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and Service of God

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Happy Father's Day

A father's love runs
deep and true,
A shining light
in all we do.
Through thick and thin,
he's always there,
With wisdom, grace,
and tender care.

by Langston Hughes



Controversial Bill Sparks Debate Over Masking Rights And Protest Restrictions

Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

After weeks of heated debate and deliberation, North Carolina's GOP lawmakers have unveiled a compromise bill addressing public masking and protest regulations. Originally proposed by Senate Republicans as amendments to an existing House bill, the legislation aims to tackle concerns surrounding mask use, particularly in the context of public safety and protests.

The proposed changes stem from assertions by Republicans regarding instances of mask misuse, including concealing identities during public protests and committing crimes. While North Carolina has longstanding laws against public masking dating back to the 1950s – created for Ku Klux Klan members – exceptions were introduced during the pandemic, allowing mask use for health and safety reasons. However, a recent Senate proposal sought to repeal this exception, drawing widespread criticism, particularly from individuals reliant on masks for health reasons.

In response to the backlash, a conference committee composed



Community activists speak outside of the NC Legislative Bldg On Tuesday in protest of the House Bill criminalizing mask wearing

of House and Senate Republicans revised the bill. The resulting legislation maintains an exception for health-related mask use but significantly narrows its scope. It stipulates that only "medical or surgical grade"

masks are permissible for preventing the spread of contagious diseases, omitting broader language present in the previous exception.

Key provisions of the bill include empowering law enforcement to

request the removal of masks for identification purposes and allowing property owners to demand temporary unmasking of individuals on their premises. Critics have raised concerns about the potential abuse of this provision, particularly regarding racial profiling.

Cheryl Carter, Co-Executive Director of Democracy NC, expressed concern about the provision allowing anyone to request mask removal. Highlighting her personal health challenges, Carter, who suffers from asthma and chronic bronchitis, said she needed to wear masks outdoors due to her susceptibility to frequent upper respiratory infections.

"Any amount of time without a mask puts me at risk," Carter explained. "Why are we giving that power [to law enforcement] and asking law enforcement officers to yet do one more thing in their job? Why are we saying that a manager in Walmart can look at me and say, 'I don't recognize you, I feel threatened and need you to drop your mask?'"

Additionally, the bill introduces sentencing enhancements for those using masks to conceal their identity

(See **MASKING**, P. 7)



GOVERNOR COOPER ANNOUNCES SUN BUCKS PROGRAM TO FEED ONE MILLION NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL CHILDREN THIS SUMMER

RALEIGH - Today, Governor Roy Cooper hosted Administrator of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services Cindy Long to celebrate the launch of SUN Bucks, the state's newest food assistance program to help prevent child hunger. Governor Cooper thanked six philanthropic partners in North Carolina who are contributing generously to support SUN Bucks, joining leaders from the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) and the NC Department of Public Instruction (NC DPI) to successfully launch the program.

North Carolina will receive around \$120 million in federal benefits to feed over a million school children in North Carolina this summer. The first benefits from the SUN Bucks program will begin to be issued to eligible families across the state next week.

"Summer can be a hard time for children who rely on our public schools for a healthy school breakfast and lunch," said Governor Cooper. "Nearly one in six North Carolina children face food insecurity at home and this effort helps make sure they get the nutritious food they need."

North Carolina is one of only three states in the Food and Nutrition Services Southeast Region to take advantage of the new USDA program. The purpose of SUN Bucks, also referred to as Summer EBT, is to provide food assistance to school-aged children and help bridge the financial gap for families during the summer months.

The North Carolina SUN Bucks program is a cross-sector collaboration between USDA, NCDHHS, NCDPI and philanthropic partners. The program was made possible by contributions from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation, Smithfield Foods, The Leon Levine Foundation, Dogwood Health Trust, Cone Health Foundation and Bright-house Financial.

"We applaud North Carolina for stepping up as a leader and implementing Summer EBT in its inaugural year," said Administrator Long. "This is an unprecedented opportunity to dramatically reduce child summer hunger. We at USDA are excited to be partnering with North Carolina this summer and look forward helping more states come on board for Summer 2025."

Families will receive a one-time payment of \$120 per eligible child to purchase nutritious foods during the summer – a critical benefit for the 1 in 6 children in North Carolina who live in households without consistent access to food.

"Access to good food is essential to good health and well-being," said NC Health and Human Services Secretary Kody H. Kinsley. "Every kid should be able to enjoy the summer without worrying where their next meal will come from. SUN Bucks helps to ensure children in North Carolina have access to the healthy nutrition they need to thrive."

Nearly 60% of public school students across the state qualify for free and reduced-price meals at school and are at higher risk for hunger when the school year ends. SUN Bucks is the newest addition to an array of nutrition programs aimed at ensuring these students continue to get nutritious foods while out of school for the summer.

"Every dollar counts for families working to put enough food on the table while kids are out of school," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Catherine Truitt. "Our goal for the SUN Bucks program is to help make sure no child in North Carolina goes hungry this summer."

Most eligible children and families automatically qualify for the SUN Bucks program with no action needed to receive the \$120 payment. Benefits will be issued beginning Friday, June 14. Families with children who currently receive FNS will see their SUN Bucks benefits loaded onto their existing EBT card, and all other children will receive a SUN Bucks card in the mail.

(See **STATE BRIEFS** P. 2)

President Joe Biden's Son, Hunter Biden, Convicted Of All 3 Felonies In Gun Trial

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — Hunter Biden was convicted Tuesday of all three felony charges related to the purchase of a revolver in 2018 when, prosecutors argued, the president's son lied on a mandatory gun-purchase form by saying he was not illegally using or addicted to drugs.

Hunter Biden, 54, stared straight ahead and showed little emotion as the verdict was read after jury deliberations that lasted only three hours over two days in Wilmington, Delaware. He hugged his attorneys, smiled wanly and kissed his wife, Melissa, before leaving the courtroom with her.

President Joe Biden said in a statement issued shortly after the verdict that he would accept the outcome and "continue to respect the judicial process as Hunter considers an appeal."

Now Hunter Biden and presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, the president's chief

political rival, have both been convicted by American jurors in an election year that has been as much about the courtroom as about campaign events and rallies.

Hunter Biden faces up to 25 years in prison when he is sentenced by U.S. District Judge Maryellen Noreika, though as a first-time offender he would not get anywhere near the maximum, and there's no guarantee the judge would send him to prison. She did not set a sentencing date.

Defense attorney Abbe Lowell said they would "continue to vigorously pursue all the legal challenges available." In a written statement, Hunter Biden said he was disappointed by the outcome but grateful for the support of family and friends.

The jury's decision was read swiftly after the announcement that it reached a verdict. First lady Jill Biden sat through nearly every day of the trial

but did not make it into the courtroom in time to hear the verdict. Hunter Biden walked out of the courthouse holding hands with the first lady and his wife before they got into waiting SUVs and drove off.

Joe Biden steered clear of the federal courtroom where his son was tried and said little about the case, wary of appearing to interfere in a criminal matter brought by his own Justice Department. But allies of the Democrat have worried about the toll that the trial – and now the conviction – will take on the 81-year-old, who has long been concerned with his only living son's health and sustained sobriety.

