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The Forgotten Heros Of D-Day

There are many ways to trace and spot the racism that permeated the then-segregated American military in World War II. At the dawn of the war, in 1940, there were just five Black officers in the entire U.S.

army. Then, as the war began, Black soldiers were largely consigned to support roles, like truck drivers and construction, rather than infantry units. Later, the 130,000 Black American troops deployed to the UK

ahead of D-Day alternated nights in English pubs with white American troops to avoid racial confrontations. White officers and enlisted personnel from the Jim Crow South were shocked and offended by how

British women easily mingled and danced with Black soldiers.

"The English people show our lads every possible courtesy and some of them, accustomed to ill will, harsh words, and artificial barriers, seem slightly bewildered," reported Ollie Stewart, a correspondent for the Afro-American newspaper, after a tour of the invasion preparations. "They never had a chance to leave their Southern homes before, and therefore never realized there was a part of the world which was willing to forget a man's color and welcome him as brother."

But another way to measure the racism that pervaded the era is this stark fact: Not a single one of the million-plus Black personnel who served in World War II, many of whom ultimately did serve bravely on the front lines and assumed huge personal risk in combat, received one of the 432 Medals of Honor awarded during the war.

The battle to rightly recognize the heroism of Black troops in World War II has lasted decades. The Medal of Honor was created during the Civil War, and by the time President Bill Clinton took office in 1993, Black soldiers, sailors and Marines had earned it in every war since — every war, that is, except World War II.



Not a single one of the million-plus Black personnel who served in World War II received one of the 432 Medals of Honor awarded during the war. U.S. National Archives

A Black Women Biz Owners Grant Is Ruled Discriminatory By Appeals Court

NEW YORK (AP) — A U.S. federal court of appeals panel suspended a venture capital firm's grant program for Black women business owners, ruling that a conservative group is likely to prevail in its lawsuit claiming that the program is discriminatory.

The ruling against the Atlanta-based Fearless Fund is another victory for conservative groups waging a sprawling legal battle against corporate diversity programs that have targeted dozens of companies and government institutions.

The case against the Fearless Fund was brought last year by the American American Alliance for Equal Rights, a group led by Edward Blum, the conservative activist behind the Supreme Court case that ended affirmative action in college admissions.

Blum applauded the ruling, saying "programs that exclude certain

individuals because of their race such as the ones the Fearless Fund has designed and implemented are unjust and polarizing."

Fearless Fund CEO and Founder Arian Simone said the ruling was "devastating" for the organizations and the women it has invested in.

"The message these judges sent today is that diversity in Corporate America, education, or anywhere else should not exist," she said in statement. "These judges bought what a small group of white men were selling."

Alphonso David, Fearless Fund's legal counsel who serves as president and CEO of The Global Black Economic Forum, said all options were being evaluated to continue fighting the lawsuit.

The legal effort to dismantle workplace diversity programs has suffered

its share of setbacks as well, reflecting polarized opinions among liberal and conservative judges on the issue. Last week, for example, a federal district judge in Ohio dismissed a lawsuit against the insurance company Progressive and fintech platform Hello Alice challenging a program that offers grants to help Black-owned small businesses purchase commercial vehicles. Similar lawsuits have been dismissed against Amazon, Pfizer and Starbucks.

The case against the Fearless Fund has been closely watched by civil rights groups, philanthropic organizations, employment lawyers and the venture capital industry as a bellwether for how the courts are viewing programs intended to level the playing field for racial minorities and other groups that have historically faced discrimination in businesses

and workplaces.

In a 2-1 ruling, the panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit in Miami found that Blum was likely to prevail in his lawsuit claiming the grant program violates section 1981 of the 1866 Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race when enforcing contracts. The Reconstruction-era law was originally intended to protect formally enslaved people from economic exclusion, but anti-affirmative action activists have been leveraging it to challenge programs intended to benefit minority-owned businesses.

The court ordered the Fearless Fund to suspend its Strivers Grant Contest, which provides \$20,000 to businesses that are majority owned by Black women, for the remainder of the lawsuit that is being litigated in a federal court in Atlanta.

Ill. Judge Falls Victim To 'Traveling While Black' On American Airlines

Stephanie Gadlin

Chicago Crusader

A retired Cook County judge says she was racially profiled during an American Airlines flight and now she is seeking civil damages against what she believes is a case of "travelling while Black."

On a first-class flight to Phoenix with her husband and elderly mother on February 10th, the Hon. Pamela Hill-Veal, says an attendant aboard Flight 2765 falsely accused her of slamming a bathroom door and disturbing other passengers. Though it was a morning, three-hour flight, and she noticed no sleeping passengers, she said the reprimand was puzzling.

Later, when she used the lavatory again, the same flight attendant reprimanded her again, though she says she made no such disturbing noise. The accusation led to the judge being directed to "use the bathroom in the back of the plane" for the duration of the trip, she said.

"I looked at him and told (the attendant) there were other people who used the restroom, and you didn't say anything to those three white men about slamming the door," Veal said. "The third time I went, (the attendant) followed me back to my seat and grabbed my shoulder, pointed his finger in my face and told me I was going to be arrested because he didn't like the way I had spoken to him—and that I had hit him."



Hill-Veal said not only was she insulted by the accusation, having never touched the airline employee, but she intentionally remained calm throughout their exchange. "When he touched me, he was trying to escalate the situation and I was not falling for that trick. I am 70 years old. I spoke firmly, but calmly, and told him I was dissatisfied with how I was being treated. We had paid about \$4,000 for those seats—and I was being told to use the bathroom in the back of the plane."

Born and raised in Chicago, Hill-Veal was appointed as a judge to fill a vacancy in 2004 and was elected to the Cook County Circuit Court in 2006 and retained as a circuit court

Judge until her retirement in 2012. She was assigned to the municipal division where she oversaw cases involving small claims, breach of contract, and insurance matters. Prior to serving on the bench, the well-known jurist served as a professor at Chicago State University and worked in private practice.

She is licensed to practice law in several jurisdictions, including Illinois and Michigan, District of Columbia Court of Appeals, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth and Seventh Circuits, and the United States Supreme Court.

Hill-Veal told the Crusader she believed she and her family were

targeted by the attendant and racially profiled after her husband was asked to exchange seats with another passenger, which he declined. "He assists me as caretaker of my mother," she explained. "There were 20 other passengers and (the attendant) could have asked them as well." As the only African Americans traveling in first class, she said after that incident the cabin attendant, whom she described as a young Asian male, became increasingly hostile toward them.

"Then as we landed and approached the gate, the pilot came on the intercom and asked that everyone remain seated because they were going to have law enforcement come on board," she told the Crusader. "None came. However, when we were escorted off the plane, there we were waiting on the bridge."

As two police officers and an American Airlines representative escorted Hill-Veal and her relatives into the terminal, she asked if she was being arrested. Passengers filed off the plane and began "snickering" and ridiculing her, the retired law professor said. Authorities confirmed they had been called about a passenger but noted they would not arrest her. "At that point, an American Airlines employee took me out to the gate and asked me to explain what happened, and I thoroughly explained the situation. When he left a woman (who either worked at the

(See TRAVELING, P. 2)

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STATE NEWS BRIEFS

WORLD REFUGEE DAY EVENT TO HONOR THE STRENGTH OF OUR NEW NEIGHBORS AND CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

This is a family-oriented event that will take place on June 8th at Moore Square from 4 pm to 7 pm.

For the second year in a row, the City of Raleigh will celebrate World Refugee Day with a special family-friendly event that aims to honor the strength and resilience of those who have been forced to flee their homes.

The celebration will feature local vendors, food trucks, field games for all ages, and an inspiring graduation ceremony to honor local refugee students. There will also be live performances by local artists that showcase Raleigh's cultural diversity. Caique Vidal & Batuque, an Afro-Brazilian samba band from the Salvador de Bahia region, will close out the day on the main stage.

This event is organized by Raleigh Parks in partnership with the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, the Lutheran Services Carolinas, Refugee Hope Partners, Welcome House Raleigh, We Welcome and Get 2 Know Raleigh. All of which are organizations that work for the wellbeing and the inclusion of refugees and immigrants in the community.

USPS STAMP PRICES ARE GOING UP AGAIN IN JULY

The USPS filed notice with the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) of mailing services price changes to take effect July 14, 2024. The new rates include a 5-cent increase in the price of a First-Class® Mail Forever stamp from 68¢ to 73¢. The proposed adjustments, once approved by the governors of the Postal Service, would raise mailing services product prices approximately 7.8 percent. Price changes for USPS shipping services like Priority Mail® and Ground Advantage™ have not yet been announced. What's changing in First-Class Mail?

Starting July 14, 2024, mailers will see price increase to USPS mailing products such as First-Class Mail and Certified Mail if approved by the PRC.

First-Class letters (retail stamps and metered) increase 5¢. The good news for online postage and meter users is that the savings for Metered letter rate remains at 4¢ per letter. The additional ounce rate is increasing from 24¢ to 28¢ for letters.

First-Class Flats (Large Envelopes) are increasing 11¢, and the additional ounce rate for Flats is increasing 27¢ to 30¢ depending on the weight of the envelope.

Certified Mail rate is increasing \$0.45 and the manual Return Receipt (green card is also increasing \$0.45). Switching to electronic Return Receipt, using PitneyShip software, can now save mailers \$1.48 per piece.

Total 1-ounce Certified Mail cost increases to \$9.64 for Retail Return Receipt (Green Card) (metered)
Total 1-ounce Certified Mail cost will be \$8.16 for electronic Return Receipt (Savings of \$1.48 vs. Green Card)

SOUTH CAROLINA IS TRADING ITS ALL-MALE SUPREME COURT FOR AN ALL-WHITE ONE

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — South Carolina is about to trade its all-male state Supreme court for an all-white one.

The General Assembly, which picks almost all state judges, is expected Wednesday to elevate Court of Appeals Judge Letitia Verdin to the high court. The white woman will take the seat of Chief Justice Don Beatty, who has reached the mandatory retirement age of 72. Beatty is Black.

Verdin is the only candidate left after two others dropped out when they realized they couldn't get enough votes in the 170-seat Legislature. One candidate was a Black woman and the other was a white man.

"She will be an excellent Supreme Court justice. I'm glad we now have that diversity present," said Sen. Tameika Isaac Devine, an African American Democrat who was a law school classmate of Verdin. "But we shouldn't trade diversity. We need to take a look across the court system."

Over the past 17 years — and all but seven years since 1984 — South Carolina has had a Black judge on its highest court. Either a woman or a Black man has been chief justice for all but one of the past 30 years. Ernest Finney became the state's first African American circuit judge since Reconstruction in 1976. Eight years later, civil rights leaders hailed his ascension to the state Supreme Court.

It showed Black people have a presence at every level of the state court system, even if sometimes Finney was invited to speak in his role as a justice at private clubs that refused to admit African Americans.

