s most expensive, accounting for almost one-fifth of the U.S. economy — is that access to hospitals and doctors alone will not improve the overall health of people who face the challenge of being poor.

Housing, food, transportation, income and education — even something as simple as an air conditioner — can be more important to health than access to even the best physicians and hospitals.

Homeless people can visit an emergency department weekly and remain in poor health. Severe diabetics who run out of food when their nutrition assistance benefits are exhausted will struggle to control their blood sugar. Children with asthma living in a home ridden with mold, or infested with mice and cockroaches, will have trouble breathing no matter what care they receive.

The United States will spend hundreds and even thousands of dollars when poor people visit an emergency department — and much more when they are hospitalized. But the country does not ensure that they have adequate housing or food.

“It is much, much easier as a clinician to get someone a \$40,000 pill than it is to get someone a housing improvement that costs \$1,000,” Kind said, “even though that housing improvement may impact health much more than the \$40,000 pill.”

Across the country, hundreds of initiatives are beginning to focus on the social determinants, or drivers, of health — the conditions in which people are born, live and work. Those conditions include housing, food, education, well-paying jobs, neighborhoods and the support of friends and family.

Health systems such as Dignity Health and Kaiser Permanente, both based in California, and Bon Secours Mercy Health, based in Maryland, now invest in affordable housing. Boston Medical Center, Cincinnati Children’s

Hospital, Philadelphia Children’s Hospital and others have set up legal clinics to help their patients navigate hurdles such as tenants’ rights and immigration rules.

Commercial health insurers and state Medicaid programs are doing the same. Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oregon and North Carolina are among the states taking steps toward integrating medical care with social services, providing rental assistance, and meals to prevent costly hospitalizations.

But it’s not nearly enough. Kind is among the increasing number of physicians who have called for a better balance between money spent on health care — particularly costly high-tech care — and money spent on the social and economic conditions that influence health.

“Many times, we know what is needed to improve health care,” she said. “We know that we need healthy food, a healthy environment, high-quality education, the opportunities for social cohesion.”

Health systems and insurers still are learning what works best. Many of the initiatives are pilot programs or limited in scope, and their cost is often small compared to the billions of dollars in reserves that large health systems have in investment portfolios.

The United States spends more on health care — at least 50% more — than any other developed country. At the same time, the country spends far less on social services, such as housing subsidies, job training, unemployment benefits, preschool and income support, than those countries.

Yet the combined total — what the United States spends on health care and social services as a percentage of its economy — is roughly the same as other industrialized countries.

By one estimate, for every dollar the United States spends on health care, the country spends about 56 cents on social services — with much of that spending skewed to people over 65.

The ratio of total spending is almost the reverse in other industrialized countries.

For every dollar those countries spend on health care, they spend about \$1.70 on social services.

(The comparison is somewhat distorted by the high prices for health care in the United States compared with other countries.)

At the same time, the United States lags other industrialized countries in many health measures, such as life expectancy and infant mortality.

“The health care system right now treats people on an encounter basis,” said Leonard Egede, a



physician and professor of medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

People see a physician or other clinician at a hospital or clinic, are treated and return home.

“What many of us are pushing for is to recognize that people live in communities,” Egede said. For Egede and others, social

policy and economic policy are health policies.

A survey done earlier this year by the Physicians Foundation found that eight in 10 physicians believe the United States cannot improve health outcomes or reduce health care costs without addressing the social and economic conditions that affect

health.

More than nine in 10 of the 1,502 physicians who responded to the survey also said at least some of their patients’ health outcomes were affected by at least one social driver of health. The most common was financial instability.

More than eight in 10 said the challenges and frustrations in addressing those problems contribute to physician burnout.

“We need good quality medical care, and we need good access to it,” said Geoffrey Swain, a physician and emeritus professor at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. “We also need to be focusing on these other things.”

Clinical care — receiving health care in a medical setting — accounts for only about 20% of a person’s overall health, according to the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps compiled by the UW Population Health Institute, with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Social and economic factors, such as education, employment, income, community safety, family and social support, account for about 40%; health behaviors, such as rates of alcohol and drug use, diet and exercise, and tobacco use, account for about 30%; and physical environment, such as air and water quality, account for about 10%.

Researchers debate the exact percentage that health care contributes to the overall health of the population — and when someone faces a serious illness, health care clearly is all-important. But they agree that the other influences or drivers of health matter just as much or more.

Those influences partly explain the disparities in health between people who have enough money to have relatively comfortable lives with at least a modicum of financial security, and those who do not.

The disparities are pronounced in Milwaukee and Wisconsin, particularly for people who are Black or Latino.



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Even Simple Exercise May Help Aging Brain

(AP)—New research hints that even a simple exercise routine just might help older Americans with mild memory problems.

Doctors have long advised physical activity to help keep a healthy brain fit. But the government-funded study marks the longest test of whether exercise makes any difference once memory starts to slide — research performed amid a pandemic that added isolation to the list of risks to participants’ brain health.

Researchers recruited about 300 sedentary older adults with hard-to-spot memory changes called mild cognitive impairment or MCI — a condition that’s sometimes, but not always, a precursor to Alzheimer’s. Half were assigned aerobic exercises and the rest stretching-and-balance moves that only modestly raised their heart rate.

Another key component: Participants in both groups were showered with attention by trainers who worked with them at YMCAs around the country — and when COVID-19 shut down gyms, helped them keep moving at home via video calls.

After a year, cognitive testing showed overall neither group had worsened, said lead researcher Laura Baker, a neuroscientist at Wake Forest School of Medicine. Nor did brain scans show the shrinkage that accompanies worsening memory problems, she said.

By comparison, similar MCI patients in another long-term study of brain health — but without exercise — experienced significant cognitive decline over a year.

Those early findings are surprising, and the National Institute on Aging cautioned that tracking non-exercisers in the same study would have offered better proof.

But the results suggest “this is doable for everybody” — not just seniors healthy enough to work up a hard sweat, said Baker, who presented the data Tuesday at the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference. “Exercise needs to be part of the prevention strategies” for at-risk seniors.

Previous research has found regular physical activity of any sort may reduce damaging inflammation and increase blood flow to the brain, said Alzheimer’s Association chief scientific officer Maria Carrillo.

But the new study is especially intriguing because the pandemic hit halfway through, leaving already vulnerable seniors socially isolated — something long known to increase people’s risk of memory problems, Carrillo said.

It’s a frustrating time for dementia research. Doctors are hesitant to prescribe a high-priced new drug called Aduhelm that was supposed to be the first to slow progression of Alzheimer’s — but it’s not yet clear if it really helps patients. Researchers last month reported another drug that works similarly — by targeting amyloid plaques that are an Alzheimer’s hallmark — failed in a key study.

While amyloid clearly plays a role, it’s important that drugmakers increasingly are targeting many other factors that can lead to dementia, Carrillo said, because effective treatment or prevention likely will require a combination of customized strategies.



FOOD  LION

CATERING

Ag-Grow-Culture

Generational Perspective Of Young Black Farmers The Legacy Beyond Discrimination

By Jason Lindsay

Staff Writer

Conventional historic perception of Black agriculture is a story riddled in oppression. Black owned land and Black folk were viewed as second class and some how unworthy. The widespread collapse of the Black American family came in a time adjacent to the mass loss of deeded land from Black hands, discrimination largely distributed through legislation and the remaining redistributed through the subjugation of white supremacist.

The stories of Black farmer injustices are extensive, even to the heart of statistics. In just a century (1920-2020) over 80 percent of a population (Black American farmers) have been eradicated. These largely documented injustices have witnessed to the world the largest civil right settlement in human history (Pigford v. Glickman). And in the ever so relevant words of Maya Angelou: "you may trod me in the very dirt, but still like dust, I'll rise."

Black Agriculture is not just an occupation, it is a bloodline flowing through the roots of American legacy, grounding a nation. Now, it's a nation in trouble.

It is not just Black farmers that have been hit with hardship in America. 75 percent of all United States farmers report less than \$50,000 annual income from agricultural production. And many of the remaining 25 percent are not family farms, but corporate entities engulfed in big ag. The agricultural sector as it pertains to farmers has not taken care of the farmer, sending 60 percent of farmers to work another job off the farm to make ends meet. Yet, it is clear the hate via intentional discrimina-

tion has placed the Black farm family in a position distinctly nearing extension.

Today, 3.2 million producers are White, which is 95 percent of the total producers in America. The White population in the United States only makes up 61.6 percent and still falling after enduring an almost 11 percent decline over the last decade (2010-2020). Yet and still, White America owns 96 percent of privately owned land and 95 percent of America's agricultural economy. I would argue that numbers like this cannot exist without deeply rooted systemic racism and discrimination, but I'm not here to argue.

After decades of this systemic racism and discrimination, the very system built to leave Black farmers and small farmers of all kinds landless has led this country to the wake of a national food crisis. The current inflation of diesel fuel and chemical fertilizer has in many ways crippled the "big ag" farmer with margins rendering tremendous cuts and repercussions soon to be felt. In the face of this, the number of Black farmers is on the rise.

Fact is that the lack of Black producers, or small local farm operations as a whole in this nation has given way to food apartheid (a restricted area with little to no affordable fresh food access) designated to poor folk, dominated by a population of melanated people. And this is no coincidence. I feel in many ways that the increase of Black farmers is a residual of urban conditions considering urban farming is a leading sector in which Black America is entering agriculture. New Black farmers are seen entering the farm sector from one or three angles:

One: Non traditional farmers (usually young professionals or



early retirees) stemming from urban farms or community gardens.

Two: Non traditional farmers (usually young professionals or early retirees) stemming from urban farms or community gardens that have purchased or leased farmland in rural and peri-urban areas

Three: Returning generational farmers

The returning generational farmer is the traditional pathway seeing that heirs property (home or land that transitions from generation to generation) make up more than a third of Black owned land. The Black community has created an uptick in reclaiming operations of our ancestral land. Heir properties have been historically problematic for the Black land holding family in America. Divides much created out of the residue of the great migration forced both sales and foreclosure of Black real estate. United States real estate corporations have targeted heirs properties throughout the country and forced land sales through exploiting family divides. Yet, the next generation of the Black community is remembering the purpose of land and ownership and returning to ancestor lands



all throughout the American Southeast (in particular but not limited to). A place that was once home to over a million Black farmers who collectively stewarded 16 million privately owned acres of American soil (not accounted for leased land or land that was sharecropped).

Even though returning generations of farmers have for the most part preserved Black ag., non-traditional Black growers are emerging from urban and peri-urban areas throughout the nation. The trends of urban farming and/or gardening has seemingly awakened a part of young Black America from a traumatic slumber that has cradled us since our mass exit of the antebellum south.

Witnessing plants grow, flower and fruit in areas once deemed dumping grounds or in places where the community's drug addicted would commune are being transformed into wildflower meadow where flowers bloom in new purpose or tomato patches cultivated in raised beds constructed through community initiatives.

These experiences have reconnected a generation to land, her beauty, and her splendor and for some folks has even given us purpose on land, again. Urban

farming has been on the rise in American since the 1980s and events like the "Great Recession" created surges in the accessibility of urban land giving way to the erection of small private farms, community farms and gardens through the cities of America.

Now, after a constant uptick in urban agriculture for the last 40 years, many urban growers are seeking to expand into larger more widespread operations.

The presence of urban ag. generated an augmentation in urban markets. The "direct to consumer" transaction brings the most profit home to the farmer. With 83 percent of the United States population living in urban areas, urban markets are the most ideal for "direct to consumer" revenue.

Starting the first urban farm in my town hometown over half a decade ago, showed me after only one year of production that I could not grow enough food to meet the demands of the urban market. Conditions like this is forcing urban growers into peri-urban or rural spaces. With this being the case, land accessibility and/or affordability has increasingly become an issue. But, for the first time arguably since the 1960's Black America is in pursuit of farmland to own and operate.

