



Whoopi Goldberg Pioneering Change With Blkfam, A Groundbreaking, Black-Focused Streaming Platform

By Stacy M. Brown
 NNPA

Television history, marred by a narrow portrayal of non-white characters, witnessed a transformative journey from caricatures and racist depictions to the evolution of influential, Black-centered shows like the influential and groundbreaking "The Cosby Show," in the 1980s, "A Different World," "Living Single," in the 1990s, and later "Black-ish." The television landscape shifted as those shows emerged, challenging stereotypes, and showcasing diverse Black experiences.

Today, streaming is the biggest game in Hollywood and Whoopi Goldberg, an award-winning actress and co-host of "The View," is stepping into this legacy, aiming to redefine the narrative of Black representation in family-friendly streaming by investing in Blkfam. The outlet is already being hailed as the first-ever Black-owned and Black-focused family streaming platform. Launched on February 26 across multiple platforms, Blkfam could be a significant stride toward addressing the underrepresentation of Black families in



the streaming market. At its inception, Blkfam boasted a content library featuring over 20 syndicated series, encompassing over 1,000 hours of animation titles and dozens of animated characters of color with diverse gender experiences. The platform also offers hundreds of hours of original music-driven content, signaling a commitment to fostering an authentic and inclusive narrative.

Goldberg, an equity investor in Blkfam, sits at the forefront of the groundbreaking initiative alongside Larry Adams, a digital media veteran and CEO of the platform. Goldberg, known for her roles in iconic films

like "The Color Purple" and "Sister Act," has been a vocal advocate for positive representation. "I like the idea of being part of something that will grow," Goldberg declared. "As I get older, I say, 'Wow, things will

outlast me.' This is one of the things I hope outlasts me — I could be the Black woman, Walt Disney!" Blkfam will stream over various platforms, including iOS, Android, and Amazon Prime Video Channels.

Trump Ignites Black Conservative Support at Gala in SC

Jordan Meadows
 Staff Writer

The Black Conservative Federation (BCF) Gala held in Columbia, South Carolina on Friday marked a significant gathering of some of the nation's most prominent Black conservatives. The event aimed to underscore former President Donald Trump's appeal to Black voters. Trump delivered the keynote address.

The strategic timing of the event, one day before the South Carolina Republican primary, aimed to address a state with a significant Black population and set the stage for a broader effort to secure Black votes in the 2024 elections.

According to the latest AP-NORC poll in December, while approval among Black Americans for President Biden is trending downward — decreasing over 30% since July 2021 — only a quarter of them said they have a favorable view of Trump. In 2016, just 6% of Black Americans voted for Trump, slightly increasing to 8% in 2020.

In December 2023, a GenForward survey showed that almost one in five Black Americans would vote for Trump.

The gala featured a notable lineup of prominent Black political voices, including representative Wesley Hunt of Texas, Vice President of BCF Quenton Jordan, and former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Dr. Ben Carson. Alveda King, the niece of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., was also in attendance.

"I hope CNN is back there somewhere because we have a room full of Black conservatives!" President of the BCF Diante Johnson said.

Johnson claimed that in the 2020 election, former President Trump secured 20% of the Black vote and predicted a historic increase to 50%



in the forthcoming 2024 general election.

Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina took the stage, aligning his remarks with the evening's theme: the American Dream Story. He shared how his journey serves as a testament to the ideals of the American dream, emphasizing that hard work can make it a reality for anyone.

While not officially declaring his candidacy for the position of Trump's Vice President, he conveyed unwavering loyalty and support to the former president. Senator Scott endorsed Trump for the upcoming primary elections scheduled for the following day.

CJ Pearson, a conservative commentator and candidate for the

Georgia State House, conveyed a Southern evangelical pastoral atmosphere to resonate with Black Americans, particularly in discussions about politics and socioeconomic issues.

"I first got involved in the conservative movement when I was just 12 years old because I knew then what I know now: that the color of my skin should not dictate my politics," Pearson said. "The black community was destroyed by the Democrat party, now it is time for our community to destroy the Democrat party."

Florida's US Representative Byron Donalds introduced Trump, outlining the leadership qualities that the former president could embody.

"Real leadership isn't always nice but it's funny. Real leadership sometimes isn't cuddly but it gets the job done. And when you have real leadership, our families can thrive, our communities can thrive, our states can thrive and this nation thrives," Donalds said.

Trump's speech at the gala showcased a carefully crafted mix of his typical campaign rhetoric — including the 2020 election results, foreign policy, and immigration — with appeals to the Black community, even drawing attention to his administration's achievements in comparison to his predecessor, Barack Obama.

"I have to tell you, Black president, but I got \$1.7 billion less," Trump said. "Would you rather have the Black president or the white president who got \$1.7 billion off the price? I think they want the white guy," Trump said as the crowd of Black conservatives cheered.

Throughout the nearly two-hour address, Trump showed little concern for the primaries, as he scarcely referenced his opponent — once chuckling at a joke that labeled Haley as a Neoconservative. Instead, he focused on the general election in November, criticizing and repeatedly mentioning Biden's past comments and actions dealing with race.

In a confident tone, Trump attributed the gain in support to what he perceives as the Democratic Party's failure to adequately address the needs of Black communities while framing his four criminal indictments as evidence of being a victim of discrimination, drawing parallels to the historic legacy of anti-Black prejudice in the US legal system.

"I got indicted for nothing, for something that is nothing," Trump told the attendees. "And a lot of people said that's why the Black people like me, because they have been hurt so badly and discriminated against, and they actually viewed me as I'm

being discriminated against."

While Trump received cheers from the gala crowd, his remarks faced sharp criticism from Democrats. Former Louisiana Rep. Cedric Richmond, co-chair of Biden's reelection campaign, called Trump's claims insulting, moronic, and racist.

His primary opponent, former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley labeled Trump's speech as "disgusting," reflecting the deep political divide surrounding Trump's messaging.

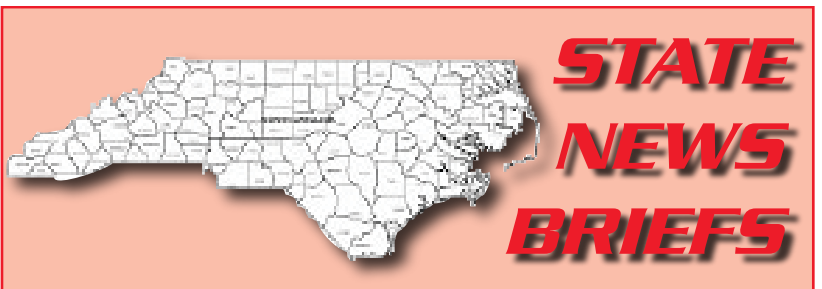
"That's what happens when he goes off the teleprompter. That's the chaos that comes with Donald Trump," Haley said in response.

The most unexpected stance taken by Trump pertained to the recent Alabama Supreme Court decision on in vitro fertilization. This fertility method involves combining an egg with sperm in a lab and then placing the resulting embryo inside a uterus, often utilized by families fac-

ing difficulties conceiving naturally. The court ruled that these embryos possess personhood, comparable to fully formed human babies.

The day after the ruling, several clinics halted their IVF services. Trump openly opposed the ruling just before the event and continued throughout, contending that it would adversely impact individuals striving to conceive. Although there was minimal support from the crowd, he called on the Alabama legislature to pass a law that would allow IVF services, a position that has been historically unpopular in the Republican party.

On Saturday, Trump defeated Nikki Haley in the South Carolina Primary by roughly 20 percentage points. Trump defeated Haley in Michigan on Tuesday as well. Haley has stated she will stay in the race until Super Tuesday on March 5th when 16 states and territories, including North Carolina, Texas, and California, will cast their ballot.



DEATH PENALTY ON TRIAL AS RACIAL JUSTICE ACT HEARING BEGINS

NC NEWSLINE - In 1968, days after the Ku Klux Klan marched through Black neighborhoods in Benson following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., five young Black adolescents tried to burn down the Klan's meeting hall in the Johnston County town. The fire did not travel past the doorway. The boys, all of whom were between the ages of 16 and 20 and did not have criminal records, were each given 12 years of imprisonment and hard labor, harsher than the sentences meted out to white defendants who were found guilty of similar crimes in the county.

On Monday, more than half a century removed from the "Benson Five," a lawyer for a man on North Carolina's death row argued in a Johnston County courtroom that that history was inseparable from the use of capital punishment — not only in that eastern North Carolina county, but all across the Old North State.

Underpinning the case is the Racial Justice Act, a landmark law passed by Democrats in 2009, repealed by Republicans in 2013, and preserved by the Democratic-controlled state Supreme Court in 2020. The law gives people on North Carolina's death row an opportunity to be resentenced to life in prison without parole if they can prove racial discrimination played a role in their death sentence.

"The RJA was intended to look at the capital punishment system as a whole, to address this concern that there had been patterns of racial disparities in jury selection and the imposition of the death penalty," said Henderson Hill, senior counsel for the ACLU. "We hope to do what the RJA was intended to do: break this connection, break this link, between racism and the death penalty."

For at least the next week, Hill will make that argument in an evidentiary hearing before Superior Court Judge Wayland J. Sermons Jr., a Democrat, in a case that will have serious implications for those on North Carolina's death row.

Hill is a lawyer for Hasson Bacote, a Black man sentenced to death in Johnston County in 2009 after ten white and two Black jurors convicted him of killing Anthony Surles during a robbery.

Over the past few years, the state has turned over 680,000 pages of discovery to Hill and the rest of Bacote's legal team, documents that include prosecutors' hand-written notes on jury selection in 176 capital cases between 1985 and 2011.

According to court filings, data from those documents show: In 176 capital cases across North Carolina between 1985 and 2011, Black people were two and a half times more likely to be struck from jury pools than other jurors.

Similarly, in seven Johnston County capital cases over that same timeframe, Black people were four times more likely to be struck from the jury pool than other jurors.

In four capital cases in that timeframe tried by Gregory Butler, an assistant district attorney, Black people were 10 times more likely to be struck from a jury pool than other jurors. Butler also prosecuted Bacote, the defendant in the underlying case.

(See STATE BRIEFS, P. 2)

NY City Mayor Eric Adams Calls For Modification Of Sanctuary City Law

By Nick Robertson
 The Hill

New York City Mayor Eric Adams (D) said that city lawmakers should modify its sanctuary city law to allow migrants who commit violent crimes to be deported.

Adams's Tuesday comments come as migration into New York City comes under criticism from lawmakers and law enforcement. Adams and New York Gov. Kathy Hochul (D) have long pressured the Biden administration and Congress for additional assistance to get migrants work visas and receive additional housing support.

"The overwhelming amount of migrants that are here, they want to work. I still don't understand why the federal government's not allowing them to work," Adams said at an event Monday. "They need to have the right to work like all of us that have come to this country had the ability to do so."

He continued, "But those small numbers that are committing



crimes, we need to modify the sanctuary city law that if you commit a felony, a violent act, we should be able to turn you over to [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] and have you deported. It is a right to live in this city, and you should not be committing crimes in our city. Right now, we don't have the authority to do so."

after a spate of high-profile violent crimes committed by migrants, including the shooting of a tourist in a Times Square store robbery earlier this month.

New York City was the first to implement a so-called sanctuary city policy to not cooperate with federal immigration authorities in 1989. It was expanded to bar the city from handing over migrants to Immigra-

tion and Customs Enforcement, with few exceptions, in 2014.

The policy has been enacted by dozens of cities nationwide and become the center of political fights over immigration policy in recent years.

Adams doubled down on the shift in a press conference Tuesday. "I don't believe people who are violent in our city and commit repeated crimes should have the privilege of being in our city," Adams said. "You don't have the right to be in our city and tarnish the overwhelming number who are here following the rules."

The mayor would need a majority of the city's Legislature to back a proposal to change the sanctuary policy. City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams said earlier this week that the body had no plans to take up any changes, CNN reported.

Rep. Troy Nehls (R-Texas) used Adams's comments to bash sanctuary city policy, writing on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter, that "Democrats don't even want to live under their policies."

Business & Finance

SBA Launches Funding Opportunity For Women Veterans

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has unveiled a new funding competition to bolster the entrepreneurial skills of women veterans. This initiative is designed to empower non-profit organizations and private sector firms to offer specialized entrepreneurship training to this distinguished group. With an application window open from today until March 21, 2024, eligible entities have a unique opportunity to secure up to \$300,000 in funding.

The initiative, dubbed the Women Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Program (SB-OVWV-24-001), is orchestrated by the SBA's Office of Veterans Business Development. It plans to distribute a total of \$300,000 among up to six successful appli-

cants. This funding is allocated for a base project period of 12 months, extendable for three additional 12-month periods. The program's primary goal is to furnish women veterans who either aspire to or are already navigating the intricacies of business ownership with essential entrepreneurial education.