"Not only did he do the job excellently, he elevated the reputation of the

(See STATE BRIEFS, P. 2)

'Bidenomics' — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

cause he wants to do it doesn't mean that he has the political power to actually do it." For Kat Calvin, she knew her theater degree from Mount Holyoke College in 2005 wouldn't help pay the bills. She worked as a first-grade teacher in rural Louisiana, and, like many others, deferred her loan payments. She, too, went back to college and graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 2010. After graduating from law school, she began paying on her \$250,000 debt through the federal income-based repayment program. Since then, she's started her own nonprofit and startup to pay back her loans. As a single person living in Los Angeles, Calvin sacrificed saving money for a home and car to pay down her debt. Even with a good salary, Calvin says she still is stretched thin. "Like a lot of Black women, I

have to help support my family, and you don't get tax credits for other people you're supporting if they're not your kids, but this is why Black women tend to have so much less net worth," she says. "We don't have people to help us pay for college, and then we end up having to help our family, but we don't get any credit for that." Last year, Calvin published a book, *American Identity in Crisis: Notes from an Accidental Activist*, and used her advance to pay off some of her private loans. She's also enrolled in school again, which will allow her to defer her loans once again. Since she's worked in the nonprofit sector for over 10 years, and made consistent monthly payments on her loans, she will be eligible for the public service student loan forgiveness program in a few more years. Although Calvin is one step closer

to her debt being wiped clean, she worries about Black folks who are low-income or unhoused who have accumulated mountains of debt. "The thing that's scary is I spend a lot of time wondering how people are getting by because gas, services, food, and everything is so expensive. When these student loan payments kick in, most people can't pay them right now." **THE PROMISE OF GREEN JOBS** Shortly before Dominic Kruger turned 18, he started his first job with a petrochemical company in Louisiana. The Gulf coast of his home state is home to the largest concentration of petrochemical plants in North America — and as he puts it, working for these companies is "the only way in Louisiana to survive — unless you want to work at McDonald's." "That's all we got for Black men,"

he says. But petrochemical jobs are grueling on the environment and the workers. Across the country, the fossil fuel industry supports 11 million jobs, or 6% of the U.S. workforce; however, Black employment has drastically declined over the past four decades. The industry is less than 6% Black. Over the past 25 years, industry emissions have doubled, making the sector the third-most greenhouse gas-emitting globally. By raw numbers, a 2017 report found the oil and gas industry has more severe injuries than any other industry, and nearly three-fourths of those injuries are due to equipment failures, not human error. Before Kruger started his last fossil fuel job, two people died working the position he was hired for. It would later alter his life, too: In December 2020, half of his face was

burned off on the job. He'd spend much of the following year healing from reconstructive surgery and in long therapy sessions, which he still attends today. The accident causes him to experience "delusions, nightmares, all kinds of stuff — suicidal thoughts." Throughout the recovery process, his marriage ended, and he lost his housing and the ability to live with his son. Because of stories like these, and the industry's harmful climate impacts, the Biden administration has made it a goal to create 10 million safer, "good-paying union jobs" in clean energy and climate resilience by 2030. The employment shift depends on the waning of the country's dependence on fossil fuels. Fossil fuel jobs have only by only 7% since 2021.

Over the past year, Kruger has been able to slowly turn his life around by entering the green construction industry. But that has little to do with government initiatives, he thinks. "The federal government says they're for this and for that — for creating safer jobs for us — but I don't see it here." Without targeted policies, the increase in green jobs does not necessarily favor Black workers, who are significantly underemployed in green jobs. Tens of thousands of jobs remain unfilled. Although, according to recent White House data, roughly two-thirds of new clean energy jobs produced in 2023 were in communities of color — including nearly 60,000 jobs located in Black communities.

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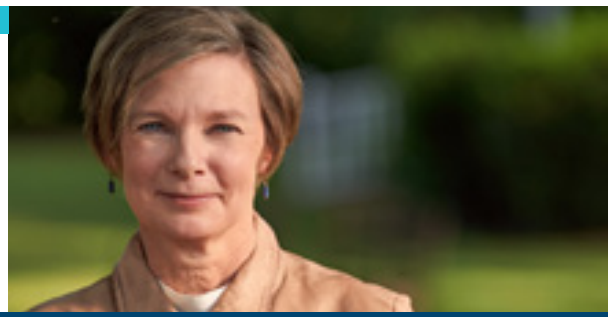
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Health & Wellness

Making A Case For Oral Health Care, Access To Dentists

By Anne Blythe
NC Health News

If a group of dentists, policymakers and health care analysts got their way, North Carolina would do some revamping of its oral health care infrastructure to make routine cleanings and preventative care more accessible to hundreds of thousands of people.

If routine dental care were more accessible to large segments of the state — those on the lower rungs of the socioeconomic ladder or perhaps in rural regions that have provider shortages — it could have a positive impact on the overall health of the state, the group said.

For nearly 17 months, a North Carolina Institute of Medicine Oral Health Transformation Task Force has studied how to make that happen. The group invited speakers, held meetings and conducted interviews with an array of experts. Their hope was to strengthen the delivery of oral health care so it is comprehensive and “seamlessly integrated with overall health,” according to a 118-page report issued last month by the task force.

The task force’s dream “In this future, dentistry is a valued contributor to improved health and exists within a landscape where

high-quality oral health care transcends siloed care and complicated administrative processes,” the report states. “This vision aims to change oral health by placing patients at the center and emphasizing accessibility, equity, and integration within the broader health care landscape.”

The task force’s vision complements efforts by dentists, dental hygienists and oral surgeons over the past decade to dispel the notion that oral health is not intrinsically linked to overall health.

A bit of history The separation of medicine and dentistry, by some accounts, dates back centuries.

Some place responsibility for the division on Pierre Fauchard, an 18th-century French physician often called “the father of modern dentistry.” Others link the divergence to the early 20th century when some began to see dentistry as more of a craft than lifesaving care, according to a 2014 WBUR interview with James Gutmann, editor of the Journal of the History of Dentistry.

Studies have shown that tooth loss and periodontal disease are associated with heart ailments and cardiovascular disease. Not having a healthy smile can be detrimental to employment prospects and take a toll on a person’s mental health,



research indicates. “Dentistry must be viewed and practiced as an important part of providing good overall healthcare,” Steve Cline, vice president of the North Carolina Oral Health Collaborative and a task force member, said in the report. “Dentistry, like mental health, has traditionally been viewed as a separate issue.

“The importance of mental health has recently been talked about more openly and as a result significant system changes and funding have been directed that way. It is time for

dental health to get that attention and support as well.”

More for Medicaid? Some of the areas the task force focused on were insurance models that posed barriers to care and how to get more dentists to treat patients on Medicaid.

Dentists have been lobbying for a Medicaid reimbursement rate increase. The current rate — about 34 cents on the dollar — is the same that it was in 2008. As a result, many dentists don’t accept Medicaid patients.

Currently, only about 45 percent of the state’s dentists accept Medicaid patients, and many that do are not accepting new Medicaid beneficiaries.

When North Carolina expanded its Medicaid rolls in December to make as many as 600,000 more people eligible for the state- and federally supported health care coverage, those new recipients would also become eligible for oral health care benefits. The state’s Medicaid program offers a comprehensive oral health benefits package that includes routine cleanings, screenings and other preventative services, but finding a welcoming provider has been difficult for many.

Since Dec. 1, 451,194 people have been added to the Medicaid rolls, according to the Medicaid Expansion Dashboard.

The presence of all those new beneficiaries has put pressure on dentists and other oral health care providers to take on more Medicaid patients. But many have balked at the proposal, saying 34 cents on

the dollar is not enough for them to make their business models work.

Even with the dearth of dentists accepting Medicaid, more than \$17.9 million in claims for dental services have been filed since Dec. 1, according to a news release issued Thursday by the governor’s office.

Gov. Roy Cooper proposed a spending plan to lawmakers last month that would increase that reimbursement rate for dentists in the fiscal year that begins July 1.

Jay Ludlam, deputy secretary for NC Medicaid and leader of the \$21 billion North Carolina Medicaid program, told NC Health News this week that Cooper’s spending proposal would add \$45 million in state funds to increase the Medicaid reimbursement rate for people on the rolls before the expansion. Federal funds coming to the state as an incentive to expand Medicaid would make even more money available.

But the spending decision ultimately will be in the hands of the General Assembly, the body that holds the state’s purse strings.

Birth Rates Reach Record Low, And Data Shows No Recovery In Sight

Steve Robinson
Concord Coalition

In April the National Center for Health Statistics reported the total fertility rate was 1.62 in 2023. That’s the lowest rate ever recorded in the United States and well below the rate needed to maintain a growing population.

As The Concord Coalition has previously noted, the fertility rate is important because it determines — along with net immigration and average life expectancies — whether the total population will rise or fall in the future. A rising population contributes to economic growth, increases the ratio of workers to retirees, and makes it easier to fund programs like Social Security and Medicare. A declining population does the reverse.

The average number of births needed to maintain a constant population is 2.1 births for each woman over her lifetime. (The number is more than 2.0 because not every woman lives to the end of her childbearing years and there are slightly

more boys than girls born each year.) The results reported in April seem to suggest the U.S. population will eventually decline. But this conclusion overlooks the distinction between annual births which determine “period” fertility rates, and cumulative births which determine “cohort” fertility rates.

Period rates count annual births to women of all ages in a single year. That’s the number reported in April. Cohort rates count the total number of births that occur over the lifetime of all women born in the same year. That number can only be determined after each birth cohort of women reaches the end of their childbearing years. In theory, these two rates could be the same, if the annual number of births per woman at each age remained constant over time, but that’s unlikely to occur.

When the period rate is falling as it has been in recent years, that indicates one of two possible outcomes. Either women have decided to have fewer children overall, and the cohort rate will fall as well; or women have

decided to have fewer children now and more children later, in which case the cohort rate will not fall.

One way to assess the relative likelihood of each outcome is to consider how annual birth rates are changing among women of different ages. If birth rates are falling at every age, that might suggest women are going to have fewer children overall. If birth rates are falling at younger ages and rising at older ages, that might suggest younger women are delaying childbirth until they are older.

Birth rates have declined significantly among younger women, while birth rates among older women have increased slightly or stayed the same. The cumulative decline among women under age 35 is equivalent to 550 fewer lifetime births per 1,000 women, whereas the increase among women ages 35 and older is equivalent to 50 additional lifetime births per 1,000 women. [Fertility rates are the sum of age-specific birth rates, either cross-sectionally (period) or longitudinally (cohort).]

Declining birth rates among young-

er women, without an offsetting increase in birth rates as they get older, will cause future cohort fertility rates to approach the historically low level of the current period fertility rate. Unless these trends are reversed, or offset by higher immigration and rising life expectancies, the U.S. population will decline.

A declining population means fewer workers will be available to support future retirees, thereby increasing the burden of funding programs like Social Security and Medicare. Addressing this challenge will require policymakers to consider the relative trade-offs between encouraging more births, allowing more immigration, increasing retirement savings, and delaying early retirement. Given the nation’s current unsustainable fiscal path, these trade-offs should be confronted sooner rather than later. It would be far less difficult to make gradual changes now than to ignore these trends and be left with a population decline that would be harder to counteract or reverse in the future.

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THE GOLDEN YEARS
By Judykay Jefferson

WELL, I NEVER...
The average age of our US presidents from George Washington through Barack Obama is 58 years old. And then there’s Donald Trump. Elected in 2016 at the age of 70, former president Donald Trump was succeeded in the Oval Office by then 77-year-old Joe Biden. They are very different old(er) men.

Beginning in campaign season 2020 and continuing through today and probably into the foreseeable future Joe Biden has faced criticisms related to his age. Key criticisms include concerns about his cognitive and physical health, questioning if he is up to the tasks. Critics cite verbal slips, gaffes, and a slower gait as evidence of limited capacity. Some argue that Biden’s age might impact his perception as a dynamic and forward-thinking leader, potentially affecting his ability to connect with younger generations and inspire confidence in his leadership ability. And then there’s the concern in some quarters about the fear of Succession. This possibility either gives hope or strikes fear in the hearts of many Americans. Never has the possibility of a woman president (and a black woman at that) been more real. The stars have aligned; this could really happen in our lifetime. Just the thought brings out the worst in many. While politically motivated, the prevalence of this ageist environment is only possible because of the current societal obsession with youth fed by social media and marketing biases. Gone are the days when advanced age was appreciated for earned lessons, cross generational perspective, and stability. This is particularly disturbing when you consider that the seniors of today are the Baby Boomers, born between 1946 and 1964. We are living our best lives longer, continuing in the workforce longer, traveling more, dating more, buying more. These new seniors are fighting to remain vital, relevant, and engaged. We are a valuable resource to our world.

