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3 Proposals Congress Can Pass To Fulfill Biden's Promises

By Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
U.S. Representative, 12th District

The 117th Congress has unfinished business for Black America.

In 2020, President Biden ran and won on a platform that included advancing the economic mobility of African-Americans and closing racial wealth and income gaps; making far-reaching investments in ending health disparities by race; and tackling racial inequity in our education system.

We can make big, bipartisan progress on these issues before the end of Congress, but it's up to us to act.

First, we can help close both the racial and gender pay gaps by increasing the minimum wage.

Amid a pandemic, inflation, a housing crisis, and economic stress from every angle, the American people can't survive on \$7.25 an hour. It is impossible to pay rent and feed a family when you're only making \$1,250 a month. That's not far off from the average monthly rent for an apartment in my home of Charlotte, and it's well below the poverty line in every state.

A Republican House won't raise the wage, so we shouldn't let perfect be the enemy of good. We should raise the minimum wage while we still can.

Next, we have a real opportunity



ty to address the Black maternal health crisis in this year's end-of-year legislative package.

In the United States, Black women die in childbirth at a rate 3 to 4 times greater than non-Hispanic white women. Thousands of women experience "maternal near-misses" due to complications arising from pregnancy, including women like Beyoncé and Serena Williams.

This is compounded by our country's tragically high maternal and infant mortality rates, which are worse than those of almost every other wealthy democracy.

Despite their transformative potential, the Momnibus programs cost less than .05 percent of the federal budget to implement. President Biden has already signed one of our bipartisan Momnibus bills into law, and

most of the relevant language was already included in the Build Back Better package that stalled in the Senate. The Momnibus is incredibly popular, with support from 72 percent of registered voters in a recent poll.

As my co-chair and co-founder of the Black Maternal Health Caucus, Rep. Lauren Underwood (D-Ill.), said: "Every day that goes by without

[the Momnibus] passage is a disservice to millions of mothers and families."

I agree. Our mamas can't wait. Finally, we can tackle historic underfunding and neglect in higher education by passing the IGNITE HBCU, TCU, and MSI Excellence Act.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) produce half of the Black lawyers and Black public-school teachers in the U.S. HBCUs have always been a ladder to the middle class for Black America despite decades of underfunding, sometimes in violation of federal law.

However, HBCUs have a deferred maintenance backlog of \$26 billion, hindering their ability to recruit top students and faculty and provide the best possible education to their students. This year, they've had to struggle with scores of bomb threats, mass shootings, and the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The IGNITE Act would create a federal grant program for infrastructure at HBCUs, tribal colleges and universities (TCUs), and other minority serving institutions (MSIs) including Hispanic serving institutions (HSIs) and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs). The grants can be used to improve infrastructure for

these schools, including maintenance of historic buildings, new technology and classrooms, or improved security for students and staff.

The IGNITE Act is supported by the Congressional Tri-Caucus, composed of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Congressional Black Caucus, and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. Our legislation is co-sponsored by 200 Democrats and 20 Republicans, and the Senate companion of the bill also has bipartisan support. In fact, the legislation builds on our FUTURE Act legislation, which President Trump signed into law.

Unfortunately, the most recent major funding package for HBCUs and MSIs—a proposed \$3 billion—was also part of the stalled Build Back Better bill. This is our last, best chance to pass the IGNITE Act and fulfill our promises to the American people.

These three proposals will help all Americans, but they specifically make good on what the Biden administration and Congressional Democrats have promised to Black America. We have a real chance to get one or more of these bills done before the new Congress. We have no one to blame but ourselves if we miss this opportunity. Alma S. Adams, Ph.D., represents North Carolina's 12th District.

A&T, Partners Provide No-Cost Training

GREENSBORO—North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (N.C. A&T) and Alamance Community College (ACC) have kicked off the first Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machining training of its kind in North Carolina. America's Cutting Edge (ACE), a U.S. Department of Defense program designed to reestablish American leadership in the machine tool industry, provides online and in-person training – all at no cost.

"Industry demand for machine tool operators, engineers, designers, and entrepreneurs far outpaces our manufacturing workforce supply in the U.S.," said Dr. Aixi Zhou, Chair and Professor in the Department of Applied Engineering Technology at N.C. A&T. "At North Carolina A&T, we are leveraging this opportunity with America's Cutting Edge to better serve the Pied-



mont Triad region."

The ACE program is comprised of two parts. The first is an online requirement that covers an introduction to CNC and 3D modeling using Fusion 360 and virtual machining applica-

tions. Upon completion, students become qualified to advance to a week-long, hands-on lab training "bootcamp." Bootcamps provide opportunities for eligible students to learn in a high-intensity environment through hands-on,

in-person training.

Working with education partner N.C. A&T as an ACE regional machine tools innovation and workforce development hub, ACC has plans to make its new CNC program a model for the state.

"The ACE program asked us to be part of their extended team and we were the first community college in North Carolina to accept the invitation and be approved," said James Adkins, Department Head of ACC's Computer Integrated Machining (CIM) program. "CIM is a precision machining operation where students learn life skills that allow them to work anywhere in the world. This is especially true for female students who are in high demand in the industry."

ACE also hopes to attract an-



Hundreds of parents, family and friends attended the one hundred fortieth commencement exercises on the campus of NCCU to watch their favorite student receive his/her undergrad degree. Brandon McEachern, NCCU Class of '05 and CEO of Think Broccoli LLC (DSC_3737 & 3738) was the featured speaker. *Mathias Bishop Photo*

Staffing Shortages At N. Carolina Juvenile Detention Centers Are Hitting Crisis Levels

ByKelan Lyons
NC Policy Watch

There are so many vacant positions in North Carolina's juvenile detention centers that officials are using the money that would pay the salaries of new employees as an incentive to get existing staffers to report to their shifts.

"If you show up to work today, you get a bonus," said William Lassiter, the deputy secretary of juvenile justice. "The reality is that when you show up and you're the only one working on a unit, it's not encouraging to come back the next day."

The bonus supplements the paltry \$35,400 starting salary at the detention centers. In addition to the "show up bonus," Lassiter said that for the past two months officials have been offering retention bonuses and \$3,000 signing bonuses for new hires. It appears to be working.

"Last month was the first time that we actually hired more people than we left," Lassiter told the members of the Juvenile Jurisdiction Advisory Committee last Friday.

There is a 38% vacancy rate for direct care facility staff — the employees who work with troubled young people every day, counseling, supporting and supervising them. Last Friday, Lassiter said, juvenile detention centers were at 102% capacity, leaving them badly overcrowded and understaffed.

"That's not tenable, and it's not sustainable," Lassiter said, adding that staff is spread so thin that even he has picked up shifts at the juvenile detention centers.



"At the same time, I have law enforcement across the state that are yelling at me saying you're not detaining enough kids," he said.

The staffing shortage is happening in tandem with an increase in the number of children held in the detention centers, an expected consequence of North Carolina raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction and putting 16- and 17-year-olds in the juvenile, rather than adult, justice system, depending on the crime they're charged with.

Kimberly Quintus, director of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention analysis, research and external affairs told the committee there's been a

133% increase in the number of children in the detention centers since Raise the Age went into effect. There were 132 kids, on average, in the centers in November 2019, before Raise the Age; there were 307 children in the centers, on average, in November 2022, three years into Raise the Age.

That makes it even more important that the state hire employees to work at the juvenile detention centers, Lassiter said — and give them incentives to not quit and find work elsewhere.

Pay is central to retaining and recruiting detention center staff, Lassiter told the committee. He and others encouraged lawmakers last legislative session to

institute a "step pay plan," a salary structure that allows for pay raises based on tenure or job performance. The idea, Lassiter explained, is to telegraph to prospective workers that they are not going to be stuck at the same level of pay for their whole career.

"I have people that are working with me in our facilities that have worked with us for 25, 30 years that are still making \$37- or \$38,000," Lassiter said.

Adult corrections and probation officers were put on a step salary plan two years ago, giving them a reason to stick around so they get an increase in pay.

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



AG TO WEIGH CHARGES IN MEADOWS VOTER FRAUD CASE
 (AP)—The North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation said it has submitted to state prosecutors the findings of its voter fraud probe into Mark Meadows, a former White House chief of staff to President Donald Trump, who was simultaneously registered to vote in North Carolina and two other states earlier this year.

The State Bureau of Investigation announced Tuesday that it has turned over the case file detailing its investigation into Meadows' North Carolina voter registration and listed residence to Attorney General Josh Stein's office. Prosecutors with the attorney general's office will determine whether criminal charges are appropriate, the bureau said in a statement.

Meadows, a former Republican North Carolina congressman, was removed from the state's voter rolls in April after Stein's office asked the bureau to examine his voter registration records. He had listed a mobile home Scaly Mountain that he never owned as his physical address weeks before casting an absentee by-mail ballot in the state for the 2020 presidential election. Trump won the Southern swing state that year by just over 1 percentage point.

A representative for Meadows did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Public records indicate Meadows registered to vote in Alexandria, Va., in 2021, a year after he registered in North Carolina and just weeks before Virginia's pivotal gubernatorial election in which Gov. Glenn Youngkin became the first Republican to win statewide office in a dozen years.

An outspoken proponent of Trump's baseless claims that the 2020 presidential election was stolen from him, Meadows also registered to vote in South Carolina in March 2022 after he and his wife purchased a \$1.6 million home on Lake Keowee, according to records for the address listed on their South Carolina voter registration forms.

The Trump ally began arousing public suspicion of widespread voter fraud leading up to the 2020 general election as the polls showed Trump trailing President Joe Biden. He repeated those unfounded claims throughout the election cycle and in the aftermath of the race as Trump insisted the election was rife with fraud.

No-Cost Training — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

other traditionally underserved community in manufacturing, while connecting with industry. "As the country's largest historically black university (HBCU) and leading producer of African American engineers, North Carolina A&T is uniquely positioned to increase diversity in manufacturing, particularly machining," said Dr. Zhou. "The Piedmont Triad region plays an important role in some niche manufacturing industries, such as aerospace, automotive, bio-manufacturing, and furniture."

When asked about her career plans, bootcamp participant Anaya Maxwell answered definitively, "THIS, exactly this. Today was my first experience working on a CNC machine, but last summer I took a summer camp in

3D printing and loved that too." From Houston, Texas, Anaya is a sophomore at N.C. A&T pursuing a degree in Applied Engineering Technology. "I'd like to own my own business that combines additive and subtractive and work with other black women, but I don't know where I'm going with that yet."

ACE is supported by the defense department's Industrial

Base Analysis and Sustainment (IBAS) Program. ACE brings together the scientific expertise of Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), advanced training tools and techniques developed by University of Tennessee, Knoxville Professor Tony Schmitz and the workforce development leadership of the Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation® (IACMI).



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STAFFING

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Lassiter said there was money set aside for juvenile justice employees to get a step salary plan, too, but when the Division of Adult Correction was created, all that funding went with it.

"I think this was done unintentionally. That was what I was told by legislative members, because that was done at the last minute," Lassiter said. "That split of having Adult Correction create a separate department was not in the original budget bill, it was in the last reiteration that was done behind closed doors."

Lassiter said his organization tried to get the language fixed in the last session, but legislators ultimately failed to approve it before the end of the short session.

That inaction led to Lassiter's big ask of the Juvenile Jurisdiction Advisory Committee: recommend the state institute a step pay plan for the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. He estimated it would cost North Carolina \$12.5 million.

"If Raise the Age is ultimately going to work in the state of North Carolina, it takes resources, and the number one resource is people," Lassiter said. "People are what change kids' lives."

Members unanimously approved the motion, leaving the salary increase in the hands of the legislature next session.

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Business & Finance

155,000 Of The 1 Million Goal Helped

PRNewswire—Operation HOPE, the nation's leading non-profit dedicated to financial empowerment for underserved communities, Tuesday announced that its groundbreaking 1 Million Black Business (1MBB) initiative has supported more than 155,000 unique businesses to date through its HOPE Inside network and 1MBB partners. According to the 1MBB 2022 Impact Report, which will be released in Q1 2023, this accounts for approximately 5% of all Black-owned businesses in the U.S.

Launched in October 2020, Operation HOPE and lead partner Shopify established 1MBB to help create and support up to one million new Black-owned businesses by 2030. Shopify committed resources to the initiative valued at approximately \$130 million. In addition, Operation HOPE has signed a coalition of more than 60 other corporate, governmental and private partners that have committed to support the effort. This includes the U.S. Small Business Administration, Truist, First Horizon, Wells Fargo, the NFL, MasterCard, Comcast, iHeart Radio, Aprio, Clark Atlanta University, New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, Reid AME Community Development Corporation, Fraternities Kappa Alpha Psi, Phi Beta Sigma and municipality partners including the cities of Birmingham, Memphis, Jackson, St. Louis, Los Angeles, Kansas City, Charlotte, Salisbury and Montgomery, among others.

The no-cost program helps Black entrepreneurs acquire the knowledge, skills and access to resources required to start,

scale and grow their businesses. Through 1MBB, Black business owners have the opportunity to sign up for Operation HOPE's award-winning model of community uplift, financial literacy and education - HOPE Inside - and upon graduation, Shopify has committed to providing aspiring Black entrepreneurs education, programming and resources to help launch or expand their businesses. Other 1MBB partners have also committed to providing in-kind services and

the capital from my first loan to acquire the things I needed to continue to grow my business," said Jazmin Richards, Founder & CEO, BlkSunflower.com.

"Operation HOPE and 1MBB also provided me with amazing coaches and resources that help set BlkSunflower up for success. With the resources and coaching, especially access to funding, and business development tools, I now know that I am supported and the sky is the limit."

To date, 1MBB has achieved

participants via virtual webinars and in-person events.

Expanded national efforts to recruit new small business owners through various business trade groups, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), as well as members of the 'Divine 9' National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC).