Timothy Green, the acting associate administrator for the SBA's Office of Veterans Business Development, highlighted the critical need for this program. "With more than two million women veterans living in the U.S. today and over 12 million businesses owned by women, there is an incredible need for more advocates and resources tailored to women veteran entrepreneurs," Green stated. He un-



derscored the program's mission to not only train but also empower women veterans to embark on or expand their entrepreneurial ven-

tures. The program's impact is already visible through its participants. For instance, Kristen Wright, a

military spouse and the owner of Kristen Wright Strategic Communications LLC in Tulsa, Oklahoma, shared her transformative experience with the program. Overwhelmed by the complexity of competing for government contracts, Kristen turned to ONABEN, a grantee of the SBA Women Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Program. Through the "Beyond the Boots" program, she gained invaluable insights into federal contracting opportunities, enabling her to grow her business in the competitive federal marketplace.

Organizations interested in applying for the Women Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Program must do so through grants.gov, using the opportunity number SB-OVWV-24-001, by the March

21 deadline. Late submissions, or those not made through grants.gov, will not be considered.

This funding competition not only reflects the SBA's commitment to supporting women veterans' transition into entrepreneurship but also underscores the broader effort to enrich the small business ecosystem. As these entrepreneurs bring unique perspectives and skills honed through military service, their success in business further diversifies and strengthens the U.S. economy. Small business owners, particularly those with a military background, stand to benefit significantly from the resources and networks that such programs cultivate, marking a pivotal step toward inclusive economic growth.

Mitchell Hamline School of Law Picks Its Next President

By Mara Klecker

Star Tribune

Mitchell Hamline School of Law has named Camille Davidson, a dean and professor at Southern Illinois University School of Law, as its new leader.

She will become the St. Paul law school's president and dean on July 1, taking over from Interim President and Dean Jim Hilbert.

"Camille emerged early as a

clear standout in an extremely qualified field," said Jim Jacobson, a former member of the school's board of trustees, in a statement. "Her extensive experience as a scholar and administrator, commitment to supporting students, and fundraising success make her an excellent choice for Mitchell Hamline."

Davidson said she was drawn to the position because of Mitchell Hamline's innovative approach,

including a blended learning option that allows students to do some of their courses online.

"I really think the only way to have true access to justice is to train people to serve their commu-

nities," she said. Mitchell Hamline "does a really, really good job with that and I'm excited to be a part of that community."

Davidson will be the third president of the law school, which was

created in 2015 when William Mitchell College of Law combined with Hamline University School of Law. She'll be the first Black woman to serve as president and dean of Mitchell Hamline.

Before joining Southern Illinois University School of Law in July 2020, Davidson spent 11 years as a professor and administrator at Charlotte School of Law and Wake Forest University School of Law.

Attorney Crump Sues Navy Federal

VIENNA, Va. -- Nationally renowned civil rights and personal injury attorneys Ben Crump and Adam Levitt filed a lawsuit on behalf of Black plaintiffs Laquita Oliver and Cherelle Jacob who sought home loans with defendant Navy Federal Credit Union. The lawsuit alleges that Oliver and Jacob's denials for their home loans are due to Navy Federal's discriminatory lending practices.

The suit alleges while drawing research insights from a recent CNN bombshell report, that Navy Federal, the country's largest and most important credit union, systematically discriminates against would-be borrowers by race.

Plaintiffs Laquita Oliver and Cherelle Jacob sought home loans with Navy Federal. According to the lawsuit, the plaintiffs, like many others, were denied home loans because of their race and suffered harm as a result. Navy Federal has approximately 13,000,000 members and more than \$165 billion in assets, making it the country's largest and most dominant credit union.

"The outright discrimination that occurs when Banking While Black continues to reveal itself in the lending practices of many of America's largest financial institutions," said Crump. "It is shameful that Navy Federal, an organization that prides itself in helping the families of men and women who served their country, does not give their Black and Latino customers the same opportunities as White customers."

According to the recent CNN report, Navy Federal Credit Union approved 77% of the mortgage applications by white lenders, but only 56% of the applications from Latino applicants and 48% of the applications from Black applicants. The lawsuit states this disparity is the largest of any of the 50 largest home mortgage lenders in the U.S. and remains persistent, even accounting for more than a dozen separate variables including, among others, income, debt-to-income ratio, property value, down payment percentage, and neighborhood characteristics. The study also revealed that Navy Federal



approved a higher percentage of applications from white borrowers making less than \$62,000 a year than it did from Black borrowers making \$140,000 or more.

"We hope this legal action will stop racial lending discrimination in its tracks and require Navy Fed-

eral to right their wrongs," said Adam Levitt. "Home ownership is recognized as the cornerstone of the American Dream. We will not sit by while that dream is denied to hard-working and deserving Americans based on discriminatory practices and algorithms."



CAMILLE DAVIDSON

Smithfield Foods Donates \$100,000

Smithfield, VA — Smithfield Foods has donated \$100,000 to fund a mobile food retail market that will provide fresh food in food deserts throughout southeastern North Carolina.

The donation to Ripe for Revival, a nonprofit founded to address food insecurity in North Carolina, was used to purchase a bus that has been transformed into a mobile food market. The bus will offer fresh, local, healthy food to the public, including many families experiencing food insecurity, at pay-what-you-can prices. Smithfield's donation brings Ripe for Revival's fleet up to a total of five buses.

"Having access to affordable food is a significant issue in rural communities," said Steve Evans, vice president of community development for Smithfield Foods. "We are focused on improving food access, and we're building capacity to fill the need. This innovative partnership with Ripe for Revival will meet our neighbors where they are and provide fresh food everyone can afford."

"We are beyond thankful to Smithfield Foods for helping us revive communities through food," said Will Kornegay, founder and CEO of Ripe Revival. "This generous donation not only has grown our fleet of pay-what-you-can mobile markets, but also is helping us expand our reach. We have great plans for 2024 to serve more North Carolina families facing food insecurity, and Smithfield Foods is helping us

achieve that goal."

Ripe for Revival's mobile markets currently sell local produce, meat and dairy at up to a dozen sites per week in Beaufort, Edgecombe, Halifax, Lenoir, Nash, Pitt and Wake counties. In addition to funding the purchase of the mobile market bus, Smithfield's donation will provide operational support to expand Ripe for Revival's mobile market service area to Sampson County.

Will Kornegay started Ripe Revival in 2018 to help farmers find markets for the imperfect produce they could not sell to grocery stores. In 2021, he launched Ripe for Revival, the nonprofit arm of Ripe Revival, to operate a fleet of pay-what-you-can mobile markets to address food insecurity in North Carolina. Over the past few years, Ripe Revival has played a role in serving thousands of families and hundreds of nonprofits by helping to distribute more than 4 million pounds of produce to fight food insecurity. Since June 2022, the mobile market buses have distributed more than 40,000 pounds of produce.

Smithfield's hunger relief program, Helping Hungry Homes®, has provided hundreds of millions of servings of protein all 50 U.S. states, as well as in Poland, Romania and Mexico, since 2008. Smithfield donated nearly 25 million servings of protein to food banks, disaster relief efforts and community outreach programs across the U.S. in 2022 and has pledged to donate 200 million servings of protein by 2025.



Classifieds

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Bid: HVAC Package 1 Electrical Building

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Electronic copies (.pdf) of the Bid Documents by sending an email to tgbwtp@taloving.com.

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The Project consists of a 4 MGD upgrade to existing water treatment facility, new filter building, new bulk chemical storage facility, new clear well, new belt press, new administration building, renovations to existing operations building, associated sitework, new electrical building and generator bank, instrumentation and controls, and site piping.

HVAC Package 1 includes but is not limited to Equipment, Material, Installation, Startup, and Testing of Air Handling Unit, Air Cooled Condensing Unit, Ductwork and to provide a complete and functional system for the Electrical Building.

Any bidder who wishes to visit the site to see existing conditions shall reach out to tgbwtp@taloving.com.

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All questions, site visit requests and bid submittals shall be directed to tgbwtp@taloving.com.

Is It Time To Look Again At 'Black Commons' And Collective Ownership?

By Julian Agyeman And Kofi Boone

Tufts and NCSU

Underlying the recent unrest sweeping U.S. cities over police brutality is a fundamental inequity in wealth, land and power that has circumscribed black lives since the end of slavery in the U.S.

The "40 acres and a mule" promised to formerly enslaved Africans never came to pass. There was no redistribution of land, no reparations for the wealth extracted from stolen land by stolen labor.

June 19 is celebrated by black Americans as Juneteenth, marking the date in 1865 that former slaves were informed of their freedom, albeit two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. Coming this year at a time of protest over the continued police killing of black people, it provides an opportunity to look back at how black Americans were deprived of land ownership and the economic power that it brings. An expanded concept of the "black commons" – based on shared economic, cultural and digital resources as well as land – could act as one means of redress. As professors in urban planning and landscape architecture, our research suggests that such a concept could be a part of undoing the racist legacy of chattel slavery by encouraging economic development and creating

communal wealth.

Land grab

The proportion of the United States under black ownership has actually shrunk over the last 100 years or so.

At their peak in 1910, African American farmers made up around 14% of all U.S. farmers, owning 16 to 19 million acres of land. By 2012, black Americans represented just 1.6% of the farming community, owning 3.6 million acres of land. Another study shows a 98% decline in black farmers between 1920, and 1997. This contrasts sharply with an increase in acres owned by white farmers over the same period.

In a 1998 report, the U.S. Department of Agriculture ascribed this decline to a long and "well-documented" history of discrimination against black farmers, ranging from New Deal and USDA discriminatory practices dating from the 1930s to 1950s-era exclusion from legal, title and loan resources.

Discriminatory practices have also affected who owns property as well as land. In 2017, the racial homeownership gap was at its highest level for 50 years, with 79.1% of white Americans owning a home compared to 41.8% of black Americans. This gap is even larger than it was when racist housing practices such as redlining, which denied black residents mortgages to buy, or loans to renovate, property were legal.

The lack of ownership is crucial to understanding the crippling economic disparity that has hollowed out the black middle class and continues to plague black America – making it harder to accrue wealth and pass it on to future generations.

A 2017 report found that the median net worth for non-immigrant black American households in the greater Boston region was just US\$8, but for whites it was \$247,500. This was due to "general housing and lending discrimination through restrictive covenants, redlining and other lending practices."

Nationally, between 1983 and 2013, median black household wealth decreased by 75% to \$1,700 while median white household wealth increased 14% to \$116,800.

Freedom farms

Land ownership today could look very different. The idea of collective ownership has a long history in the United States. Even during slavery, a piece of ground was granted by slave masters for enslaved African subsistence farming. The Jamaican social theorist Sylvia Wynter called this land "the plot."

Wynter has explained how that these parcels of land were transformed into communal areas where slaves could establish their own social order, sustain traditional African folklore and foodways – growing yams, cassava and sweet pota-

toes. Plots were often called "yam grounds," so important was this staple food.

The connection between food, land, power and cultural survival was subversive in its nature. By appropriating physical space to support collective growing practices within the brutal constraints of slavery, black people also demonstrated the need for common, shared mental space to enable their survival and resistance. Herbalism, medicine and midwifery, and other African American healing practices were seen as acts of resistance that were "intimately tied to religion and community," according to historian Sharla M. Fett.

With the end of slavery, these plots disappeared.

The principles of collective land ownership evolved in post-slavery black America. It was central to civil rights organizer Fannie Lou Hamer's Freedom Farms, a cooperative model designed to deliver economic justice to the poorest black farmers in the American South.

In Hamer's view, the fight for justice in the face of oppression required a measure of independence that could be achieved through owning land and providing resources for the community.

This idea of a black commons as a means of economic empowerment formed a focus of W.E.B. DuBois' 1907 "Economic Co-operation Among

Negro Americans." DuBois believed that the extreme segregation of the Jim Crow era made it necessary to ground economic empowerment in the cultural bonds between black people and that this could be achieved through cooperative ownership.

Credit unions and co-ops

The accumulation of wealth was not the only desired consequence of a black commons.

In 1967, social critic Harold Cruse argued for a "new institutionalism" that would create a "new dynamic synthesis of politics, economics, and culture." In his view, economic ventures needed to be grounded in the greater aspirations of black communities – politically, culturally and economically. This could be achieved through a black commons.

As the political economist Jessica Gordon Nembhard has noted in reference to black credit unions and mutual aid funds, "African Americans, as well as other people of color and low-income people, have benefited greatly from cooperative ownership and democratic economic participation throughout the nation's history."