Last week, the world witnessed a never before event, the conviction of a former US president for crimes related to his 2016 campaign and subsequent presidency. Think of the all day-all night, play-by-play reporting of the Trump trial vs. the nightly news and late-night shows recaps of the Nixon resignation. They somehow strike a strangely harmonic chord in a chaotic There are of course similarities; both Republicans, both unwilling to let the election take its natural course. And yet, there are stark differences. Richard Nixon proved to be a highly effective president, ending American involvement in Viet Nam and the US draft, creating governmental programs such as Social Security Income (SSI), the first affirmative action plan, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Not as widely recognized was President Nixon’s ‘kitchen cabinet’ of Black men from whom he sought guidance. And yet, during the reelection campaign, Nixon was aware of some dirty political maneuvering, designed to illegally tilt the scale of the election in his favor. He was not one of the culprits arrested however, he was complicit by his awareness and failure to prevent the break-in of the Democratic National Committee headquarters. Rather than get booted out, President Nixon resigned. Also out was America’s love, admiration, and respect for the office of President. Thanks to Richard Nixon, it became acceptable, even expected that talk show hosts and stand-up comedians would roast the president, ending any generally understood boundary of propriety and dignity. That was the beginning of an any-thing-goes approach to political campaigning culminating in the election of Donald Trump in 2016 and peaking last week in his historic felony conviction.

The danger of this ‘my way is the only way’ thinking that condones intolerance and manipulation and processes of the concept of free speech is that the more ridiculous, outrageous the loudest voices are, the more sought-after they are by the click-bait addicted. We live in an environment where statesmanship is an unfamiliar concept and good deeds, compassion and humility are subordinate to followers and wealth. The variety of social media platforms provides open forums for everyone. It is incumbent upon each of us to resist consigning and supporting people, positions, and policies we don’t understand. Don’t rush to judgement. One of my favorite sayings is, think fast, move slow. One of my favorite songs is Kenny Rogers, “The Gambler.” You gotta know when to fold ‘em, know when to hold ‘em, know when to walk away, know when to run...” Often the best advice comes from those who were smart enough to live and learn, and gracious enough to share that wisdom.

Dr. Fauci Held Publicly Accountable By Congressional Subcommittee

WASHINGTON — The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic held a hearing titled “A Hearing with Dr. Anthony Fauci.” This hearing is the first time Dr. Fauci has testified publicly since retiring from public service. Earlier this year, Dr. Fauci appeared in front of the Select Subcommittee for a closed-door, two-day, 14-hour transcribed interview where he testified to serious failures in America’s public health system. During Dr. Fauci’s public hearing, he confirmed previous, concerning testimony and refused to take responsibility for the actions of his office. Members questioned Dr. Fauci about his facilitation and promotion of a singular COVID-19 narrative, his clearly misleading statements before Congress and the public, and his gross mismanagement of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). Dr. Fauci reaffirmed shocking testimony that the “six feet apart” social distancing recommendation that he promoted was arbitrary, not based on science, and “sort of just appeared.” Conclusively, the Select Subcommittee held Dr. Fauci publicly accountable for pandemic-era failures.

Key Hearing Takeaways
Dr. Fauci showed no remorse for the millions of lives affected by his divisive rhetoric and his unscientific policies. He did not apologize to the thousands of Americans who lost their jobs because they refused the novel vaccine, nor did he apologize to children experiencing severe learning loss as a result of actions he promoted.

Dr. Fauci confirmed that his Senior Advisor — Dr. David Morens — violated official NIH policies and potentially broke federal law.



Evidence obtained by the Select Subcommittee suggests that Dr. Morens deliberately obstructed the Select Subcommittee’s investigation into the origins of COVID-19, unlawfully deleted federal COVID-19 records, and shared nonpublic information about National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant processes with his “best-friend” EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. (EcoHealth) President Dr. Peter Daszak.

Dr. Fauci maintained his misleading claim that the NIH never funded gain-of-function research in Wuhan, China. In 2021, he told Sen. Rand Paul that “the NIH has not ever and does not now fund gain-of-function research in the Wuhan Institute of Virology.” During yesterday’s hearing, Dr. Fauci doubled down on his previous claim by stating “the NIH did not fund gain-of-function re-

search at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.” Notably, former Acting NIH Director Dr. Lawrence Tabak told the Select Subcommittee recently that the NIH did, in fact, fund gain-of-function research in Wuhan.

Dr. Fauci agreed with the Select Subcommittee that EcoHealth and its president, Dr. Peter Daszak, should never again receive a single cent from the U.S. taxpayer. Two weeks after the Select Subcommittee released evidence of EcoHealth’s contempt for the American people, its flagrant disregard for the risks associated with gain-of-function research, and its willful violation of the terms of its NIH grant, the Department of Health and Human Services commenced formal debarment proceedings against the organization and its president.

Dr. Fauci corrected his previous

testimony that his staff did not possess conflicts of interest. During his transcribed interview he claimed, “the only people that I am involved with is my own staff, who we’ve mentioned many times in this discussion, who don’t have a conflict of interest.” During yesterday’s hearing, he changed his tune testifying that Dr. Morens “definitely had a conflict of interest.”

Dr. Fauci publicly acknowledged that the lab leak hypothesis was possible and not a conspiracy theory. Yesterday, he told Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) that he falsely claimed that he has kept an “open mind” about the origins of the pandemic. This comes nearly four years after prompting the publication of the now infamous “Proximal Origin” paper that attempted to vilify and disprove the lab leak hypothesis.

Arts & Culture

Raleigh's International Food Festival Unites Cultures

Jordan Meadows
Staff Writer

The International Food Festival in Raleigh, organized by NC Vibes Event Planning and Management, took place on Fayetteville Street in Raleigh on Saturday.

Featuring over 60 countries and more than 100 food and dessert trucks from around the world, the festival provided an opportunity for people in the Triangle to experience diverse culinary traditions without leaving the city. Attendees had access to a wide variety of international foods, desserts, wine, and beer.

Additionally, the festival included an outdoor international dance party with non-stop folkloric performances and Brazilian dancers showcasing the Samba, an energetic dance of Afro-Brazilian culture, as well as international bands representing a range of music genres, demonstrating vibrant dance traditions from around the world.

The main goal of the festival was to not only introduce Americans and

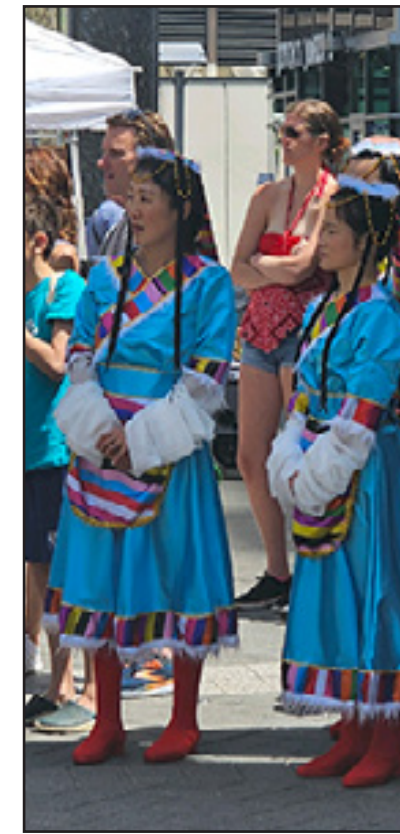
the local community to different cultures and dishes but also to provide a platform for immigrant groups to share their heritage with the Triangle area and the city of Raleigh.

Last year, the event drew over 20,000 visitors. This year, organizers introduced even more diverse dishes and refreshments from countries such as Brazil, Cuba, Nigeria, Lebanon, China, India, and Greece.

In addition to the food and entertainment, the festival catered to various dietary preferences, offering options for vegans, vegetarians, and individuals with gluten sensitivities.

Visitors also enjoyed bazaars and sample beer and wine from countries like Poland, England, Belgium, and Germany, as well as locally sourced options from North Carolina.

The International Food Festival was not just an event for food lovers; it was a celebration of cultural exchange and community. It provided an opportunity for people to come together, explore different traditions, and support local, family-owned businesses.



Pictures provided by Guest Columnist, Dominique Heath

Utah Sues TikTok: 'Virtual Strip Club' That Targets Minors

UTAH - The state of Utah filed another lawsuit against the social media company TikTok, accusing it of profiting off of "virtual strip clubs" involving minors.

That's according to a heavily redacted complaint filed in Utah's 3rd District Court in Salt Lake County on Monday, which details a live-stream feature that attorneys for the state say promotes sexual solicitation and exploitation of young people.

The feature — called TikTok LIVE — was introduced in 2019 and "quickly became extraordinarily popular," the complaint states. It includes a monetization feature where viewers can purchase virtual currency and gifts, which can then be exchanged for real money. According to attorneys for Utah, creators are promised more money by TikTok based on how popular their content becomes.

But according to the complaint, minors are sometimes incentivized by the currency to take part in sexually explicit acts — and TikTok takes a "significant cut" from those virtual transactions, Utah alleges.

"Any responsible company would shut down a feature if it facilitated children being exploited and adults paying children for sexual acts," the

complaint states. "But TikTok is too hooked on LIVE's massive revenue stream."

Several pages of the complaint are almost entirely redacted, concealing TikTok's own internal findings regarding mental health impacts on minors, the number of TikTok users in Utah, TikTok's ad revenue and more, making it difficult to determine the full scope of the social media company's presence in Utah.

This is Utah's second lawsuit targeting TikTok after it filed a consumer protection case in October claiming the company intentionally designed "addictive features" to lure in young users and keep them using the app for long periods of time. TikTok filed a motion to dismiss the suit, which the court will consider during a hearing scheduled June 13.

In response to the latest suit, a TikTok spokesperson said the company has "industry-leading policies and measures to help protect the safety and well-being of teens."

"Creators must be at least 18 years old before they can go LIVE, and their account must meet a follower requirement. We immediately revoke access to features if we find accounts that do not meet our age



requirements," the spokesperson said.

But in the lawsuit, the state calls those measures "nothing more than hollow policy statements."

"Despite what TikTok claims, it refuses to enforce meaningful and effective oversight of users' ages. TikTok knows many users lie about their age and it does little to ensure its policies are adequately enforced and effective," the complaint states.

Attorneys for Utah paint TikTok

LIVE as an at times seedy corner of the internet that allows the company "to profit from crime and the sexual exploitation of children."

"In countless live streams, minors have been encouraged by adults to—among other illicit acts—strip, spread their legs, and flash body parts to the camera, in exchange for virtual Gifts," the complaint said.

And those gifts, according to court documents, are designed to be "tempting" to children, described as

"cute, colorful emojis reminiscent of cartoons and Disney characters."

"To target this young of an audience shows that even TikTok knows that many TikTok LIVE users are under 18 years old, despite TikTok saying the opposite," the complaint reads.

What's more is TikTok does not oversee its virtual currency exchanges, the complaint said, allowing the transactions to avoid regulatory framework in place to identify and stop sexual exploitation and other illegal activities like "money laundering, terrorism financing, drug sales, and illegal gambling—abhorrent practices that TikTok is not only facilitating but also receiving huge profits from."

In a statement, Utah Gov. Spencer Cox said the allegations against TikTok are "incredibly disturbing."

"Such disregard for the safety of young users on the platform, much less profiting off their exploitation, cannot and will not be tolerated. We will take all necessary actions to protect them from TikTok's egregious behavior," Cox said.

Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes called TikTok's monetization of the live stream "money laundering," while claiming the feature connects

victims to predators in real-time.

"Our investigation confirmed TikTok knows of the damage to young victims but feels it makes far too much money to stop. There are so many layers of harm in its practices that we cannot wait a day longer to act," Reyes said.

The lawsuit accuses TikTok of violating Utah's deceptive acts or practices law by creating an "intentionally confusing" system of virtual currency while failing to notify users it "takes approximately a 50% commission of all virtual transactions."

The lawsuit also alleges that TikTok is in violation of the state's consumer sales practices act "concerning sexual exploitation."

"TikTok directly profits from its virtual currency and has continued to profit despite knowing its currency was being used for illegal activities, including, and not limited to, sexual exploitation, trafficking, the distribution of pornography, money laundering, and other illicit activities"

The state is asking the court to require TikTok to pay for damages "on behalf of consumers well in excess of \$300,000," order an accounting of the LIVE revenue in Utah and pay at least \$300,000 in civil penalties.

Old Hillside Bourbon Company Celebrates 4th Anniversary

By Ms Jheri Worldwide
Staff Writer

June first marked four years since four black men with roots in Durham, North Carolina created Old Hillside Bourbon Company. "Founded in friendship" and rooted in American history, to watch these men work together and build successfully is a testament to what the right team can do. As we all know, together, everyone achieves more. Named in honor of Hillside High School, the historic black institution in North Carolina and the oldest black high school that still exists, Old Hillside Bourbon is not only delicious and flavorful, but the depth of the flavor reflects the deep roots of the brand.

Jesse Carpenter, the architect and visionary, tapped high school friend Brian Burton, who brought the idea to Courtney Tucker, who



looped in his cousin Emmanuel Waters. Watching these men work collaboratively and move in sync is inspiring and a reminder that it is

possible to break the programming and work productively and peacefully. Rising above the conditioning to compete, the team works

together on their value-based product highlighting history, honoring veterans, and demonstrating excellence consistently. On the OldHillsideBourbonCompany.com you'll learn details about the brand's history in relationship to Black jockeys, "Few people know that in the first Kentucky Derby, 13 of the 15 riders were African-American. In fact, Black jockeys won 15 of the first 28 Derbies, dominating the sport before the Jim Crow laws came into effect. The reason for the majority of the original jockeys being African-American stems from the fact that these jockeys were born into slavery or grew up as children of slaves who were responsible for taking care of the horses. The stories of these Black jockeys, like the names of Oliver Lewis, Isaac Murphy, Alonzo Clayton, and Soup Perkins—have been lost over the years." The Old Hillside bour-

bon team continues to bring this history to the American consciousness through informative labels and exciting events.

A plethora of quality alignments has propelled the brand on social media and in the beverage market. Les Quick, a Hillside graduate and popular social media influencer in the adult beverage space described the bourbon on his viral 'Whiskey Wednesday', "With flavor notes of peanut butter, citrus, also some vanilla, oak. It goes down really smooth. I would definitely suggest you pour this up in an old-fashioned." Spokesman and celebrated actor Orlando Jones is an important thread in the fabric of this innovative organization as well. Jones continues to promote the brand, telling the story and sharing details about Black Jockeys and the history of horse racing in America. The way Orlando Jones shows up

and out with comedy and context regarding the historic foundation of the Old Hillside bourbon brand is a testament to the brotherhood these men have constructed.

Per their description, "Distilled in Sparta, Kentucky but originating in Durham, North Carolina, Old Hillside Bourbon Company offers a variety of non-chilled, filtered bourbon products smooth enough for the novice drinker but complex enough for the most discerning enthusiast."

Call your local ABC store, visit BevMo, or Total Wine. You can also find links to order Old Hillside Bourbon online via the website. Old Hillside Bourbon Company is a high-quality product with a story we can be proud of. Take a sip and taste the heritage, history, and excellence. Cheers to four years and many more. Please drink responsibly.

50 Hoops Comes To The Triangle To Bring Cancer Awareness

50 Hoops LEGENDS is the oldest national African American-founded, Patient, and Certified Medical Education Nonprofit organization in the nation.

Throughout their quarter-century, founders Ed and Pat Sanders have traveled the country putting on tournaments, lecture series, and health fairs focusing upon our African American and underserved communities from coast to coast.

Both preacher's kids, Ed Sanders say that "It was the Pandemic that made us stretch ourselves," and amid the pain of new growth, came the 50 Hoops LEGENDS in 2021, of mega-churches, teaching hospitals, cancer centers, and community advocates who have all worked with 50 Hoops over the years, and who are "individually and collectively remarkable in themselves."

This year marks the 50 HOOPS LEGENDS Live Premier of Lecture Series, Workshops, 50 Hoops Hardwood Workshops, and stakeholder conferences. Each event replicates a branded event developed by 50 Hoops over the years.

This year, there will be a new generation of 50 Hoops LEGENDS as each current LEGEND selects



one person in the community, with whom they work, or know of the excellence within that organization, church, or Cancer advocacy group.

Says Founder Ed Sanders, "These NEW legends OF LEGENDS will go through a short 3-5 minute ceremony with "Pomp and Circumstance" and turn their tassels on their graduation caps at the Prostate Cancer 101 Luncheon on June 1st at the Com-



munity Family Life and Recreation Center at Lyon Park, 1309 Halley Street, in Durham. "With this ceremony, we will begin to see how the 50 Hoops LEGENDS are continuing to expand their community outreach, as they replicate our events, for a new generation of LEGENDS."

"This systematic expansion of our LEGENDS into new levels of EXCELLENCE defines the 50 Hoops'

NETWORKING of the Networks across the country, and across our Black communities, which is why God has allowed us to last this long," Says Executive Director, Pat Sanders.

We hope these brilliant doctors, stakeholders, and community leaders help DEFINE this next generation of national community patient education LEGENDS. Mathias Bishop Photos



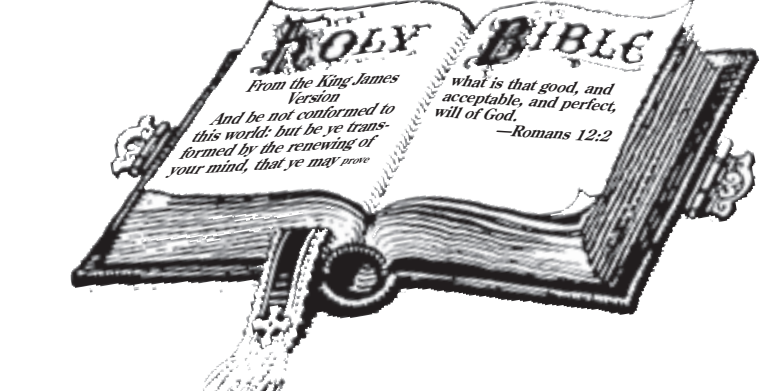
Church

SERMON of the WEEK



Don't Let What You're Going Through Make You Forget Who You Are

By Elder Demetrius Hunter
 "And Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he always ate at the king's table; he was lame in both feet." 2 Samuel 9:13 KJV
 It is often said that what doesn't kill you makes you stronger. This statement implies that we go through things and, by experiencing the trial or tribulation, we become a better version of ourselves. For this to happen, we must refrain from picking up attitudes or mindsets during trying times. Let's look at this story from David's life to see what the Bible says about going through things.
 David was sitting back after being made King and handling the present kingdom business. David thought of his promise to Jonathan because Jonathan assisted him in fleeing from Saul. David promised to honor the House of Saul for Jonathan's sake. So, David found Jonathan's living son and intended to be true to his word. I will expound on three points from this scripture.



1. Dropped but not dead: Mephibosheth was dropped by a caretaker as he fled from Jerusalem as a child, which left him crippled in both feet. He found himself in Lo Debar, a dry and desert place, depending on others to survive. At the same time, his condition was dire and low, but he was still living. The Bible says, "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." It also says, "He inhabits the praises of his people." As long as you have breath, you should praise God because it is another day, and he can turn it around. Yes, you may be crippled and hurt, but you are not dead! While you are on this side of life, He can turn it around. No matter what it looks like. No matter what it feels like. God can turn it around.
 2. Answer the call: Mephibosheth had every reason to feel that he was not worthy of accepting an invitation from the King. He was crippled, his family was disgraced, and he had nothing. He could have fully accepted his fate and stayed in a dry place. It is very important that we don't get too comfortable in a place where we are not meant to stay. God has a plan

for your life. Some places are just for testimony, not destination. When the King calls, you must respond. Yeah, it might not feel like you belong, but answer anyway. Yeah, you are from the projects. Yeah, you are from a poor family. Yeah, you are not the most educated. Answer the call anyway! God wants to deliver you from Lo Debar!
 3. Know who you are: When Mephibosheth gets to David, he is reminded who he is. Then, the devil desires to trick you out of a position of your blessing. Sometimes, you have to remind the devil what God said about you. He said that any man be in Christ he is a new creature. He said that you are the lender and not the borrower. He said that you are a royal priesthood. He said that you are more than a conqueror. People may judge you by where you are, but God knows where you are going to be. Don't ever forget who you are!
 To view complete sermons by Pastor William Eli Ratcliff and Associate Ministers, please visit our YouTube channel. Thank you.

Step Up Ministries, Community Cares Collaborate On InvestFest

By Ms Jheri Worldwide
 Staff Writer

On Friday, May 31st, some of the brightest in Wake County attended the Community Cares Collaborative produced by StepUp Ministry and City of Raleigh for community communicators to learn and improve their skills. During the event, a team of leaders from across the triangle shared insights on intergenerational leadership and communication. Laura Martin, Outreach Director for StepUp Ministry, and Wake County Commissioner Tara Waters were our hosts. Lisa Reid from the North Carolina Center for Nonprofits started us off with details about how nonprofits can benefit from joining the organization. It was insightful to learn that there are resources to support nonprofits. With so many nonprofit organizations standing up for essential causes, it is worth noting that there is an affordable support system in the NC Center for Nonprofits. Also, for anyone seeking employment, NC Center for Nonprofits has a job board on their website.
 An important fact shared during lunch was that this is the most age-diverse society in human history. There are currently: Traditionalists, Baby Boomers, Generation

X, Millennials, Generation Z, and Generation Alfa in the workplace. The Community Cares Collaborative reiterated that this is a special time in history for us to elevate humanity by building intergenerationally.
 The workshop featured several themes, including the fact that younger and older, we all have insightful ways to build and sustain stronger community relationships. Also, we can alter our communication styles and strategies to include one another across generations. Lastly, the commitment to remaining inspired to challenge ourselves, and to build together helps us all. We can each grow our communication skills and strengthen our community relationships to do better work together one day and one interaction at a time. Another fun fact, 75% of Gen Z and Millennials are looking to collaborate with older generations. Wisdom and experience are valued.
 The lunch workshop was special because community members from different ages and walks of life sat side by side, shared, and collaborated. The beautiful and bright hall in the White Memorial Presbyterian Church was the perfect atmosphere for this dynamic conversation and for learning and growing together. Jordan Bowman of the Journeymen

Triangle led two interactive exercises that got us moving and talking. This allowed us to network and ask unique questions of someone we hadn't met before. His next exercise was my favorite, we were given a note card and told to write a detail about the oldest and the youngest people in our lives. For each, we wrote something they taught us and something we hope for them respectively. Then we shared. This was so impactful because of the range of ages at the table. The varying perspectives were eye-opening and inspiring because we all value different things.
 One share that really stood out to me was feedback from my table mate, Deanna Manley, Associate Director of PEEP at InterAct of Wake County. Deanna advised us with words from her elder influencer, "Have mercy so mercy can be had on you." This wisdom struck me, similar to the golden rule of respect, it was a reminder that we all truly get what we give. These are words I will remember. I'm grateful for all the advice shared at my table through people my table mates have known and loved.
 Another impactful presenter was Nadia Trevizo of United Way of the Greater Triangle. Nadia spoke specifically to the emerging technologies like Microsoft Teams, Zoom, and the various social media platforms that can challenge us to communicate effectively and meaningfully. This beautiful and eventful lunch was topped off by a motivational testimony from Dana N. Graham of Crowned for Success, who shared, "Every voice has value." She also emphasized the three C's, "Clarity, Communication, Community" and the need to be clear about our shared visions and missions.
 When it comes to intergenerational leadership, we all agreed that no one wants to be dismissed because of their age. Age is a gift of wisdom and youth is a gift of energy. We are so much better together. Join StepUp and City of Raleigh for the next workshop in August.