USDA first noted the boost in Black farmers in the 2012 census. There was a 12 percent increase from the previous census in 2007. This comes after an almost 14 percent decrease over the last 100 years. And the lens in which the next generation of Black American farmers are viewing is being calibrating towards the future and concentrating on the creation of more young Black farmers.

As of the year 2000, farm consolidation (large farmers acquir-

ing land that belonged to small farmers) has been on a steady decline. With this, small farm economics is stabilizing for the first time in over 40 years. Medium size farms have even seen an increase. In the 1980's USDA reported (after decades of systematic discrimination) that by the year 2000 Black American farmers would no longer exist. They express to all farmers to "Go Big or Go Home." This meant local small farmer go away. But mother-nature said no.

When the farm gates of small farms across the country were forced shut by legislation and farm consolidation was at a high, the large equipment of corporate agriculture was ripping the nutrients from the earth and creating a demand for chemical inputs that would ultimately be at the expense of the farmer and their land.

While the lands of Black America were being stripped from our hands through lending prejudices and the woes of heirs properties, floods and drought made way through the country because small sustainable farm practices had been abandoned, soils had blown away in the wind, or were washed away in rising waters. And now, in the rising of regenerative methods is a return of the Black American farmer and small farmers of all kinds.

In the last 5 years, the average age of Black farmers has decreased from 61 years old (2017) to 53 years old (2022). This is youth that hasn't been seen in the farm sector since the 1950s through the 70s. Just when the nation thought it was over for the Black farmer, their children returned. Some of us have not lived or functioned on land in generations, yet we have found purpose in land stewardship and I believe our ancestors are pleased.

Community

321 Coffee Is Broadening Our Community

By Tyria McCray

Staff Writer

After two years of serving coffee at a booth at the State Farmers Market, a nonprofit expanded to another location thanks to its unique employees.

Unique in its own particular way, 321 Coffee at 615 Hillsborough Street not only provides a fantastic variety of coffee and pastries but provides opportunities for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The 3-2-1 represents Down Syndrome being the third copy of the 21st chromosome. Now, what makes this coffee shop unique is that among the various 321 locations, there are more than 40 employees with intellectual and developmental disabilities and a wait list of more than 50 others seeking employment.

The first 321 Coffee opened in 2019 at the State Farmer's Market location, and 321 operates a cafe exclusively for Pendo employees in downtown Raleigh. The new, 500-square-foot shop will employ about 15 cashiers and baristas.

Part of 321's mission is to change the statistic. The United States Department of Labor recently stated that 19.1 percent of people with a disability were employed in 2021, which is up from 17.9 percent the year before. That being said, 321 is determined to raise that percentage.



Co-owner Michael Evans shared with *The Carolinian* how this venture came about with 321 Coffee CEO Lindsay Wrege.

"Lindsay and I started the business freshman year at N.C. State and she was already involved with the special needs community throughout her life. During college, she recognized that there were a lot of professional opportunities available to her but not to her friends that had different disabilities. So it was recognizing that and thinking about something that we could do to work to address that," said Evans.

Once Evans and Wrege had

a solution, during their freshman year, they immediately began working on various events around campus and grew from there. One important aspect that 321 focuses on is inclusion and diversity.

A recent statistic states that 80 percent of adults with disabilities are unemployed and often an overlooked community in regard to employment. There are not many avenues to take when it comes to looking for a job.

"Knowing that statistic means so much to us. Everyone we work with has so much to give and it is just a matter of creating a place where everyone is

welcomed, valued, and able to learn and grow. I also think that being inclusive, we have created such a welcoming environment that everyone values in the community."

"The morale so far among employees and the surrounding community so far has been great. For many of the employees, there is a great sense of pride. They love coming to work, love to interact with customers, and serving people as well.

"321 Coffee has been able to successfully create jobs and employ individuals with disabilities in our company. As they expand, they plan to help other companies like Pendo employ people with disabilities in their workforce and culture. This is how we can truly scale our impact and create systemic change toward workforce inclusion."

"I love it here, I love working here too. It is my favorite place to go to," said Emma, a barista.

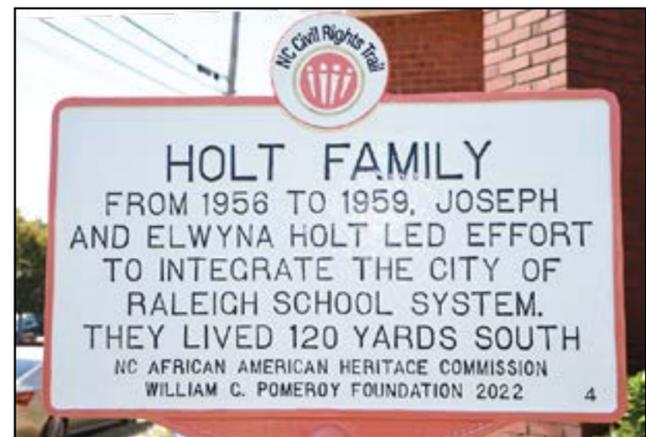
"I love working here because I love making new complicated drinks. I love working here," said Sophie.

Evans went on to share that 321 wants to show other employers that they too can employ individuals with disabilities. As a whole society, it is imperative that other nonprofits and employers show inclusivity, as well as diversity.

For more information, visit <https://321coffee.com/>.



NC Civil Rights Trail Marker Dedication (Holt Family)
about 80 people gathered for the trail marker dedication held at Wilson Temple United Methodist Church to honor the Holt Family who fought segregation in the 1950's and tried to integrate the Wake County Public School System. The area in Raleigh is known as Oberlin.



Libraries Celebrate Hispanic Heritage

Join Wake County Public Libraries now through Oct. 15 to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month with more than 6,000 new Spanish-language books and 40 special programs.

"This is an opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of Hispanic Americans and to celebrate their cultures and contributions," said Commissioner Maria Cervania. "Our librarians have created robust programming and chosen compelling and thought-provoking books to engage readers of all ages."

Just a few examples of programs are:

Bilingual Storytimes
Multiple dates, times and locations

Young children and their families are invited to participate



in an interactive program with books, songs and movement to nurture pre-reading skills. Check the website to find one near you!

Just Like Mima's with Marilyn Marrero

Sunday, Oct. 9, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Cary Regional Library

Join Marilyn Marrero in a celebration of Cuban culture, history

and food. Marilyn is the author of "Just Like Mima's: The Heart Behind the Cuban Recipes We All Love," which recounts eight decades of her maternal grandmother's journey through life and includes 50 authentic Cuban recipes from Mima's kitchen.

Cultural Crafternoon
Sept. 24, 4-5 p.m.

Oberlin Regional Library
Celebrate America's cultural heritage and diversity with crafts and games inspired by Central and South American countries.

Teen Activities
Multiple dates, times and locations
Grab your friends and head to the library to learn the stories behind and make your own homemade salsa, piñatas, paper molas and alebrijes! Details are available on the website.

WCPL's month-long celebration also includes the addition of more than 6,000 Spanish-language books for young children, school-aged children, teens and adults. The library system plans to select and place another an even larger order in October.

State Fair Announces NC Beer Night, Oct 14

You are invited to come to the N.C. Public House on Friday, Oct. 14, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. for N.C. Beer Night at the N.C. State Fair.

Along with pouring an exciting array of beers from North Carolina craft breweries, there will be several brewing education opportunities for guests.

Have you ever wondered more about how beer is made? Come and talk with a panel of brewers during the "Ask a Brewer" question-and-answer session.

Also, there will be representatives from Wake Tech's brewing education program, Raleigh's local homebrew club CARBOY, and a brewing equipment demonstration provided by Atlantic Brew Supply.

Don't miss this fun and informative event taking place at the N.C. Public House in the South Lobby of historic Dorton Arena near the SkyGazer Ferris wheel.

Community

Former Wake County Sheriff Confronted At Community Forum

EXCLUSIVE

By Tyria McCray
Staff Writer

Recently, a Wake County Sheriff's forum sponsored by N.C. Transit Workers Association allowed Wake County residents the opportunity to not only meet the two candidates vying to be the next sheriff, but express some pressing concerns.

Wake County residents gathered to learn how Donnie Harrison, the former Wake County sheriff, and Willie Rowe, a retired major who worked in the sheriff's depart-

ment, Harrison responded, "We got to reach out to our neighbors, regardless of who they are, and that's what we taught our deputies to do. When the deputies are patrolling through neighborhoods, stop and talk to people who are walking on the streets."

Throughout the night, as the forum went along, residents continued to share concerns and ask questions until one particular gentleman stood up and caught the eye of Donnie Harrison.

Former Wake County Deputy and veteran Robert S. Cook confronted Harrison at the forum in regards to an officer-involved shooting 16 years ago.

To give a quick backstory on

used "stop sticks" to disable his car.

Duplin County Sheriff Blake Wallace said four deputies began chasing the car following an armed robbery at about 10:30 and the chase went through Sampson and Johnston counties before coming into Wake County at about 11 a.m.

Troopers said they saw Gibson moving between the front seat and back seat and that he climbed out of the passenger side with his torso showing and displaying a weapon. Troopers and a Wake County sheriff's deputy (Cook) then shot Gibson. He died several hours later after an ambulance rushed him to the WakeMed hospital's trauma unit.

On June 2, 2007, Trooper P.E. Holmes, First Sgt. J.D. Henderson, Trooper D.C. Pate, Trooper L.B. Lovick, and Deputy Robert S. Cook were placed on administrative duty while the State Bureau of Investigation looked into what happened before and during the incident.

The Carolinian was able to sit down with Cook and talk about that incident for the first time with Cook and why he attended the forum.

"I kept hearing stories from Harrison about what he is going to do for Wake County and how he is ready to be sworn in. But a lot of people do not know him like I do. And he is telling the same stories he told me, 16 years ago when he became Sheriff," Cook said.

Being that the forum was held in a Black church, and also the neighborhood where he worked, Cook wanted to be involved in the forum.

"These people are politicians, and they will tell you whatever to make you vote for them so they will look at you and lie in a heartbeat just to get that vote. So I want to put my voice out there and let them know that we are all human and sometimes even those people make mistakes," he said.

After the shooting took place back in 2007, and all the preliminaries were taken care of at the scene, the next step for Cook was going to the sheriff's office and speaking with Donnie Harrison. Cook recalled that in the office were a couple of captains, majors, lieutenants, and the sheriff. He remembered that while sitting in front of Harrison, still stunned because a few hours ago

he had to open fire on someone, Harrison leaned forward and said, 'Cook, you can't shoot worth a s*** because I know you didn't hit that boy.'

With Cook sitting there shocked, trying to figure out why Harrison would say that, Harrison added, "Oh, I'm just kidding, I have never been in that position, I shot my own finger off. Just go home and decompress and we will talk to you later."

Cook said he sat at home for two weeks and only two captains called him to say they were proud. He shared that the incident was the hardest thing he has ever done in his life.

"I have jumped out of airplanes and been in the war, but that inci-

dent on I-40 was the hardest thing I've ever done in my life. Also, as a sheriff, you are supposed to be a leader and have care in you about what I had just been through but he did not show that."

Cook went on to say that he took the oath to protect and serve seriously and that night at the forum was his first time confronting Harrison in 16 years.

After Cook confronted him, Harrison replied, "I don't care if you don't like me!"

When asked about the event during a later interview, Democratic Candidate Willie Rowe stated, "Well that just shows poor leadership. We need someone who cares for not only our community but deputies as well."



ment, will handle community safety concerns, as well as implement them.

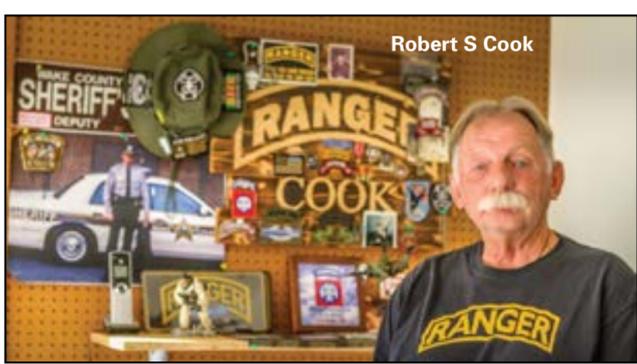
The pair met at 7 p.m. at First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church, 1515 Crosslink Road in Raleigh. Throughout the meeting, residents and political activists shared their concerns and questions.