Research from the latest HOPE Minority Small Business Index reveals that Black entrepreneurs remain optimistic despite recent inflation, hikes in interest rates, and supply chain disruptions. Through the 1MBB initiative, removing barriers to business success such as mentorship, risk tolerance, lack of technological innovation, digital strategies and limited access to capital can help improve outcomes.

About 1MBB Launched in October 2020 with founding partner Shopify, 1MBB aims to remove traditional hurdles to Black entrepreneurship and encourage more aspiring Black business owners to start - and scale - by providing them with the tools, resources, and education needed to succeed. To level the playing field, 1MBB will focus on critical tools for business growth such as technology and resources, educational programs, and the opportunity to access capital. Through this program, Black business owners can sign up for Operation HOPE's award-winning model of community uplift, financial literacy and education, with access to tailored tools and resources upon graduation. To learn more about 1MBB or to get your business started, visit HOPE1mbb.org.



support for these business owners.

"I have consistently espoused that 'silver rights' is the 'civil rights' issue of this generation. Operation HOPE's bold 1MBB initiative is equipping entrepreneurs with what they need to create and sustain a viable business," said John Hope Bryant, Founder, Chairman and CEO of Operation HOPE. "1MBB offers a real, actionable approach to tackling financial disparities and building stronger communities. The data shows that we are having a true impact and empowering Black businesses."

"Operation HOPE, 1MBB, and Shopify gave me the ability to build and launch a beautiful, easy-to-manage website with no prior experience along with

the following results:

Onboarded more than 30,000 hours of professional services including accounting, legal, e-commerce strategy and marketing advice services from 1MBB partners to support Black business owners.

Established a strategic alliance with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), which includes the support of municipal partners and civic and community leaders in more than 200 U.S. cities, to help raise awareness of tools and resources available to underserved communities through the SBA.

Activated nearly 100 certified financial wellness and small business coaches to provide one-on-one sessions to source, train, certify and support program

FUNDraising Good Times



By Mel & Pearl Shaw
Saad & Shaw

RUBY BRIGHT: A NATIONAL BEACON OF LIGHT

Leadership is pivotal to nonprofit success, and Ruby Bright exemplifies the best of inclusive leadership—a person focused on her goals, not public acclaim. As the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis, Bright is a nationally recognized leader who heads a transformational women-powered organization that is fighting poverty and changing lives for generations of women and their children. We salute Bright as she prepares to retire after 22 years of leading WFGM. Today WFGM plays a major role as a backbone organization, investing \$1.5 million in 34 organizations in 2022 alone. Ruby is always at the table for the community and for major stakeholders. She is a visionary who focuses on team building—believing that the power of "we" is so much stronger than the power of "me." She has brought together private funders to leverage public dollars and change the lives of Memphis women, and the City itself.

Bright demonstrates the utmost skill in bringing out the best in others, encouraging people to share their specific talents as part of a collective move towards justice. She builds partnerships and collaborations at every turn and encourages others to do the same. Ruby is excellent at building and sustaining relationships across racial, gender, and class lines, a must-have skill if one is to advance social change in a southern American city. She never forgets her past, her roots, and who she is as a powerful, spiritual person. She is humble and accessible; a mother, wife, grandmother, and more. Her warmth and sensitivity are something you can feel.

Ruby is an intuitive, a great judge of people, a risk taker, a fighter, and a woman who is in tune with the community. She is politically astute, and everything she does is first class. She is deeply connected to her board, working closely with a cross section of women leaders to advance the lives of women and their children. Together they have created a strong culture of philanthropy that moves the foundation forward.

If you want a prototype for a nonprofit leader, you need to see Ruby in action. On an annual basis she creates a sense of urgency, excitement, engagement, and a fresh appeal. She is in the 1 percent club—one of the best nonprofit leaders. Bright is well-known and respected locally and nationally. She centers the lived experience of poor women and girls as the focus of her work. As a mentor she brings out the best in the next generation, opening the door for others. She brings people of diverse backgrounds to the table and keeps them at the table over time and through challenging conversations and decisions. She is an exemplar who places women and girls first and is always aware that as a Black woman from Mississippi hers is a nontraditional voice, an historically silenced voice, and a voice - that when combined with others—can call forth action that acknowledges the essential human dignity of every woman, man, and child.

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Blacks Still Face Homeownership Challenges

By Ronda Lee

yahoofinance

For Mel Ligon and his wife, remnants of the 2008 housing crisis kept them from realizing major savings from refinancing their Chicago home during the pandemic refi boom.

They had a deferred principal placed on their home during the Great Recession when they used a government program to refinance after their household income dropped by half. About a decade later, that prevented them from benefiting from the historically low mortgage rates. "Even when homes started to recover, we have this \$88,000 deferred principal, which in essence would be our equity in the future that we wouldn't have access to until 2050," Ligon, an independent real estate broker, said.

Unfortunately, their story isn't unique and instead illustrates how Black homeownership is often caught up in the institutional failures of the past and the continued transgressions today such as appraisal bias, mortgage discrimination, and even redlining.

And as housing affordability quickly erodes with rapidly higher mortgage rates and another potential recession looming on the horizon, the pursuit of the American Dream again becomes harder for many Blacks to achieve and, with it, the chance to build intergenerational wealth.

"The damaging impacts of high interest rates and inflation are already clear and disproportionately harmful to Black households," according to the 2022 State of Housing in Black America (SHIBA) report. "Because higher mortgage interest rates decrease home purchase affordability, Blacks, relative to Whites, will be further disadvantaged in their homeownership search."

While the homeownership obstacles Blacks face trace back to the founding of the country, the largest recent setback was the Great Recession.

Black homeownership was 48% before it was decimated by the 2008 foreclosure crisis characterized by irresponsible — and in some cases, predatory — lending that disproportionately affected communities of color.

"In the lead up to the Great Recession, white families with annual incomes of less than \$30,000 were less likely, on average, to get subprime mortgages compared with Black families with incomes of more than \$200,000," according to a report by the Aspen Institute's Financial Security Program (Aspen FSP).

In the years following the foreclosure crisis, Black homeownership fell and eventu-



ally hit a 50-year low in 2019 at 40.6% — lower than the rate in 1968 — and hasn't returned to pre-Great Recession levels. At the same time, the white homeownership rate has exceeded pre-recession levels, according to the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB).

"It was 10 years before Black neighborhoods really started to see the turn," Ligon said. "Our neighborhoods take a long time to recover."

Then the pandemic hit, bringing its own disproportionate economic pain and job loss to the Black community.

That kept many from taking advantage of historically low rates in the first year of the pandemic. For instance, Black homeowners received only 3.7% of the \$5.3 billion in savings from pandemic refinances through October 2020, according to a Federal Reserve Bank of Boston study.

Black buyers similarly faced obstacles during the pandemic.

"Although mortgage rates reached all-time lows in 2021, not everybody was able to benefit from these low rates. During 2019 and 2021, the white homeownership rate rose by nearly 3 percentage points, while the homeownership rate for Black Americans rose by 2 percentage points," Nadia Evangelou, senior economist and director of forecasting at the National Association of Realtors (NAR), said in a statement.

"With 7% mortgage rates, only 15% of Black households can currently afford to buy

the typical home compared to 30% of white households. Thus, Black families may fall further behind in homeownership compared to their white counterparts."

Already, many Black buyers have been pushed out of the market. Only 3% of homebuyers in 2022 were Black, according to data from the National Association of Realtors, half the share from 2021.

Aside from the economic obstacles that disproportionately affected Black owners and buyers, the community also faces bias in many aspects of the home-buying or refinancing process.

For instance, mortgage fairness for Black homebuyers has remained relatively static for the past 30 years, holding steady at 78.5% since 1990, according to the 2022 State of U.S. Mortgage Fairness (Fairness) report.

However, in 2021 mortgage fairness increased for Black mortgage applicants from 80.4% in 2020 to 84.4%, but the bump "reflects anomalous financial conditions during the COVID pandemic," the report found.

And while the number of mortgage loan applications rose in 2021 for Black homebuyers, their loan denial rate of 15% far exceeded the 6% denial rate for white applicants, the SHIBA report found.

As interest rates reached 5% to 6%, mortgage fairness fell to almost 2008 housing crisis levels and got worse in areas with

the highest concentration of Black homebuyers, the Fairness report found.

"Five states — Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Arkansas, and Alabama — yield persistently poor loan application outcomes no matter the macro environment...even in boom times," the report found.

Even well-qualified minority homebuyers suffer discrimination, according to a 2012 HUD study.

Take, for example, the experience of former NFL player and actor, Devalle Ellis and his wife Khadeen Ellis. The couple began looking for a luxury home in Georgia in 2020. Even with pre-approval from the bank, they encountered problems during underwriting.

"We originally wanted to put down 10%, but they said we had to put down 20%," Devalle Ellis said. "We agreed to put down 20% and they said we needed more than 20% after checking my credit score. My credit score is in the mid-700s!"

Hiring a CPA came in handy when the underwriters required three months of W-2s, even though Devalle isn't an employee and files a K-1 as an entertainer and business owner.

"It kills me that you work so hard to do everything the right way, only for people to find reasons not to allow you to have your dream. What if we weren't in the position financially to pay more than 25% for a down payment?" Devalle Ellis asked. "I know the vast majority of people in America live close to or below the poverty line, but it makes you realize how difficult it is for people who look like Khadeen and I to get property. It's completely unfair because property is the way you build legacies."

Instead of making it harder to qualify, some banks have simply stopped offering mortgage services to communities of color, known as modern day redlining.

Since 2021, the Department of Justice's Combating Redlining Initiative announced four redlining cases and settlements against Lakeland Bank, Trident Bank, Trustmark National Bank, and Cadence Bank that adversely impacted Black and Hispanic homebuyers.

"Ending redlining is a critical step in our work to close the widening gaps in wealth between communities of color and others," Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division said in a press release. "[These] settlements demonstrate our firm commitment to combating modern day redlining and holding banks and other lenders accountable when they deny people of color equal access to lending opportunities."

Durham Company's \$40M Investment Will Create 200 New Jobs In Life Sciences

Durham, N.C. — Durham expands its life sciences economy with North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper's announcement on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, that Catalent, a leading global development and manufacturing partner to the pharmaceutical, biopharmaceutical, and consumer health industries, will create more than 200 new jobs in Durham County over the next five years. The company will invest up to \$40 million to expand its analytical development and testing business in Durham County.

"This has been a banner year for economic development across the state," said Governor Cooper. "Our global reputation for manufacturing and biotechnology has been a major contributor to welcoming expansions from companies like Catalent. When combined with a some of the brightest talent in the world and innovative businesses, North Carolina will continue to be a desired location for the life science sector."

Headquartered in New Jersey, Catalent is a contract development and manufacturing organization with more than 50 global sites. In Catalent's over 85-year history, the company has grown to provide more than 80 billion doses of nearly 8,000 products to its pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and consumer health customers annually. Catalent's BioAnalytics division offers comprehensive standalone analytical development and testing for different treatments including cell and gene therapies. This project will grow the company's support of large molecule development and manufacturing growth and will make a home in the Research Triangle Park.

"We are thrilled that of all the possible locations across the country, Catalent selected Durham to expand its bioanalytical services division," said Durham Board of County Commissioners Chair Brenda Howerton. "This is a fantastic example of our public and private sectors working together to create jobs. This investment will grow the tax base, promote local hiring from our great schools and colleges, and maintain Durham County as a premiere location for life sciences."

Dana Douglas Becomes 5th Circuit's 1st Black Woman

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A New Orleans-based federal magistrate judge has been confirmed by the Senate to serve on the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Dana Douglas, was confirmed Monday.

She was nominated to the appeals court by President Joe Biden in June to replace Judge James Dennis, who is retiring as an active judge to take "senior status" on the court, meaning he will have a reduced workload.

The court hears appeals from lower federal courts in Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi. The court has 16 active judges, with a 17th spot now vacant. Of 16 active judges including Douglas, 12 were appointed by Republican presidents and four by Democratic presidents. Democratic U.S. Rep. Troy Carter of New Orleans hailed what he called Douglas's "historic" appointment as the first Black woman on the New Orleans-based federal appeals court.

Louisiana Sen. Bill Cassidy, who joined fellow Republican Sen. John Kennedy in voting to confirm the Democratic president's nominee, issued a statement saying Douglas will serve "with honor and integrity."

The vote to confirm Douglas was 65-31.



Food Tech Co. Makes \$123 Million Investment In Wilson

Future Meat Technologies Inc. d/b/a Believer Meats, a cultivated meat company, will create up to 100 new jobs in Wilson County, Governor Roy Cooper announced today. The company will make an initial investment of more than \$123 million to establish its first commercial-scale food manufacturing facility in Wilson.

"We're pleased to welcome Believer Meats to North Carolina," said Governor Cooper. "This important decision to build its first U.S. commercialization operation in Wilson County validates our innovative research and development and highly skilled talent while further cementing our state as the best in the nation to

do business."

Believer Meats is a cultivated meat company pioneering the first scalable lab-grown meat production system that can feed the world. Founded in 2018 by Professor Yaakov Nahmias, Believer has been perfecting its process, technology and engineering out of its pilot plant in Rehovot, Israel, and is now prepared to scale up production as the company accelerates towards product launch in the U.S., pending regulatory review. The new facility will be in the Wilson Corporate Park.

"Believer is on a mission to ensure that future generations can enjoy the meat we know and

love today. Breaking ground on our first U.S. facility is not only a watershed moment for our company, but for the category as a whole, as it demonstrates our commitment to making cultivated meat a reality," said Nicole Johnson-Hoffman, CEO of Believer Meats. "The scale of our facility is a giant leap forward in ensuring that we can create meat that is not only delicious, sustainable, and nutritious, but also broadly accessible."

"Believer Meats will strengthen our growing innovation economy with its advanced technology," said N.C. Commerce Secretary Machel Baker Sanders. "North Carolina's leadership in agribusiness and biotechnology, combined with the largest and most diverse manufacturing workforce in the southeastern

United States, will help the company meet the future food demands of a growing global population."