Hunter Biden's conviction came just weeks after Trump was found guilty of 34 felony charges related to a hush money payment to a porn actor in the 2016 campaign. The cases are in no way the same, and Hunter Biden is

a private citizen who is not running for office. But they have both argued they were victimized by the politics of the moment.

Trump, however, has continued to falsely claim his verdict was "rigged," while Joe Biden has said he would accept the verdict involving his son and would not seek to pardon him.

In his statement Tuesday, the president said he and the first lady are proud of their son, who says he has been sober since 2019, and will always be there for him with "love and support."

Trump's campaign called the verdict "nothing more than a distraction from the real crimes of the Biden Crime Family." Trump and his allies have pressed unsubstantiated or debunked allegations that Joe Biden acted while vice president to advance his family members' foreign business interests.

Housing Poll Reveals Voter Concerns In Battleground States

Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Leaders from the Center for Popular Democracy and Right to the City Action hosted a virtual press call on Thursday that unveiled the results of a housing poll conducted by HIT Strategies. The poll provided insight into the concerns of voters across the political spectrum, particularly among renters and homeowners, in key battleground states including Arizona, Pennsylvania, Michigan, North Carolina, and Nevada.

During the press call, Analilia Mejia, Co-Executive Director for the Center for Popular Democracy, and Dawn Phillips, Executive Director for Right to the City, presented key insights from the poll. They were joined by special guest Congressman Ro Khanna (D-CA).

According to the findings, housing affordability emerges as a top concern for voters, with a staggering 84 percent of swing state voters citing the cost of rent and housing as a major or significant problem in their respective states. The sentiment was echoed by 75 percent of respondents who identified housing costs as the primary source of stress within their families, surpassing other economic issues.

With 70 percent of respondents expressing a preference for candidates supporting rent stabilization policies, and 67 percent prioritizing those backing government funding for permanently affordable rentals, it's evident that housing policy will be a decisive factor in voter decision-making.

"We have a housing crisis in America. We know speaking about this housing crisis is something voters care about specifically, particularly young voters and voters of color," Congressman Khanna said.

Renters demonstrated a higher propensity to support President Biden, while homeowners exhibited a preference for former President

Trump. One of the standout findings of the poll was the disparity in favorability ratings between prominent political figures Republican Lieutenant Governor Mark Robinson and Democrat Attorney General Josh Stein among homeowners.

While 31 percent of homeowners viewed Robinson favorably, a significant 36 percent expressed disfavor towards him. In contrast, Stein garnered less favorability among homeowners, with only a 25 percent favorability rating, but notably lower disfavor at 18%.

The data indicates a divergence in support for renters as well: Stein managed to win over a greater portion of renters compared to Robinson, with only 18 percent of renters viewing him unfavorably, compared to 29 percent for Robinson.

Additionally, the poll shed light on the varying levels of voter enthusiasm between homeowners and renters. Homeowners displayed markedly higher enthusiasm, with nearly 80 percent expressing eagerness. In contrast, less than 60 percent of renters indicated a similar level of enthusiasm.

The divergence in views between homeowners and renters is notable. While renters lean towards candidates supportive of progressive housing solutions, homeowners exhibit a more mixed sentiment, with varying favorability towards different political figures.

In North Carolina specifically, the data highlights a strong appetite for candidates advocating for rent stabilization and increased funding for affordable housing, particularly among younger voters and renters of all ages. NC stands out with the highest percentage of voters indicating a likelihood to support candidates championing these issues compared to other states surveyed.

The poll also illuminates a glaring gap between political discourse and voter priorities, especially among younger and renter demographics.

While housing affordability ranks high on their list of concerns, voters in this poll think politicians often overlook these pressing issues in favor of other topics like inflation and healthcare. Nonetheless, respondents overwhelmingly believe that prioritizing housing affordability in political agendas would significantly improve their personal situations.

"Whoever we were talking to, we kept hearing over and over: we are in the grips of a housing crisis, and we feel unseen and unheard," Analilia Mejia, the Co-Executive Director of the Center for Popular Democracy, said. "So when we had the opportunity to work with HIT Strategies, we took it because we knew polling would show what we were seeing."

Some of the proposed measures polled included Rent Stabiliza-

tion, implementing regulations to cap annual rent increases in rental properties, ensuring they remain in line with the cost of living; Social Housing, establishing a government body tasked with creating sustainable, affordable housing options for all individuals in need; Eviction Justification, introducing legislation to prevent unjust evictions, mandating landlords to renew leases for current tenants unless valid reasons, such as non-payment or lease violations, are present; Housing Vouchers Expansion, expanding the availability of government housing vouchers to provide financial assistance to individuals and families struggling to afford rental costs.

On Monday, more than one hundred individuals affiliated with Ac-

tion NC, the Center for Popular Democracy, and its partners from across ten states – including California, New York, Texas, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Louisiana – embarked on a tour of housing owned by corporate landlords in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The tour ended with a gathering at the home of a tenant who was facing eviction from the landlord, Amherst, a large corporation. Organizers and tenants alike are rallying to demand that the tenant's residence be converted into tenant-owned housing through the Charlotte Land Trust.

Jessica Moreno, Community Organizer at Action NC, said that five mobile home communities are coming together to fight corporate landlords who arbitrarily tow their vehicles, don't allow them to get titles to their

homes, raise pricing of the rent, and kick people out of their homes to redevelop the property while raising costs for others in the community.

"These corporate landlords of single-family homes have yearly rent increases which worsens the problem...finding affordable housing is hard," Moreno said. "People can't talk to anyone face to face. It's legal, but it's also unethical retaliation."

Moreno explained that multiple states were involved in the event because corporate landlords can buy properties all over the country, without ever having to deal with those who rent from them – broadening the problem across state borders.

"Everyone's going through the same thing: they're dealing with displacement and unaffordability, Moreno said.

Advocates Anxiously Await SCOTUS Decision Criminalised Homelessness

NC NEWSLINE—Latonya Agard, executive director of NC Coalition to End Homelessness, is anxiously awaiting the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Grants Pass v. Johnson, an Oregon case testing a city ordinance that prohibits people experiencing homelessness from sleeping in public.

An unfavorable ruling in the case, which is expected to be decided by the end of the month, could have severe consequences for the nearly 10,000 people in North Carolina who are experiencing homelessness, Agard said this week during a statewide conference where advocates gathered to discuss topics impacting people experiencing homelessness.

Across the country, there are nearly 327,000 people who are homeless, according to most recent U.S. Census data. States with the highest population of homeless people per 10,000 people include California, Oregon, Washington and Montana, according to five-year estimates in the American Community Survey.

One big concern, Agard said, is that more people experiencing

homelessness will find themselves involved in the judicial system if the high court rules in favor of the city of Grants Pass.

"This can be a sort of a snowball effect for people who are already on the brink, who are experiencing homelessness, because this means if that happens, you're justice involved, so you may have something on your criminal record," Agard said.

Agard was part of a panel at the Bringing Home 2024: Ending Homelessness in NC conference that discussed the court case and its implications. The two-day conference was hosted by the N.C. Housing Coalition, the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services and the N.C. Coalition to End Homelessness.