The nonprofit Schumacher Center for a New Economics is working to rejuvenate the idea of black commons. In a 2018 statement, the center proposed to adopt a community land trust structure "to serve as a national vehicle to amass purchased and gifted lands in a black commons with the

specific purpose of facilitating low-cost access for black Americans hitherto without such access."

Meanwhile, shared equity housing schemes and community land trusts continue to grow, helping black families own property, advance racial and economic justice and mitigate displacement resulting from gentrification.

Digital commons

The disproportionate effects of the coronavirus pandemic and unrest over police brutality have highlighted deeply embedded structural racism. Organizations such as Black Lives Matter and the Movement for Black Lives are demonstrating a renewed vigor around collective action and a blueprint for how this can be achieved in a digital age. At the same time, black Americans are also forging a cultural commons through events such as DJ D-Nice's Club Quarantine – a hugely popular online dance party. Club Quarantine's success indicates the potential for using online platforms to facilitate community building, pointing toward future economic cooperation.

That's what organizations like Urban Patch are trying to do. The nonprofit group uses crowdsourced funding to build community spaces in inner city areas of Indianapolis and encourage collective economic development that echoes the black commons of years past.

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Health & Wellness

N.C. Doctor Who Broke Racial Barriers Left A Lasting Legacy

Jaymie Baxley

NC Health News



An unassuming brick building in the shadow of Raleigh's ever-rising skyline was once home to a trail-blazing doctor who made North Carolina history several times over.

Dr. Manassa Thomas Pope spent most of his remarkable life in the house. He was the state's first licensed Black physician and the only Black man to run for mayor of Raleigh during the Jim Crow era.

Those milestones would have been enough to secure Pope's place in the pantheon of great North Carolinians, but they are just part of a larger legacy of service that had a lasting effect on the state's health care culture.

A series of firsts

Born before the onset of the Civil War to free parents of color in 1858, Pope grew up in Northampton County near the Virginia border.

He left his rural family home in 1874 to attend Shaw University, a then-fledgling college for Black men in Raleigh. The capital city had begun to establish itself as the "epicenter of the hopes, aspirations, and political activism of North Carolina's African American citizenry in the post-bellum period," according to historian Kenneth Zogry.

"The scope of Pope's world widened exponentially once he arrived in Raleigh," Zogry wrote in a 2008 UNC Chapel Hill dissertation about Pope. "The education he received at Shaw, the students and faculty he came to know, and the introduction to urban life would define him as an adult."

After completing his undergraduate studies, Pope enrolled at Shaw University's newly established Leonard Medical School — the first four-year institution of its kind in the state, created at a time when such medical colleges were being established across the country. He received his medical degree in 1886 in the school's inaugural

graduating class.

Pope then made history by becoming the first Black person licensed to practice medicine in North Carolina. James F. Shober, a Wilmington physician widely acknowledged as the state's first Black doctor, held a medical degree but was unlicensed.

Despite holding a valid license, Pope was denied membership to the influential North Carolina Medical Association because of his race. He responded by partnering with other Shaw alumni to form the Old North State Medical Society, a nonprofit that continues to advocate for the advancement of Black doctors.

Pope later married and briefly lived in Henderson before moving to Charlotte, where he found success as a physician and businessman in the 1890s. During this period, he co-founded Queen City Drug Store, the first Black-owned pharmacy in Charlotte, and played a key role in the creation of the People's Relief and Benevolent Association, which predated North Carolina Mutual as the state's first Black-owned insurance company.

When the U.S. declared war on Spain in 1898, Pope enlisted



as a volunteer surgeon with the all-Black 3rd North Carolina Regiment. The regiment never saw combat, and its troops were mustered back home after less than a year.

Still, the cohort's willingness to serve "made a strong statement about the character of North Carolina's African-American population," according to the National Park Service, which compiled a biography of Pope as part of its Teaching with Historic Places program.

POLITICAL AWAKENING

Pope cemented his already-remarkable legacy after moving back to Raleigh in 1899.

That year, he opened a medical practice in the city's segregated

Third Ward. Construction of his two-story brick home on nearby South Wilmington Street was completed in 1901.

He outfitted the house with the latest available technology, installing electric light fixtures, doorbells and a telephone. His was one of only 467 residences with phone service in Raleigh, which had a population of more than 13,000.

Even rarer: Pope was one of only seven Black men with legal standing to vote in Raleigh at the time.

In 1900, state lawmakers passed a constitutional amendment designed to disenfranchise Black voters. The amendment required prospective voters to pay a poll tax and pass a literacy test, which was

almost always administered by a white registrar.

White men were mostly exempt from the requirement thanks to a "grandfather clause" that allowed them to skip the test if they or a direct ancestor had been registered to vote before 1867. Because his father had been a free man with voting rights, Pope was one of the few Black men in the state eligible to cast a ballot.

The experience galvanized Pope, who became increasingly active in politics. He ran for mayor of Raleigh in 1919, making him one of the first Black men to appear on the ballot of a major city in the Jim Crow South.

His friends J. Cheek and Calvin Lightner ran for other city offices as part of a slate of all-Black candidates. The men lost their respective races, but their candidacy made an important statement. Lightner, whose son went on to become Raleigh's first Black mayor in 1973, later recalled that the trio ran "to wake our people up politically."

After the election, Pope went into retirement. He died in 1934 at age 76.

PRESERVING POPE'S LEGACY

In 1999, Pope's home on South Wilmington Street was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The doctor's notability continued to grow after his death, as his former residence became the

state's first African American home museum. Artifacts and mementos from his storied medical career are displayed in glass cases throughout the century-old building.

Visitors will find Pope's framed medical degree hanging in a hallway near the home's entrance. An Army satchel filled with bottles of medicine from his time in the Spanish-American War is in the kitchen. A shelf in front of the staircase is lined with books about medicine, psychology and child hood disease.

On a recent Friday afternoon, Hazel Boomer explained the significance of the items to a group of curious children, whose parents had brought them on a tour of the home. She manages the museum for the Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department.

"We have local people who come in and say, 'I pass by this house every day or park near here when I'm going to events, and I didn't know this place was a museum,'" Boomer said. "Then they leave here totally amazed by the amount of stuff that Dr. Pope did."

Pope's legacy continues to grow through the existence of the Old North State Medical Society. The organization co-founded by the state's first licensed Black doctor now represents more than 3,200 African American physicians in North Carolina, according to its website.

FOOD LION honors BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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- Javen Hodge-McLeod
Food Lion To Go Specialist

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THE GOLDEN YEARS
By Judykay Jefferson

THE LOST LINE

I am old enough to remember when the office of United States President demanded respect from all of America's people. The President was the elite amongst the elite to most of us, untouchable and without repudiation. I also remember when that ended as the Watergate scandal unfolded on the nightly news at 5, 6, and 10 and developed as the country's dirty joke on the Tonight Show. What is known as the Watergate Scandal was a "comedy of errors," as five burglars were caught bugging the phones at Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate office building during the 1972 presidential race between Republican President Richard M. Nixon and Democratic Sen. George McGovern of South Dakota. As if this wasn't bad enough, President Nixon was implicit in the cover-up.

There was no way around it, as more and more information, complete with names, was revealed on the evening news, there was no way for comedians and late-night hosts to avoid the topic. Johnny Carson was known to skirt past politics on his popular show, but he couldn't pretend this wasn't comedy gold. No longer did you have to go to a dimly lit, smoky night club to see cutting-edge comedians discuss politics and politicians cloaked in profane satire and general disdain. This was bigger than that. This was mainstream America desperately seeking humor in the shocking, exposure of criminal activity at our nation's highest level.

Lay this on top of the increasingly graphic, widely felt unnecessary, brutal Viet Nam war's enemy and friendly fatality rates being reported daily. We needed something to laugh at, and this was ridiculous. What we didn't realize was that it was the kid gloves were OFF as it related to how American's treated their elected officials. From Watergate on, nothing was off the table. Not only was it allowed in hushed water cooler discussions but screamed from the roof tops by major media, print and broadcast. Not only were we as average citizens allowed to question the actions of those who had enjoyed elite status but provided with behind-the-curtain exposure of personal lives. The tabloid reports were racing the respected and believed respectable journalists digging through garbage cans and paying clandestine sources for a juicy scoop.

What we also didn't know was that the line had not only been crossed but totally erased. Nothing was too much, too nasty, too personal when it came to political campaigning. And a good lie became as acceptable as the truth. There was no need for campaign consultants to meet in secret. No longer did they have to hide their hands after throwing rocks. Folks like Roger Stone and Lee Atwater, political operatives known for their dirty tricks intended to control the electoral processes, were in great demand despite the widespread knowledge of their lies and deceptions. They tilled the soil of separatism, fertilized the weeds of fear and racism, and nurtured extreme partisan politics until those looking for enemies to blame for their failure to thrive or genetic low self-esteem were no longer dandelions in the White House lawn but fire ants building mounds of vicious, dangerous pests, ready to attack.

And on January 6, 2021, they did attack. Emboldened by Donald Trump, fueled by the fear of annihilation that is a foundational root of racism, a mob stormed the United State Capitol building in a way most of us never thought we'd see. If the 1963 march on Washington or the 1995 Million Man March had attacked the Capitol, what would have happened? How many would have been killed in defense of our nation's sovereign government? Would it not been painted not as a protest but as treason?

There is no doubt that Donald Trump issued the war cry in 2021, but the environment, the fertile soil of chaos, began to form with the loss of decorum that was Watergate. President Richard Milhouse Nixon is not remembered for unprecedented diversity and inclusion. He will not be remembered for his accomplishments including revenue sharing, the end of the draft, new anticrime laws, and a broad environmental program or even the 1969 moon landing.

Nixon will not be remembered for his quest for world stability. ending American involvement in Indochina. Nixon will be remembered as a criminal, a joke on late-night television, a big-head caricature of a corrupt politician who erased the line of acceptable campaigning.

So, here we are in 2024, having survived the Trump presidency and resulting popularity and acceptability of overt racism cloaked in a blanket of fear. Super Tuesday, March 5, 2024, will soon be here and North Carolina's 2024 political season will be off to its official start. Weed through the plethora of campaign junk mail and research the primary races important to you. THEY only win if WE give up.

Arts & Culture

Behind the Scenes: North Carolina's Cinematic Renaissance

Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Between the majestic mountains, along the captivating coast, and within the spurring cities of North Carolina, a vibrant and growing film industry flourished. From the early 1900s, when the mountains became a haven for outdoor productions, to the rise of sound stages in the 1920s, North Carolina's allure as a cinematic haven for storytellers and filmmakers was evident.

W. S. Sciles, a trailblazing African American filmmaker, founded

infrastructure of production facilities and a skilled workforce. The state had become a crucial player in the film world, offering incentives that made it irresistible for directors.

The real turning point came in 1980 when Governor James B. Hunt established the North Carolina Film Office.

A cinematic parade of acclaimed films followed, including King Kong Lives (1986), Dirty Dancing (1987), Bull Durham (1988), The Hunt for Red October (1990), Last of the Mohicans (1992), The Fugitive (1993), and The Crow (1994).

predicting a whopping \$409 million investment in productions that would create more than 25,000 job opportunities.

Behind the scenes, the North Carolina Film Office (NCFO) played a pivotal role. Tasked with marketing and recruitment, the NCFO created economic opportunities for the state by working closely with recruits and productions. They served as a resource, navigating potential hurdles and ensuring a seamless process for filmmakers eager to make North Carolina their canvas.

Hollywood blockbusters like For-

"He thought to himself, 'Rather than Hollywood, or in California generally, we can do them here. There's no reason we couldn't do more movies here,'" Gaster said.

That proclamation sparked the ignition for what would later be affectionately called "Hollywood East" or "Wilmywood." In 1983, the Cinespace Studios in Wilmington became the nucleus of this burgeoning industry. The studios would train workers from the region, honing their skills in the craft of filmmaking. Since then, the Wilmington region has solidified its position

The Triangle region also earned its place on the cinematic stage, with notable films like Bull Durham (1988), starring Kevin Costner, and Patch Adams (1996), featuring Robin Williams. The Capital area further solidified its imprint with Kiss The Girls (1997), starring Morgan Freeman, and through television shows like The Handmaid's Tale.

The state has also hosted multiple productions that shed light on the often overlooked history of African Americans; Bolden (2019), a drama centered on the life of jazz cornetist Buddy Bolden, stands out among these films. Additionally, Funny Valentines (1999) features acclaimed actresses Alfre Woodard, Loretta Devine, and CCH Pounder, earning five nominations at the 2000 Black Reel Awards.