Although the salaries for the new jobs will vary for the positions which include opportunities for PhDs, scientists, food production professionals, and other personnel. The average annual salary will be \$60,087, exceeding Wilson County's current average wage of \$47,863. The new jobs will create an annual payroll impact of more than \$6 million.

A performance-based grant of \$500,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help with Believer Meats' location to North Carolina. The One NC Fund provides financial assistance to local governments to help attract economic investment and to create jobs. Companies receive no

money upfront and must meet job creation and capital investment targets to qualify for payment. All One NC grants require matching participation from local governments and any award is contingent upon that condition being met.

"This is a fantastic economic development win for Wilson and the entire state," said N.C. Senator Milton F. Toby Fitch, Jr. "Believer Meats could have taken this project anywhere in the world, but they chose Wilson

County thanks to the diligent work and collaboration of our hardworking economic development professionals and local and state leaders."

"These new jobs and multi-million-dollar investment are welcomed additions to eastern North Carolina," said N.C. Representative Linda Cooper-Suggs. "Believer is at the intersection of biotechnology and agriculture, and we are confident that they will find global success here in our community."

Building Products Co. Selects Rocky Mt For \$7.5 M Expansion

Woodgrain, Inc., a building products company, will create 42 new jobs in Nash County, Governor Roy Cooper announced today. The company will invest \$7.5 million to expand its door-hanging operation in Rocky Mount.

"It's great that Rocky Mount is Woodgrain's top choice for its expansion," said Governor Cooper. "This decision is indicative of the company's positive experience with our strong communities, manufacturing economy and our world class workforce."

Family-owned and operated since 1954, Woodgrain, Inc. is a vertically integrated manufacturer of moulding, millwork, windows, doors, door jams and door frames. The company is headquartered in Idaho and has operations in Chile and the U.S. with seven locations in North Carolina, including a sawmill. This expansion will relocate Woodgrain's existing operation to a 225,000 square feet facility.

"We are excited to expand our Rocky Mount operation, while also creating more jobs that will have a positive impact on this great community," said Todd Dame, President of Woodgrain's Distribution Division. "By expanding our manufacturing capabilities, we are able to further enhance our vertical integration, which plays an essential part in delivering on our commitment of creating quality millwork products. We continue to invest in North Carolina and thank all of our highly skilled associates for helping drive Woodgrain and American manufacturing."

"From sourcing materials to supplying quality doors and framing products, Woodgrain knows the value that North Carolina brings to its operations," said N.C. Commerce Secretary Machel Baker Sanders. "With the largest manufacturing workforce in the Southeast, North Carolina is committed to providing a diverse, well-trained workforce to support global companies with their growth strategies."

The new positions include production, warehouse, delivery, sales, and administrative personnel with a combined average annual salary of \$44,464 for the positions, exceeding Nash County's overall average annual wage of \$44,377. The new jobs have the potential to create an annual payroll impact of more than \$1.8 million.

N.C. Esports Industry Grant

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Download and familiarize yourself with the program's enabling statute (S 105). A technical corrections law (HB 334) also affects the program.

Download and read the program guidelines (PDF) - revised June 3, 2022.

Complete the formal Esports Industry Grant Application. The team at our SportsNC unit will send you this application upon request.

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Search for Esports destinations for your next event here.

SportsNC is a unit of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina. For more information on the advantages of bringing your Esports event to the state, visit the SportsNC website.

You can also contact the SportsNC team directly at (919) 447-7765 or drop an email to amanda.baker@sportsnc.com

Safe Routes To School Grant

RALEIGH - North Carolina communities will soon be able to promote the importance of walking and bicycling to school, thanks to a federal grant program.

Community organizations have from today until Feb. 6 to apply for Safe Routes to School grant funding, the N.C. Department of Transportation announced.

"Communities can use the funds to develop creative programs that educate community members about safe driving, walking and biking practices near schools," said Ryan Brumfield, director of the Integrated Mobility Division, the unit of NCDOT administering the grants. "This an important way to improve child safety and promote the healthy benefits of walking and biking."

People can learn more about the Safe Routes to School grant program during an informational webinar at 2:30 p.m. Dec. 14. A Project proposals link will be available on The Carolinian's website.

Those eligible to apply for grants include local governments, regional transportation authorities and planning organizations, state agencies, school districts and schools, nonprofit organizations and tribal governments.

Proposals should be designed around a collaborative program that works to reduce the number of bicycle and pedestrian injuries and fatalities, and promotes safety through education, encouragement and evaluation.

Safe Routes to School is a Federal Highway Administration program that encourages a healthy and active lifestyle by facilitating the planning, development and implementation of projects and activities that improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution near schools.

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Health & Fitness

Breast Cancer Survivor On Changing Odds For Black Women

By Anne D'Innocenzio

AP Health Writer

NEW YORK, N.Y. (AP)—Ricki Fairley, a 11-year late-stage breast cancer survivor and advocate, is fighting hard to improve the chances for Black women to overcome breast cancer and to address the racial disparities in treatment.

Before her diagnosis in 2011, Fairley, 66, was a seasoned marketing executive with stints at such companies as Coca-Cola, Nabisco and Johnson & Johnson. Then, her diagnosis with a late-stage breast cancer subtype that quickly spread to her chest wall dramatically changed her life.

Told she had only two years

to live, Fairley turned to more aggressive treatments that left her with no evidence of disease. Fairley started to embrace breast cancer advocacy for Black women.

But then in 2020, she quit her job and co-founded a nonprofit foundation called Touch, The Black Breast Cancer Alliance to help turn the tide on Black women's survivorship after seeing a mountain of studies showing how Black women are disproportionately affected by breast cancer.

The nonprofit group collaborates with patients, survivors, advocacy organizations, and pharmaceutical companies among others to improve breast

cancer care for Black women.

In January, she started her "When We Trial" project to recruit Black women for trials. Since May, she has recruited roughly 5,000 Black women to clinical trial portals.

Fairley's work comes as Black women are twice as likely as women of other racial and ethnic groups in the U.S. to be diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer, the same subtype she had. It's harder to treat and is more likely to spread throughout the body.

Black women are about 40 percent more likely to die of overall breast cancer, according to the American Cancer Society. A big problem: Black patients made up 12 percent of new breast cancer cases in 2020, but only 3 percent of the participants in breast cancer clinical trials that led to U.S. Food and Drug Administration approvals between 2008 and 2018, according to a study published in *JAMA Oncology*, a monthly medical journal.



The Associated Press recently interviewed Fairley about why Black women are underrepresented in trials, her goals for her nonprofit and how she has been inspired by her late father Richard Fairley, a civil rights leader. The interview has been edited for clarity and length.

Q. How did you change your life after your breast cancer diagnosis?

A. I had to learn that my peace is non-negotiable. And I made a lot of changes in my life. So I di-

vorced my husband of 30 years. I quit my business partner of 10 years. I sold my big house in the suburbs, and I moved to the beach. I quit my job, and I started my own company to really work for myself because I felt like I could make more money to put my daughter through school.

Q. What do all these statistics about Black women and breast cancer show?

A. Black breast cancer is different. It's a unique disease that we have to address differently.

Q. Why aren't Black women in clinical trials?

A. Doctors don't invite them. They use a lot of their implicit bias to feel like Black women are not going to be good candidates for clinical trials. And secondly, it's a fear (by Black women) of the unknown... And they say stuff like, 'I'm going to get the sugar pill and die.' Well, there is no sugar pill in cancer research.

Q. What is your goal for Touch?

A. My lofty goal for Touch is

to make clinical trial representation commensurate with the burden of disease. And make that a mandate so if I'm testing a drug for triple negative breast cancer, it reflects the numbers of Black women that get that disease. And if I could make breast cancer go away, I would make it go away in a heartbeat. But I definitely want mortality rate parity for Black women. We deserve the science. We deserve the drugs that work on our bodies.

Q. How were you inspired by your late father?

A. My dad was an amazing civil rights leader. He stood along with Martin Luther King. He actually was one of the people that did the Ruby Bridges thing where he would drive Black kids to the White schools for their first day of school when they integrated school. But he was a powerhouse, and he taught me one really important thing: No is never the answer. And he said, 'if you can't think of how, then you're not thinking hard enough.'

The Surge In Flu Cases Brews A 'Perfect Storm' For Holiday Season

By Rachel Nania

AARP

Flu hospitalizations as of early December are at the highest level seen in a decade, public health officials say, and the majority of the 78,000 patients hospitalized so far have been 50 and older, federal data shows.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 8.7 million Americans have been sick with the flu this season and 4,500 have died from the illness — and no region of the country is being spared by the outbreak.

Nearly all U.S. states are reporting high or very high levels of flu-like illness, which includes people going to the doctor with a fever and a cough or sore throat, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky, M.D., said in a Dec. 5 media briefing. Just four states (New Hampshire, Vermont, Michigan and Alaska) are experiencing low levels.

"Flu is here," said Sandra Fryhofer, M.D., board chair of the American Medical Association and an Atlanta-based internal medicine physician. "It started early, and with COVID and RSV also circulating, it's a perfect storm for a terrible holiday season."

In fact, COVID-19 hospitalizations are climbing after a fall lull, which Walensky says is "especially worrisome as we move into the winter months when more people are assembling indoors with less ventilation." Cases of RSV — or respiratory syncytial virus, which like flu can be especially dangerous for older adults — remain high across the country, Walensky said. Even in areas where RSV is declining, "our hospital systems continue to be stretched with high numbers of patients with other respiratory illnesses," Walensky added.

Vaccines can help to blunt the impact

The best way to prevent the worst outcomes of both flu and COVID-19 is to get vaccinated, public health authorities stressed. (There is no vaccine for RSV, but scientists are working on one.)

Uptake for the flu shot, however, is behind last year's pace for some groups, including pregnant women and children, Walensky said in the briefing. CDC data shows that about a quarter (26 percent) of U.S. adults received the flu shot by the end of October; and just under half of older adults (45 percent) rolled up their sleeves.

Fryhofer says there's likely a "sense of complacency" after two "almost nonexistent" flu seasons, largely due to social distancing, masking and other pandemic precautions put in place to keep germs from spreading. "We've forgotten how bad flu can be, but this year's season is a shout-out that it can get really bad. And it's here, so people need to get vaccinated," she said.

It's recommended that adults 65 and older get what's known as a high-dose flu shot for even greater protection. There are three different options to choose from, "but if one of those is not available, don't wait. It's better to get any flu shot than no flu shot at all," Fryhofer said.

If you've already had the flu this fall, you should still get vaccinated, Fryhofer said. "Different flu strains can circulate within the same flu season, and the only thing worse than getting flu once in the season is getting it again," she said. This year's vaccine targets two strains of influenza A and two strains of influenza B and appears to be a "good match" for what's circulating, Walensky added.

When it comes to COVID-19 vaccines, just over 12 percent of eligible individuals have received the latest version of the shot that targets the most current coronavirus variants. About one-third of fully vaccinated adults age 65 and older have gone back for the updated booster, which first became available in September. Older adults, meanwhile, continue to have the highest mortality rates from COVID-19.



"If you've received your primary COVID vaccine series only, you are considered fully vaccinated but you are not considered fully protected," Walensky said. A recent CDC study found that the updated booster provides "significant additional protection" against symptomatic COVID-19. Previous research has found that adults who are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccines are much less likely to wind up in the hospital or die from the disease.

"We all have booster fatigue. But understand you could get really, really sick this year and ruin your holiday celebrations if you don't get vaccinated," Fryhofer said.

COVID-19 precautions work for other respiratory illnesses

In addition to getting vaccinated, there are a few other things you can do to protect yourself from the respiratory bugs that are blanketing the U.S. Stay home when you are not feeling well, wash your hands often, and avoid poorly ventilated spaces, health officials said.

"We also encourage you to wear a high-quality, well-fitting mask to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses, most especially for those in the 5 percent of the population currently living in counties with high COVID-19 community levels," Walensky said. (These levels take into account COVID-19 case numbers and hospitalizations.)

Walensky added that the CDC continues to recommend masking on planes, trains, buses and other forms of public transportation, "or for anyone who may be immunocompromised or at increased risk of severe disease" from a coronavirus infection.

If you do get sick and experience symptoms of COVID-19 or flu — a few common overlapping symptoms are fever, sore throat and cough — it's important to get tested so you can be treated. "It is going to be a confusing respiratory infection season, and figuring out what's making people sick is going to be a conundrum," Fryhofer said. You can test yourself for COVID-19 at home; a health care provider can perform a flu test.

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Additional \$325 Million For Small Scale Farms, In Theory

By Jason Lindsay

Staff Writer

It has been the over half a century since the United States have truly invested in small scale farmers or small scale farm systems. American's farm equipment companies have modeled their development around big agriculture and farm systems that are one hundred plus acres dominantly farming commodity crops. Farm subsidies have been issued in this country since the 1930's (Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933) and farmers of color and later small farmers of all kinds have been excluded from the beginning.

Today over 50 percent of the America's food is produced under contracts. And the only farms that have been given the opportunity to supply the demands of America's food needs and the only sector of agriculture that has been braced up by the institution of the U.S. government to meet the demands of America's food needs is big agriculture.

America's turn away from the small farm systems into what is known today as "big ag." was ultimately a turn away from nature herself. And now I say again nature has had enough. Food shortages, brought, storms, and disease are running rampant throughout industrial/corporate farms. Yep, the same farms that are given over 50 percent and in some cases like fruits and nuts, over 60 percent of the United States food supply contracts.

These initial agricultural and food system issues have transformed into environmental issues. Millions of acres of farmland throughout America is being cultivated in depleted soils. Depleted soils plus storms equals erosion on a massive scale. For



hundreds of American farmers, the creek rose and when the waters subsided a foot of topsoil has gone with it.

When the general health of the soil is depleted then the immune health of the plant will also be compromised making them more susceptible to disease. Soil degradation has played a role in food shortages around the country and even more to be seen in the near future. Along side this American farmland is shrinking dramatically due to development in rural areas.