People with criminal records find it more difficult to find permanent housing, have more health concerns and health issues and are forced to move further away from the resources they need, Agard said.

"So, this is a way to sort of push people from our perspective, out of sight, and probably into even more uninhabitable areas," she said. "So,

what maybe happens is we'll have more people sleeping out in wooded areas and other places that are more hidden from public view."

Agard also predicts that a ruling in favor of Grants Pass could lead to the judicial system being "overrun" with people who must show up in court to face criminal charges because they have nowhere to sleep.

Black people and other people of color will be disproportionately impacted if there's a move to further increase the criminalization of homelessness, Agard said. Fifty-two percent of North Carolina's homeless population is Black, she said.

"In my mind, I think about, you know, the 80s, stop and frisk in New York, and so I see this almost as an opportunity for that to be re-birthed, or reiterated in a different way," Agard said.

"Stop-and-frisk" was a controversial New York City Police Department practice of temporarily detaining, questioning and at times searching civilians and suspects on the street for weapons and other contraband. It was ultimately found to be unconstitutional.

Some legal advocates for people experiencing homelessness believe a court ruling in favor of Grants Pass would restrict use of the Eighth Amendment in the fight against the criminalization of homelessness. The amendment guards against excessive bail, fines and cruel and unusual punishment.

Based on comments the justices made during oral arguments, Dan Siegel, deputy legal director, ACLU of North Carolina, believes the court will deliver a mixed ruling.

"I think that it is unlikely that the Eighth Amendment will sort of be blown up in this context and cease to function as a protection for homeless people," Siegel said. "I also think it's

unlikely that this decision would be sort of a full-throated endorsement of the Eighth Amendment and the rights of unhoused people."

The middle ground, Siegel said, can be found in the amicus brief filed by the Biden administration, which confirms that the Eighth Amendment prohibits the criminalization of homelessness but argues that it must be used on an individual basis.

"The Eighth Amendment prohibits criminalizing homelessness, but you have to do that on an individualized basis because for someone, it may be truly impossible for them to sleep anywhere except the ground outside in public," Siegel said. "For other people, that might not be true and if it's truly not impossible for them, then they can be prosecuted, because they perhaps do have somewhere else to go, they do not have to be outside."

Stephanie Watkins-Cruz, director of housing policy with the N.C. Housing Coalition, said the criminalization of people experiencing homelessness is not the direction the nation needs to be headed.

She noted that some cities in North Carolina have adopted ordinances that allow public safety officers to arrest or ticket people for sleeping outside.

Charlotte, for example, recently adopted an ordinance that critics say disproportionately affects people experiencing homelessness. The law makes sleeping on benches, public defecation, panhandling, public drinking, public masturbation and trespassing arrestable offenses. The were previously ticketed offenses.

"That creates a lot of additional barriers to people experiencing homelessness that are already facing a lot of extreme challenges," Watkins-Cruz said.

STATE BRIEFS

Continued from page 1

For children who do not automatically qualify but may be eligible for SUN Bucks, NCDHHS will send an email and text message to families with instructions on how to apply. Applications will be accepted through Aug. 31, 2024, for the 2024 summer period.

For more information, visit the updated SUN Bucks website and SUN Bucks Frequently Asked Questions. Eligibility requirements are available in English and Spanish. To contact a SUN Bucks customer representative, families can dial 1-866-719-0141 and press option 2.

To learn more about summer nutrition programs and to find summer meal sites in your area, visit NCDPI's Summer Meals webpage.

Quotes from the SUN Bucks philanthropic partners:

"School food plays such a critical role in the lives of North Carolina children, from improving academic performance to providing the daily nourishment that many families rely on throughout the school year. The significance of SUN Bucks in helping kids access this nourishment during the summer months cannot be overstated," said John Lumpkin, president of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation. "We are so pleased to be part of the coalition of supporters and partners helping to bring this new, and important, opportunity to children and families across our state."

"Fighting food insecurity and hunger is a top priority for Smithfield," said Steve Evans, vice president of Community Development for Smithfield Foods. "We're humbled to do our part in the communities where we live and work so our neighbors can continue to access healthy and nutritious food throughout the summer when schools aren't in session."

"We are proud to partner with NCDHHS to ensure the launch of SUN Bucks this summer so that families with children will have access to nutritious food while school is not in session," said Tom Lawrence, president and chief executive officer of The Leon Levine Foundation.



Greater Focus On Crime, Juvenile Justice

STATELINE—For decades, state legislators and criminal justice advocates have worked to change the juvenile legal system, striving to expand access to rehabilitation and keep young people from returning to crime.

During this year's legislative session, nearly every state has considered some form of juvenile justice legislation, according to a National Conference of State Legislatures database.

These efforts across at least 43 states plus Washington, D.C., have seen varied levels of success and

come from a diversity of viewpoints. Some legislatures considered policies that would create alternatives to incarcerating teens, while others debated bills that would toughen potential penalties for kids as young as 10 years old. Criminal justice advocates warn that strict new policies could roll back previous overhauls of the system.

This year, states including Connecticut, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina and Tennessee have examined ways to tackle crimes committed by children. Some of these

bills would establish independent oversight of juvenile corrections agencies, create new avenues for youth to access diversion programs, or automatically transfer juveniles convicted of certain crimes into the adult legal system.

The efforts go beyond prospective new laws.

State officials in Connecticut, for example, plan to release data in July to measure racial disparities among juveniles offered access to diversion programs. In Louisiana, legislative leaders are looking to redirect \$700 million from a state savings account and use it for construction projects, including prisons and juvenile detention centers.

The wave of juvenile justice legislation and policy changes comes amid a heightened public perception that crime, including youth crime, is rising. Political rhetoric and sensational media coverage, rather than statistics, are driving that perception.

Violent crime across the United States decreased in 2022 – dropping to about the same level as before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the FBI's annual crime report. Property crimes, however, rose during the same period. Crime data compiled by the Council on Criminal Justice think tank also suggests that most types of crime are reverting toward pre-pandemic levels.

The juvenile arrest rate for all offenses peaked in 1996, and has since declined, according to available data from the federal Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Those levels track with the nation's overall crime rate, which reached its peak in the 1990s.

Meanwhile, policymakers in some states are paying more attention to the teens themselves and their treatment while in detention. In New York, a state comptroller's report, released in April, found that staffing shortages and lack of staff training have contributed to an increase in self-harm and drug use among the youth held in the state's juvenile justice facilities.

And lawsuits filed earlier this year in Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey

and New York allege sexual abuse within juvenile facilities in those states.

Diversion and workforce programs Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly, a Democrat, signed a bill into law earlier this year that will allow teens held in the state's only juvenile corrections facility to attend outside educational and vocational programs or training.

"It's very important that we pass laws and create systems that give those cycling out the system the best possible opportunity for a good outcome," Kansas Republican state Rep. Stephen Owens said in an interview with Stateline. Owens chairs the Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice.