Obituaries

Marian Robinson, the Heart of the Obama Family, Remembered Fondly at 86

(AP) Marian Robinson, mother to former First Lady Michelle Obama, died on Friday, May 31, at 86. Her loved ones said she leaves behind a void in the hearts of many. As a steadfast figure in the Obama White House, Robinson's presence extended far beyond familial ties, touching the lives of all who knew her. Marian Lois Shields set out on a journey that was characterized by fortitude and compassion after emerging from the vibrant tapestry of Chicago's South Side. From her early days as a teacher to her later role as a trusted secretary, Robinson's life was a testament to the values of family and service, showcasing her personal achievements and contributions.



else likes you. Come home. We'll always like you here." The family recalled that, as a young woman, Robinson studied to become a teacher before working as a secretary. She fell quickly and madly in love with Fraser Robinson, another South Sider with a "boxer's strength and jazz-lover's cool." Together, they raised two children, Craig, and Michelle, in a tiny upstairs apartment on Euclid Avenue in South Shore. Robinson volunteered for the PTA and taught her children to read at an early age, sitting together as they sounded out words on a page, giving them the strength and confidence to walk to school — and out into the world — all on their own. She once chewed out a police officer who had accused Craig of stealing a bike, demanding that the adult apologize to her son.

In a heartfelt tribute, Michelle Obama fondly recalled her mother's enduring influence, describing her as the unwavering pillar of their family. Robinson's wisdom, honed through life's diverse experiences, was a beacon of light during times of uncertainty. Her steadfast support and gentle nature were not just sources of strength but unique qualities that endeared her to the entire Obama clan. Throughout Barack Obama's historic presidency, Marian Robinson was a symbol of stability, offering sage advice and unconditional love. Despite the grandeur of the White House, she maintained her down-to-earth charm, forging deep connections with staff and finding solace in everyday routines, thereby extending her influence beyond her immediate family. Reflecting on her mother's legacy, Michelle Obama shared cherished memories of their time, illustrating

their profound bond. Robinson's unwavering presence and nurturing spirit created a sense of home amidst the whirlwind of public life. "Her wisdom came off as almost innate, as something she was born with, but in reality, it was hard-earned, fashioned by her deep understanding that the world's roughest edges could always be sanded down with a little grace," the family said. Michelle, Barack, Craig, Kelly, Avery, Leslie, Malia, Sasha, Austin, and Aaron joined to pen a heartfelt remembrance of Robinson. "Our mother, mother-in-law, and grandmother had a way of summing up the truths about life in a word or two, maybe a quick phrase that made everyone around her stop and think," they wrote. "Don't sweat the small stuff. Know what's truly precious. As a parent, you're not raising babies — you're raising little people. Don't worry about whether anybody

On summer nights, she'd pack the family into the car with a steaming plate of chicken for a trip to the drive-in movies. On New Year's Eve, she'd pass around pigs in a blanket and raise a toast to Auld Lang Syne. And every night, for years on end, she and Fraser would hold court at the dinner table, where they indulged all manner of questioning, teaching their children to believe in the power and worth of their own voices. "On Election Night in 2008, when the news broke that Barack would soon shoulder the weight of the world, she was there, holding his hand," the family wrote. "With a healthy nudge, she agreed to move to the White House with Michelle and Barack. We needed her. The girls needed her. And she ended up being our rock through it all."

Church Briefs

HOLLAND CHAPEL AME ZION CHURCH CHILDREN & YOUTH CHURCH
 Children and Youth Church Services - Holland Chapel AME Zion Church.

Children (Ages 0-12) & Youth (Ages 13 & Up) Church will be held during Morning Worship Service in the Educational wing.
 All Children & Youth are encouraged to attend! Please call the church office for more information. 919-362-7831
 Children's Day 2024
 Children's Day will be observed on

Sunday, June 9th. Color for the day is Red. Children and Youth are asked to wear Red and Khaki.
 An Ice Cream Party will be held following service.
 Rev. Charles Mathews, Senior Pastor
 Holland Chapel AME Zion Church
 360 Burgess Rd
 Apex, NC 27523-5642

Practical Biblical Principles

THE COURT ROOM SCENE
 Read: Romans 3:19-26
 One of the most powerful images in the Bible is that of a courtroom. God is pictured as the judge. Truth is the jury. Every human will stand before Him for judgment. When people stand before God's judgment, we have a problem. Sin. God and truth are not the only ones in the courtroom. Not only are we present, but we are also the defendants. It is we that are on the witness stand being accused. Our Prosecutor is there also, the devil, the accuser.
 The prophet Daniel in chapter 7:26-28, Micha 6:1-2, and Paul in Romans 3:19-20; 5:6-8 and Colossians 2:14, pictures the guilty must give an account of sin before God.
 All human sin makes us guilty before God. Every time we sin, we break the law of God. Every time we lie, hold hate in our hearts, covet something that doesn't belong to us, break the Ten Commandments, we sin. And each sin adds to our guilt before the Lord.
 One unforgiven sin can cancel out our chances for eternity with God. The laws of God have proven over and over again man cannot live without sinning, which is a part of his inborn nature inherited from Adam and Eve. In spite of the animal sacrifices acceptable to God on the Jewish Day of Atonement, man's sin at best

were only covered temporarily set aside but not completely abolished. God was never satisfied with this arrangement. As God had promised Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:15 that He would send a Messiah Who will be able to cancel all of man's sin forever (Matthew 1:21). It took more than 2200 years before the birth of Christ in order for God to fulfill this promise to Adam and Eve. This is why the daily and annual animal sacrifices were only designed to temporarily cover man's sins and was just a band-aid on a sore that would never heal until Christ came and died on the cross to become the one and only sacrifice that would permanently be acceptable to the Father.
 The Seven Letters Jesus had John to send the Seven Churches in Asia Minor (Turkey) were the final warning of a final judgment which was to come before the final Court was held on all who sin, and of course, the final Judging will start first with the church (1 Peter 4:17).
 The court room is very intimidating when one knows within him or herself, they are already guilty by their own account. The soul that sins shall die (Ezekiel 18:4). What recourse does an unrepentant sinner have in the courtroom? None!
 God never told Adam and Eve that the Seed of the woman would be their lawyer only, that the Seed would erase

their sins. It was not until God chose to send His only Son to us that we are told that He would be our advocate in the courtroom when it comes to us being accountable for our sins.
 There is only one thing which can cancel out our sins, and that is the "shedding" of Blood of Jesus Christ. Christ's Blood not only cancels our sin if applied to our request of repentance, but it also shuts up the mouth of our accuser, the devil in the courtroom. When the devil has presented the evidence of our sins in the courtroom, it is obvious we are facing the death penalty.
 The God of love has always loved us even when we were continually in our sins (Romans 5:8).
 The courtroom is tense and silent as we stand nervously awaiting our verdict to be handed down. We already know what the verdict is going to be. Unexpectedly, before the final argument by the accuser is put forth, Mercy appears out of nowhere, walks in and pleads the Blood of Christ. The courtroom is shocked because all the evidence of sin against us just disappeared. No trace of the evidence of our sins could be found nowhere in the court's books.
 "Not Guilty" is the final verdict says the truth of Grace. No evidence, no verdict. The Blood of Jesus has wiped our sins clean. Let us go and sin no more!

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

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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

Will We Soon Have a Four-Day Workweek?

By Mike Walden

The common five-day workweek has been around since 1940. That was the year the five-day, eight-hour workweek became standardized by the federal government. The legislation required companies to pay overtime wages for workweeks longer than 40 hours.

Prior to this, companies were free to set their own workweeks. The move to a standardized work week actually got started in 1869 when President Ulysses S. Grant guaranteed eight-hour workdays for government employees. Then in the 1920s auto manufacturer Henry Ford brought the five-day, eight-hour daily workweek to his auto factories, where he reduced workers' hours but maintained their pay. Ford concluded that longer workweeks yielded little benefit to auto production.

We may have entered a new debate about the workweek. Recently U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders introduced a bill in Congress to reduce the standard workweek from 40 hours to 32 hours. The bill would motivate business adoption by requiring time-and-a-half pay for workdays longer than eight hours, and requiring double-time pay for workdays longer than ten hours. The bill would also prevent firms from reducing current hourly pay and benefits with the shorter workweek.

Sanders argues that some European countries — specifically Norway and Denmark — have already adopted workweeks shorter than 40 hours. He also argues many studies show workers are happier and less “burned-out” with the shorter workweek, and employers are happier too.

Why has this issue suddenly popped up? I think you know the answer — the COVID-19 pandemic. Remember the labor shortage during COVID? Massive business shutdowns occurred, plus the federal government provided significant income support for furloughed workers. The return of workers to jobs was slow. As a result, there was more competition for workers, and businesses used incentives such as higher wages and better working conditions to fill their job slots.

COVID also made people think more about their lives and future. The term “work-life balance” became popular and motivated workers — especially young workers — to put more emphasis on their lives outside of work.

The rise of remote work has also been another factor raising the profile of the workweek. How so? Remote work has allowed workers to spend more time at home, where they can interact with their family, integrate household chores with their work and enjoy more flexibility to schedule necessities like medical appointments and shopping.

A final factor is the on-going prospect of labor shortages. The country's birth rate recently reached a record low. If continued, this change may result in a smaller future workforce. With employers competing for hiring from a smaller number of people, companies will look for more ways to appeal to workers as well as to attract more people — such as senior citizens — into the workforce.

The conclusion is the power between employers and employees may have shifted toward employees in recent years. Offering a guaranteed shorter workweek, but with the same pay as with the longer workweek, is one way of attracting and keeping workers.

So, is a shorter workweek a win-win? Advocates answer yes. Workers will have more time to relax, spend time with their family, handle obligations like doctors' appointments, and simply enjoy a better work-life balance. For two working spouses with children, childcare expenses will be reduced. Also, commutes to work will drop 20%, thereby helping reduce traffic congestion and pollution. Some studies also find less stress and better mental health for employees working fewer days and hours.

Advocates say businesses will also benefit. Operating a firm four days rather than five days a week will lower costs. Several studies have found worker productivity — meaning the amount of work accomplished per hour-increases with the shorter week, so much so that some businesses will realize increased revenues.