40,000 acres of agricultural land is developed every year. Yet in the last few years numbers have looked very different. In 2021, 1.3 million acres were consumed. 13.62 million acres have

been lost to development since 2014 bringing the yearly average to 1.9 million acres per year. If that doesn't put it into perspective, then let's put it this way. 2,000 acres of agricultural land is converted everyday. Since the 90s, 31 million acres have been developed throughout America's rural areas, 175 acres per hour, 3 acres per minute. And 59 percent of these developed farmlands are bordering major cities and suburbs. These statistics show just how venerable America's food system is and we are facing forced change.

Yet, it seems that the United States government has commenced a plan to address these issues through climate change initiative of the Biden adminis-

tration. 11 percent of greenhouse gas admissions are released through the agricultural industry. The interesting part about this is that agroecological (sustainable farming that works with nature) farming has been proven to be the fastest/ most efficient way to sequester carbon from the atmosphere, but because of the country's investment in chemical farming, organic agriculture has become a nuisance to our own environment. But now, as of Monday, December 12, 2022 USDA has announced that an additional \$325 million will be issued to small scale farmers that are invested in "climate friendly farming."

Tom Vilsack, United States Agriculture Secretary, attended

the Climate Summit in Sharm el-Sherkh, Egypt back in November under the "Aim for Climate Initiative." There Vilsack committed to making major change with climate change initiatives in the United States. Vilsack announced at Tuskegee University (HBCU founded by Booker T. Washington and academic home to the great George Washington Carver) in Tuskegee, Alabama that the next stream of funding will go to underserved farmers and ranchers, beginning farmers, socially disadvantaged communities, veterans, and growers with limited financial resources.

This comes after the Biden administration has committed to reducing 50 percent of greenhouse gas admissions by 2030. With this, the USDA has been given \$3 billion as annual investment for climate friendly farming. The funds are coming from USDA CCC (United States Department of Agriculture Commodity Credit Corporation) who is funded by the United States Treasury.

In September, projects were inaugurated. The first round were large scale operations supported by ag. groups, universities, and agricultural groups. 70 projects have been assigned to fulfill this agenda. Black Farmer Associations, Native American Tribes, organizations that focus on women, Vietnamese and beginning farmers. These organizations have the goal of installing solar for farm operations, crop rotation, and reducing the applications of synthetic fertilizer. These collectives will also give technical assistance to aid the adoption of new skills and practices.

These groups will receive anywhere from \$250,000.00 to \$5 million. Urban mainly black farmers in Alabama, Louisiana,

Michigan, Mississippi, and South Carolina will receive \$4.9 million. Small and disadvantaged farmers in San Diego, California will receive 4.9 million to focus on improving soil via composting, reducing tillage, and planting trees and shrubs. 60 counties in Texas will receive 3 million to aid farmers in adopting more regenerative farm practices. Native tribes throughout 10 states will receive 4.9 million for using regenerative measures in growing barley.

Though these efforts are ok, the last round's distribution ranged from \$5 million to \$100 million (September, 2022) which went to mostly large corporations supported by agricultural groups, universities, and businesses. All of these funds are stemming from a \$2.8 billion round of funding. So, out of \$2.8 billion, \$17.7 million are going to "disenfranchised" farmers. Ok, let's call it a start.

In the face of a collapsing food system funds are finally being redirected. Yet, history calls us to ask some questions. In the past funds have been announced on a national scale to go to farmers of color, yet they never make it. Just last year \$4 billion in debt forgiveness was promised to black farmers across the country. Today those farmers still have not received their relief. Some have even been persecuted since USDA publicly announced that their debt will be forgiven.

So, "will these funds ever come," remains a question. As much as I hate to say it, Tom Vilsack announcing these funds to go to small farmers means nothing until the funds hit the ground. Whether they come or not we are responsible to secure our fragmented food system. Let's just pray the United States government for once chooses the people.

17th Annual Minority Farmers & Landowners Conference

By Tyria Mccray

Staff Writer

More than 200 farmers, landowners, prospective farmers, entrepreneurs and local leaders enjoyed two days of learning how to not only grow sustainable and prosperous farms but also attaining the proper tools to educate, outreach, and engage more farmers.

Attendees gathered at the Southeastern NC Agricultural Events Center in Lumberton eager to learn more on how to grow their businesses and profitability of their lands.

Kicking off day one of the conference at 9 a.m., the Virginia State University Farm Outreach Program held a drone demonstration on Cummings Farm which focused on using precision agriculture in planning, designing, and organizing a small farm operation.

Following this were greetings from USDA representatives speaking on the importance of technical and financial assistance programs including farm planning, farm loans, high tunnels, forest management. USDA Farm Service Chief Loan Officer, Paula Nicholls was also introduced. Nicholls not only gave an in-depth presentation on how to complete a loan application but emphasized why it is extremely advantageous to know the financial health of a farm and to learn what is expected from the borrower (farmer) and the loan servicer.

Succeeding that presentation, the Martin Family was presented with the Century Farm Award for more than 100 years of continuous Agricultural Heritage.

"This means a lot, we can pass this on to the next generation," said Larry Martin. In March of 2023, the Martin family will be celebrating 140 years on the farm.

Afterwards, Eloris D. Speight, Director of Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers, provided a policy center update. She elaborated on the four areas of focus—active research, policy development, stakeholder engagement and strategic outreach.

The 2023 priorities of the Policy Center are to advance the success of SDFR. The discussion also included process recommendations for the 2023 Farm Bill and current administration policies to address issues and concerns of SDFR.

"Our message is that without some intervention, black farmers will become extinct," said Speight.

Ajulo E. Othow, founder and CEO of "The Solar Opportunity," gave the next presentation, which was unique in its own way. She elaborated on the demand outlook for solar energy and how landowners can benefit from it.

During the latter part of the evening, Marvin Frink from Briarwood Cattle Farm, LLC shared sentiments on specific instances in his life that led him to farming. Once Frink graduated high



school, he went on to enlist in the military to provide for his family and to help serve his country. After serving for 15 years, Marvin found himself dealing with anxiety and suffering with PTSD. Those two factors introduced

him to farming.

Being out on the land daily and working with cattle helped Marvin transition from military life to civilian life. After the passing of his father, Marvin continued the dream his father had for him

of becoming a cattleman. As of today, Briarwood Cattle Farm located in Fairmont is a first generation cattle farm owned and operated by Marvin and his wife Tanisha Frink. He is continuously living out his father's wishes.

Bringing an end to day one of the conference, keynote speaker Dr. Benjamin Chavis gave a message on the importance of farming sustainability and economic development in 2023.

A native of Oxford, Chavis is a United Church of Christ ordained minister, civil rights leader and icon, author, journalist, and currently President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

During his keynote message, he shared that now more than ever, we need more Black farmers and unity amongst African-Americans.

"There are many subject matters that I could talk about but I want to stay focused on what to speak on. Farming and development. I've been involved in the civil rights movement and I have made the decision to move back to North Carolina. I'm coming back home to build a farm. To me, one of the most noble and transformative professions is to farm. I know if we don't invest in ourselves and network with ourselves, then we won't make it."

Moving onto day two of the conference with Sabrina Shaffer, N.C. Department of Agriculture, Preservations Specialist elaborated on the importance of preserving farms and forests in

North Carolina.

"N.C. is the second most threatened state for farmland loss in the United States between now and the year 2040. One point one million acres of agricultural land in the state will be converted in the next 20 years. If development increases in suburban and rural areas, North Carolina could lose as much as 1.6 million acres," said Shaffer.

As the conference was underway, owner and third-generation publisher of *The Carolinian* Adria Jervay spoke on AirBNB Temporary housing and how to create additional income through short-term rentals and curated experiences on the farm.

"98 percent of Americans do not reside on a farm, so what they are looking for is the farm experience. People want to stay in tree houses and barns. People want the experience. If you want to open up any type of tourism, make sure you are giving them you."

Closing out the conference was Kathleen Liang, distinguished professor of Sustainable Agriculture, Center for Environmental Farming Systems.

Dr. Liang provided an in-depth, hands-on experience on healthy eating and using home-grown products to treat any sickness. The last few factors she touched on were agroecological management practices that emphasize diversity, heritage knowledge, agroforestry, landscape complexity, and water and soil management techniques.

Water-Holding Soil Will Be Key To Weathering Extreme Heat

Soil's capacity for holding water will be key to determining how well farms in some parts of the United States manage prolonged heat stress due to climate change, a new study suggests.

The researchers analyzed 30 years of data on four major U.S. crops—corn, soybeans, cotton, and wheat. A paper on the finding appears in the journal *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems*.

"At the same time that farmers are facing more extreme weather events caused by climate change they are dealing with the growing problem of soil degradation," says Debjani Sihi, first author of the study and assistant professor in Emory University's department of environmental sciences.

Globally, according to Sihi and her coauthors, 750 million people were undernourished in 2019 due to the effects of climate change, including a decline in food production, hikes in food prices, and increased

competition for land and water. And the problem of global food security is expected to intensify.

World crop yields are projected to decrease by 25 percent overall within the next 25 years due to climate change, and yet global food production would need to double by 2050 to feed the projected growth in human population.

"Keeping soil healthy is a key component needed to adapt to the climate crisis," Sihi says. Healthy soil contains microbes that provide the nutrients needed for healthy plants to grow, she explains, while also helping make the plant foods that we eat more nutritious.

The presence of these microbes also improves the ability of soil to sequester carbon. The top foot of the world's soil contains about twice as much carbon as the entire atmosphere, making soil the second-largest natural carbon sink after oceans, according to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture

Organization.

The rise in average temperatures, however, is contributing to declines in soil moisture in some areas, which can impact crop production while also degrading the soil over the long term.

For the current paper, the researchers sought to quantify the long-term impact of climate and soil properties on yields of corn, soybeans, cotton, and wheat across the mainland U.S. They drew on county-level data of the U.S. Department of Agriculture from 1981 to 2015. Their dataset contained precipitation rates and accumulation of average daily temperatures over a crop's growing season, known as growing-degree days. The data also factored in soil variations, including water-holding capacity, organic matter texture (the percentage of sand, silt, and clay), Ph, slope, erodibility, and soil-loss tolerance.

The researchers used an explainable machine-learning approach to evaluate the impact

on crop yields of each of these climate and soil variables. The results singled out growing-degree days as the most important climatic factor and water holding capacity as the most influential soil property for crop-yield variability.

"The take-home message," Sihi says, "is that farmers in regions facing added heat stress for their crops may want to proactively focus on the water-holding capacity of their soil."

Clay soil and soil rich in organic material holds water better than sandy soil, she explains. So farms with sandy soil, or with soils containing less organic material, may want to add more amendments to improve the water-holding capacity of the land. Another possible adaptation is to use more mulch to reduce evaporation.

The researchers hope that their findings will help farmers, land-management specialists, and policy makers in decision-making related to sustainable and long-term soil-, water-, and

crop-management practices.

Coauthors of the study are from the University of Texas at Dallas, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, and Montana State

University.

Funding for the work came from Emory University, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, and Montana State University.

SC Wants More Processing

By Jeffrey Collins

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—South Carolina's agriculture chief plans to ask lawmakers for \$75 million to help bring processing and packing facilities to the state so farmers don't have to send their products away.

Expanding that capacity will help South Carolina's agriculture business keep growing, South Carolina Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers said at a Monday news conference.

Weathers, a Republican who has been South Carolina's top elected agriculture official for nearly two decades, was also celebrating reaching his goal of more than \$50 billion of economic impact for agriculture.

"From farmers to foresters, from poultry plants to paper mills, from turf grass to high-tech tractor repair, agribusiness has an enormous effect on South Carolina, and we're proud of it," Weathers said.

He was joined by South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster, who altered his standard "South Carolina is booming" line when making economic development announcements.

"South Carolina is booming. And South Carolina is blooming," McMaster said.

Community

Legislators Back Review To Harden Power Infrastructure

(AP) — North Carolina's top legislative leaders said Tuesday that the General Assembly will review what can be done to protect the state's power transmission system following the Duke Energy substation shooting attacks this month that put Moore County in the dark for days.

Senate leader Phil Berger and House Speaker Tim Moore said that ways to better safeguard infrastructure for generating electricity, producing clean water and other services would soon get the attention of colleagues.

"It needs to be frankly part of a broader conversation of just readiness and preparedness, not only

for those kind of acts, but also for other emergencies," Moore told reporters at the Legislative Building after both chambers essentially wrapped up their two-year session. The 170-seat legislature convenes its next session on Jan. 11.

State and federal law enforcement are continuing to investigate the outages, which began Dec. 3 when one or more people drove up to two substations, breached the gates and opened fire on them, according to authorities.

No arrests have been made in the shootings, which cut power to 45,000 customers. Law enforcement officials, who last week were

seeking warrants in the case, haven't described a possible motive.

But "no matter what the motivation of the folks that caused the damage was ... we can move forward with assessments as to how we can protect some of that infrastructure," Berger said earlier Tuesday.

The comments by the Republican lawmakers align with those of Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper, who has said protecting critical infrastructure needs to be a top priority. He said he anticipated conversations with utilities and government officials about what to do.



A WONDERLAND IN WILSON-Audiences were blown away last Friday at the SBH Dance Dept's first-ever production of *The Nutcracker*. The talent, the costumes, the set -- the entire experience was amazing! Over 60 Dance majors in grades 3rd - 12th performed under the direction of instructors Alpha Foster and Michelle Moran. Set design was led by Janie Tyndall with stage management by Amanda Janson and the technical theatre students.

NC Community Board To Donate \$1 Million

TELUS has launched its newest Community Board, marking the expansion of the company's distinctive global philanthropic initiative, which entrusts distinguished local leaders with the allocation of grants to grassroots organizations that support vulnerable youth.