After the law goes into effect in July, the secretary of corrections can develop a work-release program for juveniles. The Department of Corrections is still working on outlining who will be eligible and what kinds of programs will be available, according to Megan Milner, the department's deputy secretary of juvenile and adult community-based services.

The new law, Milner said, will allow teens to explore other vocational programs that align with their career interests and connect them with employment opportunities.

"This is a good opportunity for them, but it's also a good opportunity for our communities," Milner said.

The Kansas legislature also allocated \$2.5 million to Mirror Inc., a private corporation that provides behavioral health care, prevention programs and residential reentry services, to build a new inpatient juvenile substance use treatment center in south central Kansas. The facility would have at least 40 beds.

Focus on preteens The Maryland legislature also tackled a controversial juvenile justice bill this session, which was recently signed into law by Democratic Gov. Wes Moore. The law will extend state oversight to younger juveniles between 10 and 12 years old who have been arrested for serious offenses, including those involving a firearm, motor vehicle theft, animal abuse or a third-degree sexual offense.



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Business & Finance

Automakers' Sharing Your Data Impacts Insurance Rates

MONEYWISE—After an unexpected increase in her car insurance premiums, Temieka Clay decided to shop around for a new provider. During this process, she received a denial letter. In it, an insurance broker suggested she pull her NexisLexis report to find out why.

Upon doing so, Clay discovered over 600 records from her car's OnStar Smart Driver system detailing her driving behavior, according to WSB-TV Channel 2 Action News.

"The OnStar app, you think safety if [your car] gets stolen," the Georgia-based motorist told the local TV news show. "But certainly not spying on me and sending information to the insurance company."

Clay says the system was tracking activity on her Chevy Camaro, such as acceleration, high-speed and hard-brake events, and the car manufacturer General Motors (GM) was sharing it with data brokers.

She suspects the shared data is to blame for what she claims was an 80% spike in her insurance premiums, despite no accidents or tickets on her record.

Driver says automakers are 'screw-

ing' with insurance

Some insurance providers offer usage-based insurance, where rates are set based on monitoring of driving behavior. Data can be collected via technology installed in your vehicle or a car's built-in system, such as OnStar, according to Forbes Advisor.

These insurance policies hold the promise of lowering your premiums if you're a good driver. But this doesn't seem to be the case for many motorists. Forbes Advisor cites a TransUnion survey from 2022 that found insurance rates decreased for only 48% of respondents enrolled in such data-tracking programs. Rates stayed the same for 30% of respondents, while 18% saw their rates increase. The remaining 4% said they didn't know if their rates were affected.

But insurance companies may not require you to sign up for a usage-based policy in order for them to gather this type of information. Many modern vehicles offer optional features in their connected car apps that rate your driving. Turning these features on, however, may put your



data at risk of being shared with brokers such as NexisLexis, a company that helps track auto incidents for insurance companies.

Software company owner Kenn Dahl, who claims he's always been a careful driver and has never been in an accident, says his insurance premiums jumped by 21% in 2022. Like Clay, he shopped around for new insurance, but received a number of high quotes, he told The New York

Times. An agent recommended he pull his NexisLexis report.

According to the report, GM shared his Chevy Bolt driving data with LexisNexis, which was analyzed to create a risk score "for insurers to use as one factor of many to create more personalized insurance coverage," LexisNexis spokesperson Dean Carney told The Times.

The experience left a bad taste in Dahl's mouth.

"It felt like a betrayal," he told The Times. "They're taking information that I didn't realize was going to be shared and screwing with our insurance."

GM isn't the only automaker that has shared driving data. Ford and Kia, among others, participate in a data exchange program with LexisNexis. In 2022, LexisNexis risk services revealed they were gathering data on more than 10 million cars.

Automakers and data brokers insist they have drivers' permission to collect this data, reports the Times, but often these agreements can be found in fine print or privacy policies that consumers typically don't read when activating tracking features.

How to find out if your car is 'spying' on you

GM says its OnStar Smart Driver service is optional and aims to help customers learn more about their safe driving behaviors or vehicle performance. Spokesperson Malorie Lucich told The Times that when a customer accepts the user terms and privacy statement, they consent to sharing their data with third parties.

But Jen Caltrider, a researcher at

Mozilla, says it's "impossible for consumers to try and understand" these privacy policies and called cars "a privacy nightmare."

"The car companies are really good at trying to link these features to safety and say they are all about safety," Caltrider notes. "They're about making money."

There are ways for you to check how your driving data is being shared. Check your connected car app to determine if you've signed up for one of these features — Lucich said customers can unenroll from Smart Driver at any time.

And you can always request your LexisNexis report or Verisk report under the Fair Credit Reporting Act. Verisk is another data company connected to the insurance industry.

A GM spokesperson also told Channel 2 Action News in a statement: "As of March 20th, OnStar Smart Driver customer data is no longer being shared with LexisNexis or Versick. Customer trust is a priority for us, and we are actively evaluating our privacy processes and policies."

NC House Bill Gets Nod To Revamp How Counties' Economic Health Is Measured

NC NEWSLINE—A bill authorizing a study about how North Carolina's 100 counties are ranked based on economic well-being received a favorable report in the House Local Government Committee on Tuesday. House Bill 1044 has bipartisan support. It was referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

The rankings are especially important to the state's low-wealth, rural counties because the data used to decide them determine eligibility for government funding and other assistance.

Currently, the state's 40 most distressed counties are designated as Tier 1, the next 40 as Tier 2 and the 20 least distressed as Tier 3. Those designations are based on a county's average unemployment rate, median household income, percentage growth in population and adjusted

property tax base per capita.

Jake Johnson, R-Polk, called HB 1044 "one of the most important bills" his colleagues have probably never heard about. Johnson is a primary bill sponsor along with House Democratic Leader Robert Reives.

There are more than 30 government programs that use the tier system to determine eligibility, Johnson said. Billions of dollars have moved through such programs since the tier system was established in 2007, he said. The tier system is incorporated into those programs to encourage economic activity in less prosperous areas of the state.

"What we saw during COVID over the past few years was some of the metrics that we were using were not accurately reflecting the rankings of those counties," Johnson said. "That's also difficult because there's

a cap on the amount of counties that can be in each rank. So what this bill would do is go back and look at what metrics we're looking at, and how those affect those rankings."

Johnson said the North Carolina Collaboratory at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will look at how data is collected, how to ensure accuracy, then recommend adjustments. The Collaboratory will consult with the Department of Commerce, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Public Instruction.

"If we're going to be sending billions of dollars through this system, which we have, and we'll assume continue to do, we've got to know whether it's right on the front end," Johnson said. "I think it's a wise investment."

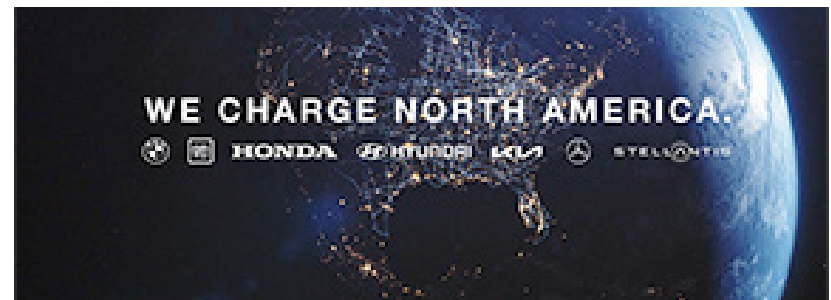
HB 1044 calls for the study to fo-

cus on changing the criteria used to rank counties, changing the way in which tier designations are assigned and changing the time frame in which counties are ranked.