The 24th (2021), starring Trai Byers and Mykelti Williamson, recounts the true story of the 1917 Houston riot. Filmed in Salisbury, the movie portrays the "Buffalo Soldiers," an African American military unit facing racial discrimination, resulting in a riot and the seizure of military weapons in response to mistreatment by the police force and the local white community.

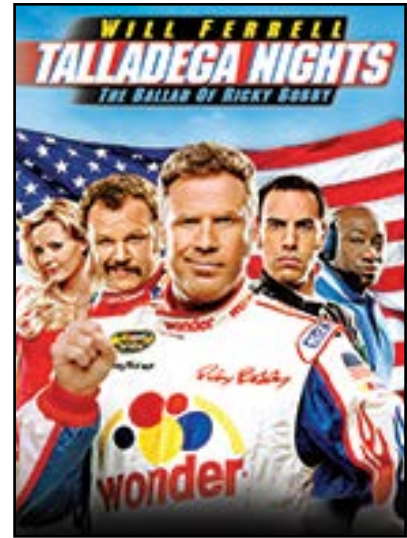
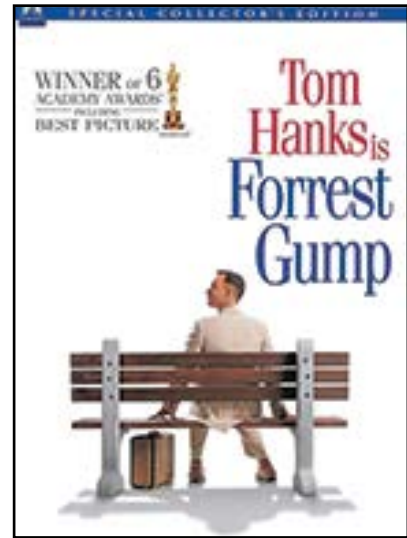
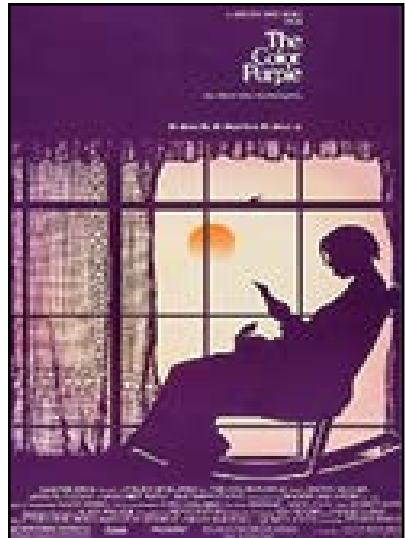
In Charlotte, He Got Game (1998), a sports drama written, produced, and directed by Spike Lee, starring Denzel Washington and Ray Allen, achieved box office

success. The film explores the father of a top-ranked basketball prospect persuading his son to play for the governor's alma mater in exchange for a reduced prison sentence, receiving multiple nominations at the Acapulco Black Film Festival Awards and NAACP Image Awards in 1999.

Arguably the most renowned film associated with North Carolina is The Color Purple (1985). Shot southeast of Charlotte, in Anson and Union Counties, the Steven Spielberg-directed classic featured Whoopi Goldberg, Danny Glover, Oprah Winfrey, Margaret Avery, and Adolph Caesar. Nominated for numerous Academy Awards and Golden Globes, The Color Purple secured the 51st spot on the American Film Institute's 2006 list of the most inspiring movies of all time.

Other notable films at least partially shot in North Carolina include The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman (1974) starring Cicely Tyson and Odetta Holmes, Love Field (1992) featuring Dennis Haysbert, and Eddie (1996) with Whoopi Goldberg.

As the curtain rose on the North Carolina film industry, it became clear that this Southern state had not only embraced its role as a cinematic backdrop but had also woven itself into the very fabric of visual storytelling.



rest Gump (1994), The Green Mile (1999), Talladega Nights (2006), Nights in Rodanthe (2008), The Hunger Games (2012), The Conjuring (2013), Hannibal (2013), Iron Man 3 (2013) and The Best of Enemies (2019) showcased the state's ability to cater to any genre or storyline.

Wilmington emerged as the busiest hub in the state, becoming a hotbed for film and television productions since producer Dino de Laurentiis arrived to shoot Firestarter (1984). Laurentiis was struck by the beauty and versatility the state offered.

Director of the North Carolina Film Office, Guy Gaster, argues that the attraction of reduced production expenses and heightened flexibility was – and likely has been – a fundamental factor driving the decision to expand production in the state.

However, challenges arose in the late 2010s as other states, like Georgia, offered more generous filming incentives. In 2016, legislators in North Carolina enacted a contentious law, which resulted in approximately \$400 million in economic investments and job losses in the state.

Numerous production companies withdrew future and on-going projects, leading to the popular TV show Outer Banks relocating its filming to neighboring South Carolina due to lingering effects of the legislation, even following partial repeals.

North Carolina's film revenue declined significantly, dropping from \$340 million in 2012 to \$76 million in 2019. However, that law was repealed in 2020. By late 2021, Governor Roy Cooper proudly announced record-breaking investments in the film industry,

among the nation's top locations for film production, with more than 400 projects gracing the stages of Cinespace Studios.

North Carolina's prominence in the world of entertainment extends beyond movies. In 1998, Wilmington became the headquarters for the Warner Bros. acclaimed series, Dawson's Creek, One Tree Hill, and later, in 2013, hosted Under the Dome. These television series significantly elevated the state's standing as a hub for filming.

The ripple effect of this cinematic renaissance didn't stop at Wilmington's city limits. The state's commitment to nurturing the film industry facilitated its spread across other corners of North Carolina – even when the audience wasn't aware.

"It helps to be nondescript and allows the film to speak for itself," Gaster said.



Violinist Shines Again at Annual Talent Hunt

The Iota Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. held their 79th Annual Talent Hunt Program virtually on Saturday, February 19, 2022. The Talent Hunt Program provides exposure to talented young people who participate in the performing arts, while offering encouragement and financial assistance. The Talent Hunt Program was the creation of Bro. J. Alston Atkins and Bro. Dewey Duckett. The fraternity first program was held April 19, 1946 in Charlotte, NC. Then later in 1953 it became an international program.

This year there were four competitors in the Talent Hunt Program ranging from 11th to 12th grade. The four competitors competed for the first place \$500 scholarship award. The participants were from the surrounding Wake, Johnson, and Lee counties.

The participants for this year should excellent musicianship. Performances from participants ranged from violin, vocal, saxophone and cello. This year first place winner for the Iota Iota Chapter was Ms. Felicia Adizue. Ms. Adizue performed Concerto No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 26 Movement 1 Allegro Moderato. This is the second time Ms. Adizue has one the competition. Two years ago, she won first place. She will now go on to compete against other Talent Hunt Program winners from chapters across North and South Carolina during the Sixth District Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Third Council Meeting in Cary, NC the week March 22nd to 24th.

Article submitted by Quando Gerst, Basileus for the Iota Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc in Raleigh, NC



Beyoncé Became First Black Woman In Top Spot Of The Billboard's Country Chart

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Beyoncé made history once again: The superstar singer has become the first Black woman to top Billboard's country music chart.

The Grammy winner achieved the feat after her new single "Texas Hold 'Em" reached No. 1 on the country airplay chart this week. She dropped the song on Feb. 11 — during the Super Bowl — along with her other single "16 Carriages," which debuted at No. 9 on the same chart.

Both songs are expected to be featured on Beyoncé's upcoming, country-themed album, which is referred to as "act ii," on March 29. It's a follow-up offering to her 2022 album "Renaissance," which is frequently referred to as "Act I: Renaissance."

Beyoncé announced the full-length new album after a Verizon commercial she starred in aired during the Super Bowl this month.

Beyoncé is also the first woman to claim the top spot on the Hot Country Songs and Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs charts since both began in 1958, according to Billboard. The only other acts who have topped both include Justin Bieber, Billy Ray Cyrus and Ray Charles.

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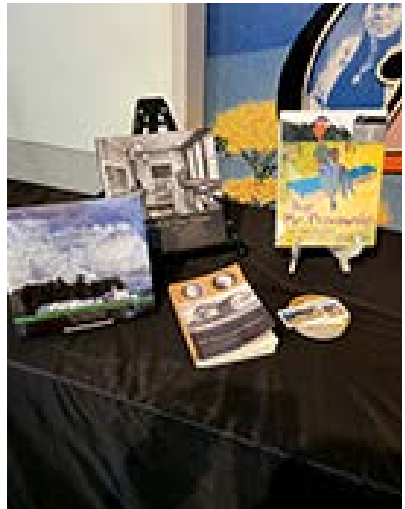
Community

“Across the Field,” NC History of Rosenwald schools and Warren Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Dominique Heath

Guest Writer

The NC Museum of History held a special event to celebrate Black History Month that featured a talk by author Susan Birkhead and her collaborators, Patricia White and Sam Harding. The focus of their discussion was their latest book, “Across the Field,” which chronicles the history of Warren Grove Missionary Baptist Church and holds a special place in the history of the African American community in North Carolina. Originally established as a Rosenwald School, the church played a vital role in providing education and empowerment to Black students



during a time of segregation and limited opportunities.

The story of Warren Grove Missionary Baptist Church begins with the partnership between Booker T. Washington, the renowned educator and advocate for African American advancement, and Julius Rosenwald, a philanthropist and businessman. Together, they launched a fundraising campaign in the early 20th century to build schools for Black children in rural areas across the South. These schools, known as Rosenwald schools, aimed to address the inequalities in education that persisted after the abolition of slavery.

In response to the campaign, communities like Warren Grove came together to contribute their resources and labor to the construction of these schools. The initiative not only provided much-needed educational facilities but also fostered a sense of community pride and unity.

Warren Grove Missionary Baptist Church, located in rural northeastern North Carolina, emerged from this very movement. It began as one such Rosenwald School, offering a safe and nurturing environment for Black students to learn and develop their talents. The church's founders believed that education was the key to upliftment and empowerment, and their vision aligned perfectly with Washington and Rosenwald's



mission.

Over time, the school evolved into the present-day Warren Grove Missionary Baptist Church, becoming a cornerstone of the community. The church not only continued to serve as a place of worship but also continued its commitment to education and community development. It became a beacon of hope and progress, providing support and guidance to generations of African Americans.

The collaboration between Susan Birkhead, Patricia White, and Sam Harding in their book, “Across the Field,” sheds light on the incredible history of Warren Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

Susan Birkhead, author and artist of the book, spent her entire adult life in rural northeastern North Carolina. In her early career, she

taught art to grades K-12 in public schools before moving on to teach in an after-school setting then eventually moving onto leadership roles in the community, with a focus on advocating for the disabled population. Birkhead's inspiration for the book came from Warren Grove Missionary Baptist Church, which sits across the field from her house.

Patricia White, with her extensive knowledge of the church's background, contributed invaluable insights, records, and photographs that helped shape the book. Her dedication to her church and her community is a testament to the enduring legacy of Warren Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

Sam Harding, a gifted young photographer and former student of Birkhead's, added another layer of visual depth to the book. His talent

and passion for photography allowed him to capture the essence of Warren Grove Missionary Baptist Church and its surrounding landscape.

The creation of “Across the Field” not only chronicles the history of the church but also showcases the power of collaboration and the importance of preserving African American heritage. Through the book, readers gain an understanding of the challenges faced by African Americans in their pursuit of education and the transformative impact of institutions like Warren Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

The event at the NC Museum of History provided a platform to celebrate and honor this rich history. At the event, attendees were able to buy copies of “Across the Field” and have them signed by its authors. They also had the privilege of watch-

ing a performance by the talented Warren Grove Missionary Baptist Church Choir. Images of the church's transformation from a school to its current beautiful structure were presented to the attendees. The visual journey showcased the significance of preserving and celebrating African American heritage.

Ultimately, the creation of Warren Grove Missionary Baptist Church stands as a testament to the resilience, determination, and unity of the African American community during a time of adversity. It continues to serve as a reminder of the importance of education, empowerment, and the preservation of history. “Across the Field” serves as a valuable resource for all those seeking to understand and appreciate the history and contributions of the African American community in North Carolina and beyond.



NC Central University Is Recognized For Community Work

By Chris Frazier

CampusEcho

The Carnegie Foundation awards N.C. Central University's second Carnegie Classification in a decade. According to the Carnegie Foundation, this classification is an Elective Classification for Community Engagement. It recognizes institutions that have collaborated with their local communities to exchange knowledge, resources and enrichment.



The classification also honors institutions who address critical societal issues and contributions to the public good.

NCCU's Director of Community Engagement, Calleen Herbert, said the application for the classification was a reflective process.

“They see if we improved to a higher engagement with the community,” Herbert said. “They looked at where we were and what we've done to change the landscape.”