In response to those concerns, the pair shared some similar approaches on how they plan to tackle our community issues addressing immigration enforcement, implementing second-chance programs for inmates, as well as addressing recruitment and retention within the sheriff's office.

Rowe shared with residents, "That's why our community engagement team would be put in place to increase our presence and our community engagement, so we can address issues dealing with all races with cultural awareness training."

In acknowledgment of that state-

the incident, a Duplin County robbery suspect led authorities on a 70-mile, multi-county car chase on Interstate 40 on May 22, 2007. Law enforcement's bullets brought down Stephen Ryan Gibson, 23, of Raleigh, on the side of the highway near mile marker 301, where he had run off the road after officers



Alphas Install Chapter Officers

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.-Phi Lambda Chapter held its Changing of the Guard Ceremony on Sunday, Sept. 11.

The 2022-2023 elected chapter officers are President, Brother Eddie Lambert; Vice President, Brother Edward T. Parker; Recording Secretary, Brother Laric Copes; Corresponding Secretary, Brother Danny Scott; Financial Secretary, Brother Jonathan Cothran; and Treasurer, Brother Derek Cain.

During the ceremony, the following brothers received chapter awards: W.H. Peace Service Award, Brother Kelvin Thomas; A.M. (Gus) Witherspoon Leadership Award, Brother Danny Scott; Man of Merit (Charles Green Award), Brother Eddie Lambert; and Man of the Year, Brother Richard Moore.

A presidential award was also announced for Brother Jordan Maness.

In his remarks, Chapter President, Brother Eddie Lambert, spoke of Phi Lambda's achievements over the past two years, some of which include nearly doubling chapter membership; raising a record amount of funds, more than any other Greek organization in North Carolina, for March of Dimes; and winning the



Southern Region Chapter Of The Year Award for its support of National programs and service to the community.

The ceremony was held in the Witherspoon Student Center at N.C. State. The building is named after the university's first African-American professor who was an outstanding researcher, teacher, mentor, and member of Phi Lambda.

Brother Lambert commented, "Brothers of Phi Lambda stand on the shoulders of giants such as Brothers Gus Witherspoon and Felts Lewis, Sr. who were leaders in our community... We must pour into and support each

other as we strive to make our impact."

The Phi Lambda Chapter was established in Raleigh on Dec. 19, 1926. The charter members were Brothers Max W. Aiken, Edward A. Cox, Brooks Dickens, Everett W. Johnson, Reginald L. Lynch, W.A. Robinson, C.G. Segar, Ben L. Taylor and Harold L. Trigg. With its membership from a wide array of professions, the Chapter has made outstanding contributions to the vitality of the African-American citizens in Raleigh, Wake County, Johnston County and the State of North Carolina for nearly 96 years.

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Sports

Bears Stun Defending Champs Bowie State

DURHAM, N.C. – The No. 20 Bowie State Bulldogs combined for 376-yards of total offense but fell to Shaw University (1-2, 1-0 CIAA) in the final moments as the Bears scored on a two yard rushing TD that sealed the fate of the Bulldogs in a 17-14 decision on the road at Durham County Memorial Stadium.

The Bulldogs start the 2022 season 1-2 overall – first time since 2016 and 0-1 in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) as its win-streak against conference opponents was snapped at 18-straight. The setback also is the first time since 2014, Bowie State has loss two-straight games.

The defending champions were stunned by the Shaw Bears comeback win. Shaw tallied 199 yards of total offense (101 rushing and 98 passing). Bowie State held a 7-3 lead over the Bears at halftime, Golatt, Jr. connected with redshirt



Bears possession started with 1:44 left to play and on third down, SU got a 19-yard reception for Barnes that provided a first down and from there; Shaw scored the two-yard scamper with 36 seconds remaining.

On the ensuing possession

and a 25-yard kickoff return for BSU, the Bulldogs got all the way to Shaw's 41-yard line as Bowie State's final chance resulted in a Hail Mary from Golatt, Jr. in the end zone that was intercepted as time expired.

Steve Worthy Photos

sophomore Kyle Parker (Bowie, MD) for a 36-yard reception as Shaw tacked on a 28 yard field goal in the second quarter.

Shaw took a 10-7 lead in the third quarter on a six yard rush for Jon Barnes with 8:20 on the game clock but the Bulldogs responded at the three minute mark when Doku responded with a two yard rush of his own to give BSU a 14-7 lead to conclude the third frame.

In the fourth quarter, BSU's redshirt junior Shaun Tolbert (Baltimore, MD) caught an interception but could not capitalize on that defensive stop as offense was forced to punt. The



Mmoh Is ATC Champ

Michael Mmoh captured the title of the 2022 Atlantic Tire Championships hosted by Cary Tennis Park in Cary, North Carolina. The No. 7 seed of the \$53,120 ATP Challenger Tour hard-court tournament defeated eighth-seeded German Dominik Koepfer 7-5, 6-3 in Sunday's singles final.

Mmoh, who booked his place in the championship match with wins over Briton Daniel Cox, fellow US-American Alex Rybakov, Yasutaka Uchiyama of Japan and Australian Jordan Thompson, capitalized on four of his six break-point chances to seal victory in one hour and 45 minutes.

After the match, Mmoh said he is always happy to return to Cary. "Out of all the Challengers in the United States, this is hands down the best Challenger," the 24-year-old stated.

By winning his sixth ATP Challenger Tour career crown, his first since Knoxville in 2019, Mmoh earned \$7,200 in prize money as well as 80 ATP Ranking points.

Many of you may be familiar with the name Mmoh because Michael's father Tony was a tennis star at St. Augustine's University in the 1980s.

The Atlantic Tire Champion-



Michael Mmoh poses with Atlantic Tire and Service Owner Anthony Blackman after receiving the 2022 Atlantic Tire Championships Singles trophy after defeating Dominik Koepfer 7-5, 6-3 in the finals. The Atlantic Tire Championships finals, part of the USTA Challenger series, held in Cary, N.C. on September 18, 2022.

ship looks forward to returning next September for its 9th year. This year the tournament experienced a record crowd and the event just continues to grow.

Steve Worthy Photo

NC Native Fastest Runner In The Country

By Tyria McCray

Staff Writer

A young man from Winston-Salem is making his hometown and state proud by becoming the fastest runner in the country.

Sixteen-year-old African-American Antwan Hughes Jr. now holds the title of the fastest 16-year-old in the United States after setting a new national record during the AAU Junior Olympics.

In a surprise to him, Antwan finished the 100-meter dash in just 10.48 seconds, beating second-place finisher Jerrae Hawkins by .02 seconds.

Antwan's recent achievement came after a setback as he couldn't perform during his previous track season due to injury. However, with the help of his father Antwan Hughes Sr., who is also his coach, he relentlessly worked toward his recovery. He kept his rigorous workouts and high protein intake to get back in shape and exceed his goals

The Carolinian had the pleasure of speaking with Hughes Jr. over the weekend.

"I had a lot of goals that I wanted to accomplish, because the COVID year, which was my freshman year, I hurt my hamstring and my groin at the same time," Antwan said.

"Coming off of that, I just had a lot that I wanted to do because I know that I could have done more my freshman year, but I was hurt so I couldn't really show myself. I had all that mentality coming into my sophomore year and I just knew that I could be on top, so I have just been working toward that.

"I went into the race knowing I was going to win because I set that goal that I was going to win. When I got to the line, I just kept the same momentum I had, telling myself I was going to win. When I got out, the dude was beside me, but then the last 20 I pulled away and won the race."

Hughes picked up the sport because of his family being in



track. He shared that he realized that he was an elite track athlete at a young age but prefers to stay humble by knowing that there is always someone out there faster than you.

That mentality keeps Hughes hungry and striving for more. Antwan Hughes Sr., Hughes Jr.'s dad, is the head track and field coach for Parkland High School. Hughes says he enjoys having his father as his head coach because his father and the rest of

the staff will push him to reach his full potential.

"What he did last week was defiantly amazing, he won the 15-16 100 m dash at the AAU Junior Olympic Games and that is an amazing accomplishment. Our next goal and try to be a state champion, a high school state champion in 100 and 200," said Hughes Sr.

As the head coach of the track team, Hughes Sr. says it's not difficult to separate the roles of father and coach. Granted he is harder on Hughes Jr. than he is on the other athletes, so they know he is not showing any favoritism toward his son.

He only has two more years of prep sports remaining, so if he stays on this trajectory, he will have his pick of colleges to attend when he graduates high school.

His plans are to attend a D1 in college and then go pro.

"That has always been my goal, that's what I am planning to do," Antwan Hughes Jr. said.

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Church

MACEDONIA NEW LIFE CHURCH
 2004 Rock Quarry Road, Raleigh, NC 27610
 Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Joe L. Stevenson

HAPPENINGS AT THE MAC...
 Macedonia New Life Church (Macedonia NLC) is resuming weekly in-person worship services on Sundays starting at 9:30 a.m. Temperature checks, hands properly sanitized, and face masks continue to be a requirement for everyone prior to entering the sanctuary. The Family Life Center will now be available for overflow with proper social distancing in order to provide safety during worship. The nursery is now open to children up to four years old.

JOIN SUNDAY SCHOOL ON ZOOM.com
 Macedonia NLC invites you to join us Sunday morning on Zoom at 8 a.m. for Sunday School
 Meeting ID: 918 5873 2456
 Passcode: 461350
 To Call in Dial: 1-646-558-8656
 Rev. Marilyn Fonville, M.Div.
 Macedonia NLC—Sunday School Superintendent/VBS Coordinator

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL
 Youth Sunday School return has been delayed. The new starting date will be announced shortly!
YOUTH BIBLE STUDY
 Youth Bible Study has resumed. Macedonia NCL invites all youth to learn with us on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. on Zoom for Youth Bible Study.
 Meeting ID: 875 629 8755
 Passcode: youth
 To Call in Dial: 1-646-558-8656

RESTORATION REUNION REVIVAL
 Macedonia New Life Church invites you to join us in worship for our Restoration Reunion Revival. The revivals will take place on Tuesdays, Oct. 4, Oct. 11 and Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. We hope to see you there!

CHURCH COMMUNITY FOOD MINISTRY WEEKLY FOOD DISTRIBUTION
 Join the Church Community Food Ministry in distributing food to those in need in the community. Volunteers are needed to help set up, sort, assist guests, and break down. Join us every Thursday, first, third, and fifth Saturday in the Macedonia NLC parking lot, when the weather permits, from Noon to 1 p.m.

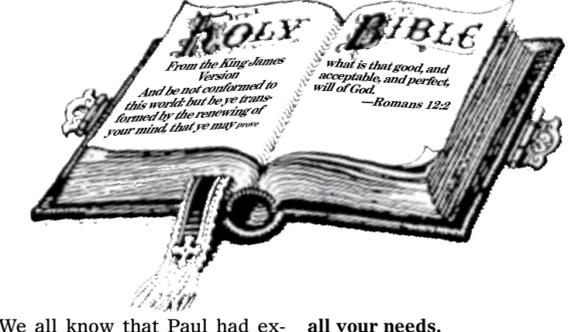
TUESDAYS IN THE WORD
 MNLC weekly Bible Study sessions, Tuesdays in the Word, has resumed. It is held at 9 p.m. The sessions will be held in person in the Family Life Center and virtually. MNLC invites you to join us each Tuesday!

MISSION SUNDAY
 Join the Evangelism Ministry on Nov. 5 at Noon for MNLC 1st Saturday Food Distribution. We look forward to seeing you there!

STREET MINISTRY PRAYER WALK
 Join the Macedonia New Life Church Evangelism Ministry on Saturday, Sept. 24, at 10 a.m. for the Street Ministry Prayer Walk. This will be a one-mile prayer walk beginning at Macedonia New Life Church. We can't wait to see you there!