"I think this is a great bipartisan effort going forward to make sure that the money's getting where it needs to go and counties are accurately reflected," Johnson said.

Rep. John Torbett, R-Gaston, said it will be important for the working group to take a close look at counties that have both pockets of poverty and prosperity.

Johnson said the study will be thorough. "A lot of studies we do up here is a way to put things on the back burner," he said. "I will say with pretty good solid confidence this will result in a bill next year, whether that bills for better or for worse, it will be the result of this study."



Durham Lands IONNA

Durham, N.C. — Durham County remains a premier location for clean technology and electric vehicle infrastructure. At an event in Downtown Durham Tuesday, North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper announced that IONNA, a joint venture of major global automakers, will build a premier world headquarters in Durham County by investing \$10.5 million and creating 203 jobs over a five-year period.

"On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, I am thrilled to welcome the headquarters of IONNA to Durham County, North Carolina," said Durham County Board of Commissioners Chair Nida Allam. "The future of transportation is electric, and the clean technology and electric charging solutions needed to revolutionize the industry will be developed right here in Durham. We are proud to have worked alongside the Governor and his team to recruit this game-changing project. This is only the beginning."

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The Small Business Administration To Issue A New Loan

FINOVATE—The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced plans this week to issue a new government-backed SBA loan option for small businesses. SBA Administrator Isabel Casillas Guzman unveiled the news in an interview with CNBC, which broke the news.

The new pilot program, which will extend lines of credit of up to \$5 million, will allow business owners to either fund specific projects or borrow against their assets. Borrowers will be charged an annual fee and will face maximum interest rates that are 3% to 6.5% higher than the prime rate, topping out at around 12% to 15%.

The new loans aim to bring more compelling offers to both lenders and borrowers than the SBA's existing 7(a) loan program. The 7(a) loan program incentivized lenders to loan to small business owners by providing guaranties to the lenders. Last year, the program backed 57,000 loans val-

ued at \$27.5 billion. And even though the loan amount represents a 7% increase from 2022 levels, Guzman expressed that the growth is less than ideal. The same is true for two other SBA products, the SBA Express loan, which offers up to a \$500,000 line of credit, and the CapLines loan product, which didn't appeal much to lenders because of its complicated structure.

"This product is our aim to increase access to a simpler working capital line," Guzman told CNBC. "It basically takes the best of our various options to create a pilot program to see if we can get more borrowers an affordable working capital line, versus just a pure reliance on credit cards."

Lenders may find the new loans especially appealing, as they limit risk. Lenders receive a 75% guaranty on loans larger than \$150,000 and an 85% guaranty on loans smaller than \$150,000. "In an environment

of higher interest rates, we want to make sure that the SBA is an option for more businesses," Guzman said in the CNBC interview.

The SBA's new working capital offering may impact the competitive landscape. Fintechs and traditional

banks have provided lines of credit and working capital solutions with varying degrees of accessibility and interest rates for a long time. However, the SBA's new government-backed line of credit promises accessibility and affordability for the borrower, as

well as a 75% to 85% guaranty for the lender. While fintechs often attract small businesses with their quick approval processes and attractive user interfaces, they can come with higher interest rates and less favorable terms compared to traditional banks.

Banks, on the other hand, offer more stable and lower interest rates but have rigid credit requirements and slower processing times. The SBA's new program, which will go live "in the coming months," will help bridge these gaps.

NC Community Colleges Record Enrollment

North Carolina community colleges reported a five percent increase in Full-Time Equivalent student enrollment in Fall 2023 – marking the highest one-year enrollment jump in 15 years. This includes a 10 percent increase in workforce continuing education, nine percent in basic skills, and four percent in curriculum.

North Carolina is ahead of nationwide enrollment trends among community colleges. According to a report from Community College

Daily, community colleges in the U.S. saw a 2.6 percent increase in Fall 2023. In addition, the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center reports undergraduate enrollment at public 2-year colleges has decreased 12.5 percent since fall 2019.

"The recent surge in enrollment at our community colleges is a testament to the growing recognition of the value we provide," said Dr. Jeff Cox, President of the North Carolina Community College System. "It's in-

credibly exciting to see so many individuals choosing this accessible and affordable path to a brighter future. This is a win for students, businesses, and the entire state as we cultivate a skilled and prepared workforce."

The total headcount in Fall 2023 was 393,227 – this is a 4 percent increase from Fall 2022. The System serves nearly 600,000 students an-

nually at 58 institutions across the state.

Dr. Bill Schneider, Vice President of System Effectiveness at the North Carolina Community College System, said he believes enrollment trends are a result of both marketing efforts and students feeling more comfortable returning to campus after Covid.

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The Long, Contentious Journey To The First Juneteenth

By Henry Louis Gains

The Root

"The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor. The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere." —General Orders, Number 3; Headquarters District of Texas, Galveston, June 19, 1865

When Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger issued the above order, he had no idea that, in establishing the Union Army's authority over the people of Texas, he was also establishing the

basis for a holiday, "Juneteenth" ("June" plus "nineteenth"), today the most popular annual celebration of emancipation from slavery in the United States. After all, by the time Granger assumed command of the Department of Texas, the Confederate capital in Richmond had fallen; the "Executive" to whom he referred, President Lincoln, was dead; and the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery was well on its way to ratification.

But Granger wasn't just a few months late. The Emancipation Proclamation itself, ending slavery in the Confederacy (at least on paper), had taken effect two-and-a-half years before, and in the interim, close to 200,000 black men had enlisted in the fight. So, formalities aside, wasn't it all over, literally, but the shouting?

It would be easy to think so in our world of immediate communication, but as Granger and the 1,800 bluecoats under him soon found out, news traveled slowly in Texas.

Whatever Gen. Robert E. Lee had surrendered in Virginia, the Army of the Trans-Mississippi had held out until late May, and even with its formal surrender on June 2, a number of ex-rebels in the region took to bushwhacking and plunder.

That's not all that plagued the extreme western edge of the former Confederate states. Since the capture of New Orleans in 1862, slave owners in Mississippi, Louisiana and other points east had been migrating to Texas to escape the Union Army's reach. In a hurried re-enactment of the original Middle Passage, more than 150,000 slaves had made the trek west, according to historian Leon Litwack in his book *Been in the Storm So Long: The Aftermath of Slavery*. As one former slave he

quotes recalled, "It looked like everybody in the world was going to Texas."

When Texas fell and Granger dispatched his now famous Order No. 3, it wasn't exactly instant magic for most of the Lone Star State's 250,000 slaves. On plantations, masters had to decide when and how to announce the news — or wait for a government agent to arrive — and it was not uncommon for them to delay until after the harvest. Even in Galveston city, the ex-Confederate mayor flouted the Army by forcing the freed people back to work, as historian Elizabeth Hayes Turner details in her comprehensive essay, "Juneteenth: Emancipation and Memory," in *Lone Star Past: Memory and History in Texas*.