NCCU was one of 40 higher education institutions to receive the classification and one of two HBCUs. This also marks the third time NCCU has been awarded for its community engagement. The University received its first Carnegie Classification in 2008, and its second in 2015.

Herbert said that the classification wasn't because of the community engagement department alone.

“Finance, sports, executive leadership, it's about everyone,” she

said. “We're just here to navigate the process,” she said, referring to Community Engagement Services.

NCCU students can also pat themselves on the back. Prior to graduation, each student has to complete 15 hours of community service per semester, which totals to 120 services for the typical four year student.

“I hope students feel a sense of

pride,” Herbert said. “The volunteering they do is impactful.”

Herbert also said that NCCU is committing more resources to assist students to earn more service hours, particularly those students who live far from campus.

“We're developing partnerships with organizations outside the triangle to help different student demographics.”

Four N.C. Airports Awarded \$45 Million

RALEIGH—Governor Roy Cooper and U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg announced at an event that four North Carolina airports are among those that will receive federal grants totaling nearly \$1 billion through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

The funds from the Federal Aviation Administration will help modernize 114 airports nationwide so they can better meet the growing demand for air travel and improve air travel for passengers while creating good-paying jobs for airport workers.

“We're grateful to the Biden administration and our federal partners in Congress for helping us improve air travel in North Carolina,” Cooper said alongside Buttigieg at Thursday's announcement at Charlotte Douglas International

Airport. “More people depend on air travel than ever before and it's important that we work together to make lasting investments to deliver the transportation services people want and need.”

In North Carolina, airports in Charlotte, the Triangle, Wilmington and Spruce Pine were awarded a total of \$45 million as part of Thursday's announcement. The grants for the Tar Heel airports are as follows:

- \$27 million to Charlotte Douglas International Airport to replace up to 16 passenger board bridges and associated ground power units and pre-conditioned air units.

- \$12 million to Raleigh-Durham International Airport to fund part of the Terminal 2 security checkpoint, baggage claim and the expansion of the federal inspec-

tion station.

- \$4 million to Wilmington International Airport to fund a portion of the terminal access road and terminal curb front expansion and realignment.

- \$2 million to the Avery County Airport in Spruce Pine to help fund construction of a new general aviation terminal building to meet existing and future demand.

Gov. Cooper emphasized how these investments are vital to North Carolina, where aviation improves the economy and quality of life for the state where air travel started over 120 years ago. North Carolina's 72 public airports contribute \$72 billion to the state's economy, support 330,000 jobs and return \$3.7 billion state and local tax revenues.

Investments enhancing the passenger experience include new

baggage systems, larger security checkpoints, increasing gate capacity, and modernizing aging infrastructure throughout terminals and ground transportation. These investments further increase terminal sustainability and improve accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

This funding is from the Airport Terminal Program, one of three aviation programs created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and comes on the heels of more than \$240 million in funding for Airport Infrastructure Grants. The law provides \$1 billion annually for five years for Airport Terminal Program grants. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is making an historic investment of over \$415 billion to improve the nation's roads, bridges, rail, public transit and its ports and airports.

Striking Art Exhibit Highlighting ‘Elders’ of Durham’s Historic West End Neighborhood

They have lived through segregation and struggle in one of Durham's oldest neighborhoods, and they have abundant wisdom to share.

You can see it in their faces.

In 33 faces, to be exact, all gathered in large color images with accompanying quotes in a portrait series. “Elders of the West End” was unveiled at a celebration back in October at the Community Family Life and Recreation Center at Lyon Park.

“This series pays homage to the wisdom and love found in the West End community of Durham,” says photographer Jamaica Gilmer. “I wanted to safely document the images and stories of Black elders as communities worldwide tried to hold onto hope.”

A Durham resident, Gilmer is the founder of The Beautiful Project and lead curator of the project's recent exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Her distinctive images “document the breadth of vision and sight of revolutionaries and organizers,” as seen on her website, www.jamaicagilmer.com.

Inspired during the pandemic by the example of her father, who “speaks like a griot,” Gilmer turned her attention and camera lens to older Black residents of the historic neighborhood near Duke University's West Campus. Many of them attended the center when it was still a school for Black families within Durham's segregated system. Through world wars, political turmoil, civil unrest and times of prosperity, the school served the com-

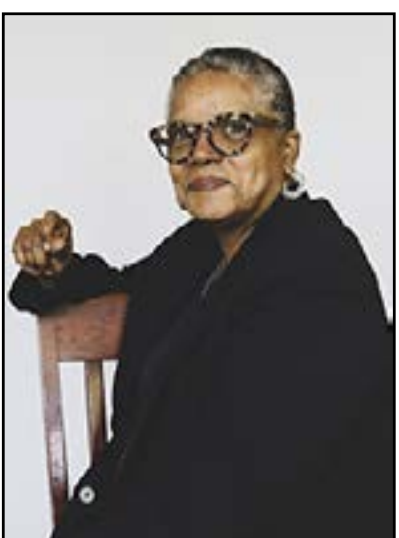
munity before eventually closing and falling into disrepair.

This year marks the centenary of the school building at the corner of Kent St. and Halley St., which was revitalized and reopened in 2002 as a community center.

“We have the same blood and the same interest running in our veins because we were a part of a village,” says Mayme Webb-Bledsoe, 64, a lifelong West End resident whose portrait gazes at the viewer. “It is just special when I sing the Lyon Park School song and all of us who went to school here know it and can sing it even today. It's the kind of stuff that really helps me know that Durham has been so special to me, my family, my friends, and continues to be so even today.”

“I can remember growing up when everyone took care of each other, especially on the West End,” says Donna Mack, 72, who is also featured in the exhibit. “There's a saying that the West End took care of the West End. If one family didn't have and we had, we shared and that's the way we were raised.”

Gilmer pursued the project in partnership with Dosali Reed-Bandeled, the center's executive director, with assistance from Jesse Huddleston, senior program coordinator of the Duke-Durham Neighborhood Partnership, and others. Winnie Okwakol was the graphic designer. Duke's Office of Durham & Community Affairs and Duke Arts provided financial support.



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Mechanics And Farmers Bank



M&F Bank, a state-chartered commercial bank, was organized in 1907 under the authority of a charter issued by the Legislature of the State of North Carolina. The original incorporators were a group of nine prominent businessmen, headed by R. B. Fitzgerald. The other incorporators included: J. A. Dodson, J. R. Hawkins, John Merrick, Aaron M. Moore, W.G. Pearson, James E. Shepard, G. W. Stephens, and Stanford L. Warren.

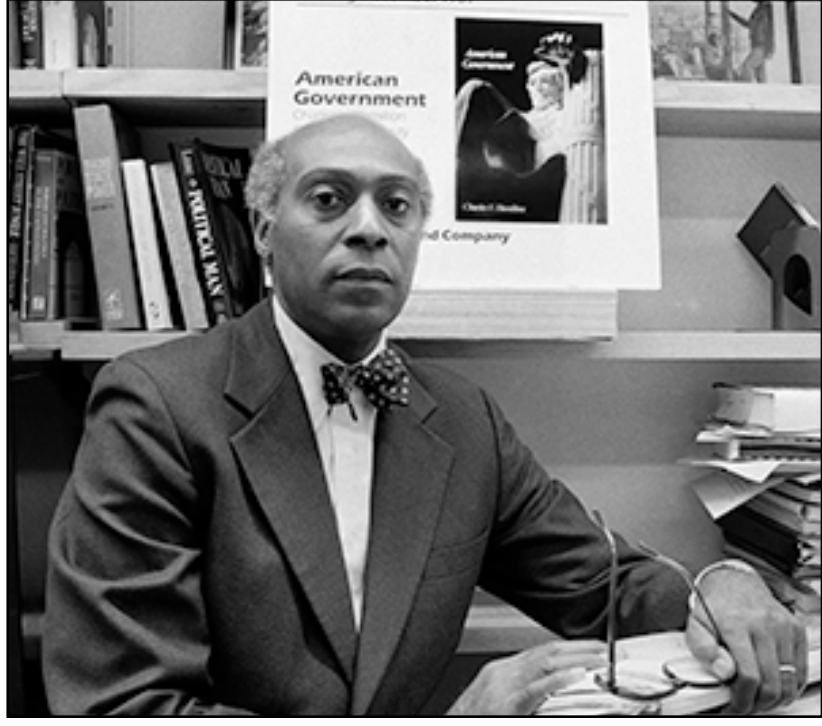
~Joseph M. Sansom

Church

Renowned Philosopher, Black Power Trailblazer Charles V. Hamilton

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA

saddened by the news that Hamilton had died at 94. Though his death occurred on Nov. 18, 2023, it was only confirmed and made public this week. Hamilton, a distinguished political scientist, and educator, played a transformative role in reshaping the discourse on racism in the United States through his groundbreaking work, “Black Power: The Politics of Liberation.”



Hamilton’s collaboration with Stokely Carmichael in 1967 produced a seminal piece that challenged traditional civil rights approaches. Unlike Carmichael, known for his impassioned speeches, observers noted that Hamilton brought a quiet and dignified intellectualism to the movement. According to scholars and others who knew him, Hamilton conveyed his profound influence through the strength of his ideas. He co-authored work that shifted the narrative on racism, introducing the concept of institutional racism to the forefront. Prior discussions primarily focused on overt acts of prejudice, but “Black Power: The Politics of Liberation” redirected attention to the entrenched biases within American institutions. Hamilton’s belief in self-determination and self-reliance for the African American community permeated his work, laying the intellectual foundations for the Black Power movement.

Hamilton’s legacy extended beyond academia and his writings; his ideas continue to influence discussions on racial equality and justice. “Doc loved not only teaching, but he inspired me and all of his students to become activists of history in our respective fields of profession,” Cooper remarked. “I considered him to be not only my lifelong teacher, but also a mentor and friend. I will miss him.”

Obituaries



Mr. Elvis LeJuan Holden, 64, was born on Monday August 24, 1959 and departed this life on Thursday, February 22, 2024.

6:00 pm, Thursday, February 29, 2024 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm and Friday, March 1, 2024 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm.

Elvis leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife of 25 years Julia Boatwright-Holden; one son Julian LeJuan Holden; two sisters Casandra Holden Johnson of Charlotte, NC (William), Cynthia Holden Shareef of Raleigh, NC; two brothers Elbenezzer Holden, Jr. of Raleigh, NC (Dawn) and Dr. Elton Darrell Holden of Atlanta, GA; two aunts Minnie Holden and Jersey Holden of Wendell, NC; one uncle Ernest Jones of Wendell, NC; the extended Boatwright Family and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.

Funeral service will be held at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2620 Weaver St., Durham, NC on Saturday, March 2, 2024; visitation service from 10:00 to 11:00 am, funeral service at 11:00 am. All acts of kindness are appreciated during this difficult time.

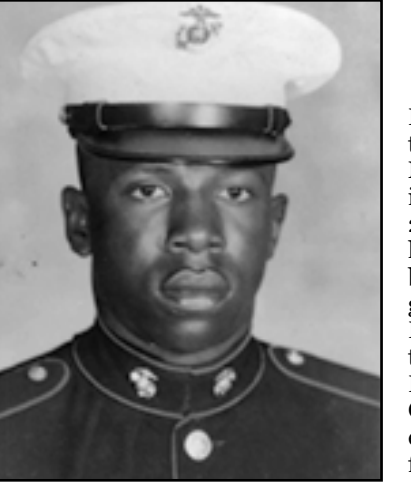
“LINCOLN PARK” BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION 2024

The Lincoln Park Holiness Church gives thanks to the youth and their families and praises to our Almighty God for another magnificent performance this past Sunday!



Visitation services will be held at Holloway Memorial Funeral Home, 2502 NC Hwy 55 on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm.

Daniel Cromartie Obituary



March 26, 1952 ~ February 12, 2024 (age 71)
Services will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2024 at 12 noon in the funeral home chapel. Annette McKoy, (Classmate) eulogist. Viewing will be held on Friday, February 23, 2024 from 1 till 6 pm. and following the service. He is survived by five children, Sabrina Lewis, Regina Cromartie, Lavonia Cromartie, Daniel, Jr., and Terrance Cromartie; three brothers; Henry Cromartie, Ronald Cromartie and Curtis L. Cromartie, along with a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

Practical Biblical Principles

GO DOWN MOSES
Read: Exodus 7:1-16

When we speak of Pharaoh, we speak not of a man but of a great place. Pharaoh means Great House and is not the name of a king. Egypt offers us more than five thousand years of Egyptian history and the name title ‘Pharaoh’ is given to all the kings of Egypt who ruled during a 3000 plus-year period. There were more than 75 Pharaoh kings and their families which ruled over Egypt’s 3000-year dynasty history.