The TELUS North Carolina Community Board builds on the efforts of team members from TELUS Agriculture & Consumer Goods, who have been giving back across the state for more than 20 years. The board will award more than \$1 million over the next four years to youth programs with a focus on health, education, the environment and technology.

"For more than two decades, our TELUS team members around the world have passionately embraced our give where we live philosophy," said Darren Entwistle, President and CEO of TELUS.

"Our innovative TELUS Community Boards truly embody this philosophy and contribute significantly to the legacy of giving we are building for the benefit of our communities and citizens. Indeed, by putting charitable decision-making in the hands of local leaders who know their communities best, we are ensuring our resources yield

the best social outcomes. Our team is honored to commit over \$1 million in support of grassroots organizations across North Carolina over the next four years as we deliver on our promise to make the future friendly in the communities where we live, work, and serve."

The TELUS North Carolina Community Board is currently composed of the following members:

- Ebony Thomas, Chair of the Board, President of the Bank of America Charitable Foundation.
- Diana Henderson, VP, Global Head of Marketing, Food, Beverage & Consumer Goods, TELUS Agriculture & Consumer Goods.
- Brenda Berg, President and CEO, BEST NC.
- Toni Bucci, CCO, AgBiome.
- Randolph Keaton, Executive Director, Men and Women United for Youth and Families.
- Jennifer Kirner, Senior Program Manager, TELUS.
- Fleenoil Lane, VP, Global Support Services, Flexera.
- Jonathan Miller, Counsel, Legal Services, TELUS.
- John Raines, President, TELUS Agriculture & Consumer Goods.
- Dr. Sandra Wall Williams, CEO, WMS Corporation.
- Erin Wallace, CXXP, BASF.

Ashley Williams, Global Sales Head, Program Execution, Agribusiness, TELUS Agriculture & Consumer Goods.

Following its inaugural meeting, the board announced that it is disbursing a first tranche to the following charitable organizations across North Carolina:

- 101 Gardens (Aquaponics Lab at Innovation Barn)
 - Gigi's Playhouse (Gigi's Playhouse Charlotte)
 - Bertie County YMCA (Camp Happy)
 - Conservation Trust (Seeding Resilience in Princeville II)
 - Youth Lead NC (The 2023 North Carolina Youth Leadership Forum)
 - She Built This City (Tech In The Trades)
 - Bountiful Cities (FEAST)
 - Black Wall Street (Better Digital Pathways)
 - Centro Unido Latino Americano (VAMOS)
 - Building Hope (Parent Program)
- "At a time when young people are still recovering from the difficulties of the pandemic, and many families are experiencing increased financial pressure, community organizations play a crucial role in providing youth with

resources and skills to realize their full potential," said Ebony Thomas, Chair of the TELUS North Carolina Community Board.

"I appreciate the opportunity to be part of this outstanding, one-of-a-kind philanthropic grant program, and with fellow board members, to boost the power of some of our most impactful charitable organizations."

"Doing good is an integral part of our business at TELUS Agriculture & Consumer Goods, as we work to digitally connect global supply chains, improving processes so that the food we eat and the goods we buy are safe and sustainable," said John Raines, President of TELUS Agriculture & Consumer Goods.

"The establishment of a new TELUS Community Board in North Carolina, where our team members have always shown great care for their communities, is a fitting extension of our mission. Thank you to the team members and community leaders who have generously stepped up to sit on the board and assume the responsibility of disbursing funds to deserving programs that make a meaningful difference in the experiences of youth throughout the state."



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Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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Kid Scoop Together:

Questions for Fact-Checking Detectives

Facts can be checked with research, and these days a lot of people use the internet for their research. Unfortunately, not all information on the internet is true and accurate. Here are some tips to help you do research on the internet more carefully.

The News Literacy Project provides a list of 10 questions to help people do research on the internet. Below are three of those topics. To see all 10, go to the source link below.

Gauge your emotional reaction:

Is it strong? Are you angry? Are you intensely hoping that the information turns out to be true? False?

Consider the headline or main message:

a. Does it use excessive punctuation (!!!) or ALL CAPS for emphasis?

b. Does it make a claim about containing a secret or telling you something that "the media" doesn't want you to know?

Consider the source of the information:

a. Is it a well-known source?

b. Is there a byline (an author's name) attached to this piece?

c. Go to the website's "About" section: Does the site describe itself as a "fantasy news" or "satirical news" site?

d. Does the person or organization that produced the information have any editorial standards?

e. Does the "contact us" section include an email address that matches the domain (not a Gmail or Yahoo email address)?

f. Does a quick search for the name of the website raise any suspicions?

Source: newslit.org

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **PROVEN**

The verb **prove** with the past tense **proven** means to demonstrate the truth or evidence.

It is a **proven** fact that horses have four legs.

Try to use the word **proven** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

SPORTS FACTS & OPINIONS



FACTS

are pieces of information based upon things that can be measured, proven or seen by anyone.

OPINIONS

describe how someone feels about a thing or event. They can vary from person to person.

Example: The golfer hit the ball 217 yards is a **fact**. The golfer is a fantastic player is an **opinion**.

Read each statement and decide which information is a fact and which is an opinion. If you think it is a fact, explain how it can be proven.

Basketball is more exciting than baseball.

FACT
 OPINION

How can this be proven?

The Giants beat the Rockies 4 - 0.

FACT
 OPINION

How can this be proven?

The Chicago Bears uniform is navy blue and burnt orange.

FACT
 OPINION

How can this be proven?

Mike Babcock was named head coach of the Toronto Maple Leafs in 2015.

FACT
 OPINION

How can this be proven?

Babe Ruth was 19 years old when he began playing for the Boston Red Sox.

FACT
 OPINION

How can this be proven?

Soccer is more fun to watch than golf.

FACT
 OPINION

How can this be proven?

The Dallas Stars won the Stanley Cup in 1999.

FACT
 OPINION

How can this be proven?

The Cavaliers scored 28 points in the second quarter.

FACT
 OPINION

How can this be proven?

BLEACHER BANTER

Read what the fans in the bleachers are saying about the football game. Color each speech bubble that contains a **FACT** in green. Color each bubble that is an **OPINION** red.



Extra! Extra!

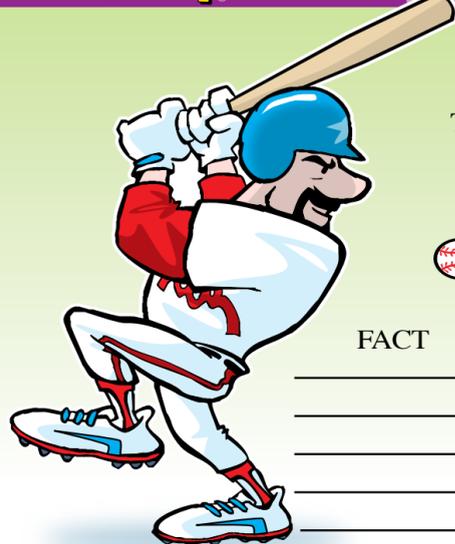
Fact and Opinion Photo Game

Look at a photo in today's newspaper. Write three facts about the photo. Then write three opinions about the photo.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Kid Scoop Puzzler



Take a good look at this baseball player. Then write one **FACT** and one **OPINION** about this picture.



FACT

OPINION

Standards Link: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

DIFFERENCE
REPORTER
OPINIONS
BASEBALL
CHICAGO
PROVEN
SPORTS
DECIDE
FACTS
THINK
EVENT
BEARS
VARY
TEAM
BEAT

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

F O L L A B E S A B
A P S T R O P S K R
D I F F E R E N C E
E N T A O C I T H P
C I A V C H S T I O
I O E A T T N A C R
D N B R N E S D A T
E S O Y V P A I G E
N I B E A R S M O R

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Graph It!

Study one page of today's newspaper. Underline facts in red and opinions in blue. Count the number of facts and the number of opinions. Make a graph showing your data.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.



Why was Cinderella a bad figure skater?

ANSWER: Because her coach was a pumpkin.

Write On!

My Turn at Bat

It was my turn at bat and the fans were going crazy ... Finish this story.

Church

What Is Liberation Theology?

This story was supplied by The Conversation for AP customers. The Associated Press does not guarantee the content.
By Leo Guardado

Fordham University

(THE CONVERSATION) It isn't often that theology makes headlines. But for the past 50 years, a way of thinking about God and poverty has been doing just that: liberation theology.

Liberation theology's approach to living out Christian faith has been both globally influential and bitterly controversial. It has been investigated by the CIA on suspicion of promoting social unrest and inquisitioned by a former pope who accused it of getting too close to Marxist thought. It's even inspired conspiracy theories. Critics have dismissed it as naïve—but also called it a threat to free market capitalism.

Fifty years have passed since the landmark publication of the book most associated with liberation theology: *A Theology of Liberation*, by a Peruvian priest named Gustavo Gutiérrez. Gutiérrez, whose most recent manuscript I'm helping to edit, published the book in Spanish in 1971, and then in English in 1973. With its emphasis on the liberation of oppressed people, especially the poor, this book helped reconfigure many Catholics' ways of thinking about the relationship between faith and justice.

As a theologian who grew up during the civil war in El Salvador, I emphasize to my university students that it is impossible to grasp the beating heart of this theology without paying attention to the poverty and legacies of colonialism in Latin America.

Since colonization, the wealthy

few have owned most of the land in Latin America, rendering the majority poor and landless. By the mid-20th century, Christians involved in social and political movements for greater justice in the region were asking what, if anything, their faith had to do with these struggles.

In 1968, Roman Catholic bishops and theologians gathered for a meeting in Medellín, Colombia, to assess the state of the church in the continent. The bishops wrote that "a deafening cry pours from the throats of millions of persons, asking their pastors for a liberation that reaches them from nowhere else."

The "inhuman wretchedness" of poverty, they argued, was the result of systematic injustice that structured the profound inequality of Latin American society. They called this "institutionalized violence"—similar to what the famed sociologist Johan Galtung would term "structural violence" a year later.

When Gutiérrez's text was published a few years later, it responded more fully to these questions about the relationship between faith and justice. Today, the book has been translated into 14 languages—most recently to Arabic.

One dimension of liberation theology has to do with analyzing the sources of social inequality. Its approach treats poverty as a complex phenomenon that cannot be reduced to economics, or separated from politics, because it intersects with other forms of oppression, such as sexism and racism. Poverty, Gutiérrez and other theologians have argued, is an evil—something they believe God does not want—for it can bring suffering and early death.

In this view, poverty is not a natural condition; it is a violence that some communities inflict upon others.

The key principle of liberation theology is "the preferential option for the poor." This is a commitment to prioritize the material needs of the poor, as well as their knowledge, experience and spirituality. This principle is grounded in the conviction that God is not neutral, but is always on the side of those who most struggle to live.

To advocates of liberation theology, embracing the "preferential option for the poor" means struggling alongside people whose societies consider insignificant, and sharing their life and death. Oscar Romero, archbishop of San Salvador in the late 1970s, is often admired as an example of a Catholic leader living out liberation theology. "All those who draw close to suffering flesh have God close at hand," he said in one homily.

In the lead-up to El Salvador's 12-year civil war, Romero fought for agrarian reform for landless rural farmers. He mediated between labor unions, popular guerrilla organizations and the military to try to prevent armed conflict. He established the country's foremost human rights and legal aid organization and urged U.S. President Jimmy Carter to cease U.S. financial support for El Salvador's military.

In one of his last homilies, he asked soldiers to stop the killing—just a day before being assassinated by military agents in March 1980.

Romero was canonized in 2018 by Pope Francis, who has said that prioritizing the poor is "the key criterion of Christian authenticity."

SERMON of the WEEK



2ND SUNDAY LPHC YOUTH SERVICE

Speaker: Sister Lynnette Barber

God wants us to have wisdom. He wants us to follow his commandments and if we do, we will live a joyful and peaceful life. He has also provided opportunities for us to further our lives with formal education.

Synonyms of education are schooling, teaching, instruction, training, tutoring, development, higher learning, direction, reading, guidance and nurturance. We have been getting an education since birth.

Informal and Non-formal Education started with our moms and dads when we were babies showing us what to say, teaching, disciplining and it never stopped. From DaDa to how to hold a bottle. My mother still schools me. I bet Mother Burrell was still educating and advising the Bishop till the end of her days.

You've had other teachers: Grandmothers and grandfathers, older sisters and brothers, uncles and aunts, friends, your pastor and other ministers, Sunday School teachers, Bible study instructors, your teachers in K-12 and college. They all had their special way of getting your attention either through candy, a funny story, a whipping, punishment, pictures, demonstration, and more. They all had their method to show us what we needed.

God has provided a formal document called The Bible. Hands down, the most famous educator is the one and only Jesus. Jesus demonstrated a variety of methods in his teaching. He used stories and parables, discussion, questions, lecture object lessons and debates to communicate his messages in a way to connect to his learners. He used various ways to educate us to live to our



fullest right and to our fullest potential so that we can have peace, love and joy.

I am a firm believer that there is a source of higher education for everyone. We have our very own Mother Burrell who graduated from college in her 90s. Many of us went back to school many years after graduating from high school. We have members here with many levels of degrees, including your pastor. Elder Sauls' education has always been his priority.

No matter your level of understanding, if you trust and believe and give yourself expectations, God will make a way. You make one step and he will make two. You seek and you will find. God has already told us and proved to us and he desires us to go for the good. Education is for your good. Try different things. People might say, "Every time I turn around..." Let them keep turning around.

I have two degrees. I was 39 years old when I started the last one. I offer a challenge to the youth and anyone who desires to start or change a career. There are options to fit everyone's talent and dream. Society's suggestion is to get a four-year degree and that is ideal. We have many great universities in this area: Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) include Shaw University, Saint Augustine's University, North Carolina Central University, Fayetteville State University, Johnson C. Smith University and Livingston College. Predominantly White Institutions (PWIs) with major impacts include North Carolina State University, University of North Carolina, Wake Forest University, Duke University. Other PWIs in Raleigh include William Peace University, Mer-

edith College, Saint Mary's College and Strayer University.