Those who acted on the news did so at their peril. As quoted in Litwack's book, former slave Susan Merritt recalled, "You could see lots of niggers hangin' to trees in Sabine bottom right after freedom, 'cause they coteh 'em swimmin' 'cross Sabine River and shoot 'em.'" In one extreme case, according to Hayes Turner, a former slave named Katie Darling continued working for her mistress another six years (She "whip me after the war jist like she did 'fore," Darling said).

Hardly the recipe for a celebration—which is what makes the story of Juneteenth all the more remarkable. Defying confusion and delay, terror and violence, the newly "freed" black men and women of Texas, with the aid of the Freed-

men's Bureau (itself delayed from arriving until September 1865), now had a date to rally around. In one of the most inspiring grassroots efforts of the post-Civil War period, they transformed June 19 from a day of unheeded military orders into their own annual rite, "Juneteenth," beginning one year later in 1866.

"The way it was explained to me," one heir to the tradition is quoted in Hayes Turner's essay, "the 19th of June wasn't the exact day the Negro was freed. But that's the day they told them that they was free... And my daddy told me that they whooped and hollered and bored holes in trees with augers and stopped it up with [gun] powder and light and that would be their blast for the celebration."

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Proclamation
Juneteenth 2024
from the Office of the Mayor

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates African-American Freedom and recognizes the end of slavery in the United States, and it is also a day for communities to come together to celebrate African American heritage and culture, resiliency and unity; and,

WHEREAS, On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, setting in motion the end of slavery in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, It was not until June 19, 1865, that General Gordon Granger announced General Order No. 3 in Galveston, Texas, declaring all enslaved individuals free; and,

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest African-American holiday that observes and commemorates the day when a quarter of a million enslaved Africans in America learned of their freedom two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation; and,

WHEREAS, On July 21, 2020, the Apex Mayor and Town Council was one of the first elected bodies in North Carolina to authorize the observance of Juneteenth as a Town recognized holiday where offices and facilities are closed.

WHEREAS, The Town of Apex, in collaboration with the Juneteenth Committee, is honored to host the 4th Annual Juneteenth Festival on Saturday, June 15, 2024, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., which will explore the history of Juneteenth and offer a time for the community to join in celebration with live music, food trucks, local vendors, and much more.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jacques K. Gilbert, Mayor of Apex, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 19th, 2024, as "Juneteenth" in the Town of Apex, and invite the community to join me in commemorating this historic moment in time for our nation to move us forward together in freedom and equality for black Americans.

I hereby set my hand and have caused the Seal of the Town of Apex, North Carolina, to be affixed this the 28th day of May 2024

Jacques Gilbert
Jacques Gilbert, Mayor



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Biden-Harris Administration Celebrates Juneteenth with Concert and New Initiatives



By Stacy M. Brown

NNPA

The White House planned to mark Juneteenth with a vibrant celebration on the South Lawn on Monday, June 10. The celebration would feature performances by celebrated African American artists, including Gladys Knight, Raheem DeVaughn, Patti LaBelle, Charlie Wilson, and Doug E. Fresh. Over 2,000 guests, including President Joe Biden and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden, were expected at the event, which officials said emphasized the Biden-Harris Administration's dedication to preserving and honoring African American history.

Since taking office, President Biden and Vice President Harris have prioritized advancing racial justice and recognizing Black history as an essential component of American history. The White House said the dedication is reflected in significant actions such as signing the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law, establishing the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument, and posthumously awarding the Presidential Medal of Freedom to civil rights icon Medgar Evers.

Amid efforts to combat attempts to rewrite history and undermine racial progress, the administration hosted a live-streamed event featuring officials, artists, civil rights leaders, and scholars to discuss federal initiatives to protect African American history. The gathering highlighted ways the public can commemorate Juneteenth and emphasized the broader historical significance of African American experiences.

In conjunction with the celebration, the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities organized the second annual Juneteenth National Independence Day event in partnership with the White House. The large-scale concert also honored Black Music Month, showcasing African American musical legends and underscoring the cultural importance of this federal holiday.

Harris declared June 19, 2024, one of three National Days of Action on Voting, focused on enhancing voter engagement and safeguarding voting rights. The White House noted that National Days of Action will also occur on August 6 and September 17, 2024.

Aligned with Biden's Executive Order on Promoting the Arts, the Humanities, and Museum and Library Services, several federal agencies announced new initiatives to protect African American history and culture. The National Archives Museum will display the original Emancipation Proclamation and General Order No. 3 from June 18 to June 20, 2024, while the National Park Service will offer free entrance to park sites on Juneteenth.



Arts & Culture

Celebrating A Century Of Historical Legacy In Durham

Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

On Saturday, the Durham County Library was buzzing with a celebration of a remarkable milestone: the 100th birthday of Jean Bradley Anderson, a historian whose contributions have illuminated the nuances of Durham's past.

Anderson's legacy is embodied in the Jean Bradley Anderson Papers, a treasure trove spanning decades from 1934 to 2012 comprising a mosaic of correspondence, research notes, photographs, and more. This collection is a testament to her life-

long dedication to unearthing, preserving, and sharing the stories that define Durham County.

At the heart of this celebration is Anderson's seminal work, "Durham County: A History of Durham County, North Carolina". The comprehensive 596-page volume chronicling Durham's history from the seventeenth century to the twentieth was initially published in 1990 and later updated with a second edition in 2011. This book has stood as a beacon for new scholars, students, and enthusiasts alike, shaping the understanding of the city's past and inspiring future generations of historians.

Born in Philadelphia in 1924, Anderson spent a decade at the University of Pennsylvania, obtaining her M.A. and nearly completing her Ph.D. dissertation. Carl, her husband, finished his Ph.D. in 1955, leading to a move to Durham, where he joined the English department at Duke University. Recollecting their arrival, Anderson notes the unpaved roads and sparse traffic in the area at the time.

The family later relocated to the countryside after residing on Chapel Hill Road for ten years. It was here that Anderson's interest in history was sparked by an old cemetery on

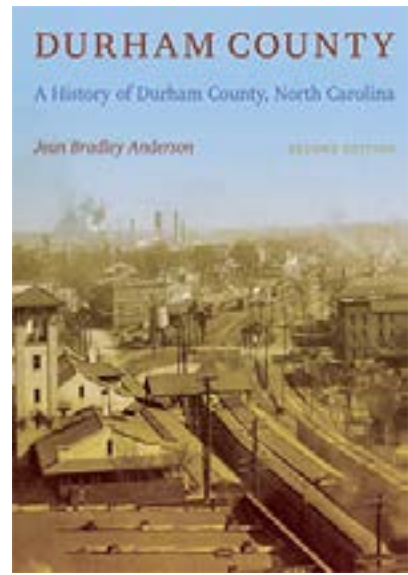
their property, igniting her passion for researching the local families.