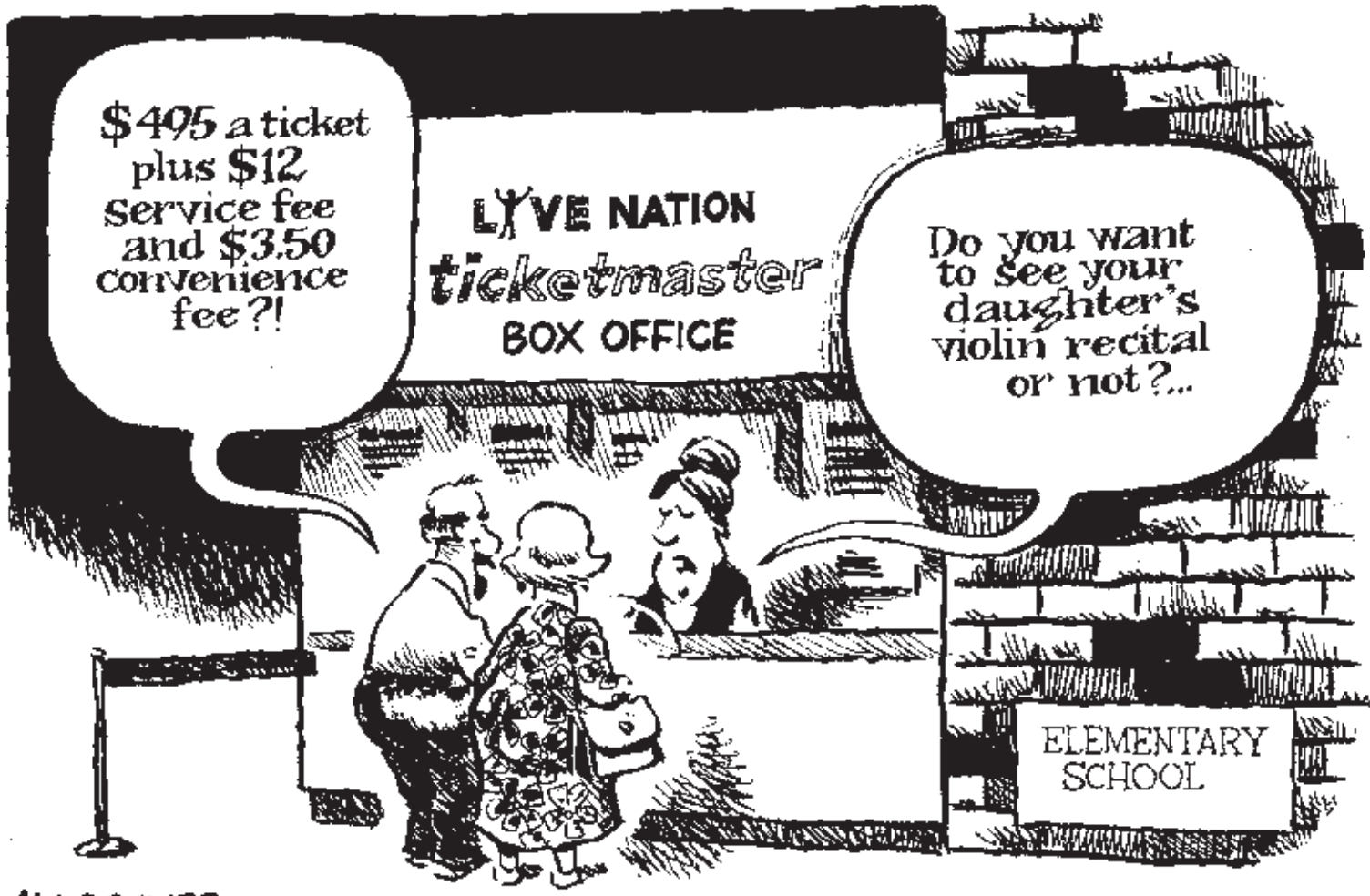
But before you start shouting, “32 hours, 32 hours,” recognize that not everyone is on board for the shorter week. Some studies report worker stress increases with the shorter workweek as employees try to accomplish in four days what they previously did in five. Critics also point out that if all firms go to the shorter week, the total amount of business transactions could fall and shrink the economy. If all businesses are, for example, closed on Friday, then how does that help families schedule appointments? Then there's also the same concern as heard for remote work — the shorter workweek would reduce the time available for worker collaboration, something that is extremely important in many companies.

There are two viewpoints about where the workweek debate should go next. One says legislation — like that proposed by Senator Sanders — should be passed with the four-day, 32-hour workweek being accepted as the standard in the country. Backers say the benefits from the shorter workweek are too great to ignore.

The second viewpoint doesn't reject the shorter workweek, but opposes having the government impose it. Instead, why not allow individual businesses to decide for themselves whether to keep the 40-hour week or go to something shorter? Those supporting this viewpoint ask a simple question: if workers and businesses both benefit from the 32-hour, 4-day week, then wouldn't we expect them to willingly make the switch?

I look for the workweek debate to heat up. One reason is because of the emergence of artificial intelligence, which has the capacity to take over many worker tasks. In this case, the workweek may shrink simply because there's less work for people to do.

So, will we soon be working fewer hours each week? You decide. Mike Walden is a William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor Emeritus at North Carolina State University.



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Letters To The Editor

ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC. APPLAUDS MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL'S DECISION TO MERGE NEGRO

BALTIMORE, MD. — Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. applauds Major League Baseball's (MLB) decision last week to merge Negro League Baseball statistics into their all-time records, now recognizing Hall of Famer Josh Gibson as MLB's new all-time career leader over Ty Cobb.

MLB's decision to fully recognize the contributions of professional Black baseball players, who were previously marginalized, enriches sports history, and finally honors players' legacy, like Gibson. He played for the Homestead Grays and Pittsburgh Crawfords, with MLB's new top career batting average of .372. Gibson also now leads in slugging percentage, and all-time single season records.

Alpha Brother Sean Gibson, who is the grandson of Gibson, was a leading advocate for the MLB's decision and has kept his grandfather's legacy alive as well as those of other Negro Leaguers through his Josh Gibson Foundation since the late 1990s.

The Fraternity is proud to support Brother Gibson and all those who fight to correct past injustices of racial discrimination as well as those who preserve the heritage of Negro League Baseball.



FUNdraising Good Times

BUDGET CUTTING WISDOM

What should a nonprofit do when facing revenue shortfalls? One way to reduce the stress is to plan ahead in the budgeting process and create contingency plans based on revenue projections. This process allows you to consider scenarios related to your level of confidence in different revenue streams. Begin with the full budget, then reforecast revenue with however many scenarios you want (less than projected donations; didn't receive a grant; didn't hold a special event, etc.). Then think ahead about how you would adjust expenses for each scenario. You don't need to detail each cut to expenses, but rather, have a general strategy prepared should you find yourself in a particular scenario. Approaches to reducing expenses will vary and might involve program changes or increasing operating efficiency. Be creative. Maintain a balance between program and overhead needs and stay relevant and impactful to those you serve.

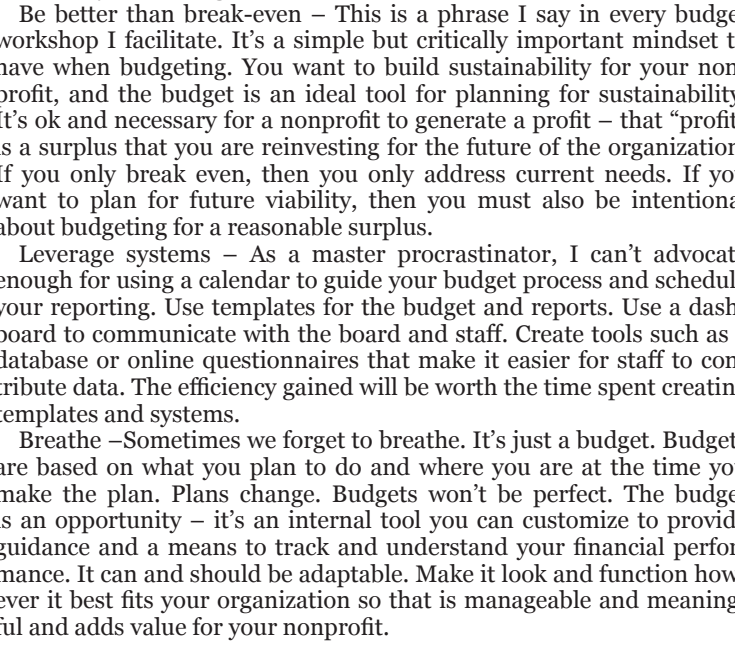
The value of scenario budgeting is that you've estimated how much you might need to adjust in a given situation. This approach during planning can help guide later decision making. There are spreadsheet templates for this type of process available online for free.

What are your closing words of wisdom?

Be better than break-even — This is a phrase I say in every budget workshop I facilitate. It's a simple but critically important mindset to have when budgeting. You want to build sustainability for your nonprofit, and the budget is an ideal tool for planning for sustainability. It's ok and necessary for a nonprofit to generate a profit — that “profit” is a surplus that you are reinvesting for the future of the organization. If you only break even, then you only address current needs. If you want to plan for future viability, then you must also be intentional about budgeting for a reasonable surplus.

Leverage systems — As a master procrastinator, I can't advocate enough for using a calendar to guide your budget process and schedule your reporting. Use templates for the budget and reports. Use a dashboard to communicate with the board and staff. Create tools such as a database or online questionnaires that make it easier for staff to contribute data. The efficiency gained will be worth the time spent creating templates and systems.

Breathe — Sometimes we forget to breathe. It's just a budget. Budgets are based on what you plan to do and where you are at the time you make the plan. Plans change. Budgets won't be perfect. The budget is an opportunity — it's an internal tool you can customize to provide guidance and a means to track and understand your financial performance. It can and should be adaptable. Make it look and function however it best fits your organization so that is manageable and meaningful and adds value for your nonprofit.



A Different Voice

By Dorothy Shaw Thompson

34 COUNTS GUILTY

Well, the jury spoke; they found Donald Trump guilty of all of the felony. Not that Donald really tried to prove he wasn't guilty, he says he was trying to save his wife from embarrassment. The evidence showed that at the time, he was trying to win the election by what he did. At that time, he thought those who supported him would not have voted for him if they had known what he did. Of course, most of us are clear that his supporters will support him no matter what. He said it then and continues to say it.

There are all sorts of funny posts on the internet and Facebook: Snoopy marching with the sign that says “lock him up”, a picture that mimics his thoughts that this is a witch hunt, revealing him as the witch that he has been found. I've got a sense of humor and the stuff is funny, but I think where we are in this country is too serious for laughing. Donald Trump is a liar, and his lies don't stay with him. His supporters are paranoid (some of

them) and when he lies, they believe him.

He tells them that Joe Biden sent the FBI to Mar-a-Lago to assassinate him, and they believed him. He thinks he had the right to steal government documents, so he will not tell his supporters that they came to remedy his crime. They will not ask him what he planned to do with them, but since he's openly aligning himself with Putin and other dictators around the globe, he could tell them that if he sold them to him, it would be to their good. Only a few would question it. There are Christians whose mind he's infiltrated, so if he spreads the word that sororities and fraternities, black ones at least, are tools of the devil, they will spread that word too.

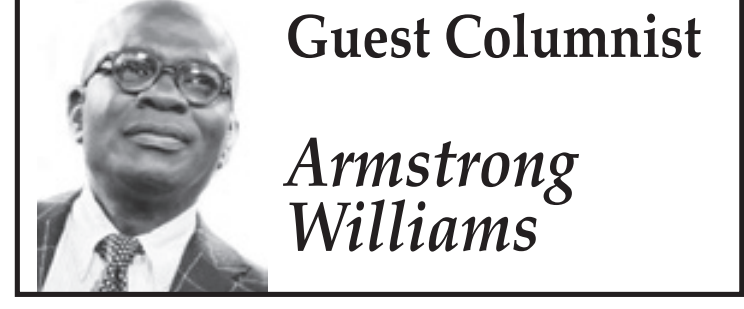
He will pretend to be against the right for a woman to choose what happens to and within her body when he's spoken on camera in the past for a woman's right to choose. But they'll believe that was a trick of the Democrats. They will believe that he will save us from same-sex marriage, while ignoring that he's been convicted of rape and faces others on that issue, but at the same time ignore what he said about touching young girls or his relationships with a man who, though now dead, hung himself rather than face charges of sexual perversion.