You can get your education online or in person. There are programs for older adults who work during the day and attend school at night. You can continue and get your Masters, Ph.D. or become a Physician or Specialist.

But not everyone has a four-year degree and higher. Some may obtain a two-year Associate's Degree from Wake Technical College which has multiple campuses across Wake County or any of the other Community Colleges located throughout the state.

There are Certificate Programs that can be completed in six weeks and higher or through testing. Certifications in 3 months, 6 months, 9 months or more for the following programs: Beauty School, Auto Mechanic, Electrician, Plumber, Nails. Esthetician face, Phlebotomist, Medical Specialist, Interior Design, Computers work, Web design, Music producer and Chef.

I teach special education and my students' conditions may be non-verbal, in a wheelchair, autism, down syndrome and other intellectual deficits. There are so many illnesses but I expect them to work and get training.

Let God do what he wants to do for you. When and if times get tough when you pursue your degree, keep taking your STEPS so God can take more.

"We'll walk in the light, beautiful light. Come where the dew-drops of mercy are bright. Shine all around us by day and by night. Jesus, the light of the world."

To view complete sermons by Pastor William Eli Ratcliff, associate ministers, and speakers please visit our YouTube Channel. Thank you!

Obituaries

CHRISTIAN ANDRAYUS ROBERT WILSON

May 13, 1997–December 8, 2022
Christian Andrayus Robert Wilson, 25, passed away Thursday, Dec. 8.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, Dec. 15 in the Goldie Hargett Memorial Chapel, 905 E. Market Street, Greensboro at 1 p.m.

BENNIE LEE COBBS, SR.

May 9, 1952–December 10, 2022
Mr. Bennie Lee Cobbs, Sr., 70, of Greensboro died Saturday, Dec. 10. Arrangements are pending at Hargett Funeral Service.

VONDRA STREET SLADE

July 21, 1953–December 2, 2022

Vondra Street Slade, 69, passed away Friday, Dec. 2.
A public viewing was held on Friday, Dec. 9 in the Goldie Hargett Memorial Chapel, 905 E. Market Street, Greensboro.

A Homegoing Celebration was held Saturday, Dec. 10 in The Goldie Hargett Memorial Chapel.

WAYNE COLSON

November 24, 1982–December 5, 2022
Wayne Colson, 40, passed away Monday, Dec. 5.
A homegoing celebration will be held on Saturday, Dec. 17 at

Holmes Grove United Methodist Church, 1100 Alamance Church Road, Greensboro; visitation with the family begins at 10:30 a.m. followed by the service at 11 a.m.

FLETCHER MARSHALL

July 7, 1987–December 5, 2022

Fletcher F. Marshall, 35, passed away Monday, Dec. 5.
A public viewing was held on Tuesday, Dec. 13 in the Goldie Hargett Memorial Chapel, 905 E. Market Street, Greensboro.

A homegoing celebration was held on Wednesday, Dec. 14 in the Goldie Hargett Memorial Chapel. Interment followed in Carolina Biblical Gardens.

Practical Biblical Principles

HOW CLOSE ARE YOU TO JESUS?

Read: 1 John 1:1-10

How close are you to Jesus? Note the question! How close are you to Jesus? Not much do you know about Him. There is a vast difference between the questions. The same question can be asked about your parents. How close are you to your parents? How well do you know them? Yes, you are close to your parents, but how well do you know them? Yes, blood is thicker than water. However, there are some things your parents will not let you know about them. Given this fact, how close and how much do you know about your parents?

Which is more important in a relationship? How close are you to the other person, or how much do you know about the other person? Deception in a relationship comes from not knowing all about the other person. Often times the other person uses "being close" in a relationship to hide the deceit they are about to pour out on you.

What does the Bible say about which is most important in a relationship? Having full knowledge of the other person or "to be" close in the relationship? Which do you think the Lord prefers? Which would you prefer?

When we study Jesus and His relationship with His chosen disciples, we see that Jesus did not relate to all His disciples in the same way. It appears that Jesus related to each individual disciple according to the way they chose to relate to Him. It appears that Jesus related to Peter in a different way than He related to Judas. As a matter of fact, the Bible mentions very little about any mentioned conversation Jesus had with Judas, as opposed to Peter. Jesus had a lot to say to Pe-

ter over a three-year period. The direct, recorded conversation of a few words Jesus had with Judas was at the Last Supper.

From a spiritual context, Jesus had more to say to Saul (Paul) after He, Jesus, departed to Heaven after the Resurrection. Jesus spoke directly with Paul from heaven for more than a decade. Jesus knew Paul and Paul got to know Jesus very well and drew close enough to Him to give his life for the gospel.

Did Paul give his life for the gospel because he knew Jesus well or was it because he was in a "real close" relationship with Him?

Jesus loved all of His disciples. But did He love them all the same? And was he close to all of them in the same way? Were they all close to Him? Do all believers know Jesus/God in a personal way?

Out of the 12 disciples who worked with Jesus, Jesus had an inner circle, so to speak—Peter, James, and John. These three were privileged to be with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. Jesus sought their presence to be with Him. Jesus asked Peter and John to prepare the Passover (Luke 22:7). These were two personal, high spiritual events in the ministry of Jesus and the Lord wanted these disciples there with Him. Did our Lord want these particular disciples there because they were in a closer relationship with Him?

What is your personal objective toward Jesus? Is it to be closer to Him or know more about Him or both? Is it possible for parents to love all of their children the same? The older children in the family seem to know more about their parents than the younger ones. Jesus knew all of His disciples before

they knew Him.

The Apostle John was an eyewitness of Jesus and His works. Because he heard, saw, looked upon, and handled Jesus. This Apostle affirmed the truth about Jesus as a source of truth.

The other apostles followed Jesus for a little more than three years. This is enough time for anybody to get a chance to know anybody. How close was John to Jesus?

The prophet, Samuel said, "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice and to heed than the fat of rams" (1 Samuel 15:22). Micah, the prophet states, "He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God—one can only do this through being obedient (Micah 6:6-8).

Paul tells us, "Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith all nation for His name, among whom you also are called of Jesus Christ" (Romans 1:5). "Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered (Hebrews 5:8-9; 1 Peter 1:2). The short of this is our Lord related to all who was in obedience to Him and not how much we know Him or how close we may be to Him in a relationship. Obedience out of love is better than sacrifice. Obedience out of knowing what the Lord requires is better than sacrifice.

J.L. Caldwell, Pastor
New Jerusalem Baptist
Cathedral
Durham, NC
Website: www.mynjbc.org Email: njbc84@gmail.com

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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.

Sen. Warnock's Victory Is a Win for Georgia and America

By Ben Jealous

People for the American Way

If you haven't watched Sen. Raphael Warnock's speech on the night of his reelection in Georgia on December 6, stop everything you're doing, and watch it now. Then tell your kids to watch it. And your neighbors.

What you'll see is 20 minutes that will leave you with a deep feeling of inspiration and gratitude, and a question: why was this so hard? How is it that Warnock was so clearly the best candidate and had to prove it four times, in the last two years?

Let's take the question first.

The surprise victories by Sen. Warnock and Sen. Jon Ossoff in 2021 were triumphs over systemic racism and a vicious misinformation and disinformation campaign by far-right forces. Immediately after they won, Georgia became ground zero for a state voter suppression effort that included harsh crackdowns on early and mail-in voting. The runoff system that Warnock and Republican Herschel Walker were forced into was itself a relic of 1960s White supremacy. It was created by a Georgia segregationist who hoped it would stop Black candidates from winning in a crowded field where White votes were split.

Meanwhile, Walker's entire campaign was a far-right ploy to split Black voters while giving White Republicans plausible deniability about their party's racism. Most Black voters saw right through it. But the GOP mustered enormous political firepower and financial resources for their scheme. That made the race close when it never should have been close.

It made Sen. Warnock's road, which was always going to be hard, even harder.

On the night of his reelection, Sen. Warnock addressed all of this with his usual dignity. He gave the credit to Georgians for electing the state's first Black and first Jewish senators at a time when the Far Right was trying to divide the country. He took on the conservative pundits claiming his victory was proof that there was no voter suppression in Georgia. Just because Georgia voters endured long lines in the rain doesn't mean there is no suppression, he said. It means Georgians refused to have their voices silenced.

The rest of his address showed that Georgia has re-elected a senator who values social justice and still believes it can be achieved through representative de-

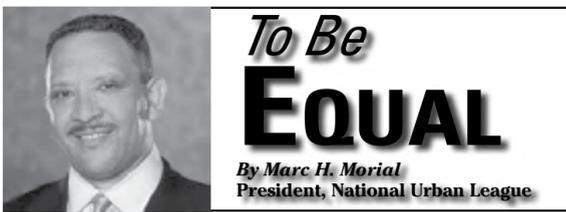
mocracy. Democracy, he said, is the political enactment of a spiritual idea: that each of us carries within us a divine spark. It is a political system that is rooted in the belief that each of us has value, that if we have value we have a voice, and that our voice is our vote. I'm paraphrasing here, and words on the page don't do justice to Sen. Warnock's oratory skills. Again, I hope you'll watch the speech.

Hearing these words at a time when democracy is doubted and under attack is a restorative experience. Hearing Sen. Warnock pledge to work in a bipartisan spirit on behalf of all Americans feels like coming home, to an America where public servants used to believe that was possible. Hearing him say that he will fight for criminal justice reform because he believes we can have both justice and safety struck a personal chord with me. I believe that too, in my bones. My organization, People For the American Way, has dedicated itself to advancing that goal. There are so many solutions we can and should explore that will save lives.

This moment shows us something else, too, which is that a way forward to a better America now runs through the Deep South. Stacey Abrams's visionary work to organize voters made Georgia a swing state, and others can follow. Almost a decade ago, I worked on a study that showed that registering just 30 percent of unregistered voters of color could change the political landscape in heavily Black southern states. There are still plenty of challenges, but we're seeing that prediction come true.

I will close with one other phrase of Sen. Warnock's from his reelection speech, one that I think serves us well in all the work we do for social justice. This is America, he said, where we "always have a path to make our country greater." I know there are times when those paths seem impossible, and optimism seems more like naivete. We need more Raphael Warnocks in the world to tell us there is always a way. Right now, I'm deeply grateful that the one we do have will spend six more years in the U.S. Senate.

Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way and Professor of the Practice at the University of Pennsylvania. A New York Times best-selling author, his next book Never Forget Our People Were Always Free will be published by Harper Collins in January 2023.



Editor's Note: The following column is reprinted from a previous one.

ELON MUSK'S TWITTER TAKEOVER HAS UNLEASHED THE WORST OF HUMAN NATURE

It is possible that users assumed that language use that could potentially cause a ban or suspension on the platform in the past was no longer a concern. Additionally, anticipation of an unmoderated platform was potentially a source of excitement for certain Twitter users. By sharing epithets, it suggests that certain users were celebrating a reduction in perceived speech constraints on the platform. Regardless, the data conclusively shows that there is correlation between Musk's arrival and a broader perceived acceptability to posted hostile content on Twitter."

—Montclair State University Center for Strategic Communication study, "From the Tweets to Hate Speech: Increases in Twitter Racist Content After Elon Musk's Acquisition"

In the 12 hours after Elon Musk purchased Twitter, the use of the n-word spiked by 500 percent.

ADL's Center on Extremism identified a coordinated campaign to spread anti-Semitic content, launched by users of the largely unmoderated 4chan message board, that resulted in more than 1,200 antisemitic tweets and retweets in the 24 hours after Musk's takeover.

Musk himself posted a conspiracy theory about the attempted murder of Paul Pelosi; the tweet was shared and liked tens of thousands of times before he deleted it.

This painful and shocking increase in hate prompted me, along with NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson, and National Action Network President and Founder Rev. Al Sharpton, to request a meeting with Musk to address our concerns and to understand his plan to protect our communities from abuse by those who seek not simply to express controversial views, but to harm us and undermine democracy.

In our letter to Musk, we wrote, "In flippantly declaring that, 'the bird is freed,' you might have unwittingly freed people to unleash the worst of human nature with communities of color and religious minorities bearing the greatest burden."

We share Musk's professed belief in the importance of free speech, but the fact remains that online hate speech, misinformation, and disinformation, posted by users intent on sowing social and political chaos, have grave consequences for democracy, civil rights, and public safety.

The White supremacist who murdered 10 people in a Buf-

(See **TO BE EQUAL**, P. 11)

A Different Voice

By Dorothy Shaw Thompson



PAYING ATTENTION

Okay people, let's begin paying attention and getting ready for the beginning okey-doke. Last week some things happened that I was pleased with. First, Senator Warnock eeked out a win in Georgia. Then Brittney Griner was released from the Russian prison. I was really pleased but a lot of people were not. It was pretty telling that we so far have not heard cries of fraud or foul play from Georgia and Hershel Walker kept his word and accepted the results of the election. Let's give him that, but don't be lulled to sleep.

I suspect, however, that we haven't heard the last of candidates like him. The Donald Trump Republican Party really seems stuck on the idea that they can find candidates like him who will publicly display ignorance of basic political messaging and win the Black vote while getting their base to support that candidate no matter what. He can say really foolish things while shuffling and skinning and grinning and they appear to love it and come out to support him. Just in case you didn't hear, he said things about bulls impregnating heifers and that vampires can kill werewolves. I'm going, "What?" This was the stuff of his rally speeches. I guess they call it being folksy. They almost had a win. In my opinion the excitement on the part of the Democrats after the win also bears paying attention to, for though Warnock won it was too close for comfort for me. I am personally insulted that they really keep trying to perfect the smell of horse manure. The "they" I mean is the Donald Trump Republican Party but I don't think the Democrats should get comfortable because the win was too close for comfort for me. I'm still amazed that it was just a little over 51 percent that created the win for Brother Warnock. In

my opinion they (we) need to get ready now to fight for 2024. I hear the arguments against Biden getting louder and louder and though to me his age doesn't get in the way of his performance for America, some folks, even Democrats, seem to buy their argument this early in the beginning of the race. The Republicans want a win and even those who see Donald Trump as dangerous say that if he's the nominee, they will vote for him. Statistically there are more Democrats registered in American politics but let's face it, Stacy Abrams didn't win. One of their trump cards is chauvinism and unfortunately that is appealing to some Black men as well. How disappointing!! Yet I see some calling a thing a thing.