Following changes to Duke University's freshman program in 1959, Anderson taught courses at the university for three years before the family embarked on a sabbatical. Subsequently, she established herself as a historian and professional genealogist, catering to the growing demand for ancestral research services in North Carolina.

Fascinated by Durham's pre-Civil War history, particularly the transformation of Dillardville into Prattsburg, Anderson immersed herself in her research. Over the years, she authored several books, including "The Kirklands of Ayr Mount: Carolinian on the Hudson: The Life of Robert Donaldson," and "Piedmont Plantation: The Bennehan-Cameron Family and Lands in North Carolina."

Additionally, she contributed to various collaborative projects, such as "27 Views of Durham: The Bull City in Prose & Poetry," showcasing the diverse perspectives of local writers on their city and county.

Judge Willis Whichard, an esteemed local figure and founding president of the Durham Library Foundation, steered a panel discus-



Lauren Panny, Head of Durham County Library's North Carolina Collection, stressed the role of Anderson's work.

"Jean Bradley Anderson's books are a vital resource for those interested in learning about Durham's rich history. We are thrilled to be able to honor her in this way," Panny said.

Tammy Baggett, the Library Director, echoed this sentiment, underlining the broader implications of commemorating Anderson's centenary.

"Durham's local history is a microcosm of our broader national history. Our celebration of Jean Bradley Anderson not only honors an incredible individual but also recognizes the importance of our local histories," Baggett said.

The event culminated in a question-and-answer session, offering attendees a unique opportunity to engage directly with Anderson and the esteemed panelists, fostering dialogue and deepening their appreciation for Durham's enduring legacy.

Nowadays, Anderson devotes much of her time to crafting short memoirs about her life for her descendants to cherish—two children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Gauff, Grand Slam Champ

PARIS (AP) — Coco Gauff is a Grand Slam champion in singles and doubles, something she did not expect to happen so soon.

The 20-year-old American won her first major doubles title on Sunday by teaming with Katerina Siniakova for the French Open trophy. They defeated Italians Jasmine Paolini and Sara Errani 7-6 (5), 6-3, giving Gauff her second major after winning the U.S. Open singles last year.

"I think it's just one of those things that when you least expect it to happen, it happens," Gauff said, reflecting on her doubles triumph.

Victory finally came for Gauff in her third women's doubles final, having been the runner-up in championship matches at Roland Garros in 2022 and the U.S. Open in 2021.

"After I lost the first two (doubles) finals, I thought, well, okay, I reached that point, maybe I should focus on singles," Gauff said. "Same thing, U.S. Open. When I won it, I didn't expect to win. I was having a really bad year. Then here, I didn't even expect to play. I think it's funny how life teaches you those lessons."

Gauff and Siniakova, who is from the Czech Republic, both kissed the Coupe Simone Mathieu — the winners' trophy.

"Third time's a charm. Thank you, Katerina, for playing with me. We decided two days before the tournament to play together," Gauff said. "Thank you to the fans. I know 11:30 Sunday morning is early for most people. It's

early for me."

The doubles final was held before the men's singles final later Sunday between Carlos Alcaraz and Alexander Zverev.

"I would much rather play before the men's final than after it, because that could go seven hours. 11:30 was fine. It was just a joke, because I don't like waking up early," Gauff said. "I think it was good the tournament scheduled us before that match."

Paolini was also the runner-up in the singles final at Roland Garros to four-time champion Iga Swiatek on Saturday. Swiatek beat Gauff in the singles semifinal.

"The last two weeks were very nice, very emotional," Paolini said. "I have a lot of memories. I can't wait to be back."

Siniakova owns a career Slam in women's doubles alongside partner Barbora Krejčíková and has won eight majors — including the French Open in 2018 and 2021.

Errani also owns a career Slam in doubles alongside her former partner Roberta Vinci. The Italian pair won the French Open title in 2012 — the year Errani lost the singles final.

"It's really special to be in this court again. I don't know how many more years I have to play. But it's always special to play these kinds of matches," the 37-year-old Errani said. "It will be special to play the Olympics here in this place. So I'll see you in one month."

Paolini was playing in her first final

in women's doubles.

Errani's serve was broken twice in the first set, and Paolini stayed on the baseline to compensate in the 11th game. The tactic worked as Errani held serve.

Gauff and Siniakova took the first set when Errani's volley at the net went long and raced to a 4-1 lead in the second set, with Paolini 0-30 down on her serve.

Four Tops Lead Singer Sues Hospital

WARREN, Mich. (AP) — The lead singer of the Four Tops said a Detroit-area hospital restrained him and ordered a psychological exam after refusing to believe that he was part of the Motown music group.

Alexander Morris, who is Black, filed a lawsuit Monday against Ascension Macomb-Oakland Hospital in Warren, alleging racial discrimination and other misconduct during an April 2023 visit for chest pain and breathing problems.

Hospital staff "wrongfully assumed he was mentally ill when he revealed his identity as a celebrity figure," the lawsuit says.

The Four Tops started in the 1950s and had hits such as "I Can't Help Myself (Sugar Pie, Honey Bunch)" and "It's The Same Old Song." The group was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in

1990.

Morris is not an original member, but he joined the group in 2019.

The lawsuit says a nurse finally believed Morris was in the Four Tops and the psychological exam was canceled.

The hospital offered a \$25 gift card as an apology, but Morris refused to accept it, the lawsuit says.

"We remain committed to honoring human dignity and acting with integrity and compassion for all persons and the community," the hospital said in response to the lawsuit. "We do not condone racial discrimination of any kind. We will not comment on pending litigation."

Morris talked publicly about the incident last year, saying he had returned to Detroit, his hometown, and was "being told that I'm insane or schizophrenic."



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Community

New Campaign Finance Proposal In Raleigh Is A Recipe For Corruption

NC NEWSLINE—You could call this a crisis situation. Last week, with virtually no warning, state Senate Republicans pushed through a bill that will further harm fair elections and policymaking in North Carolina. If the House passes the bill this week and it survives a veto, voters will suffer as millions more dollars from unknown origins hijack our elections – and wealthy special interests will thrive by handing lawmakers campaign checks during debates on legislation affecting their profits.

The language in House Bill 237, apparently written by Republican lawyers in Washington, is so crude that the nonpartisan General Assembly staff couldn't explain its full consequences to Democratic senators before Sen. Phil Berger called for the vote; so the Democrats walked out in protest.

Another insult: the language is jammed into a larger Republican bill that reduces personal freedoms, including your right to wear a mask for health reasons and your right to help organize a demonstration.

Others have written about those provisions. This column aims to explain what the election-rule changes in HB 237 will permit if it becomes law. Five main points stand out:

1. Individuals could funnel unlimited, untraceable contributions into a North Carolina political party or special committee called an "affiliated party committee" (APC). As the top elected Republican in the state, Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson controls an APC; so do the Republican and Democratic leaders in



the General Assembly and the state's top Democrat, Gov. Roy Cooper. People can already give huge donations to these committees, but their identity is disclosed in searchable reports filed with the State Board of Elections. Cooper's APC has been raising millions from big donors to help Democratic candidates, but Mark Robinson is having trouble.