Each dynasty in Egypt was ruled by different families and lasted for many years, even centuries. The length of a family rule is called a dynasty. There were more than 30 dynasties which ruled over Egypt in more than 3000 years of Egyptian history. The time periods of Moses and Pharaoh appears between the 18th and 19th dynasty some 2000 years or so before Christ.

The children of God were in slavery for a little more than 400 years. This means there were more than one Pharaoh involved in the slave keeping of God’s children over this 400-year period. This we must keep in mind when God addresses the Pharaoh in Moses’ day.

God was not only in a conversation with that Pharaoh which Moses faced, God was essentially facing off with all the Pharaoh kings before him who were involved in the ‘slave keeping’ of God’s people over the 400 years.

This is how God knew that the Pharaoh facing off with Moses ‘would not budge’ when it came to letting the Hebrew slaves go free. Over the previous years, their forefathers didn’t, including the Thutmose family (18th) and Rameses (19th) dynasties. If we can know which one of these king’s daughters found Moses in the river, we can know which Pharaoh it was that Moses faced.

Israel came out of slavery in 1446 BC. The Egyptian dynasties continued until about 30BC. Many historians say that it was Pharaoh Rameses II that Moses faced off with. Others say it was Thutmose II. It doesn’t take a rocket scientist to figure out the heart of a person who hasn’t changed in 400 years. This why God told Moses when at the ‘burning bush,’ that Pharaoh is not going to let My people go, therefore, I will have to show him (Pharaoh) who’s the boss, so to speak. This God told Moses to fortify him in spirit and not be afraid of Pharaoh. God told Moses also that He was going to harden Pharaoh’s heart. This was God’s way of saying I am going to let Pharaoh have his own way.” God was simply respecting Pharaoh’s freewill. God has never forced anybody to do anything. This is why God encourages us to come and let’s reason together (Isaiah 1:18). God tried nine times to reason with Pharaoh- by blood, frogs, gnats, flies, death of livestock, boils, hail-storm, locust, and darkness. When the Death Angel came over, Pharaoh wanted to talk and ask for prayer at the same time.

Pharaoh is what happens when an entire nation redefines good and evil apart from God’s wisdom. Pharaoh is anybody or anything which tends to control and enslave you, whether it be a sickness or medical issue, a painful divorce, drugs/alcohol, sex, cheating/lying, stealing, money, out-of- control ego, disobedience to God, and not limited to unforgiveness. These are but a few of today’s Pharaoh dynasties.

We get an Egypt building its wealth and security on the backs of an abused, oppressed, and enslaved people. For more than 250 years Black slaves in America experienced the same thing. Instead of bricks without straw, it was cotton and tobacco. God delivered His children out of the slave pits of Egypt. It took a Civil War to deliver Blacks from the plantation. This why ‘Go Down Moses’ is a favorite and traditional sermon during Black History.” Go Down Moses and tell Pharaoh to ‘Let My people Go,’ so they may come and worship me as their God” in freedom and in peace.

To begin His ministry, Jesus read from a scroll while in His home synagogue in Nazareth, He found in the scroll where Isaiah, the prophet wrote, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has appointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives. And recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed. To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” Jesus came to set men/women free! Yes, Christ died to make men holy, and He died to make men free. His truth is marching on.

Our prayer today is to keep praying for Moses to go down, way down in Egypt land and tell old Pharaoh, **TO LET MY PEOPLE GO!**

J. L. Caldwell, Pastor
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SERMON of the WEEK



TRAIN YOUR CHILDREN, DON'T LET THEM TRAIN YOU
As we Train our children in the way they should go, it's always a good and blessed thing to Direct them onto the right path and Teach them how to live.
The Bible says that when they are older, they will not leave or depart from it; why? [because they have been trained and disciplined], and they will remember it all their life.
As Pastor, I must let the church know that if we are about God the Father's business, like His son Jesus was, then we have to make it our business to take on the responsibility of raising children the Bible's way and not our way.
My main point of emphasis in this Sermon is about effective Training, and I only have one point, and that is: Make Sure You Train them instead of them Training You.
Would you agree that Children are so smart now because they are exposed to so much by the time they're two years old? They know how to run the TV, your phones, your laptops, iPads, your computers, etc., and if you are not careful, they will run your home too.
Train them; don't allow them to train you. To mention a few examples, soldiers, doctors, astronauts, lawyers, judges, and athletes of every sport must be trained.
But I want to emphasize further the importance that, hopefully, their Training will start at home, and their home will lead them to the church, and the church will lead them to seek God's wisdom and will for their abilities and talents, and then when they are old they will not depart from it.
Today's Children used to attend church and school, but now, since the Pandemic, they've gone back to school, maybe the church. Going to school is mandated, but going to church is not.
Did you know that parents found guilty of violating North Carolina's

Compulsory Attendance Law can be charged with a Class 1 Misdemeanor, punishable by up to 150 days in jail?
Wow, wouldn't the churches be run over if it were against the law for children not to be in church? However, with God, He gives us a choice. He wants us to do what we do in this life out of our Faith and Obedience to His Word rather than being Christian robots.
I pray that we will continue to see in this City of Raleigh more youth in our church pews with a Bible in their hands than we do on our televisions because they had a gun in their hands.
James Baldwin said, “Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they've never failed to imitate them.” My Dad said, ‘If you ever see a baby mouse going through a hole, an old rat cut it.’
I thank God that the older Saints trained us to listen. At Lincoln Park, we couldn't play in church; we couldn't even talk unless called upon, and we had to listen. Habakkuk 2:20 The LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him.
Revelation 3:22 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.
The players listen when Coaches speak in the gym or on the field. The students must listen when teachers teach in the classroom, on the playground, or on field trips.
Moreover, what are the children supposed to do when the preacher preaches or someone is leading the congregation or saying something? Children can't always do what they want to do. You train them, don't let them teach you.
I remember when my Grandma came to my brother and me as we sat on the front pew with her hand on her hips, a stern expression on her face, and a fan in one hand held beneath my chin! In a few seconds, I realized that my brother and I had to do a James Brown with the gum we were

chewing. We had to give it up and turn it loose!
I remember when my brother and I were acting up in church, and my Daddy would give us a mean look and say, “I'm going to work on your building when we get back home tonight.”
As soon as we got home, he would take that brown belt out of the dresser drawer and fold it up, and he didn't believe in beating the clothes he had bought us; we had to take them off. And then he would work on our building while we worked on our hollering.
Children in the church today still need to be trained to say what we said years ago: yes mam, no mam, yes sir, no sir, please, thank you, you're welcome, and not interrupt when adults are talking. Can I get a witness?
1 Corinthians 13:11 NIV says, “When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things.”
Let's train them by example to put away foolish things. MLK Jr. had a dream, so let's teach our children to dream.
Don't gripe....DREAM, Don't complain....DREAM
Don't Pout, Dream, Don't wait for someone else to do for you what you can do for yourself...DREAM
Don't procrastinate...Dream, Don't doubt... DREAM
Training children to pray, have faith, and have impossible dreams is okay! The Bible says that the things that are impossible with man are possible with God.
I've been taught, trained, and learned that the God we serve can turn our dreams into realities. And please remember to train your children Biblically and effectively, but don't let them train you; God did not ordain it to be done that way.
To view complete sermons by Pastor William Eli Ratcliff and associate ministers, please visit our YouTube Channel. Thank you!

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.

Editorials

Taxation Without Reason

My income tax is due in a few weeks!

I hate it.

I'm pretty good at math, but I no longer prepare my own taxes. The form alone scares me.

I feel I have to hire an accountant, because Congress, endlessly sucking up to various interest groups, keeps adding to a tax code. Now even accountants and tax nerds barely understand it.

I can get a deduction for feeding feral cats but not for having a watchdog.

I can deduct clarinet lessons if I get an orthodontist to say it'll cure my overbite, but not piano lessons if a psychotherapist prescribes them for relaxation.

Exotic dancers can depreciate breast implants.

Even though whaling is mostly banned, owning a whaling boat can get you \$10,000 in deductions.

And so on.

Stop! I have a life! I don't want to spend my time learning about such things.

No wonder most Americans pay for some form of assistance. We pay big — about \$104 billion a year. We waste 2 billion hours filling out stupid forms.

That may not even be the worst part of the tax code.

We adjust our lives to satisfy the whims of politicians. They manipulate us with tax rules. Million-dollar mortgage deductions invite us to buy bigger homes. Solar tax credits got me to put panels on my roof.

"These incentives are a good thing," say politicians. "Even high taxes alone encourage gifts to charity.

But "Americans don't need to be bribed to give," says Steve Forbes in one of my videos. "In the 1980s, when the top rate got cut from 70% down to 28% ... charitable giving went up. When people have more, they give more."

Right. When government lets us live our own lives, good things happen.

But politicians want more control.

American colonists started a revolution partly over taxes. They raided British ships and dumped their tea into the Boston Harbor to protest a tax of "3 pennies per pound." But once those "don't tax me!" colonists became politicians, they, too, raised taxes. First, they taxed things they deemed bad, like snuff and whiskey.

Alexander Hamilton's whiskey tax led to violent protests.

Now Americans meekly (mostly) accept new and much higher taxes.

All of us suffer because politicians have turned income tax into a manipulative maze.

We waste money and time and do things we wouldn't normally do.

Since I criticize government, I assume some IRS agent would like to come after me.

So, cowering in fear, I hire an accountant and tell her, "Megan, don't be aggressive. Just skip any challengeable deduction, even if it means I pay more."

I like having an accountant, but I don't like having to have one. I resent having to pay Megan.

I once calculated what I could buy with the money I pay her. I could get a brand-new motorcycle. I could take a cruise ship to Italy and back every year.

Better still, I could give my money to charity and maybe do some good in the world. For the same amount I spend on Megan, I could pay four kids' tuition at a private school funded by SSPNYC.org.

Or I could invest. I might help grow a company that creates a fun product, cures cancer or creates wealth in a hundred ways.

But I can't. I need to pay Megan.

What a waste.

Every Tuesday at JohnStossel.com, Stossel posts a new video about the battle between government and freedom. He is the author of "Give Me a Break: How I Exposed Hucksters, Cheats, and Scam Artists and Became the Scourge of the Liberal Media."

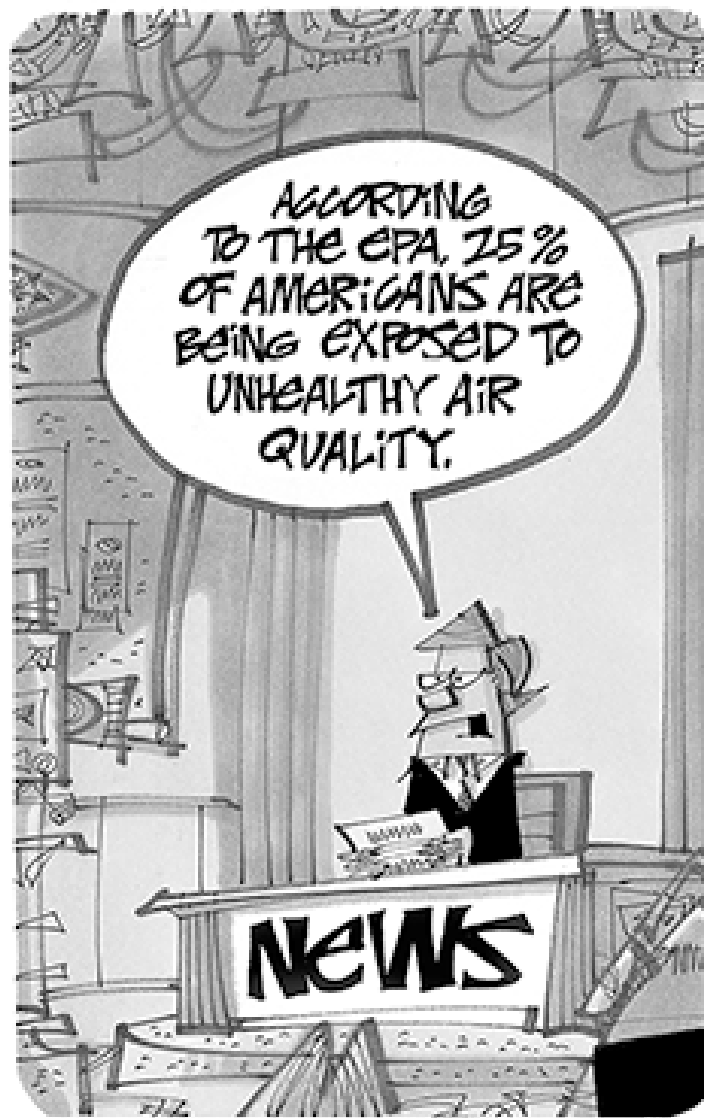
The Gen Z Faith Pivot

A significant number of Gen Z Americans and college students appear to be doing a "pivot" back to religion, according to Jay Richards, the director of the Richard and Helen DeVos Center for Life, Religion, and Family at the Heritage Foundation.