INITIAL SERMON SERVICE FOR SISTER MARTITA WILLIAMS
 MNLC invites you to join us for Sister Martita Williams' initial sermon service on Sunday, Oct. 30. Come and support our Sister in Christ as she gives her initial sermon.
Breanna V. Garner—Macedonia NLC Staff Writer for The Carolinian Newspaper.

SERMON of the WEEK



GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES
 By Evangelist Selena Hunter
 II Corinthians 1:20 (KJV) For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

(Amp Version) For as many as are the promises of God, in Christ they are [all answered] "Yes." So through Him we say our "Amen" to the glory of God. Paul is the writer of this chapter of Corinthians. He is writing on his concerns and spiritual burden for the believers in Corinth. Paul had been dealing with petty arguments, sexual immorality, spiritual immaturity, worldly carnality, and an absence of godly love were strongly addressed.

Paul had planned to visit these believers, for he wanted to rebuild their trust in him by restating his God-ordained authority. He used himself as a role model to show the comfort and blessings of God, and how it brought him amazing comfort and strength, in the midst of his severe suffering and persecution. Paul assured his listeners that the Lord is no respecter of persons and would provide the same comfort and strength for each one of them.

We all know that Paul had experienced many difficulties and much oppression, but his main purpose was not to highlight his own problems, but to exalt the name of the Lord and proclaim the goodness of God. He wanted to give God his genuine thanks and praise for His comfort, His help, and His many precious promises. **GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES! GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES!**

1. God promises to strengthen you.

"For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being." (Ephesians 3:14-16 ESV)

2. God promises to give you rest.

"Then Jesus said, 'Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.'" (Matthew 11:28-30 NLT)

3. God promises to take care of

all your needs.

"And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19 NLT)

4. God promises to work everything out for your good.

"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." (Romans 8:28 NLT)

5. God promises freedom from sin.

"But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness." (1 John 1:9 NLT) "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36 ESV)

6. God promises you everlasting life.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16 ESV)

To view complete sermons by Pastor William Eli Ratcliff and other Associate Ministers, please visit our website at lincolnpark-church.com or our YouTube Channel.

Southern Baptists Cut Ties With LGBTQ-Friendly G'boro Church

By Peter Smith
Associated Press

The Southern Baptist Convention's top administrative body voted to cut ties with two congregations on Tuesday—an LG-BTQ-friendly church in North Carolina that had itself quit the denomination decades ago and a New Jersey congregation it cited for "alleged discriminatory behavior."

The votes of the Executive Committee came at the end of a two-day meeting in Nashville, Tenn., even as the committee copes with a Department of Justice investigation. The federal-level scrutiny follows a blistering report by a consultant earlier this year into sexual abuse in Southern Baptist settings and mistreatment of survivors by past Executive Committee officials.

The committee on Tuesday approved a statement that College Park Baptist Church of Greens-

boro was not in "friendly cooperation" due to its "open affirmation, approval and endorsement of homosexual behavior," which conflicts with the denomination's theological conservative positions.

In fact, College Park had voted in 1999 to leave the denomination, and its website makes a point of stating it's not a member of the Southern Baptist Convention but rather of more progressive Baptist bodies.

It wasn't immediately clear why the Executive Committee decided now to put the matter to a vote. But Executive Committee Chairman Jared Wellman said afterward that the convention still had the congregation on its rolls until now.

On its website, the church describes itself as an "LGBTQIA Affirming Baptist Church" and says it "fully welcomes and affirms all persons without distinction regarding race, ethnicity, national origin, class, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any

other human category."

The committee, in a separate vote, declared that Amazing Grace Community Church of Franklinville, N.J., was no longer in friendly cooperation. It cited its "lack of cooperation... to resolve concerns regarding alleged discriminatory behavior."

Requests for comment from both congregations via phone and email were not immediately returned.

Since Baptist congregations are self-governing, the denomination can't force them to follow their policies, but it can effectively expel them by declaring them not in "friendly cooperation" if they don't conform to denominational stances in particular areas, such as for LGBTQ polices, alleged support for racism or alleged failure in responding adequately to child sexual abuse, such as employing offenders as pastors.

There could be more congregations in the last category in the pipeline.

Practical Biblical Principles

GOD'S LOVE—FROM COVENANT TO COMMUNION—PART IV
GOD'S LOVE IS IN HIS COVENANT
 Read: Genesis 17:1-10

God made a total of seven Covenants with his children. One with Noah, two with Abraham, one with Israel in the Sinai Desert, one with Phinehas—Aaron's Son, the Priest, and one with David after He was anointed King of Israel. The last Covenant made was with Israel thru Christ on an unconditional basis that their sins will be forever forgiven. This last Covenant extends into the New Testament Church Period and will last until the return of Christ upon the Earth.

Christ did not make a "Cut-Covenant," so to speak, with anybody. However, Christ did leave an everlasting church ritual for all to practice until He returns. It is called the "Holy Communion." Christ's Communion carries with it the same promises, blessings, protection, and legal requirements in it as the Cut-Covenant God made with Abraham. From a theological point of view God's Cut-Covenant, and Jesus's Holy Communion are the same with one exception. The Holy Communion can only practice with freewill, whereas the Cut-Covenant requires a performance on behalf of one or both parties. God's Love is His Covenant—an unbreakable promise of redemption, forgiveness, and a promise of eternal life with God.

Jesus lived, preached, and died living under the Old Testament period and not the New Testament period. Jesus's Communion was made available to us 50 days after the Crucifixion—the Day

of Pentecost. If and when you do this Communion our Lord tells us, "As often as you do this do this in remembrance of Me" (I Corinthians 11:26). It is here that one receives or rejects Christ. One makes an easy contract or covenant with Christ every time one takes Communion.

God's "first" Covenant with Abram was to promise Abram the Canaan Land that will support the future nation of Israel that God promised He, God, will give him. This seals the real estate deal that the whole of Israel belongs to the Jewish people.

God's second Covenant made with Abram was to assure him that his descendants will live in and populate the land assigned to them. They will eventually be a blessing to the whole world. The implication here is that the Messiah will come out of the blood line of Abram, which is the origin of the "blessing to the world" spoken of (Genesis 17:8-9). It is here God changes Abram's name to Abraham and Sari to Sarah, meaning they will become the origin (parents) of a nation of people, Israel. This Covenant required the men in Abraham's clan be circumcised.

The promises God gave to Abraham were enough to keep his faith up. Why God chose to lead Abraham in the way that He did is beyond our comprehension. God's ways and why He does things the way He does them are past finding out (Romans 11:33).

Abraham fell for the plan of having a son as suggested to him by his wife Sarah. Her faith was eroded out by her impatience. The story goes Sarah suggested

to Abraham that he marry her young servant Hagar, to help move God's plans along in giving Abraham a son. This Abraham did and a son, Ishmael, was born. This was not God's plan at all for Abraham. Abraham thought this was the son he long awaited. But God told him this is not the son for you. You will have a son by your wife Sarah (90 years of age). Abraham had messed up again, so to speak. Sarah became jealous of Hagar's son and had Abraham to eventually throw Hagar and her son Ishmael out of the house after Isaac was born later on. God covered up Abraham's mistakes again and blessed Hagar and Ishmael to be the progenitor of the Arab race. The Arabs and Jews have been enemies with each other for more than 4,000 years. God finally told Abraham that he and Sarah will have boy child within the next year. Abraham and Sarah laughed within themselves because of their age. Abraham was almost one hundred years of age. (Genesis 18:10).

Abraham tried to intercede for the city of Sodom so that God would not destroy it. This was not for Abraham to do. God came down for the primary purpose of destroying the city because of its depravity. Abraham was associating with the wrong people. Lot lost his wife as the result of Sodom's destruction. She turned into a pillar of salt for disobeying God to not look back on the destroyed city of Sodom.

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Editorials

Editorial Policy

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, regardless of whether we agree with it.

God Did

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.
President and CEO, National
Newspaper Publishers
Association

Hip-hop culture continues to transcend the divisions that prevent a universal acknowledgment of the sacred affirmation of the oneness of all humanity. As soon as DJ Khaled dropped his latest album with that transformational featured production entitled, "God Did," I knew that as an elder OG supporter of the culture I needed to publicly respond.

DJ Khaled, Rick Ross, Lil Wayne, Jay-Z, John Legend and Fridayy were all masterful in their contributory segments. At a time when world communities are experiencing increasing devastations from climate change, poverty, and human oppression, what are the enduring lessons that are being articulated and portrayed in our music, poetry, and art forms?

First, I was pleased and inspired by the lyrical summons from "God Did" that called all of us out of the graveyards of despair and hopelessness to stand erect and upright before the divine God of all creation and liberation.

When the player haters of the culture refused to hear and listen to the truth about how hip-hop continues to shed a radiant light on systemic oppression, racism, addictions, and economic inequities, God did not permit those profound spitters of truth to be silenced and unappreciated. Those of us who love and respect hip-hop know what time it is.

What emerged out of the South Bronx, NY with youthful creative power, authenticity, raw vibes, and artistic genius over 50 years ago is today an unstoppable global cultural phenomenon that is contributing to a positive and irrevocable transformation of the world's consciousness and demands for freedom, justice, equality and equity.

In the pre-chorus to "God Did," Fridayy and Rick Ross set the dramatic curtain riser with the verse:
*They wanted us down
But look at us now
They counted us out
They didn't think that we
would make it
They didn't believe in us.*

Then in a forceful staccato affirmation by Rick Ross and Fridayy the chorus begins:
*But I know God did, God did
(Oh, yes, He did).*

DJ Khaled in his street-powerful voice shouts out in refrain:
*God did
Oh, yes, God did
Oh, God did (God is great)
But I know God did.*

Yes, God did. And, yes, consequently DJ Khaled did. Young people, especially Generation Z and millennials across America and throughout the world, will connect, resonate, and engage with these lyrics and musical symphony because of how this hymn exposes the

prevailing misperceptions about the so-called irredeemable, downtrodden-ness of youth consciousness and lifestyles today in impoverished communities in urban and rural areas.

While the status quo wants to keep young people down and disillusioned, God via hip-hop has reawakened the masses of millions of youth to speak out, stand up, and to become empowered with truth, resilience, vitality and a transformed vision to strive to make the world a better place for all people.

In verse 1 Rick Ross hints at the importance of stopping any form of disunity and self-destruction, and to begin the God-inspired journey to acquire enough money to buy and own a bank.

In verse 2 Lil Wayne testifies about how God made him to be creative:

*God did His thing when he
made me*

*With the odds stacked against
me,*

*I could crack Da Vinci
I know only God can judge us.*

Verse 3 was the longest verse. It was another hip-hop classic with Hov, i.e.: Jay-Z, who upfront eloquently acknowledges that because God did, Hov did. Jay-Z reminds the world that, "Hov did" *Please, Lord forgive me for
what the stove did
Nobody touched the billi'
until Hov did
How many billionaires can
come from Hov crib?
I count three, me, Ye, and Rih.*

Jay-Z, Kanye West, and Rihanna all shattered previous recording industry achievement records that propelled each of them into the billionaire stratosphere on earth and in the heavens. Yes, God did. Yes, Hov did. God did and God is still doing!

Mass incarceration is not the answer. Voter suppression is not the answer. Poverty and economic inequities are not the answer. "God Did" is the answer that requires activism, struggle, compassion, creativity, and empowerment.