Similarly, there's this backlash against Brittney Griner. I think the backlash has several reasons: (1) she's Black; (2) redundantly, "she's" a woman; (3) she is gay; (4) she had CBD oil and (5) the person who is still there is a White male. Some argue that we gave up a "dangerous" man for her but they also say that she's spoken out against our country. Actually, that means she's talked about racism and homophobia. Trump, who didn't do a thing to get Paul Whelan out (who by the way was imprisoned during his administration) had words of criticism for Biden's choice; however, the Biden administration says that Russia refused to even negotiate with

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

Child Watch

By Marian Wright Edelman



AN EPIDEMIC OF HATE

"There is an epidemic of hate facing our country. We're seeing a rapid rise in antisemitic rhetoric and acts. Let me be clear: Words matter. People are no longer saying the quiet parts out loud. They are literally screaming them."

These are the opening remarks Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff gave at the start of the December 7 White House roundtable on combating antisemitism. Mr. Emhoff was joined by Biden administration officials and leaders from more than a dozen Jewish groups, including the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), whose most recent data show the past year had the highest number of antisemitic incidents on record since the ADL began tracking them more than 40 years ago. This has continued a sharp rise in harassment, vandalism, and violence against Jewish people, homes, schools, community centers, cemeteries, and synagogues and places of worship that began in 2016. Though the conference was planned well in advance, there was obvious symbolism to the fact that it took place just days after former President Trump welcomed Kanye West (Ye), who has very publicly espoused his antisemitic beliefs and admiration for Hitler, and White supremacist and Holocaust denier Nick Fuentes to dinner at his Florida home. As current White House Domestic Policy Advisor Susan Rice said during the roundtable, "There's nothing more vicious than what we are seeing today out of the mouths of our leaders, our public figures, our celebrities, our elected officials."

President Biden summed up his own views after that dinner this way: "I just want to make a few things clear: The Holocaust happened. Hitler was a demonic figure. And instead of giving it a platform, our political leaders should be calling out and rejecting antisemitism wherever it hides. Silence is complicity." But far too many other leaders continue to show a willingness to condone and ignore this dangerous rise in antisemitism and the people who endorse it. Many of these leaders have shown the same readiness to condone, ignore, or even endorse anti-LGBTQ violence, attacks on Asian Americans, White supremacy, and domestic terrorism and hatred in other forms. We are reminded again that these leaders and celebrities cannot be the role models we hold up for our nation's children. Adults and parents must be determined to be the loudest voices in their children's lives and to show by example that it is inexcusable to tolerate bigotry of any kind in order to fight this epidemic of hate.

In the letter I wrote to my three sons as they were approaching adulthood that became the center of the book *The Measure of Our Success*, I said: "If parents snicker at racial and gender jokes, another generation will pass on the poison adults still have not had the courage to snuff out... Don't tell, laugh at, or in any way acquiesce to racial, ethnic, religious, or gender jokes or to any practices intended to demean rather than enhance another human being. Walk away from them. Stare them down. Make them unacceptable in your homes, religious congregations, and clubs. Through daily moral consciousness counter the proliferating voices of racial and ethnic and religious division that are gaining respectability over the land." Thirty years later this advice has become even more urgent. We have seen again and again how swiftly condoning bigotry and hatred moves from jokes or name-calling to physical attacks and violence against entire communities. Some of the political leaders who practice this easy bigotry and hatred themselves then profess shock and sympathy when it is followed by violence, as happened again after the mass

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

Talk To Us

Stimulating a lively discussion of issues that concern the community is one of our main tasks at The Carolinian. We want to know what you think. This issue's topic:

Is Rafael Warnock's (third) victory in the Georgia senate race reason for celebration? Or is the narrowness of his victory a cause for concern?

Let us hear from you!

Other Viewpoints



CELINE DION, KIRSTIE ALLEY, CHRISTMAS, GOOD NEWS AND BAD.

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Guest Commentary

Award-winning actress Kirstie Alley was diagnosed with cancer shortly before her untimely death at the young age of 71. Grammy Award-winning Celine Dion has recently been diagnosed with a neurological disease called Stiff Person Syndrome. The disease attacks about one in a million and is a very debilitating disease. She is 54 years old.

Disease, death and bad news can attack anyone at any age and none of us are immune.

Good news came to Britney Griner who spent 10 months in a Russian prison for allegedly having hashish oil in her suitcase at a Moscow airport. She was recently released and is now back in the United States. The bad news is that arms dealer Victor Bout who smuggled millions of weapons to the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Africa was released from prison in exchange for Griner's release.

Paul Whelan, a former United States marine received bad news in that he is still being held in a Russian prison accused of spying. Russia is apparently holding onto him for another deal with the United States. It's tragic that he wasn't released with Griner.

Please stay out of Russia, North Korea, Iran and China. There are other places to avoid as well but there are plenty of nice places to visit.

My deceased wife was 37 when she received the bad news that she had multiple sclerosis. The diagnosis was very bad news and Karen died one day at a time for 12 years. The last four years of her life she could do nothing. She required 24-hour care. She became a person trapped inside a body. She died at the age of 49. The toll that such a disease took on our family and my young sons was severe. Such an illness changes the lives of the entire family. Everyone to some extent is involved in the caregiving and are changed by the emotional drain of sickness and death. However, no one suffers as much as the person struggling with the disease.

Such life struggles play havoc with holidays such as Christmas. Our family never had a normal Christmas for at least 12 years. However, it became our new normal.

Jesus is good news at Christmas. He was bad news to King Herod of Judea. Herod was a mental illness case who ordered the death of all male babies two years old and under in the vicinity of Bethlehem. He hoped to eliminate Jesus because wise men from the East had come to worship him.

We must pray for the families of Kirstie Alley, Celine Dion and Paul Whelan and many others. These families are suffering. Fame and fortune never provide a way of escaping bad news and the results of bad news. We should also pray for one another and rejoice with any good news that comes each other's way.

We are all sojourners in this life. The message of Christmas is a Savior is born, Christ the Lord, peace on earth and good will toward all.

May good news find its way to you this season of the year and may we all with God's grace be there for each other when the news is not so good.

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.



WAR IS OVER. IF YOU WANT IT.

By Kevin Martin

PeaceVoice

Let's end U.S. complicity in the awful war in Yemen
Last Thursday marked 42 years since John Lennon was killed. Many people, including me, lament his death and can recall where we were when we heard the heartbreaking news.

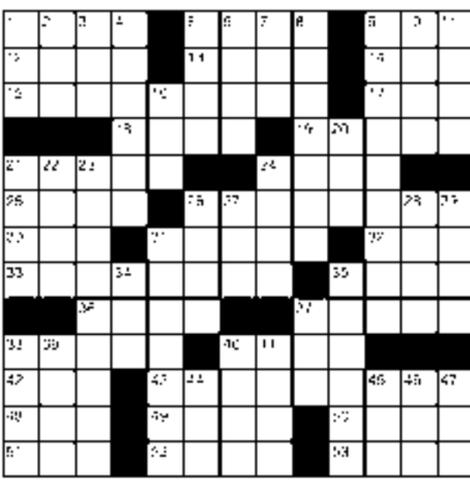
This holiday season, we can heed John's and Yoko Ono's 1969 "Happy Xmas, War is Over, If You Want It" call by acting to end U.S. military, intelligence and logistical support for the Saudi-led coalition in the horrendous war in Yemen. More than 400,000 Yemenis have perished since the war broke out in 2014, making it the world's worst humanitarian catastrophe, according to the United Nations.

Fifty-three years ago, John and Yoko were calling on Americans to act to end the war in Vietnam, which unfortunately took another six years. Today, we can get Congress to pass a War Powers Resolution to end U.S. complicity in Yemen's catastrophe. Congress already did

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Slightly wet
- 5 Wild canine
- 9 Yoga pad
- 12 Case
- 13 Address
- Perman
- 14 Green prefix
- 15 Requiring low temperatures
- 17 Moo - pork
- 18 Boy in
- Burckou
- 19 Big name in racing
- 21 Antlered animals
- 24 Je bilition
- 25 Billions of years
- 26 German
- 30 Aachen article
- 31 Postpone
- 32 Wildebeest
- 33 Romance-free as a relationship
- 35 Head to
- Her
- 36 Sweet wine
- 37 King of Judah
- 38 Snapshot
- 40 Gracful bird
- 42 Silvery fish
- 43 Looking good on the tube
- say
- 48 Part of TNT
- 49 Loface ur t



- 50 Number of ey
- 51 Billboards
- 52 Evergreens
- 53 Crisp cookie
- 10 Dull pain
- 11 Go sight-seeing
- 16 USO patrons
- 20 Ultramodern
- 21 Leak out slowly
- 22 Work hard
- 23 Maryland s
- 24 Avocado dip
- 26 Camp shelter
- 27 Peyton's brother
- 28 Growing on
- 29 Promoted
- 31 Girl in "The Wizard of Oz"
- 34 Nanny's charge
- 35 Belets
- 37 Crane
- 38 Anti fur org.
- 39 Cattle group
- 40 Cabbage salad
- 41 Names
- 44 Shoe width
- 45 Diarr: Anais
- 46 - tazy
- 47 Bottle top

DOWN

- 1 Org. for a major party
- 2 - Lingus
- 3 Spring month
- 4 Plug parts
- 5 Wee songbird
- 6 "It can't be!"
- 7 Floral neck-lace
- 8 Teaching staff
- 9 Couaner

so in 2019. President Trump then vetoed it, and the vote to override the veto failed.

Since then, thousands more Yemenis have suffered and died. President Biden's pledge to end "offensive" weapons transfers to the Saudi-led coalition soon after taking office was insufficient to end the war. A mostly successful truce earlier this year recently expired, and violence has escalated. The time for more definitive action is now.

Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, long a leader in Congress for ending U.S. support for the war, is pushing for another War Powers Resolution vote on Senate Joint Resolution 56 as soon as this week. He has 13 co-sponsors, all Democrats at this point, though the 2019 vote did garner significant Republican support, and should again.

The title of the measure, "A joint resolution directing the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress," makes its intent clear. Congress, which the Constitution explicitly gives powers over matters of war, has never approved U.S. participation in the war in Yemen.

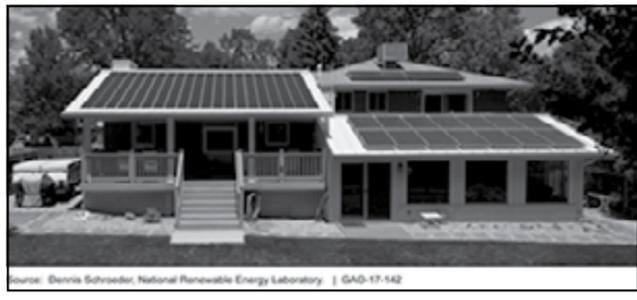
While the emphasis needs to be on ending the suffering of Yemenis, symbolized by the slogan Yemen Can't Wait, political crosswinds could play an unpredictable role in any upcoming Congressional votes. The House of Representatives could schedule a vote soon after a successful Senate vote. House Joint Resolution 87, introduced by Oregon's Peter DeFazio, has 118 cosponsors, including 10 Republicans.

Saudi Arabia's terrible human rights record and its hideous murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, as well as thumbing its nose at President Biden last summer when he embarrassingly beseeched it for help in lowering oil prices (who didn't cringe at Biden's fist bump with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman?) are surely negative factors.

However, the Saudi lobby is very powerful in Washington and beyond, and its influence on Congress should not be underestimated. There is also antipathy toward Iran, which has supported the Houthi rebels in this eight-yearlong conflict, but U.S. participation in the war, which is mostly at a territorial stalemate, is beyond any calibration of regional competition between Iran and Saudi Arabia (and there have been at least some signs of both countries wanting to tamp down such tensions).

John Lennon sang, "And so this is Christmas, and what have you done?" Let's answer that question by acting to end the harrowing war in Yemen.

Kevin Martin, syndicated by PeaceVoice, is President of Peace Action Education Fund, the country's largest grassroots peace and disarmament organization with more than 200,000 supporters nationwide.



"INTERMITTENCY" AND "DENSITY" ARGUMENTS FAVOR HOUSEHOLD RENEWABLES OVER FOSSIL FUEL AND GRID DEPENDENCE

By Thomas L. Knapp

William Lloyd Garrison Center

Avid supporters of coal, oil, and gas (and opponents of wind and solar energy, but I repeat myself) seem convinced that they've got the ultimate gotcha arguments in "intermittency" and "energy density." They're right, but not in quite the way they seem to think.

What does "intermittency" mean? It's pretty simple: The sun doesn't shine all the time, so solar panels can't produce energy 24/7. Wind is even more "intermittent," or at least less predictable. A windmill or wind turbine may or may not generate energy at any particular time, depending on whether there's a decent breeze.

"Energy density" gets more complicated, but the simplified version looks something like this: A given volume or area of space and fuel dedicated to one kind of energy production is more efficient than another. An acre dedicated to a nuclear reactor or a fossil fuel power plant (and the nuclear material or, say, coal) produces a LOT more energy than an acre covered with solar panels or wind turbines. In fact, it's questionable whether there are enough acres on Earth to meet humanity's energy needs with "renewables," at least if those acres have to be dedicated entirely to energy generation.

The opponents of "renewables" would seem to enjoy an advantage on these arguments. But not so fast.