He would deny people the equal right of people to live in his government-supported housing because they are black, but encourage black people to go out and say he's the best thing that happened to black people since Abe Lincoln, and they will. This man would say that 4 black men who have been proven innocent by the court of law and DNA, after serving time in jail, should be shot by a firing squad, but wide-eyed Christian black people would still say he's better than Biden and even Obama. It's amazing to me, but I'm seeing it and listening to it.

Here's my point: we have let the fox visit the henhouse, and he's killing the chickens. That's why when you go out to gather the eggs, there are none. Those of us who have read the Bible for ourselves know what this is, and we don't have the luxury of laughing. We've got to stop believing that the only time to discuss politics is when the politicians visit our churches and ask us for our vote.

We've got to ask ourselves if we want to point our fingers toward Donald Trump and say to the soul of our children, “You could grow up to be just like him.” We've got to stand up, fight back, and stop saying if we defend them, they'll vote for him. They have been bamboozled; they are going to vote for him. The real question is, are we who can still see, hear, and get the picture willing to save our democracy by voting and getting everybody who can and will go to the polls and vote blue?

This is not anyone about who did better in the debate. This is no longer about who is older, Biden or Trump. This is not about Trump wearing dependents or his hair or where Melania is. This is about saving our democracy. This is the black man whose name you don't know, riding with Paul Revere, saying the British are coming, but this time, my friends, it's not the British; it's pure, unadulterated evil, and we still have time to put on our shields and grab our swords and armor.



Guest Columnist Armstrong Williams

THE AMERICAN SPIRIT OF RESILIENCE

Change is not only inevitable in the rapidly evolving world of today; it is a constant. Just consider the contrast between the state of our nation two decades ago and what it is now. We are continuously learning fresh ideas and integrating them into our daily lives.

The United States was established on the principles of adaptability, innovation, resilience and change. Our Constitution was crafted to be able to adjust to technological and ideological shifts. It is unchanging in that it represents a set of fundamental values, but it is constantly evolving as it applies those values to new ideas.

Consider the technological innovations that have profoundly changed our daily routines. The digital era has introduced unparalleled convenience since the dawn of this century, enabling us to purchase goods and services from the comfort of our homes, entertain ourselves constantly and work as productively from outside the office as we do in the office. However, it has also introduced new challenges, including the proliferation of social media, which has eroded the minds of our youth, and the development of new, sophisticated warfare capabilities that present a perpetual and evolving threat to our nation.

The emergence of artificial intelligence platforms such as ChatGPT, which have made AI's capabilities publicly accessible and free to everyone with an internet connection, has propelled AI to the forefront of the world's consciousness in the past year. The question of what a future with intelligent computing systems will look like has been spurred by the ability of these new tools to adapt to new situations the way humans do. Undoubtedly, AI is a concern our Founding Fathers did not anticipate. However, this is also the case for all forms of advanced technology currently in use, such as computers and other sophisticated systems.

For example, thermal imaging devices are capable of reading heat signatures through walls. The Supreme Court was able to effortlessly interpret our Constitution in the presence of a technology our Founding Fathers were unable to comprehend. The court determined that our fundamental constitutional principle of prohibiting searches without warrants was applicable to the technology.

When thinking of these technological advancements, we are at a juncture where the traditional methods of doing things are no longer adequate. We must retain the principles that have made our nation great but also take a bold step into the future, armed with the ingenuity that has always characterized the American spirit.

Our educational system is one such area particularly ripe for transformation. Schools throughout the country are failing to adequately instruct children on even the most fundamental concepts. However, with the advent of new technologies such as AI, virtual classrooms and online learning platforms, children now can learn at their own pace and in the manner most conducive to their learning, in environments that are most familiar to them. By utilizing technology, it is possible to democratize education to the extent that even the most underfunded school systems can compete with those in the wealthiest neighborhoods in terms of their educational capabilities. This has the potential to result in a significantly more educated population with a more diverse array of leaders.

DURHAM COUNTY

Raleigh, NC 27604
5/23, 5/30, 6/6, and 6/13/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In The General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E001580-910
The undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of LEONARD NELSON AVERY, late of Wake County, NC does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned at the address below on or before the 26th day of August, 2024, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 23rd day of May, 2024.
Yolanda Avery Badger
Administrator
620 Waterford Dr.
Clayton, NC 27520

5/23, 5/30, 6/6, and 6/13/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E001196-910
The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JANICE PENNY TART late of Wake County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 2nd day of September 2024, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.
This the 30th day of May, 2024.
Donna T. Dyer, Executor
4620 Benson Rd.
Garner, NC 27529
5/30, 6/6, 6/13, and 6/20/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division
FILE NO. 24CV017073-910
COMPLAINT FOR ABSOLUTE DIVORCE (COMP)(DIVR)
RUTH JANINE STEELE
Plaintiff, Vs.
TERRANCE LAMONT STEELE
Defendant.

To: Terrance Lamont Steele, Defendant.
Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is for ABSOLUTE DIVORCE. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than July 16, 2024 said date being at least thirty (30) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, Ruth Janine Steele, will apply to the court for the relief sought.
This, the 6th day of June, 2024.
Ruth Janine Steele, Plaintiff
1224 Topping Lane
Knightdale, NC 27545
6/6, 6/13, and 6/20/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court of Justice
District Court Division
File No. 24CV009539-910
To: OSCAR OMAR HERNANDEZ ZAMORA
Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is for absolute divorce. You are required to make a defense to such pleading no later than July 16, 2024, said date being at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, NADIA GISELA ESPINOSA CRUZ, will apply to the court for the relief sought.
This, the 6th day of June 2024.
Yvonne Armendariz, Esq.
Armendariz Law Office, PLLC
6110 Lake Wheeler Road
Raleigh, NC 27603
Telephone: (919) 656-1524
Yvonne@armendarizlaw.com
6/6, 6/13, and 6/20/2024

ORANGE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
ORANGE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 21 E 225
The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ARCHIE L. WHITE A/K/A ARCHIE LEE WHITE late of Orange County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 26th day of August 2024, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.
All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.
This the 23rd day of May, 2024.
Felisia White-English, Executor
418 Revere Road
Hillsborough, NC 27278
5/23, 5/30, 6/6, and 6/13/2024

WAKE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E001264-910
The Undersigned, having qualified as CO-EXECUTORS of the Estate of NELLIE WINLEY DAVIS late of Wake County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 26th day of August 2024, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.
All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.
This the 23rd day of May, 2024.
Veronica Davis Holmes, Co-Executor
335 Gaither Road
Winston Salem, NC 27101
Hilda Davis Underhill, Co-Executor
744 St. George Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27610
5/23, 5/30, 6/6, and 6/13/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In The General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E001847-910
The undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of RAMONA HARRELL HOLT a/k/a RAMONA BUMGARDNER HOLT, late of Wake County, NC does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned at the address below on or before the 26th day of August, 2024, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.
All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 23rd day of May, 2024.
Kim Boyce Holt, Executor
3612 Colewood Dr.

WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following job:
NCDOT Central Letting
C204204 Wake Co. Bid Date: June 18th
C204732 Dare Co. Bid Date: June 18th
NCDOT Division 3 Letting
DC00459 Sampson Co. Bid Date: June 20th
NCDOT Division 2 Letting
DB00559 Pamlico Co. Bid Date: June 26th
These projects may involve some or all of the following aspects of construction: construction survey, clear and grub, trucking, drainage, milling, paving, incidental concrete, fence and guardrail, signs, structures, traffic control, utilities, signals, pavement marking, erosion control and seeding.
Bids can be emailed to stw.quotes@stwc.com
Please contact S. T. Wooten at 252-291-5165,
Fax 252-243-0900 no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the bid date.

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

NOTICE TO TRADE SUBCONTRACTORS

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID: Sealed proposals will be received by Balfour Beatty for the Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) – Generator Power Operations
Bids for the following packages will be opened on June 27, 2024, at 2:00 PM
BP 26A Electrical Generator and Equipment Purchase
All bids will be received and opened publicly at:
Elizabeth City State University
2nd Floor, G.R. Little Library
1704 Weeksville Road, Elizabeth City, NC 27909

Bids will not be accepted from bidders that are not pre-qualified.
Bids may be hand-delivered to Melanie Baker in the Trigg Hall Building from 8:00 AM-1:00 PM on June 27, 2024, for the 2:00 PM bid opening.
Pre-Bid and HUB Outreach Meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 2:00 PM. The Pre-Bid and Outreach virtual meeting can be accessed at the following link:

https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_YmYzODJmYzktMWNiNy00YVJlTg0ZTQ0TGM2Yml3YWY0ZDZlMmY0a0thred.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%2278ae1a91-5989-464f-81e4-b026e4a7f692%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22c95b0b50-a4dd-4a2d-bb88-6a07aade343e%22%7d

Bid Documents will be available online, at
<https://app.buildingconnected.com/projects/660d3b8908b880004acb0718/bid-packages/660d3dc1124e260042c762ec/files>
Bid documents will also be available for review at Balfour Beatty Construction office located at 406 S. McDowell St, Suite 200, Raleigh, NC 27601 during normal business hours. All interested parties are advised that the prequalified bidders list will be finalized and made available via the issuance of a project addendum no less than 7 days before the bid. All Bidders are strongly encouraged to include opportunities for Minority Business participation wherever possible in their respective bid submissions. Minority Business is a part of this contract and must comply with the State of North Carolina General Statutes. The CM and Owner reserve the right to reject any proposals. Should you require additional direction, contact Colby Willis (cwillis@balfourbeatty.com) or Thomas May (tmay@bbcus.com)

Notice of Public Meeting for Proposed Alternate Bids for Preferred Products ECSU Central Generator Plant

An Owner Preferred Brands meeting will be held on June 13, 2024, at 1:30 PM preceding the pre-bid meeting.

This will be a virtual meeting via Teams here: https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_ZWQwOGY4YTk1NDVjYi00MjJlWEYmYjYtNmU0NzZjMTBkMTew%40thred.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%2278ae1a91-5989-464f-81e4-b026e4a7f692%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22c95b0b50-a4dd-4a2d-bb88-6a07aade343e%22%7d

This public meeting is being held in accordance with GS 133-3 and SCO procedures to review and address the following preferred brand items being considered as Alternates by the owner for this project:

1. Provide Protective Relays throughout as Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc (SEL) as indicated on drawings and throughout specifications.

Justification of any approvals will be made available to the public in writing no later than seven (7) days prior to the bid date.

www.CARO.news
Opportunity Lives Here!

WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following job:
NCDOT Central Letting
C204963 Franklin/Wake Co. Bid Date: June 18th
C204964 Brunswick Co. Bid Date: June 18th
NCDOT Division 1 Letting
DA00601 Martin Co. Bid Date: June 26th
These projects may involve some or all of the following aspects of construction: construction survey, clear and grub, trucking, drainage, milling, paving, incidental concrete, fence and guardrail, signs, structures, traffic control, utilities, signals, pavement marking, erosion control and seeding.
Bids can be emailed to stw.quotes@stwc.com
Please contact S. T. Wooten at 252-291-5165,
Fax 252-243-0900 no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the bid date.