Jay-Z said it best:

*I pray none of your people die
over jailphones again
All this pain from the outside,
inspired all the growth
within*

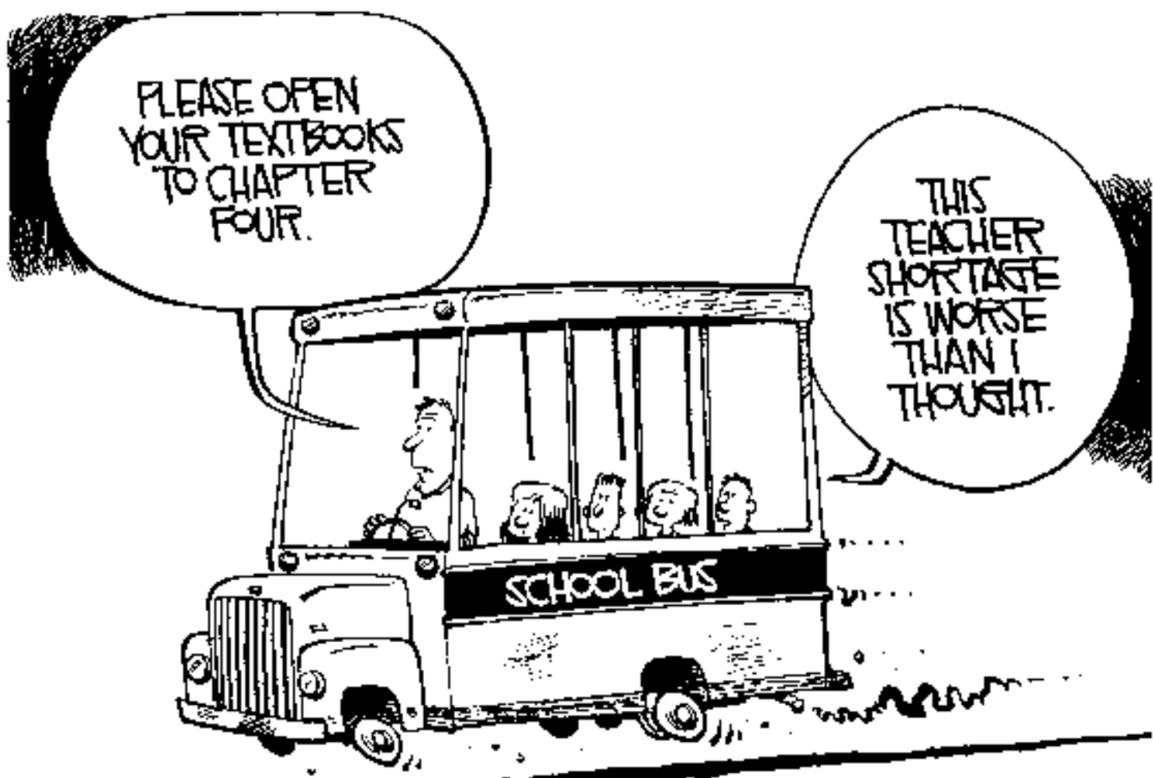
*So new planes getting' broken
in*

Highest elevation of the self.

No one album alone will give all the answers to all the perplexing questions of society. Yet, I salute "God Did" as a welcomed and timely give back and cultural blessing to all of humanity. Hip-hop is a global antidote to the poison of racial oppression and economic inequalities.

Thank you, DJ Khaled, for "God Did."

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. (Dr Ben) is President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and Executive Producer/Host of The Chavis Chronicles weekly on PBS TV stations throughout the U.S. and can be reached at dr.bchavis@nnpa.org.



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A Different Voice

By Dorothy Shaw Thompson



SATAN HAD A PLOT BUT GOD HAS A PLAN

My first reaction to the news that two governors made a perverse decision to send a bus of people away from their states to Martha's Vineyard was just plain sadness. That, I'm sure, is not the reaction they wanted. What I suspect they wanted (not from me) but from their base was votes and applause. It was the bully at school getting pleasure from picking on the kid who doesn't and can't fight back.

Just in case you haven't heard, there are those in our country who don't believe in the "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be (breathe) free." This is especially true if these immigrants have any melanin in their DNA. They are afraid of being overpopulated by the "brown" people who came here to escape problems in their home countries, to what they consider to be the "elites" that stand up for them. They believe that the elites only stand up for them because they don't have to deal with them. So... they put human beings on the bus and sent them away. Why, I suppose you would ask, does that make me sad rather than angry? I've got a lot of reasons. One is that often in anger the real underneath feeling is sadness. Two, when one is truly sad, you don't seek revenge if you really understand that that's what you feel. For me, sadness is something that I ponder, anger motivates me to stop feeling and act. I want to be a mentally healthy person in control of my feelings and not someone who has stopped thinking. Frankly, I'm proud of the way most people in Massachusetts reacted to the immigrants who were bused there. They took them in and fed them, welcomed them and problem-solved the situation. Anger could have motivated them to put them back on the bus and send them back to Florida and/or Texas but suppose they had? Would they have been any better than Governors DeSantis and Abbott? I say no, they would have become them in their actions.

These are human beings, not issues or political points. When we become unable to put ourselves in the experience of others we lose our humanity. When times are difficult sometimes that's all we have and in this case, humanity was what was needed. I had a similar experience once. A woman who was in a parenting role with a five-year-old child got sick and tired of the solutions I was giving to a problem she was having. The child, who had already experienced the trauma of abandonment by her natural parents was having the difficulties children have when life is less than perfect so far. So the relative who had taken her in said to me, "Okay, so what if I bring her to live with you?" I said, "Well, I hope I'd keep her until you came back and got her." She said, "And what if I didn't?" (my clue that she was serious). I said, "Well, I'd follow the law and seek assistance from Social Services. Sure enough, a few days later, she showed up with the child and I did what I said I would do. Working for the child's sake to make it appear that

(See **A DIFFERENT VOICE**, P. 11)



Becoming Sarah

By Sarah Jones

MENTAL HEALTH

I sat on a rooftop staring at a flickering streetlight as the motion of my friend's silent sobs moved my head. We had gone on a drive and somehow ended up on the top floor of our university's parking garage. I thought back to us in the previous hour. All three of us were laughing and smiling as we ate dinner with a close friend. On the drive back home, my friend looks at me and says, "I want to take you to my safe place." Not even 10 minutes later we are overlooking our entire University watching as the sun slowly glides below the horizon. As we watched the sunset, I looked down envious as the people below me continued about their day. Cars moving according to traffic, footsteps traveling across the pavement, everyone completely unaware of the emotions running through my friends and I, and here I was sitting—forced to be still.

To anyone looking at us, we probably looked like three random college girls just like to us they looked like everyday people. I watched as frat boys walked across the lawn in their blue blazers and freshmen rushed to get their final meals before the halls closed. To everyone I saw, I thought about their story. I sat there rubbing my friend's shoulders as my brain suddenly wrapped itself around the thought I had been avoiding. We weren't just three normal college girls. Those weren't just frat boys walking across the lawn and those freshmen were probably only partially confused about their whereabouts.

I think it's fair to say that many of us live life wearing a mask. We go to work and work. We go to class to learn, and we smile, laugh, and enjoy the company of our friends. We keep our business to ourselves because sometimes that's easier than living with the brokenness. One in four college students has a diagnosable mental health condition and 33 percent of students will be taking psychotropic medications by the time they get to college. Studies show that issues with mental health continue

to grow especially in college students. Our stories—the stories of students, continue to grow and unfold in a way that few people will ever know.

Sexual Assault. Death of a loved one. Physical Abuse. Depression. Anxiety. Relationships. Grades. At times these things feel like they drive the plot of our lives, yet the people around us rarely know. Looking into the mind of a college student can be the same as looking in a double-sided mirror. You see the outside but rarely what's inside. You show yourself what you show the world.

For Olivia Brown no one ever knew she was struggling, in fact, that was the case in most of my friends that I talked to. "I struggled with my emotions a lot. One point I would be happy and content, but one bad thing could set me off and my mood would completely plummet." What she is describing is something that almost every college student can relate to. We spend our days chasing the dream, living in the hustle and in our aspirations. Its so easy to get stuck in the stage where all you do is constantly move and do. In the rare moments you are still, it hits you, and you find yourself on a rooftop crying with your closest friends.

The more and more I think about mental health and the decline it's taking on my generation, the more and more fearful I become. My mind becomes filled with the individuals who don't have a "safe place" to go to, a shoulder to cry on or a place to take off their mask. I think of the relief I felt that night in letting those tears escape my eyes. The relief I felt in feeling instead of escaping. The relief I felt in being able to process my emotions.

I find myself constantly coming back full circle when it comes to dealing or even thinking about mental health. In school, as scholars we are taught to see the world as logically as possible. To think objectively before we feel but nothing in my life ever feels objective. As students, we find ourselves in school to move our lives forward, but for many of us, mentally we stay in the same position. Some days it's hard to keep going because you truly don't know if anything better is coming but in times like these, we use our hopes and dreams as fuel. We hang on for the vision of a brighter day. Unsure of when or where its coming. As Olivia Brown would say, even if it seems like better days will never come—eventually they do.

Child Watch

By Marian Wright Edelman



DOING WHAT WORKS TO END CHILD POVERTY

Unprecedented. Historic. Unequaled. Astounding. We rarely hear adjectives like these associated with good news about child poverty, but these are a few of the words being used to describe new reports on the decline in child poverty rates in the United States. The Census Bureau has just released data showing in 2021 child poverty in the U.S. fell to the lowest rates ever recorded. This coincided with a report by Child Trends that documented how sharply child poverty in the U.S. fell between 1993 and 2019, even before the plunge recorded during the pandemic. Both pieces of news shared a common denominator the Children's Defense Fund has emphasized time and time again: child poverty is preventable in our rich nation, and there are policy solutions that work to end it. We must build on those policy solutions, make them permanent, and work even harder to make sure they reach every child.

The Census Bureau reported that child poverty was cut nearly in half between 2020 and 2021 thanks to anti-poverty programs established or expanded in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including expansions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC). The expanded Child Tax Credit alone lifted nearly 3 million children out of poverty in 2021, including 1 million children under 6.

Many of these same programs that made a historic difference during the pandemic have also been a key part of the longer declines in child poverty rates. Child Trends notes that between 1993 and 2019 the number of children protected by the social safety net, which also includes the Earned Income Tax Credit, Social Security, SNAP, and housing subsidies, more than tripled. At the same time, they warned that although the social safety net made an enormous difference for millions of poor children, our nation made the least progress in strengthening this safety net for children with the fewest resources, including children in deep poverty, those in immigrant families, and children without stably employed parents. These are the children who still need help the most, and these findings reaffirm the importance of the expanded anti-poverty programs put in place during the pandemic and the obvious but critical observation that when more children were protected by anti-poverty programs in 2020 and 2021, child poverty dropped even more dramatically.

This last point was reinforced by yet another piece of data released this week. The Children's Defense Fund and other organizations recently partnered with the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) on a national survey of low- to moderate-income parents to see how they have been affected by the expiration of monthly expanded CTC payments. CLASP's results underscored again that the expanded CTC significantly reduced family hardship and hunger. Not surprisingly, however, the survey also found that as soon as CTC payments ended families faced more difficulties affording bills, groceries, clothing, and other essentials. We've made significant progress in reducing child poverty over the last quarter-century, and pandemic-era improvements proved we can immediately

(See **CHILD WATCH**, P. 11)

Other Viewpoints



BLACK AMERICA'S COMMON GROUND WITH FREDERICK DOUGLASS REPUBLICANS AND MAGA REPUBLICANS
By Dr. Alveda King

For the last 30 years, I have openly identified as a Republican. As a member of one of the most well-known Black families in America, I have grown accustomed to the vitriol that comes because of my party affiliation. So the recent fascist slurs towards MAGA voters come as no surprise.

Sadly, the hate-filled messages in my inbox are enough to make a sailor blush. Yet I ignore the hate and remain resolved because I cannot turn away from the lessons my father and mother taught me. I cannot ignore the truth in the teachings from my granddaddy and my uncle Martin.

In reality, even as I identify as a Republican, I always vote for the policies before I vote for the party. As a freedom-loving follower of Christ, my voting patterns inevitably lean towards candidates who fight for religious liberties, defend the sanctity of life from the womb to the tomb, empower parents, and protect children.

The media is big on labels. Labeling Republicans allows them to box Americans into silly narrow definitions. Over the years, they have created categories like Reagan Republicans, Tea Party Republicans and now the newest flavor MAGA Republicans. If I must be labeled, label me a Frederick Douglass Republican.