In an interview with Fox News Digital, Richards explains that this is a trend that differs from recent studies that show Gen Zers having very little interest in faith or God, especially young people questioned in surveys distributed before the COVID-19 pandemic. He believes one of the primary reasons for this shift is that Gen Zers are looking for worth in a world where most of their social interactions are behind a screen, which he stated is "a context with a complete loss of meaning" that "doesn't fulfill the longings of the human heart." Another interesting take was provided by journalist Billy Hallowell, who asserted that the current culture gives Gen Zers and younger millennials "a false understanding that everything is about 'you.'" Gen Zers have especially faced a lot of criticism from baby boomers and Gen Xers who think the majority of those in this tech-savvy generation are arrogantly self-focused.

Reading Richards' comments regarding Gen Zers' screen time causing a void in the heart made me think about many of the noteworthy viewpoints my students have shared with me concerning their generation's social interactions. In my television diversity class, one of the discussion questions that I ask students when we get to '80s and '90s sitcoms is if they could picture enjoying themselves as teenagers during these decades. To my surprise, many of them have stated that they believed this was the best modern era to be a kid due to having no social media but just enough necessary technology. I remember one student describing social media as "a toxic environment for young kids growing up and trying to figure themselves out." Some students also said that family and friendships were more solid and trustworthy during the '80s and '90s since face-to-face connections were primary forms of communication.

For young people who feel empty, lonely and discontented living in a culture that boasts peripheral connection through social media and lauds the status of likes, influencers and followers, I understand why many are now seeking God. They are not finding true, long-lasting or dependable



relationships through digital platforms and a society at large that has devalued faith. I also think, as Richards points out, that surviving the COVID lockdowns and enduring the social isolation and fears of uncertainty during the pandemic resulted in many Gen Zers thinking more deeply about their lives. Many are asking soul-searching questions that all of us have: why are we here and what is our purpose?

For Gen Zers who are zealously hungry and thirsting after righteousness as described in Matthew 5:6, I believe their sincere desire is to be "filled," as Jesus stated in this verse. The Greek translation of "filled" here means to be satisfied in abundance. An example of college Gen Zers seeking this abundance was seen during the revival held on the Kentucky campus of Asbury University last year. Students from over 200 schools attended.

Asbury's director of communications, Abby Laub, made an intriguing observation of the worship services, telling Fox News Digital that she is optimistic for Gen Z because they are "not coming with a veneer of religiosity." I'm sure many Gen Zers have seen older folks be content with just adhering to a mundane church routine, that veneer and facade that has turned a lot of young people away. Going through monotonous religious adherences won't work for Gen Zers who want an intimate and personal relationship with God that goes beyond edifice walls.

One characteristic that I have noticed from working with Gen Z students is that when they are passionate about something, they go all in. They don't half step on matters that are important to them, so faith for those who are serious about it won't be any different. This could be the beginning of a generational and ground-shaking spiritual movement, which would be glorious to witness.

Dr. Jessica A. Johnson is a lecturer in the English department at Ohio State University's Lima campus.



NOT BECAUSE OF BUT IN SPITE OF...

This weekend was a good one. I thank God for people who are still on the case. I went to the celebration of the 100th birthday of Washington Elementary Junior and Senior High School, still standing regally on Fayetteville Street here in Raleigh. I don't know how to categorize her stature. Is she a Queen or is she a King? I don't know, but that school has educated generations for 100-plus years and continues to do so. I am sure that all schools harbor and nurture greatness but here in this school, there is something more. First, let me say a personal thank you to those who worked on the committee for this event that I know. Natalie Wilson Perkins, Gloria Murray, and Betty Jones Branch (powerhouses all by themselves but together... wow). I also understand that the late David Dolly worked on the committee. I'm sure there were others and I thank them too, but there are ones that I know. I couldn't stay for the entire program because... I have promises to keep, but I wanted to see and say hi to all who went there before, during, and after me. Let me hasten to say that the program was great. The talent was excellent and the speeches and children's performances were inspiring. It was really good. I have no criticism, but I just wanted more. Carl Smith said it for me when he spoke of the loss of community when things changed in the area. We don't even know where some of those streets are except in our imagination. To name a few, Manly and Canon St. To be honest, you wouldn't have wanted me to plan it. I would have called the names of all the principals, teachers, and students who made the legacy that the school is today. I would have discussed the reason the auditorium was always full to overflowing. I would have told the story of the talent shows, the glee club, the operettas, home economics, and the food that we cooked. I would call the names of the Cafeteria workers, the substitute teachers like Mrs. Catherine Quick and Mrs. Snipes (Gloria's mother), who stepped in when teachers had to be out, the music teachers, the itinerate art teacher, Mrs. Hank Davis, who went from school to school in our black school system while others (white schools) had art teachers to serve each school. I would talk about the counselors without degrees who were as good (and some even better) than the ones who had them. I would want these kids to know that they mattered and that excellence didn't start at sixth-grade centers and the titles gifted and talented, which this school could have always been named. Some of my speakers would have been those who could tell the stories of what it meant to them to be told that they were better than what they had once thought of. You would have heard, for example, of Bo Crowder who was the local "bad boy" once upon a time who became a millionaire and benefited his family and others. I'd have told the story of Doctor Wilton Smith, a neurologist, Robert Fryson, a songwriter and famous gospel group owner, and Valyeon and Portia Mials, those who became ministers, college professors, principals, teachers, local choir directors (like Gloria Murray and James Burt). I'd tell you the legacies they

inherited have no distance. I'm just sharing a few names that I know of during my relatively short-term experience. Altura Edwards, counselor, Joyce Robinson, friend, teacher, and local community leader, some sitting in the audience and some in heaven. Sidney Roberts was there, she stood but that was not enough. Others stood but that was not enough. Others stood but that was not enough. The two principles that I knew of Mr. J.W. Eaton and Mr. Tony Mallette, these men were extraordinary leaders.

This history needs to be shared to correct the ignorance of the 13 Florida school board members who have decided that the African American "curriculum" must include that slavery was good for the black race because they learned skills that they wouldn't have otherwise gained. That to me is so insane that the pictures of these people should be next to the definition of "insane theorists."

I have an idea. Suppose we enslave these 13 people and all who think like them on a Plantation in Florida for just a year. Treat them like the slaves were treated and compare their skills afterward to see how they would benefit. Surely, they would want to learn skills they presently don't have. Surely they would want to prove their theories and what better way than through their own experience. America needs a lobotomy if this kind of thing stands. All this, according to their thinking, is to keep white children from feeling guilty about their ancestry. So black children are supposed to think that their ancestors were so ignorant that they became geniuses evidenced by all the advances and inventions that made America great and slavery caused it?? NO!!!

Human beings were made slaves not by the design of God but by the design of evil. Wishing to prosper without working for their own prosperity, a race of people enslaved another race because they were easily identified by the color of their skin. They, the enslavers, were the lazy ones who took credit for all of the inventions of yesterday and they want to keep silent about the ones of today. Just a few examples they don't want you to know that laser surgery, the remote control, the super soaker, the viewfinder, the traffic light, the vaccine for COVID, the electric roller coaster, the character Betty Bob, the lone ranger, heart surgery advances, blood plasma, the 3D movie technology, the furnace, refrigeration, the ironing board, etc., all were the inventions of the descendants of the slaves and were not because of but in spite of the lunacy of slavery. If you don't want your children to feel guilty then teach them that if they didn't do it (or contribute to it), they don't have to feel ashamed. If they didn't do it, don't take credit away from those who did. If they see or think something that's wrong, don't follow suit. Teach them that the truth is there to help them be sane and to set them free.



THE BOARD AND THE BUDGET

Do you, as a nonprofit board member, want to take a nap when it's time to talk about the budget? Maybe you have an important call to make? We urge you to change your ways! We've been talking with John Bazzanella, COO of Tennessee Nonprofit Network, about budgeting and critical management information that is "hidden in plain sight." As a board member, you have to understand how your nonprofit's budget is constructed, and how different future scenarios can impact programming and sustainability. Understanding anticipated expenses and revenue can guide the process of setting and adjusting fundraising goals. While the budget will communicate revenue projections required to meet anticipated expenses, you need to remember that fundraising goals are not the same thing as revenue projections. We believe that fundraising goals need to be much higher than anticipated revenue because not every qualified prospect will actually give, or give at the level you anticipate. Fundraising needs to be proactive and incorporate strategies and goals to help ensure that agreed-upon revenue goals are met.

What is the best format to use when presenting budget information? Summaries or condensed presentations can be useful for the introduction of the initial budget and to prioritize key information. I wouldn't recommend looking only at expenses or only at revenue — an important benefit of a budget is seeing the relationship between expenses and revenue. As you monitor and use the budget throughout the budget period, a dashboard can be an excellent tool for communicating. Creating a budget-to-actual report is important and necessary to generate data for a dashboard, but a budget-to-actual report usually requires additional context to communicate what variances mean and which variances are important to address. A dashboard can streamline that process and highlight points of discussion with greater clarity. If you are building a dashboard, be sure to engage the board in determining what metrics are most relevant to include.

What should board members focus on when reviewing budget information?

During the budgeting process, board members could ask about the basis for projections, the data used, or how projections compare to past performance. They might also ask what revenue streams and expense line items have been included or excluded, particularly if there is a change from a prior period. In monitoring the budget, board members could ask about variances between budget and actuals, whether variances were expected, and the impact of those variances if they are meaningful. Board members could review the amount of revenue generated and the reliance on different revenue streams. Board members should review spending distribution and ask about updated estimates for actual spending versus projections. Ultimately, board members should review the net between revenue and expense and how performance impacts cash flow and the organization's current cash position. Utilizing a dashboard can be an efficient way to incorporate the metrics the board wants to assess in a presentation that is manageable for staff to generate and easy for the board to review.

Classifieds

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18-MGD Expansion

Owner: Johnston County
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Contractor: T. A. Loving Company
PO Drawer 919
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Bid: HVAC Package 3 New Ops Building

Bids will be received from Bidders until **3:30 PM on Wednesday, March 6, 2024**. Bids shall be submitted to the Contractor through email – tgbwtp@taloving.com.

T. A. Loving Company ("T. A. Loving", "Construction Manager", "Contractor", "Design-Builder") will receive bids for portions of the above Project as specified herein until the dates and times indicated. Failure to submit a Bid prior to the due date and time may be cause for rejection by T. A. Loving Company.

All rights are reserved to reject any/or all Bids, waive any informalities, or to award such contract as in its judgment is deemed to be in the best interest of the Owner.

Electronic copies (.pdf) of the Bid Documents by sending an email to tgbwtp@taloving.com.

Technical questions or questions related to submitting a bid should be made in writing and sent to tgbwtp@taloving.com.

The Project consists of a 4 MGD upgrade to existing water treatment facility, new filter building, new bulk chemical storage facility, new clear well, new belt press, new administration building, renovations to existing operations building, associated sitework, new electrical building and generator bank, instrumentation and controls, and site piping.

HVAC Package 3 includes but is not limited to Equipment, Material, Installation, Startup, and Testing of Fans, Electric Unit Heaters, Air Cooled Condensing Unit, Air Handling Units, Louvers, Air Devices, Ductwork and to provide a complete and functional system for the New Operations and Administration Building.

Any bidder who wishes to visit the site to see existing conditions shall reach out to tgbwtp@taloving.com.

All questions, site visit requests and bid submittals shall be directed to tgbwtp@taloving.com.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Project: 22703: Timothy G. Broome WTP
18-MGD Expansion

Owner: Johnston County
309 East Market Street
Smithfield, NC 27577

Contractor: T. A. Loving Company
PO Drawer 919
Goldsboro, NC 27533

Bid: Plumbing Package 1 New Operations and Administration Building

Bids will be received from Bidders until **3:30 PM on Friday, March 8, 2024**. Bids shall be submitted to the Contractor through email – tgbwtp@taloving.com.

T. A. Loving Company ("T. A. Loving", "Construction Manager", "Contractor", "Design-Builder") will receive bids for portions of the above Project as specified herein until the dates and times indicated. Failure to submit a Bid prior to the due date and time may be cause for rejection by T. A. Loving Company.

All rights are reserved to reject any/or all Bids, waive any informalities, or to award such contract as in its judgment is deemed to be in the best interest of the Owner.

Electronic copies (.pdf) of the Bid Documents by sending an email to tgbwtp@taloving.com.