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

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Town of Farmville
P.O. Box 86
Farmville, NC 27828
Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of 2022 Water System Improvements Contract No. 1 - Galvanized/Cast Iron Water Line Rehab will be received by the ENGINEER at Town Hall, 3672 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828 until 2:00 PM, July 16, 2024, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.
The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:
Farmville Town Hall, 3672 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828
McDavid Associates, Inc., 3714 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828-049
Dodge Data and Analytics, 2860 South State Highway 161, Suite 160, #501, Grand Prairie, TX 750527361 (View online at www.construction.com)
ConstructConnect, Attn: DPC, 30 Technology Parkway South, Suite 100, Norcross, GA 30092 (View online at www.constructconnect.com)
Construction Journal, 400 SW 7th Street, Stuart, FL 34994 (View online at www.constructionjournal.com)
Builders & Contractors Exchange, Inc., 1118 Azalea Garden Road, Norfolk, VA 235025612 (View online at www.bceva.com)
Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of McDavid Associates, Inc. located at 3714 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828-0049 upon a nonrefundable payment of \$112.00 for each set.

The OWNER reserves the right to reject any and all BIDS. BIDDER shall be properly licensed under Chapter 87, General Statutes of North Carolina.
Small, minority, women's, and disadvantaged businesses and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit BIDS.

This PROJECT is subject to the good faith efforts and goals for participation by minority businesses required by G.S. 143-128.2. The OWNER has adopted a verifiable ten percent (10%) goal for participation by minority businesses in the total value of the WORK.
BIDDERS shall, within the time frames specified in the BID documents, submit all required affidavits and documentation demonstrating that the BIDDER made the required good faith effort in compliance with G.S. 143-128.2. Failure to file all required affidavits and documentation within the required time frames is grounds for rejection of the BID.
Prospective BIDDERS who have been found guilty of discrimination within the last two (2) years are debarred from bidding.

A pre-Bid conference will be held at Farmville Town Hall on June 25, 2024 at 2:00 PM in 3672 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828. Prospective BIDDERS are encouraged to attend this pre-bid conference as part of their good faith efforts.
June 7, 2024

David P. Hodgkins
Town Manager
Town of Farmville

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Protect Your Child From The Dangers Of Online Gaming And Social Media

Classifieds

According to research from the Entertainment Software Association, 70% of families have at least one child who plays video games. Mobile is becoming a critical segment of the game industry. NPDP Group reports that 59% of U.S. gamers age 2+ play across devices, on dedicated gaming consoles, desktops, laptops or mobile devices. And 34% of gamers who play exclusively one system do so on a mobile device.

While online gaming can provide quality social interaction, there's also a darker side. From cyber bullying to online predators to hidden costs, there are many concerns when it comes to playing video games online, especially for children. The most important thing a parent can do is to establish a dialogue about safe online usage at a young age and build upon that as your children get older. When they understand the risks and the importance of security, children are more likely to come to you with red flags, alarms or smaller things that worry them.

Here's a list of the top seven dangers and simple tips to keep your kids safe online.

CYBER BULLYING

For many kids, the ability to escape into an online world offers relief from real life—no one knows who they are, what school they attend or what they look like. This anonymity cuts both ways, however. This may start out as the gamer version of poor sportsmanship. As noted by Get Safe Online, some players take advantage of their anonymity to "grief" other players by deliberately making the game less enjoyable. This could include "kill stealing," which is when griefers conquer or capture needed quest targets before other players can get to them; or "chaining" groups of high-level challenges to block the progress of low-level players, causing them to die.

In some cases, griefing escalates to cyber bullying. Although cyber bullying sadly has countless forms, some forms are particular to gaming platforms. In "whispering" cyber bullies target players directly with hurtful and harmful messages, or by spamming global chat channels with derogatory comments about their victims. According to Stay Safe Online, it's critical for kids and parents to understand their options. Most games allow players to "block" chat and messages from other users, and in some cases, the bully's words or actions may be a violation of the game's terms of service. It's always a good idea to write down or take a screenshot of any offensive conversation and report it to game administrators.

PRIVACY PROBLEMS

Stay Safe Online also recommends that kids never create usernames that are derivatives of their real names, or that might reveal any other personally identifiable information (PII), such as their location or age. According to US-CERT, the social nature of online gaming allows cyber criminals to manipulate conversations. They may

single out your child in a general chat channel and then start sending personal messages that ask for detailed personal information. By piecing together data from games and other sources, hackers may be able to access other existing accounts such as social media or establish new accounts—even entire digital identities—in your child's name. As in any online forum, never give away any personal information and be sure to vary usernames and passwords are across different games, platforms and accounts.

The specific tools or procedures needed might vary depending on the type of device, so it's important to research this for each device. Also, remember that some devices might include storage areas that aren't affected by the device's erase functions. If a device uses computer-compatible storage drives, like SD cards, connect them to your computer and securely erase the data. For computers, don't rely on the "Delete" function or even reformatting. These features are designed to permanently erase all user

or microphone—can be controlled remotely by attackers and used to exploit your children. To help mitigate this risk, use cyber security software that provides real-time and scheduled system scans for malware. Ensure that all webcams use "off" as their default setting and make use of physical shields, be they built-in camera covers or even a piece of opaque tape.

ONLINE PREDATORS

Online predators are typically older gamers who use video games to lure and groom younger victims. This can culminate in inappropriate messages, webcam chats or even face-to-face meetings that could lead to sexual exploitation. According to Internet Safety 101, online gaming gives predators the chance to build a kind of shared online experience, in effect becoming the child's defender, teammate and ally. After defeating a tough opponent or exploring a new level of a game, predators form a bond with younger gamers based on these common experiences and leverage them to venture into more personal territory. In many cases, predators seek to isolate children by splitting them from their parents and real-life friends by taking up the mantle of the "only person who really understands them." Combating this problem means talking to your children about online risks and monitoring their gameplay closely.

HIDDEN FEES

Dangerous online games have many forms and tricks. Some online games use the "freemium" model, which means they give you some content for free, however, for full game features, functions and access payment is required. So-called free mobile games are big business, generating over \$61 billion in 2018 alone. A few years ago, the freemium business model offered to remove in-app ads for a modest one-time fee. Since then, the freemium model has rapidly evolved to offer subscriptions, expanded functionality, virtual currencies, weaponry, special abilities or other accessories in exchange for credit payments. In most cases, these games require users to attach a credit card to their gaming profile. Their card is automatically charged whenever users purchase new items or services.

The solution is simple. Never give out your card number for any freemium games. If your child is playing more traditional subscription-based games, or games that run through services like Apple or Google Play, activate the purchase password feature these providers offer in their account settings menu. It's a good idea to regularly check your credit card bills to make sure you're not being charged for purchases you didn't approve. If you allow your children to use your smartphone or tablet, you should consider switching off "in-app updates," to prevent your children from racking up huge bills for in-app purchases without even realizing it.

This article was provided by the kaspersky company



PERSONAL INFORMATION ON CONSOLES, COMPUTERS AND DEVICES

Another online gaming danger comes from consoles or PCs themselves. When they've outlived their usefulness, many families take these devices to the local electronics recycling center or sell them on swap sites. Users often forget how much personal information is in the files saved to these devices and fail to delete their profiles and information, putting their financial and private data at risk. Before getting rid of any computer, game console, tablet or smartphone, you should wipe all personal data from and then perform a factory reset.

data from disk drives. Instead, you should use a program that completely removes data by overwriting the data multiple times.

WEBCAM WORRIES

Webcams have been hacking targets since they entered the scene. At first webcams were physically separate peripherals, manually added by end users and often left unprotected and with their default factory settings. The exploits were many and easy. Today, with many devices, from laptops to tablets to smartphones featuring built-in webcams, reports of webcam hacks continue to be regular events. Whether internal or external, any connected recording device—such as a webcam

BID NOTICE ADVERTISEMENT

Adams Robinson Enterprises, Inc. is seeking bid proposals and quotes from MBE and WBE subcontractors for the Salma Wastewater Flow Equalization and Pumping Facility Improvements project in Smithfield, North Carolina which bids on Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 2:00 P.M. Plans may be viewed at no cost at Adams Robinson Enterprises, 2735 Needmore Rd., Dayton, OH 45414. Call (937) 274-5318 or email arco@adamsrobinson.com; online at <https://adamsrobinson.com/onedrive>, password: estimating; online at Accent Imaging (www.planscope.com); online at Construction/Dodge (<https://dodge.construction.com>) and Construct Connect (<https://www.constructconnect.com>).

Items of work to be subcontracted include, but are not limited to the following: Asphalt Paving, Reinforcing Steel, Precast Concrete, Erosion Control, Drywall, Painting, Plumbing, Caulking, Sidewalks, Fence, HVAC, Roofing, Electrical, Concrete, Demolition, Landscaping, Waterproofing, Site Grading, Instrumentation, Excavation & Backfill, Clearing & Grubbing, Trucking & Hauling, Doors, Miscellaneous Metals and Insulation.

Adams Robinson Enterprises, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We strongly encourage all MBE/WBE subcontractors and suppliers to bid on this project. MBE/WBE companies can bid work for this project in any areas that they are qualified. If needed, we will break down or combine elements of work into feasible units or smaller tasks and negotiate in Good Faith in order to facilitate your participation.

Adams Robinson Enterprises, Inc is willing to review any responsible quote and will negotiate terms, if appropriate. We will assist interested parties, when possible, in obtaining equipment, purchase of supplies, obtaining bonds, limits of credit and/or insurance. Quick pay agreements are available for qualified MBE/WBE companies. Bonds aren't required in certain divisions or below certain contract amounts.

Steven Siefker can be contacted for further information. Submit written proposals until 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, June 20, 2024 to Adams Robinson Enterprises, 2735 Needmore Road, Dayton, OH 45414, Phone (937) 274-5318; Fax (937) 274-0836 or email arco@adamsrobinson.com.

ATTENTION: DBE's-WBE's-MBE's

Barnhill Contracting Company will be bidding on the following project on June 18th, 2024. We are most interested in receiving quotes from your company on these projects:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Coastal Division Contact: | Contract ID: C204964
Jim Daniels, jdaniels@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 June 7th, 2024, at 9:00 AM in the Wilmington Office. |
| Southeast Division Contact: | Contract ID: C204965
Lance Bullard, lbullard@barnhillcontracting.com, at 910-488-1319 or fax 910-488-5673 in our Fayetteville Office, located at 1100 Robeson Street, Fayetteville, NC 28305. |
| Pre-Bid Meeting: | Friday June 7th, 2024, at 10:00 AM in the Fayetteville Office. |
| Contact: | Contract ID: C204951
Robert Speer, rspeer@barnhillcontracting.com, at 910-488-1319 or fax 910-488-5673 in our Fayetteville Office, located at 1100 Robeson Street, Fayetteville, NC 28305. |
| Pre-Bid Meeting: | Friday June 7th, 2024, at 11:00 AM in the Fayetteville Office. |

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

- 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.
- Plans and specifications are available at:
 - NC DOT <https://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/Pages/Central.aspx>
 - Plans may also be viewed in our offices. Please call for an appointment.
- These projects include opportunities on, but not limited to hauling, incidental milling, erosion control items, signal loops, traffic control 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
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CELEBRATES POLICE VIOLENCE, SAYING "YOU BETTER BE GLAD IT WASN'T ME. I WOULD HAVE SHOT YOU 30 TIMES. I WOULD HAVE EMPTIED EVERY MAGAZINE I HAD."

THREATENS VIOLENCE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT, SAYING "IN CASE THE GOVERNMENT GETS TOO BIG FOR ITS BRITCHES... I'M GONNA FILL THE BACKSIDE OF THEM BRITCHES WITH SOME LEAD."

WANTS TO MAKE ABORTION ILLEGAL IN NORTH CAROLINA WITH NO EXCEPTIONS, EVEN WHEN A WOMAN IS RAPED, THE VICTIM OF INCEST, OR MAY LOSE HER LIFE.

WANTS TO DEFUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND REMOVE SCIENCE AND HISTORY FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM, ENSURING OUR CHILDREN WILL FALL BEHIND THEIR PEERS IN OTHER STATES.

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