In truth, there is little difference between a Frederick Douglass Republican, Reagan Republican, or MAGA Republican. Unfortunately, the legacy media is working double time to paint a picture of MAGA Republicans as evil monsters who want to destroy America. But that is the furthest thing from the truth. I have had the privilege of getting to know the MAGA crowd, and before you write them off, I dare you to talk to them.

I bet when you do, you'll see that their beliefs are not at all different from yours and mine. They believe that every vote should count. They believe you can't magically become a woman simply by declaring it so. They believe parents should have the right to determine what their children are taught.

The achievements of the MAGA president Trump are inconvenient truths to politicians on the left who are afraid of losing their most reliable voting block, Black Americans. What are the policies that resulted from the MAGA president? In 2020, I wrote a book *Why Trump?* to explain my support.

Well, Donald Trump achieved the lowest black unemployment rate in American history. Today's high cost of everything from gas to eggs did not happen on Donald Trump's watch, even during the darkest days of a global pandemic.

The Trump Administration made permanent funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities. In addition, the Trump Administration increased school choice funding by \$42 million because he, like the MAGA crowd, believes that children should not be limited by their ZIP Code.

It was President Biden who, as an ambitious senator, ensured that Blacks would be disproportionately imprisoned by the 1980s crime bill of mandatory minimums. In contrast, passing the First Step Act was a crowning achievement of the Trump Administration. Black Americans made up 90 percent of those who received commuted sentences.

The list of accomplishments goes on, but rather than give the Trump Administration credit for anything, his opponents find it more useful to pretend that Black America is only successful when Democrats are in control. As Black families take the brunt of increased crime and skyrocketing inflation, Democrats have to find someone to blame. Their unfair target is MAGA Republicans.

Dr. Alveda C. King is the daughter of the late slain civil rights activist Rev. A.D. King and the niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and a Christian evangelist. She is the author of the best sellers King Rules and We're Not Colorblind. She is also the founder of Speak for Life, Chairman of the Center for The American Dream—AFPI, and currently serves as a Fox News Channel contributor and is the host of "Alveda King's House" on Fox Nation and a NEWSMAX opinion contributor. Dr. King is also a former Georgia state legislator, college professor, a twice assigned presidential appointee, and a 2021 recipient of the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award.



XI DOES WELL IN CENTRAL ASIA, TAIWAN FARES WELL IN THE US SENATE

By Mel Gurtov

In the course of his Central Asia tour, Xi Jinping met with Vladimir Putin for what some analysts thought would be a reprise of their "no limits" declaration, which came out when Putin was in Beijing just prior to launching his war on Ukraine. In fact, there were major limits to Xi's support of Putin's war then, and that became even more evident this time around.

Putin acknowledged as much. "We highly appreciate the balanced position of our Chinese friends in connection with the Ukrainian crisis," Putin said. "We understand your questions and concerns in this regard. During today's meeting, of course, we will explain in detail our position on this issue, although we have spoken about this before."

In plain English, Putin was expressing disappointment that China had failed to deliver as expected on their "friendship." Though officially backing Putin's view of NATO aggression, and gladly buying up Russia's cheap oil, Beijing has steered clear of U.S. and European sanctions, refused to recognize Russia's "people's republics" in the Donbas region, and not sent Russia any significant military assistance. The two countries may have a strategic partnership, but the

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Dame Dench
5 Willy one
8 Leer at
12 Western tribe
13 TV pioneer
14 Eye part
15 Dressing ingredient
17 Sugar unit
18 Fill in — blank
19 Conclude
20 Monk's heron
21 Droop
22 Bikini top
23 Wail
26 Germ
30 Soc. n
31 Granada
32 Joke
33 "You wish"
35 Pesky insects
36 Chairman of the
37 Greyhound vehicle
38 Hoopster
41 Diet, in'g
42 Cr. follower
45 Sandwich cookie
46 Fuel-producing atom
48 Hindu royal
49 Persian pot
50 Adversing award
51 Genesis

DOWN

1 Equitable
2 Beehive State
3 Take out of context?
4 "This — recording"
5 Incorrect
6 Battery food
7 Lass
8 Fleety and rocky
9 Vices
10 Murganla gar- nish
11 Glimpse
16 Canopus WP
20 Lob's bath
21 Staple in some Asian rec. des.
22 Ginormous
23 Do sums
24 Polite address
25 Wheat whack- er
26 Chess piece
27 — pro nobis
28 Cudgel
29 Overhead
31 Sticky stuff
34 Scratch
35 Nonsense
37 Prove untrue
38 Comics' Mrs. Dithers
39 Bedouin
40 Hereditary unit
41 Exemplar of thinness
42 Soccer leg- end
43 Faulk pos
44 Nuptial vows
46 Klutz
47 Glacial

A "comprehensive training program" with Taiwan should be established to ensure interoperability with U.S. forces, including "full-scale military exercises" among other activities.

•U.S. government readiness: The President shall convene a "whole-of-government review of all available economic, diplomatic, and other strategic measures to deter the use of force by the People's Republic of China to change the status quo of Taiwan." The secretary of state shall "announce, in advance, the severe consequences that would take effect immediately after the People's Republic of China engaged in any such use of force."

Mel Gurtov, syndicated by PeaceVoice, is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Portland State University and blogs at In the Human Interest.



AMERICA'S FOREIGNER FLOOD, SPREAD THE LOVE AROUND
By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Guest Commentary

Nearly five million foreign nationals have entered the United States since Biden became President. Some people call them undocumented immigrants, some call them unauthorized immigrants, many call them illegal immigrants. If they were entering the country legally with proper documentation then we would call them documented immigrants or legal immigrants.

Wyoming has 581,075 people. Have you ever been to Yellowstone National Park? Vermont has a population of 623,251 people. The District of Columbia has a population of 714,143 people. Alaska's population is 724,357. North Dakota has 770,026. South Dakota's population is 896,581. The population of Delaware is 990,334. (Stats from populationreview.com). These seven states combined have a population of under 5.5 million people. To get a more accurate count I suppose we could drop off Wyoming and that would put us closer to the total number of foreign nationals who have illegally without documentation crossed our borders. In other words, our country has grown the population of at least six of our smallest populated states in six years.

However, there are no worries because densely populated states won't remain that forever. We cannot add 4-5 million illegal immigrants every two years without having serious population issues in our nation.

What would a half million of these new unauthorized immigrants do to the state of Wyoming? What about Vermont? Would Vermont like to have a generous helping of a few hundred thousand people begging for housing and food?

The population of Kentucky is about 4.5 million people which is somewhere very close to the number of illegal immigrants. Where can Kentucky add a half million people? There are no jobs in East Kentucky but a lot of devastation from the recent flooding. West Kentucky is still trying to rebuild from the worst tornadoes in history. What about Lexington or Woodford County? They still have a nice ten mile stretch of horse farms that could easily accommodate one-half million foreigners. Put these people to work giving bourbon tours.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott and Florida Governor Ron Desantis have the right idea, share the love. Open borders should never mean that Texas and other border states get all the love and joy of these millions of people coming illegally into America. Texas already has 30 million people. Florida has 22 million people. Plus, Texas and Florida get hot. Hot weather and crowds are not a good combination. Martha's Vineyard has less than 20,000 people. The climate is cooler. The water is pretty and there is some good fishing in the area as well. I can see where immigrants would be content in this part of America. Rehoboth in Delaware would also be a nice spot for the undocumented foreigners. Rehoboth is where Joe Biden likes to stroll along the Boardwalk in this quaint costal Atlantic community of fine restaurants, shops and summer vacationers. The illegals could certainly transform this little community.

California has a population of 40 million people. New York has almost 20 million and Illinois has almost 13 million with Chicago exploding with its own problems. Do any of them really have the financial ability to care for another million people?

If we do not get control of our border and regulate the flood of people who are coming into this country illegally, soon we will not have a country.

Hear Dr. Mollette each weekday at 8:56, 11:30 and 4:26 EST on XM radio 131.

Contact him at GMollette@aol.com. Learn more at www.glenmollette.com

Buy his books at Amazon.com and other online dealers.

Dr. Glenn Mollette is a graduate of numerous schools including Georgetown College, Southern and Lexington Seminaries in Kentucky. He is the author of 13 books including Uncommon Sense, the Spiritual Chocolate series, Grandpa's Store, Minister's Guidebook insights from a fellow minister. His column is published weekly in over 600 publications in all 50 states.

A DIFFERENT VOICE

Continued from page 10

this was just a visit. Everybody in my household cooperated and in two days she and her husband came and picked her up. Sometimes all we have is the best of ourselves to put forward.

I am hoping that this reversal of our American values will only affect a minority of people. We will know based on how we vote in November. We will become a problem-solving nation or we will let our lesser attitudes prevail. If we choose authority over democracy we will all suffer it. Perhaps the pain of that when it begins to affect more of us will be causative in creating change. I am encouraged by the story of Joseph in the Bible. His brothers decided to send him away and human suffering from a famine was down the line; however, though evil had a plot (good) God had a plan. I wish that this had not happened. I wish that DeSantis and Abbott hadn't devised this but I am convinced that at some point we will learn that until we see others as a part of the human family we will continue to have to learn from universal pain.

CHILD WATCH

Continued from page 10

reach even more children and cut child poverty even faster. *Why wouldn't we keep doing it?*

The decline in child poverty is wonderful news, and the dramatic pandemic-era plunge does not have to be a blip on the graph. We cannot let child poverty rates tick upwards again when every tenth of a point represents thousands of children who deserve a better future. We know what works, and we now know what we can do to keep bending that child poverty rate curve downwards towards zero. Our nation can—and must—continue this progress and expand effective policies to end child poverty now.

Classifieds

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 1049

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Gwendolyn Olympia Barnes, 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 2nd day of December 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 1st day of September, 2022.

Joseph Barnes
Administrator
6199 Castell Dr
Durham, NC 27713
9/1,9/8,9/15 and 9/22/2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF BETTY ROUSE MCNAIR

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against Betty Rouse McNair, late of Durham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit them to George David McNair as Executor of the decedent's estate on or before December 2, 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 Executor.

This the 1st day of September, 2022.

George David McNair, Executor
c/o Gregory Herman-Giddens, Atty.
Galbraith, PLLC
1340 Environ Way
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
9/1,9/8,9/15 and 9/22/2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The undersigned, Randy Thomas Chambers, having duly qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Marion Thomas Chambers, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned in care of Ronald G. Coulter, Attorney for the Estate, 3400 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 205, Durham, North Carolina 27705, on or before December 1, 2022 or it will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment.

This the 1st day of September, 2022.

Randy Thomas Chambers
Administrator
C/O Ronald G. Coulter
Attorney at Law
3400 Croasdaile Drive
Suite 205
Durham, NC 27705
1-919-246-5775
9/1,9/8,9/15 and 9/22/2022

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS File Number 22 E 1113 SANDRA NORWOOD KRAFT ESTATE

The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of Sandra Norwood Kraft 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 2nd day of December, 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 1st day of September 2022.

Stephanie Kraft
Executrix of the Estate of Sandra Norwood Kraft
c/o The Law Office of Anne Page Watson, PLLC
3400 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 205
Durham, NC 27705
9/1,9/8,9/15 and 9/22/22

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Herbert Michael Mackey, late of Durham County, State of North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to present them to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of November, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar

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

This the 25th day of August, 2022.

James M. Ellis, Administrator
Stone & Christy, P.A.
110 N. Dougherty Street
Black Mountain, NC 28711
8/25,9/1,9/8, and 9/15/2022
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 21st day of February, 2022, as Co-Executors of the ESTATE OF JOHN KING WOODY, JR., Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, do hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 26th day of November, 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 25th day of August, 2022.