With respect to density, it's true that land dedicated to nuclear reactors and e.g. coal-fired power plants has to be dedicated pretty much entirely to those facilities and activities. On the other hand, a rooftop solar panel or wind turbine on a home takes up little or no net additional space at all. You're not using the roof for other activities, and it would still be there if you didn't need electricity. Batteries and such take up SOME space, but not much, and may be installed inside a home's walls. You're basically getting multiple uses from the same space.

As for intermittency, I just mentioned batteries. You can generate more energy than you're using when the sun is out or the wind is blowing, and use the stored excess energy when it isn't.

And it's not like fossil fuels, especially delivered through an increasingly unreliable "grid" system, aren't also intermittent. Even setting aside military attacks on production and distribution infrastructure like we're seeing in Ukraine, and the growing phenomenon of localized

sabotage here in the United States, we experience energy interruptions all the time.

Transformers blow. Drunk drivers, hurricanes, or ice storms take lines down or flood/freeze pumps. Trains full of coal derail. Pipelines leak.

When those problems occur, "intermittency" goes to "non-existence," and "density" falls to zero, until they're fixed, for every customer downstream of the problems.

If a squirrel chews through the wires connecting your solar panels to your internal home "grid," your neighbor's refrigerator doesn't miss a beat.

I'm writing this column after sunset, on a computer operating from stored energy generated by a non-grid-connected solar panel. No intermittency, sufficient density for my purposes, and independence from sprawling and vulnerable systems.



TO BE EQUAL

Continued from page 10

falo supermarket in May was inspired by conspiracy theories posted on 4chan. Content on White supremacist websites fueled the massacre of nine Black worshippers at Charleston's Mother Emanuel Church in 2015. The accused attacker of Paul Pelosi, the subject of Musk's own false tweet, had posted "a mix of bloody images and hateful screeds aimed at a variety of targeted groups including Jewish, Black and trans people, as well as Democrats," according to *The Washington Post*.

"Whether you realize it or not, as the new leader of Twitter, you have new responsibilities, and one of those responsibilities is to ensure your platform is not used to harm people and the nation as a whole," wrote Musk. "Another responsibility is to ensure your own words and behavior do not cause harm, especially to the communities of color and other underserved communities who have been long time users and who have made the company what it is today. You have not shown a willingness to meet these responsibilities thus far, but we have hope and are willing to work with you do so in the future."

Twitter needs strong content moderation standards to foster a safe and healthy online environment. Yet Musk plans to fire fully half of the platform's workforce, according to Bloomberg.

"We strongly urge you to maintain content moderation teams that are tasked with creating and implementing policies that provide a baseline for prohibiting content designed to threaten and harass people of color and religious minorities and suppress votes," we wrote. "Indeed, we encourage you to strengthen these policies as there has been a rise in dangerous rhetoric and violent acts that threaten our communities' ability to vote and otherwise fully participate in our society without fear for our safety."

Lapses in content moderation are especially concerning with the midterm elections just days away. National security officials fear misinformation campaigns could ignite violence at the polls on Election Day. Disinformation campaigns waged on Twitter and Facebook in 2016 and 2020 sought to depress Black voter turnout and sow social and political discord.

We wrote, "We implore you to show immediate leadership by directly addressing the spike in hate speech that occurred over the weekend and to discourage vigorously and clearly those who would be influenced by your voice from using such speech in the future and from engaging in violence against anyone."

A DIFFERENT VOICE

Continued from page 10

the Whelan case. It remains to be seen what can be done to bring Paul Whelan home but I'm praying that it's soon. In an aside, I've heard that Griner's wife is a graduate of NCCU law school, a fact that if true makes this NCCU graduate proud.

More than anything, I just want us all to pay attention. Don't just accept these arguments and don't forget to remember the past. As long as I have been voting, race remains a factor in politics. Sometimes the messaging is subtle but more and more it's overt. People are more willing than ever to say racist "stuff" with a smile on their face as they look into my brown eyes and observe my locks. It's as if they've been given a "ticket to display." Get your responses ready and for your own safety watch who you respond to and how you respond. In some cases know that "silence doesn't give consent" and you need to be alive to vote. I'm not suggesting that we be afraid to speak truth to power, I'm just suggesting that you know when the person who is speaking angrily to you has a gun and is willing to use it. Also, know that when they are talking about making America great again, they are not talking about improving your freedoms, rights or life. They are increasingly talking about the glory days of slavery, segregation and Jim Crow. Pay attention!! And watch that Supreme Court.

CHILD WATCH

Continued from page 10

shooting at a Colorado LGBTQ nightclub on November 19. Children are watching this hypocrisy. Children are also often the targets of other children's and adults' prejudice and hatred, and it is up to the rest of us to act to break this cycle.

In my letter to my own sons, I also wrote: "I hope you will always recognize your rich dual heritage as the special gift and blessing that it is; know deep within yourself who you are; and draw strength and pride from the legacies you have inherited from two peoples—Blacks and Jews—who have survived the worst persecution the world can offer. That in recent history these two peoples were slaves and not enslavers, were segregated and discriminated against and were not segregators and discriminators, is an achievement to be proud rather than ashamed of if you take seriously, as I do, the first principle of every great religion: to treat others as you'd like to be treated. It is the only ethical standard in life you need." This was very personal advice to my children, but all children must be taught and then continually reminded of this simplest and highest principle. Many adults today are not displaying it, but this remains the great ethical standard all children and adults need.

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 1250

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Kenneth C. Harris, 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 24th day of February 2023, 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 24th day of November, 2022.

Winfred Harris
Administrator

3518 Golden Hill Drive
Bowie, MD 20721

11/24, 12/1, 12/8 and 12/15/2022

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF DURHAM

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of Fay Janet Alexander, deceased, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate of Fay Janet Alexander to present them to the undersigned on or before the 24th day of February, 2023, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment.

This the 24th day of November, 2022.

Leslie Alexander Alkins

Executrix
Attorney for the Estate of Fay Janet Alexander

c/o John W. Perry

Post Office Drawer 2051

Durham, North Carolina 27702

Telephone: (919) 683-8685

11/24, 12/1, 12/8 and 12/15/2022

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 1393

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of LaWanda Kaye Ellison, late of Durham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 24th day of February, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This is the 24th day of November, 2022.

DeSean F. Wilson

Administrator

801 S. Plum Street

Durham, NC 27701

11/24, 12/1, 12/8 and 12/15/2022

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF DURHAM

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File Number 22 E 1359

Having qualified as Personal Representative of the Estate of Matthew Stephen Simpson, deceased, of 1303 Virginia Avenue, Durham, Durham County, North Carolina 27705, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at the office of the attorney for the estate on or before March 2, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

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

This the 1st day of December, 2022.

Allison Barnett Simpson

Personal Representative

c/o Jeffrey L. Austin,

Attorney for the Estate

Law Office of Jeffrey L. Austin

PLLC

411 W. Chapel Hill Street

Suite C-2

Durham, NC 27701

12/1, 12/8, 12/15 and 12/22/2022

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE

OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In The General Court Of Justice

Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 2022 E 001331

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Bobby Joe Perry, 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 3rd day of March 2023, 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 December, 2022.

Ellen Perry

Executor

3750 Swarthmore Rd

Durham, NC 27707

12/1, 12/8, 12/15 and 12/22

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 2021 E 000377

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Dwight Sims, 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 3rd day of March 2023, 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 December, 2022.

Dakya Sims

Administrator

2067 Holland Creek Court

Buford, GA 30519

12/1, 12/8, 12/15 and 12/22

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 21 E 1055

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administratrix of the Estate of Mary Cropper, 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 11th day of March 2023, 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 December, 2022.

Tamara Debreaux

Administratrix

138 Smith Drive

Durham, NC 27712

12/8, 12/15, 12/22 and 12/29/2022

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 1466

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 28th day of November, 2022, as Administrator CTA of the ESTATE OF GARRY R.E. BLAKE-ADAMS A/K/A GARRY RODNEY ERIC BLAKE-ADAMS, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of March, 2023 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 8th day of December, 2022.

E.J. WALKER, JR.

ADMINISTRATOR CTA

ESTATE OF GARRY R.E. BLAKE-ADAMS A/K/A

GARRY RODNEY ERIC BLAKE-ADAMS

Walker Lambe, PLLC

Post Office Box 51549

Durham, North Carolina 27717

12/8, 12/15, 12/22 and 12/29/2022

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 1160

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the

Estate of Alice Y. Walker, 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 11th day of March 2023, 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 December, 2022.

Robert Walker-Lyons

Administrator

526 Winners Choice Drive

Whitsett, NC 27377

12/8, 12/15, 12/22 and 12/29/2022

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 21 E 1229

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Sam Dufault, 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 11th day of March 2023, 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 December, 2022.

Lauren Hew

Administrator

1533 Ellis Road

Apt K208

Durham, NC 27703

12/8, 12/15, 12/22 and 12/29/2022

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 1427

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Constance Blackmore, 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 11th day of March 2023, 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 December, 2022.

Brenadeen Barnett

Administrator

2806 Creek Court

Matthews, NC 28104

12/8, 12/15, 12/22 and 12/29/2022

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF

PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

In The General Court of Justice

District Court Division

File No: 22 CVD 1134

[CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING]

Katrina Pettiford,

Plaintiff

v.

Robert Dewayne Quarles,

Defendant.

To Robert Dewayne Quarles, father of Joscelynn Makaila Quarles, born December 20, 2005.

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 as follows: that permanent legal custody of the aforementioned child be granted to Katrina Pettiford.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than January 16, 2023, said date being forty (40) days from the first publication of this notice, and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This, the 8th day of December, 2022.

Chelsea Fuller

JusticeMatters, Inc.

Attorney for Plaintiffs

P.O. Box 199

Durham, NC 27702

12/8, 12/15 and 12/22/2022

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF

PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

In The General Court of Justice

District Court Division

File No: 22 CVD 531

[CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING]

Oscar Rolando Rivera Velasquez

and Maria Isabel Cordova,

Plaintiffs

v.

Jose Roberto Mejia,

Defendant.

To Jose Roberto Mejia, father of Rolando De Jesus Rivera Cordova, born May 28, 2008, and Jose Daniel Rivera Cordova, born June 11, 2010 in El Salvador.

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 as follows: that permanent joint legal custody of the aforementioned children be granted to Oscar Rivera Velasquez and Maria Isabel Cordova.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than January 17, 2023, said date being forty (40) days from the first publication of this notice, and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This, the 8th day of December, 2022.

Mary Elizabeth Reed

JusticeMatters, Inc.

Attorney for Plaintiffs

P.O. Box 199

Durham, NC 27702

919-794-7511

12/8, 12/15 and 12/22/2022

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE

OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In The General Court Of Justice

Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 2022 E 001382

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of James C Thompson Jr a/k/a James Cleveland Thompson Jr, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 16th day of March 2023, 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 December, 2022.

Joni T Pierce

Executor

4612 Jernigan Drive

Apex, NC 27539

12/15,12/22,12/29/2022 & 1/5/2023

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 001434

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Belquis Fathima a/k/a Belinda Ruth Sutton, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said

Classifieds

WAKE COUNTY

Attorney for Lucy Mae Holding
Petitioner
PO Box 1730
Raleigh, NC 27602
(919) 833-1931.
12/1, 12/8 and 12/15/2022
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 004647**

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Roberta F Mangum, 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 March 2023, 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 December, 2022.

Juanita M Dewberry
Administrator
525 Grantland Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27610

12/1, 12/8, 12/15 and 12/22
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 004300

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Edna Mae Stroud, 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 11th day of March 2023, 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 December, 2022.

Chantell Nicole Scriven
Executor

c/o Gregory R. Williams, Esq
2232 Page Road
Suite 203

Durham, NC 27703

12/8, 12/15, 12/22 and 12/29/2022
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 004750

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Alina Delois Toole, 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 March 2023, 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 December, 2022.

Mark J. Toole
Administrator

2 Martin Street
Wendell, NC 27594

12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2022 & 1/5/2023
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF WAKE

**In the General Court of Justice
District Court Division
File No: 22 CV 013513**

THERESE DCOSTA,
Plaintiff

v.

DANIEL WILKINS, JR,

Defendant.

Please take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-referenced action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows:

Plaintiff is seeking a judgment of absolute divorce from the bonds of matrimony based upon one (1) year separation pursuant to the provisions of North Carolina General Statutes Section 50-6.

You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than February 1st, 2023 which is at least 45 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 December, 2022.

Therese Dcosta
4611 Twisted Oak Drive
Apt 1915

Raleigh, NC 27612

12/15, 12/22 and 12/29/2022.
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 2021 E 001783

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Roderick Harris, 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 March 2023, 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 December, 2022.

Joan Harris Footman
Administrator
5957 Jones Farm Road
Wake Forest, NC 27587
12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2022 & 1/5/2023

JOHNSTON COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
JOHNSTON COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE
OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk**

File Number 2020 E 001157

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Douglass Wayne Anderson, late of Johnston 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 24th day of February 2023, 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 24th day of November, 2022.

Phyllis Haywood
Administrator

203 Adlett Lane
Durham, NC 27703

11/24, 12/1, 12/8 and 12/15/2022

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 Junction Boulevard Storm Pipe Lining Repairs project for the Town of Garner which bids December 20, 2022, at 10:00 AM. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: TA Loving Company, 400 Patetown Road, Goldsboro, NC 27530 * 900 Seventh Avenue; Garner, NC 27529.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, clearing and grubbing, hauling, erosion control, and CIPP. Please contact Jeff Price (jprice@taloving.com) if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-734-8400; fax 919-736-2148; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to bid closing time of the 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 for 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 the bid date.

RN'S WANTED

HOLIDAY SIGNING BONUS

Nurses - \$40.15/hr. for RNs. \$1,000 holiday sign-on bonus through 1/1/23! ASAP start dates in Raleigh for corrections, psych, and medical. Flexible scheduling available on all shifts. Fully employer-paid medical & dental. Immediate vesting in 401(k) with 6% employer contribution. Call Sarah at Worldwide Staffing, 866-633-3700.

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