Technical questions or questions related to submitting a bid should be made in writing and sent to tgbwtp@taloving.com.

The Project consists of a 4 MGD upgrade to existing water treatment facility, new filter building, new bulk chemical storage facility, new clear well, new belt press, new administration building, renovations to existing operations building, associated sitework, new electrical building and generator bank, instrumentation and controls, and site piping.

Plumbing Package 1 includes, but is not limited to, Installation, Startup, and Testing of Expansion Tanks, Hot Water Recirculation Pumps, Storage Tank Water Heaters, Backflow Preventers, Pressure Reducing Valves, Floor Mounted Water Closets with Flush Tanks, Wall Mounted Lavatories, Mop Sinks, Double Bowl Kitchen Sinks, Bi-Level Coolers with Electronic Bottle Fillers, Wall Hydrants, Counter Mounted Lavatories, Urinals, Ice Maker Outlet Boxes, Floor Drains, Indoor Cleanouts, Shower Bases with Trench Drains, along with any Pipe, Valves, and Fittings located on Drawings P950, P951 and P952.

Any bidder who wishes to visit the site to see existing conditions shall reach out to tgbwtp@taloving.com.

All questions, site visit requests and bid submittals shall be directed to tgbwtp@taloving.com.

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 **Maple Creek Pump Station and Force Main Rehabilitation** project for the Town of Wallace which bids **March 20, 2024, at 3:00 PM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company, 400 Patetown Road, Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Town of Wallace; 316 East Murray Street, Wallace, NC 28466 * Stroud Engineering, PA; 107-B Commerce Street; Greenville, NC 27858 * Dodge Data and Analytics website * ConstructConnect website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, clearing and grubbing, hauling, asphalt paving, striping, traffic control, earthwork, erosion control, seeding, electrical, SCADA, linework, jack & bore, bypass pumping, CIPC, and fencing. 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. T. A. 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.

ATTENTION: DBE'S-WBE'S-MBE'S

Barnhill Contracting Company will be bidding on the following project on March 19th, 2024. We are most interested in receiving quotes from your company on these projects:

Coastal Division Contract ID: C204924
Contact: Michael Griggs, mgriggs@barnhillcontracting.com, at 910-675-2554 in our Wilmington Office located at 3203 Burnt Mill Drive, Ste 3 & 4, Wilmington, NC 28405

Pre-Bid Meeting: Friday March 8th, 2024 at 9:00 AM in the Wilmington Office.

Raleigh Paving Division Contract ID: C204926
Contact: Brian Alexander, balexander@barnhillcontracting.com, at 919-787-2442 or fax 919-783-5616 in our Raleigh Office, located at 4325 Pleasant Valley Rd., Raleigh, NC 27612.

Pre-Bid Meeting: Friday March 8th, 2024 at 11:00 AM in the Raleigh Office.

If you would like to join the pre-bid meeting via Teams plus, contact the estimator for a link to the meeting invite.

1. For hauling operations, we will need to know how many of your own hauling units will be available for this project. We will need this on your written quote prior to bid time and this will be made a part of any subcontract.
2. Plans and specifications are available at:
 - a. NC DOT <https://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/Pages/Central.aspx>
 - b. Plans may also be viewed in our offices. Please call for an appointment.
3. These projects include opportunities on, but not limited to hauling, incidental milling, traffic control, curb and gutter, permanent signing, guardrail install, incidental concrete construction, ABC, erosion control measures, seeding & mulching, signals, shoulder construction, pipe install, minor drainage structures, temporary silt fence, and pavement markings. All firms or persons interested in bidding on any applicable portions of these projects or supplying materials for any applicable portion of this project are invited to contact us direct or by phone (we accept collect calls). By submitting a quote, it is understood that you have read and understand the specifications.

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

NC General Contractors Lic. # 3194

Attn: Tom Shannon

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The North Carolina Department of Adult Correction has the following contract in Davidson County out for bid: C-C11674 Davidson CC Accessibility Improvements. The bid opening is scheduled for: Wednesday, 04/03/2024. To obtain the Notice to Bidders, any Pre-Bid Requirements, and any Addenda visit: <https://evp.nc.gov/solicitations/details/?id=3e8691baaed4-ee11-9079-001dd8306784>

STRATEGIST & PROGRAM MANAGER WANTED

Corning Incorporated seeks Sterile Products Manufacturing Strategist and Program Manager to work in Durham, NC. Develop pharmaceutical technologies manufacturing strategy for sterile products (vials, syringes, cartridges); ensure strategy aligns w/ engineering/commercial/technology plans across supply chain; define/implement sterile manufacturing metrics; oversee/execute metrics w/ plant managers; partner w/ supply chain, site planners, & operations leaders to ensure supply & risk mitigation; serve as primary manufacturing liaison to business teams. Up to 15% domestic travel. Requires Bachelor's degree in Engineering or related field + 4 yrs. exp. w/ startup & operation of sterile syringe/vial manufacturing OR Associate's degree + 6 years exp. w/ startup & operation of sterile syringe/vial manufacturing. Must also include: 4 yrs. exp. supervising manufacturing or supply chain functions; 4 yrs. exp. w/ equipment & process design for sterile pharmaceutical container manufacturing in ISO Level 5; 3 yrs. exp. using agile project management, including leading Scrum; 3 yrs. exp. executing Leader Standard Work & KPI management for shop floor. Send resume referencing "2382" to Hannah Patton at careers@corning.com or One Riverfront Plaza, Corning, NY 14831.

Rate of pay: \$205,000 to \$239,786/year

NOTICE TO SUBCONTRACTOR ADVERTISEMENT TO BID

FOR THE RALEIGH-DURHAM AIRPORT AUTHORITY RUNWAY 5L-23R PRESERVATION

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID:

Balfour Beatty has been selected as the Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) for the project and will receive bids from and contract with the principal contractors for the execution of the work.

Sealed proposals from Pre-Qualified Bidders will be received by Balfour Beatty for the Runway 5L-23R Preservation project on the following dates and times: **April 2, 2024 at 3:00PM**

Bids will be received and opened publicly at **RDU Administration Building, 1000 Trade Drive, RDU Airport, Morrisville, NC 27560**.

A non-mandatory Prebid Conference and MWSB Workshop will be held on **March 5, 2024 at 11:00AM at 200 Haleys Branch Rd., Cary, NC 27513**. Site tours will immediately follow the Pre-Bid.

The site tours will take place in a secure area so RSVP's are required and a maximum of 2 attendees per company will be allowed. RSVP to the site tour by emailing vmalcolm@bbus.com You may also request a virtual invite to the meeting by emailing Victor Malcolm at vmalcolm@bbus.com

You may also request a virtual invite to the meeting by emailing Victor Malcolm at vmalcolm@bbus.com or Trent Johnson at tjohnson@bbus.com

All bidders must be prequalified by Balfour Beatty in accordance with the Airport Authority's "Prequalification of Bidders for Construction or Repair Projects Policy." The deadline for prequalification package submittals is two weeks prior to the bid date at **5:00 PM**. A current listing of all prequalified bidders in each bid package and instructions for prequalification can be publicly obtained in Tab 7 of the Bid Manual.

The Construction Manager and Owner reserve the right to add pre-qualified bidders beyond this deadline.

Full Bid Manual can be obtained through the Balfour Beatty plan room under "RDU Runway 5L-23R Preservation - BID" at the following link: **FULL BID MANUAL WILL BE ISSUED MARCH 4, 2024** <http://app.buildingconnected.com/risk/public-invite/5430e7a75cd2e0300dd757d>

You may also contact Victor Malcolm, vmalcolm@bbus.com | office: 919-233-5001 for access to complete plans, specifications, and contract documents. Bid documents will also be available for review at Balfour Beatty office located at 1001 Cemetery Road, Morrisville, NC, 27560.

All Bidders are strongly encouraged to include opportunities for Minority Business participation wherever possible in their respective bid submission. Minority Business is a part of this contract and must comply with the State of North Carolina General Statutes and RDU MWSB program. The goal for this project is 5% MSB and 5% WSB.

The Construction Manager and Owner reserve the right to reject any or all proposals. Should you require additional direction, please contact Balfour Beatty, Victor Malcolm | vmalcolm@bbus.com | office: 919- 233-5001

Subcontractor Opportunity Session

Balfour Beatty is sponsoring a MWSB Outreach/Information Sessions to discuss construction of the Runway 5L-23R Preservation project. This event will be held during the Pre-Bid Meeting on March 5th. Balfour Beatty highly recommends that all interested 1st tier (majority and/or minority) subcontractors and lower tier subcontractors participate in this meeting as a subcontractor attendance will be considered towards "MWSB Good Faith Efforts."

For MWSB inquiries contact:

LaQuiana Bailey – lbailey@bbus.com

Joshua Spells – jspells@rightbuildint.com

Opportunities Live In The Pages Of
The Carolinian



SUBMITTED BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

An Agenda for Black America 2024

By Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.

President Joe Biden will make his State of the Union address on March 7. As a veteran civil rights leader committed to improving public safety and unlocking economic prosperity in our communities, there are few policies I hope the president will address.

There also is one I hope he will leave — permanently — on the cutting room floor.

That policy is the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) proposed prohibition on the sale of menthol cigarettes. Local law enforcement would be in charge of executing this ban and because Black Americans who smoke are more likely to choose menthol cigarettes, the Biden administration's proposed rule will result in more, potentially violent encounters between cops and people of color.

In other words: the FDA's proposal runs directly counter to President Biden's attempts to address crime and reform law enforcement practices to better protect Black Americans and other communities of color. Crime is rising especially in many urban centers. The proposed FDA rule change will lead to underground and illicit transactions that will only contribute to more crime and more negative interactions between law enforcement and communities of color.

We cannot leave our communities unprotected. At the same time I recognize that Black and Brown individuals account

for 68.7% of the people in prison and 44% of the people killed by police in the United States.

To reduce these numbers, we need to change the culture and premise of policing.

It is estimated that, in several cities, less than 5% of an officer's time is spent actually fighting violent crime. Police are still expected to respond to 911 calls, even if these calls have nothing to do with a crime. That requirement is part of the problem. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, people with mental illness are more than 10 times as likely to experience use of force in interactions with law enforcement than those without mental illnesses. Calling 911 when a person is having a manic episode should not be a matter of life and death, but, too often, it is.

Instead of issuing regulations that will require law enforcement to tackle yet another public health matter, President Biden should make it clear how he intends to help communities take the burden for nonviolent public safety matters off law enforcement's shoulders. Enhancing funding for substance abuse, mental health, and housing counselors, for example, will keep more people out of jail and prevent police violence.

To further improve outcomes for people of color, President Biden should issue a bold plan to increase Black homeownership. Last year, the National Association of Realtors reported that while 72.7% of white Americans own

their own homes, only 44% of Black Americans do. Black homeownership has only increased 0.4% in the past decade.

An effective strategy to overcome poverty in Black America is to increase homeownership and prevent racial hyper segregation. President Biden has pursued some regulatory actions to address housing discrimination, but improving access to homeownership will require greater efforts to reduce inflation so Black Americans can save and get out from under the burden of high interest rates.

Finally, President Biden should continue to request additional federal funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The gap in funding between predominantly white institutions and HBCUs is not the result of smaller endowments. It is the result of systemic underfunding by state lawmakers. According to an Inside Higher Ed report, the country's historically Black land-grant universities have been underfunded by their states by a total of \$13 billion. HBCUs are a springboard toward success. They constitute only 3% of four-year U.S. colleges, but their graduates account for 80% of all Black judges, 50% of Black lawyers, and 50% of Black doctors.

National polls indicate African American do not want their votes to be taken for granted in 2024. President Biden now has a strategic opportunity to engender trust, promote more inclusive public policies, and to commit to helping our communities to improve the quality of life.

THE WHITE HOUSE MENTHOL BAN

IS MISGUIDED, NON-SCIENTIFIC, & ROOTED IN THE HISTORICAL, PURPOSEFUL TARGETING OF BLACK & BROWN AMERICANS

THE WHITE HOUSE NEEDS TO FURTHER DELAY THE BAN AND TAKE A HARD LOOK AT THE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF A FEDERAL MENTHOL BAN.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, INC (NABLEO), IS A PREMIER NATIONAL ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS AND CONCERNS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN, LATINO AND OTHER CRIMINAL JUSTICE PRACTITIONERS OF COLOR SERVING THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES, PROVIDING COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTIONS TO POLICING ISSUES WHICH HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES OF COLOR AND THE PIVOTAL ROLES THAT AFRICAN AMERICAN, LATINO, AND OTHER CRIMINAL JUSTICE PRACTITIONERS OF COLOR PLAY.

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