JOHN KING WOODY, III
JAMES WATTERSON WOODY
CO-EXECUTORS
ESTATE OF JOHN KING WOODY, JR.

c/o Jennifer Dalman, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
8/25,9/1,9/8 and 9/15/2022
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 905

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Sylvia Jean Smith, 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 9th day of December 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 8th day of September, 2022.

Wallace Smith
Administrator
3015 Wheat Grain St
Durham, NC 27704
9/8,9/15,9/22 and 9/29/2022
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 1078

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Louise D. Miller, 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 16th day of December 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 15th day of September, 2022.

David A. Miller
Executor
C/O Atty Michael Hudson
105 E. Center St
Suite B-12
Mebane, NC 27302
9/15,9/22,9/29 and 10/6/2022
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF DURHAM

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 1st day of September, 2022, as Executor of the ESTATE OF DOROTHY STEEDMAN SHOAF, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, do hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 23rd day of December, 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 22nd day of September, 2022.

ROBERT SAMUEL SHOAF
EXECUTOR
ESTATE OF DOROTHY STEEDMAN SHOAF
c/o E.J. Walker, Jr., Attorney

Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
9/15,9/22,9/29 and 10/6/2022
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 956

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Freda G. Cole a/k/a Freda Garlene Cole, 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 16th day of December 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 15th day of September, 2022.

Kevin S. Cole
Administrator CTA
1329 Penny Road
High Point, NC 27265
9/15,9/22,9/29 and 10/6/2022
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 21 E 741

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Louise McDuffie Rhodes, 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 16th day of December 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 15th day of September, 2022.

Shaliga M. Rhodes
Co-Administrator
240 Panorama Drive
Oxon Hill, MD 20745
Shirley Dixon-Archibald
Co-Administrator
215 William Penplaza #708
Durham, NC 27704
9/15,9/22,9/29 and 10/6/2022
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 1202

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Mary Martin Holben, 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 23rd day of December 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 22nd day of September, 2022.

Kim Strickland
Executor
7 Neptune Court
Durham, NC 27712
9/22,9/29,10/6 and 10/13/2022
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 001131

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Annette Selena Alston, 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 23rd day of December 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 22nd day of September, 2022.

Elna A Smith
Administrator

304 Sumac Ct
Sneads Ferry, NC 28460
9/22,9/29,10/6 and 10/13/2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against Estate of Herbert L. Carson AKA Herbert Lee Carson, deceased, of Durham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before December 27, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 22nd day of September, 2022.

Rosalyn S. Carson, Executrix of the Estate of Herbert L. Carson AKA Herbert Lee Carson
c/o Lori M. Bernstein, Attorney at Law
2726 Croasdaile Dr. Suite 202
Durham, North Carolina 27705
For Publication: Dates 9-22, 9-29, 10-6, 10-13, 2022
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: File No. 22-E-1208

The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Lockwood Floyd Chamberlain, 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 23 day of December 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 22 day of September, 2022.

Mark Chamberlain
Administrator of the Estate of Lockwood Floyd Chamberlain
c/o The Law Office of Anne Page Watson, PLLC
3400 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 205,
Durham, NC 27705.
9/22,9/29,10/6 and 10/13/22
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 2022 E 000911

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Patricia Cox, 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 23rd day of December 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 22nd day of September, 2022.

Charlie Cox III
Executor
1517 Rosewood St
Durham, NC 27701
9/22,9/29,10/6 and 10/13/2022
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 1194

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Joseph Claude Bazemore, 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 23rd day of December 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 22nd day of September, 2022.

Ruth Bazemore Bowman
Executor
7 Birchcrest Court
Durham, NC 27713
9/22,9/29,10/6 and 10/13/2022

WAKE COUNTY

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 002197

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Gwendolyn Louise Baines, 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 3rd day of December 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 1st day of September, 2022.

R.B. Lee
Administrator
PO Box 923
Garner, NC 27529
9/1,9/8,9/15 and 9/22/2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF ULRICH GEORG WEISS

FILE NO.: 2022-E001349

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against Ulrich Georg Weiss, deceased, of Wake County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before Dec. 07 2022 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 8th day of September, 2022.

Janet Weiss
Administrator
C/O The Law Office of Jeffrey L. Austin and The Law Office of Erin Baker Edgar
Attorneys at Law
411 W. Chapel Hill Street,
Suite C 2, Durham, NC 27701.
The Carolinian September 8, 15,
22, 29, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF DANIEL LORENZA HOOKER SR FILE NO 15-E-435

All person, firms and corporations having claims against DANIEL LORENZA HOOKER SR, deceased, of Wake County, NC, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before December 21, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 15th day of September, 2022. Gary Lorenza Hooker, Executor, c/o Blue LLP, 205 Fayetteville St, Suite 300, Raleigh, NC 27601. The Carolinian, September 15, 22, 29, October 6, 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 003555

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Anthony Howard Ward, 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 16th day of December 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 15th day of September, 2022.

Phillip K Ward
Administrator
725 Price Road
Selma, NC 27576
9/15,9/22,9/29 and 10/6/2022

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION NORTH CAROLINA WAKE COUNTY In The General Court Of Justice District Court Division File No.: 22 CV 019260

CANDACE JAMES,
PLAINTIFF

v.
UNKNOWN FATHER
Of JOSEPH E. JAMES

DEFENDANT
TO: UNKNOWN FATHER OF JOSEPH E. JAMES

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 Custody of the minor child Joseph E. James, born January 27, 2016 in Wake County, North Carolina.

You are required to make defense to such pleadings no later than the 10th day of November 2022, said date being at least forty days from the first publication of this notice; and upon your failure to do so the party seeking relief against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 15th day of September 2022.

Candace James
3305 Friar Tuck Road
Raleigh, NC 27610
9/15,22,29/2022
NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION In The General Court Of Justice District Court Division File Number: 22 CVD 5839

Clyde O'Neal, Jr.,
Plaintiff

v.
Barbara A. O'Neal,

Defendant.

TO: Barbara A. O'Neal,
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 10th day of November, 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 15th day of September, 2022.

Clyde O'Neal, Jr.
Plaintiff
8 Red Sunset Lane
Durham, NC 27703
9/15,22,29/2022
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

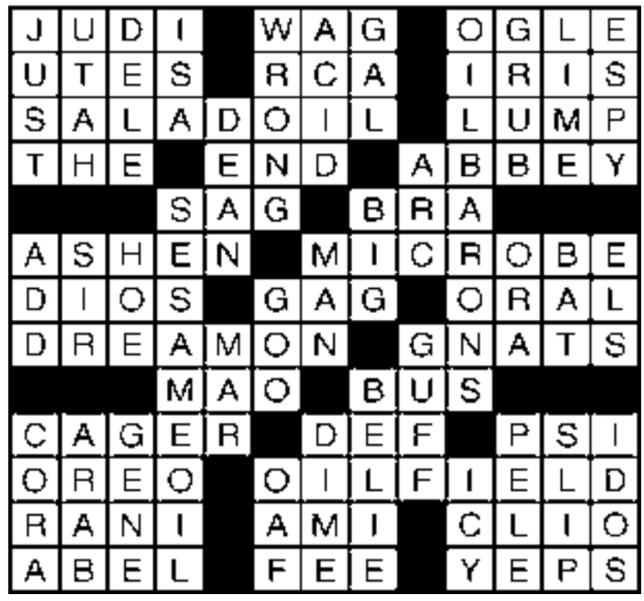
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION In The General Court Of Justice Superior Court Division Before the Clerk File Number 2022 E 003086

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Rohan Rajeev, 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 23rd day of December 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 22nd day of September, 2022.

Sowmya Rajeev
Co-Administrator
302 Cole Canyon Ct
Cary, NC 27513
Rajeev Thalla
Co-Administrator
302 Cole Canyon Ct
Cary, NC 27513
9/22,9/29,10/6 and 10/13/2022



Classifieds

CAR LIENS

District Court Division—Small Claims File No. 22 CV 007180 COMPLAINT TO ENFORCE POSSESSORY LIEN ON MOTOR VEHICLE

B&C Automotive Inc.
105 Hester Street
Knightdale, NC 27545
c/o PO Box 46882
Raleigh, NC 27620
vs.

Unknown Owner,
TO: Unknown Owner

TAKE NOTICE the petitioner has filed with the clerk a petition in proper form indicating that the petitioner has a valid lien against a 2012 GMC Sierra, ID No. 1GT125E85CF238521 and that the petitioner shall have the right to sell to the highest bidder the motor vehicle listed on October 3, 2022 at WCCH, 316 Fayetteville Street, Third Floor, at 1:30 p.m. You are required to make a defense to such pleading before such date and time.

This the 15th day of September, 2022.

c/o PO Box 46882
Raleigh, NC 27620
105 Hester Street
Knightdale, NC 27545
9/15,22,29/22

NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

In The General Court Of Justice District Court Division—Small Claims

File No. 22 CV 011314 COMPLAINT TO ENFORCE POSSESSORY LIEN ON MOTOR VEHICLE

Calvary Motors LLC
925A Kitchen Drive
Raleigh, NC 27603
c/o PO Box 46882
Raleigh, NC 27620
vs.

Unknown Owner,
TO: Unknown Owner

TAKE NOTICE the petitioner has filed with the clerk a petition in proper form indicating that the petitioner has a valid lien against a 2004 Audi, ID No. WAUJT68E84A023764 and that the petitioner shall have the right to sell to the highest bidder the motor vehicle listed on October 25, 2022 at WCCH, 316 Fayetteville Street, Third Floor, at 1:30 p.m. You are required to make a defense to such pleading before such date and time.

This the 15th day of September, 2022.

Yomiogunbodede
c/o PO Box 46882
Raleigh, NC 27620
925A Kitchen Drive
Raleigh, NC 27603
9/15,22,29/22

NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

Small Claims Division

File No. 22 CVM 005690

Gurkan's Downtown Auto Repair
Plaintiff,
V.

Karshi Demel Swinson-Davis

Defendant,
TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above entitled action. The nature of the relief sought is as follows: Defendant has defaulted in the payment of debt which is secured by property. Defendant has otherwise breached the forms of a security agreement giving the plaintiff the right to claim immediate possession of the prop-

erty described as a 2010 KIA SUV, VIN#KNDJT2A20A7098852 which has been in plaintiff's possession and remained unclaimed since January 13, 2020.

You are required by law, to enter a defense in writing to the pleading if you so choose, within 40 days from the first date of Publication of this notice but no later than November 1, 2022. Upon your failure to make such defense, the party, in

this case the Plaintiff, seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This the 22 day of September, 2022.

Mohammed M. Shyllon
5540 Centerview Drive, Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27606
Attorney for the Plaintiff
Phone: (919) 424-3804
Fax:(919) 869-1588
9/22,9/29 and 10/6/2022



NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division—Small Claims
File No. 22 CV 007179
COMPLAINT TO ENFORCE
POSSESSORY LIEN ON MOTOR
VEHICLE

Colt-Land Towing & Recovery
8045 Chapel Hill Road
Cary, NC 27513
PO Box 46882
Raleigh, NC 27620
vs.

Unknown Owner,
TO: Unknown Owner

TAKE NOTICE the petitioner has filed with the clerk a petition in proper form indicating that the petitioner has a valid lien against a 1955 Pontiac, ID No. A755H4499 and that the petitioner shall have the right to sell to the highest bidder the motor vehicle listed on October 25, 2022 at WCCH, 316 Fayetteville Street, Third Floor, at 1:30 p.m. You are required to make a defense to such pleading before such date and time.

This the 15th day of September, 2022.

Karl Neal
c/o PO Box 46882
Raleigh, NC 27620
8045 Chapel Hill Road
Cary, NC 27513
9/15,22,29/22

NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

In The General Court Of Justice District Court Division—Small Claims

File No. 22 CV 011315 COMPLAINT TO ENFORCE POSSESSORY LIEN ON MOTOR VEHICLE

Little John's Towing & Recovery LLC
7108 Poole Road
Raleigh, NC 27610
c/o PO Box 46882
vs.

Unknown Owner,
TO: Unknown Owner

TAKE NOTICE the petitioner has filed with the clerk a petition in proper form indicating that the petitioner has a valid lien against a 2021 PJ Trailer, ID No. 3CVCE2229M2617996 and that the petitioner shall have the right to sell to the highest bidder the motor vehicle listed on October 25, 2022 at WCCH, 316 Fayetteville Street, Third Floor, at 1:30 p.m. You are required to make a defense to such pleading before such date and time.

This the 15th day of September, 2022.

John Lanier
c/o PO Box 46882
Raleigh, NC 27620
7108 Poole Road
Raleigh, NC 27610
9/15,22,29/22

NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

In The General Court Of Justice

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 **Sam's Branch Water Reclamation Facility** project for the **Town of Clayton** which bids **October 4, 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 * Gannett Fleming, Inc.; One Glenwood Avenue, Suite 900; Raleigh, NC 27603 * ConstructConnect website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, demolition, asphalt paving, earthwork, erosion control, trenching, curb and gutter, linework, seeding, sodding, landscaping, masonry, roofing, HVAC, thermal insulation, flatwork, CIPC, concrete forms, resteel, grout, structural steel, steel deck, miscellaneous metals, waterproofing, sheet metal flashing, joint sealants, door hardware, metal doors, wood doors, overhead coiling doors, glazing, louvers, gypsum board assemblies, tiling, acoustical ceilings, flooring, painting and coating, signage, plumbing, electrical, communications, fire detection and alarms, process piping, and cranes and hoists. Please contact **Tyler Sutton** (tsutton@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.

NOTICE OF COPYRIGHT PROTECTION

This is a constructive notice of copyright protection for trade-name/trademark DONTÉZ LAMONT SIMUEL® as well as any and all derivatives and variations in the spelling of said trade-name/trade-mark Common-Law Copyright ©1975 by Dontez Simuel-EL® Trustee for Dontez Simuel-EL Revocable Living Trust. Said common-law trade-name/trade-mark DONTÉZ LAMONT SIMUEL® may neither be used, nor reproduced, neither in whole, nor in part, nor in any manner whatsoever, without the prior, express, written consent and acknowledgement of Dontez Simuel-EL® Trustee for Dontez Simuel-EL Revocable Living Trust as signified by the red-ink signature of Dontez Simuel-EL® Trustee hereinafter Secured Party. With the intent of being contractually bound any juristic person, as well as the agent of said juristic person, consents and agrees by this Copyright Notice that neither said juristic person, nor the agent of said juristic person, shall display, nor otherwise use in any manner, the common-law trade-name/trade-mark DONTÉZ LAMONT SIMUEL®, nor the common-law copyright described herein, nor any derivatives of, nor any variations in the spelling of DONTÉZ LAMONT SIMUEL® without the prior, express written consent and acknowledgement of Secured Party, as signified by Secured Party signature in red-ink. Secured Party neither grants, nor implies, nor otherwise gives consent for any unauthorized use of DONTÉZ LAMONT SIMUEL®, and all such unauthorized use is strictly prohibited, Secured Party is not now, nor has Secured Party ever been an accommodation party, nor surety for the purported debtor i.e. DONTÉZ LAMONT SIMUEL®, nor for any derivative of, nor for any variation in the spelling of said name, nor for any juristic person and is so-indemnified and held harmless by Debtor i.e. "DONTÉZ LAMONT SIMUEL" in Hold Harmless and Indemnity Agreement dated Eleven Day of the Fifth Month in the Year Two Thousand Two Hundred and Twenty-two against any and all claims, legal actions, orders, actions, warrants, judgments, demand, liabilities, losses, dispositions, summons, lawsuit, costs, fine, liens, levies, penalties, damages, interests, and expenses whatsoever, both absolute and contingent, as are due and might become due existing and as might hereinafter arise, and as might be suffered by imposed on, and incurred by Debtor for any and all reason, purpose, and cause whatsoever. Self Executing/Self Agreement in Event of Unauthorized Use: By this Copyright Notice both the juristic person and the agent of said juristic person, hereinafter jointly and severally "User" consent and agree that any use of DONTÉZ LAMONT SIMUEL® other than authorized use as set forth above constitutes unauthorized use, counterfeiting of Secured Party common-law copyright property, contractually binds User, renders this Copyright Notice a Security Agreement wherein User is debtor and Dontez Simuel-EL® Trustee is Secured Party and signifies that User 1) grants Secured Party a security interest in all of User's assets, land, and personal property and all of User's interest in assets, lands, and personal property in the sum certain amount 500,000.00 per each and occurrence of use of the common-law copyrighted trade-name/trade-mark DONTÉZ LAMONT SIMUEL®, as well as for each and every occurrence of use of any derivatives of, and variations in the spelling of DONTÉZ LAMONT SIMUEL® plus costs, plus triple damages; 2) authenticates this Security Agreement wherein User is debtor and Dontez Simuel-EL® Trustee is Secured Party, and wherein User pledges all of User's assets, land, consumer goods, farm products, inventory, equipment, money, investment property, commercial tort claim, letters of credit, letter of credit rights, chattel paper instruments, deposit accounts, account, documents and general intangibles, and all User's interest in all such foregoing property, now owned and hereinafter acquired, now existing and hereinafter arising, and wherever located, as collateral for securing User's contractual obligation in favor of Secured Party for User's unauthorized use of Secured Party's common-law-copyright property; 3) consents and agrees with Secured Party's filing of a UCC Financial Statement in the UCC filing office as well as in any county recorder's office, wherein User is a debtor and Dontez Simuel-EL® Trustee is Secured Party; 4) consent and agrees that said UCC Financial Statement described above in paragraph (3) is a continuing financial statement, and further consents and agrees with Secured Party's filing of any continuation statement necessary for maintaining Secured Party perfected security interest in all of User's property and interest in property pledged as collateral in this Security Agreement and described above in paragraph "(2)", until User's contractual obligation therefore incurred has been fully satisfied (5) consents and agrees with the Secured Party filing of the UCC Financial Statement, as described above and paragraphs "(3)" and "(4)" as well as the filing of any Security Agreement as described above in paragraph "(2)", in the UCC filing office, as well as in any county recorder's office (6) consents and agrees that any and all such filings described in paragraphs "4" and "5" above are not, and may not be considered bogus and that User will not claim that any such filing is bogus; (7) waives all defenses; and (8) appoints Secured Party as Authorized Representatives for user, effective upon User default re User's contractual obligations in favor of Secured Party as set forth below under "Payment Terms" and "Default Terms" granting Secured Party full authorization and power for engaging in any and all actions on behalf of User's including, but not limited by, authentication of a record on behalf of User; as Secured Party, in Secured Party's sole discretion, deems appropriate, and User further consents and agrees that this appointment of Secured Party as Authorized Representative for User's, effective upon User's default, is irrevocable and coupled with a security interest. User further consents and agrees with all of the following additional terms of Self-Executing Contract Security Agreement in Event of Unauthorized Use: Payment Terms: In accordance with fees for unauthorized use of DONTÉZ LAMONT SIMUEL® as set forth above, User hereby consents and agrees that users shall pay Secured Party all unauthorized-use fees in full within ten (10) days of the date User is sent Secured Party "invoice" itemizing said fees. Default Terms: In event of non-payment in full of unauthorized-use fees by User within (10) days of date invoice is sent, User shall be deemed in default and: (a) all of User's property and property pledged as collateral by User, as set forth in above in paragraph "(2)" immediately becomes, i.e. is property of Secured Party (b) Secured Party is appointed User's Authorized Representative as set forth above in paragraph "(8)" and (c) User consent and agrees that Secured Party may take possession of, as well as otherwise dispose of in any manner that Secured Party, in Secured Party's sole discretion, deems appropriate, including but not limited to, sale at auction, at any time following User's default, and without further notice, any and all of User's property and interest, described above paragraph "(2)", formerly pledged as collateral by User's, now property of Secured Party in respect of this "Self-Executing Contract/Security Agreement in Event of Unauthorized Use," that Secured Party again in Secured Party's sole discretion deem appropriate. Terms for Curing Default: Upon event of default as set forth above under "Default Terms" irrespective of any and all of User's former property and interest in property, described above in paragraph "(2)", in the possession of, as well as dispose of by Secured Party, as authorized above under "Default Terms": User may cure User's default only re the remainder of User's said former property and interest property, formerly pledged as collateral that is neither in the possession of, nor otherwise dispose of by, Secured Party within (20) days of date of User's Invoice default only by payment in full. Terms of Strict Foreclosure. User's non-payment in full of all unauthorized-use fees itemized in invoice within said twenty (20) day period for curing default as set forth above under "Terms for Curing Default" authorizes Secured Party immediate non-judicial strict foreclosure on any and all remaining former property and interest in property, formerly pledge as collateral by, User, now property of Secured Party which is not a possession of, nor otherwise disposed of by Secured Party upon expiration of said twenty (20) day default curing period. Ownership subject to common-law copyright and UCC Financial Statement and Security Agreement filed with the UCC filing office. Record Owner: Dontez Simuel-EL® Trustee Autograph Common-law Copyright 1975. Unauthorized use of "Dontez Simuel-EL" Trustee incurs same unauthorized-use fees as those associated with DONTÉZ LAMONT SIMUEL®, as set forth in paragraph "(1)" under Self-executing Contract/Security Agreement in Event of Unauthorized Use."

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Town of Farmville
P.O. Box 86
Farmville, NC 27828

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of 2021 Sanitary Sewer Improvements Contract No. 5—Moore Street Sanitary Sewer Replacement will be received by the ENGINEER at the Farmville Town Hall, 3672 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828 until 2:00 PM, October 25, 2022, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

Farmville Town Hall, 3672 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828

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 \$105.00 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.

A preBid conference will be held at 10:00 AM on October 13, 2022 in the Farmville Town Hall, 3672 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828. Prospective BIDDERS are encouraged to attend this prebid conference as part of their good faith efforts.

September 22, 2022

David Hodgkins
Town Manager
Town of Farmville

SPECIAL NOTICE

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RALEIGH, NC

NCDOT MULTIMODAL CONNECTED VEHICLE PILOT REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is requesting experienced contractors interested in providing turnkey solution for the Multimodal Connected Vehicle Pilot (MMCVP). The turnkey solution will include upgrading existing infrastructure to support connected vehicle technology, supplying connected vehicle applications including pedestrian and transit signal priority applications, as well as installing the necessary backbone to collect data that will be used to evaluate the connected vehicle technology.

Interested parties should send a request, **by e-mail only**, to rfq_package_request@ncdot.gov for a formal package detailing the requirements for submitting a Statement of Qualifications. The following contact information must be included in the e-mail request: company name, physical address, city, state, zip code, contact person, phone number and current e-mail address. The Statements of Qualifications must be submitted, **by e-mail only**, to db_soq_submittal@ncdot.gov by **4:00 p.m. on October 13, 2022**.

All available Project information is on the NCDOT Design-Build link of the website at www.ncdot.gov/ under "Business". Project information, including each project's anticipated scope, is continually being added, so it is advisable to monitor this website for the most up to date information.

Technical questions related to the RFQ package, or other project related questions, should be sent via email to designbuild@ncdot.gov. For tracking purposes, questions will **only** be answered through email requests.

When making requests by email, it is advisable to request a return receipt for your records.

BANK OF AMERICA 

Believing is the first step

We're empowering entrepreneurs
to take the next one

In the last decade, more than 50% of all new businesses created were diverse-owned.* It's why Bank of America has taken an innovative, industry-leading approach to help fuel growth by supporting mission-focused equity funds, Community Development Financial Institutions and Minority Depository Institutions, including Carolina Small Business Development Fund, Self-Help and E²JDJ.

These partners help women entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs of color establish and grow their businesses, create jobs and improve financial stability in local communities across the country.



We know that it takes more than a great idea to start and keep a business running. My teammates and I in the Triangle want to make sure every big believer has the opportunity to achieve and reach their goals.

Kari

Kari Stoltz
President, Bank of America Triangle

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Learn more at bankofamerica.com/thetriangle