HB 237 comes to his rescue by legalizing a money laundering scheme. An individual can give, say, \$500,000 to a federal 527 committee (the Republican Governors Association is one), and it can then donate \$500,000 to an APC or a North Carolina party in its own name, without revealing the money's true source. This will help Robinson's campaign solicit donations from super-rich donors who don't want to be publicly tied to his rhetoric.

It also allows a legislative leader like Senator Phil Berger to funnel big money from, say, gambling donors

through a 527 into his APC to benefit GOP candidates. A partisan arms race in creating 527s and laundering money could result.

2. Federal committees that receive donations from corporations and individuals can play accounting games to increase how much they give in North Carolina. HB 237 says the committee must use a separate account with only personal contributions to donate to North Carolina parties or APCs. But the committee can shift money around; it can use corporate donations for operating expenses and donations in states with few limits, and use individual contributions from across the nation for activity in NC and other states with donor restrictions.

3. Traditional federal PACs, like those for Blue Cross, FedEx and Dominion Energy, could contribute to legislators in Raleigh during the debate on a bill affecting their business. PACs (funded by donations from employ-

ees or members) can already give to legislators, but only before and after the annual legislative session. Because of clumsy wording in HB 237, federal PACs could also hand lawmakers checks just before a crucial vote. There are hundreds of federal PACs operating in North Carolina. If HB 237 becomes law, existing state PACs for homebuilders, beer wholesalers, trial lawyers, chiropractors, and other interests would have an incentive to reorganize as federal PACs.

4. Federal committees could spend millions to influence our state's politics with minimal oversight from state regulators. HB 237 repeals the mandate that a federal committee appoint an in-state assistant treasurer with authority to "produce whatever records reflecting political activity in North Carolina the State Board of Elections deems necessary." Committees will send the Board copies of election reports they file with federal agencies, but it will be very difficult for the Board to pursue evidence of a state law violation with no local agent to subpoena for bank records, etc.

5. Federal committees will no longer need to decide to either give money directly to a candidate (campaign contribution) or spend money telling voters what action to take about the candidate (independent expenditure). Under H237, they could do both and gain more influence with the candidate.

There's more, but I'm out of space. We already have tons of mystery money polluting state politics, which impacts everything from abortion rights to the North Carolina Zoo.



PAGE TURNERS

For some of us, a vacation is not in the cards this summer. We need a reliable escape that doesn't require packing, traveling, and isn't horribly expensive. I've chosen reading. As experienced folks that have lived through many "firsts," we enjoy a broad range of literary choices. I'm a crime and justice fan, devouring every James Patterson, John Grisham, and recently Peter O'Mahoney. I have begun to carry my iPad with me everywhere and often choose to read rather than watch television.

I used to insist that I preferred actually turning the pages of a "hard copy." Now, I love the ease of a digital book. I don't like being read to (think audio book). I want to cast the characters myself, including their voices. Audio books remind me of radio dramas (we're not old enough to remember that but I've heard snippets). I have enough going on in my head; I don't need another voice.

The last "paperback" series I read was *The Southern...* by Peter O'Mahoney. The 4 part series has both aging good and bad guys. No one is leaping from tall buildings or swinging from the chandelier. These are older folks, with experience in their fields, working to for and against power and justice. I couldn't put it down. Thanks to Amazon Prime, I was able to read the entire series for free on my iPad. Now I'm ready to start the next free read. My next selection will come from the list below.

Here is an AI generated list of fiction targeting our demographic:

1. "A Man Called Ove" by Fredrik Backman: The story follows Ove, a grumpy yet lovable old man who finds himself at odds with the changing world around him. Through a series of events and interactions with his new neighbors, Ove learns to rediscover life, love, and the importance of community.
2. "The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry" by Gabrielle Zevin: A.J. Fikry is a grumpy bookstore owner who has isolated himself from the world after the loss of his wife. His life takes an unexpected turn when a mysterious package arrives at his bookstore, leading to a series of events that change his life and perspective forever.
3. "Olive Kitteridge" by Elizabeth Strout: This novel is a series of interconnected short stories that revolve around Olive Kitteridge, a retired schoolteacher in a small coastal town in Maine. Through Olive's perspective and the lives of those around her, the book explores themes of love, loss, and human connection.
4. "Major Pettigrew's Last Stand" by Helen Simonson: The story follows Major Ernest Pettigrew, a widowed Englishman in his 60s who strikes up an unexpected friendship with Mrs. Ali, a Pakistani shopkeeper in his village. As their friendship blossoms into something more, they must navigate social expectations and prejudices in their community.
5. "Our Souls at Night" by Kent Haruf: In this poignant novel, Addie Moore and Louis Waters, both widowed and lonely individuals in their senior years, come together to form a companionship that defies societal norms. Through their late-night conversations and shared experiences, they find solace and connection in each other's company.

Of course, this doesn't mean that we're not interested in general interest fiction however, it is nice to know that there are authors that realize that you're never too old for adventures, romance, even crime featuring senior lead characters.

This isn't a new trend for television and film. The Golden Girls, Frankie and Grace, *Murders Only In The Building*, *The Intern*, *Bosch*, *The Crown* are simply examples of the rich choices of film and television choices available that reinforce the idea that the lives, even fictionalized lives, of seniors are rich, relevant, and entertaining. After *The Andy Griffith Show*, which was produced for eight seasons, Andy Griffith gave us another nine seasons of his down-home, Southern charm as Matlock. After eight seasons as bad-attitude, unabashed racist Archie Bunker in *All In The Family*, Carrol O'Connor portrayed the quintessential Southern sheriff in *In The Heat Of The Night* for seven seasons. This was family entertainment that has lived on in syndication through multiple generations. Former stand-up comedian Red Foxx, known throughout the nightclub circuit, is perhaps best known for his role in *Sanford and Son* where he was joined by LaWanda Paige and Whitman Mayo in a comedy about an aging junk dealer and his n'er-do-well son. And then there were the Golden Girls, four single retirement-age women living in Florida. Each week, we watched Dorothy, Rose, Blanche, and Sophia share a home and life after retirement, divorce, and illness. We talked about them like we knew them personally. These older characters gave us permission to laugh at the inevitable onslaught of aging, and Americans of all ages enjoyed it.

Grab or download a book from our list, and enjoy summer your way.

Citizen Spotlight: Auntie Bev Speaks

Our next citizen spotlight is a content creator known widely as "Auntie Bev Vocabulary Builder." Words matter and communication skills are essential. I often follow folks on social media who value words and communicate in innovative, creative ways. One day, the algorithm blessed me with Auntie Bev. Since following Beverly Mahone I've learned new words, gained a better grasp of how to leverage language, and deep in the comments have found others who value grammar and language just as much to connect with.



Give Auntie Bev a follow, and you'll quickly see how she enlightens with a range of words some familiar, some completely foreign. In a recent post on Instagram, Auntie Bev pulled over on Highway 70 to give us a vivid example of 'devastation' as she defined the word at a respectable distance from an unfortunate house fire. Your vocabulary will expand by following and engaging with her content like more than two million others worldwide collectively across platforms. Celebrities like T.I., Wanda "Mama" Durant, Meg the Stallion and many others follow and engage with Auntie Bev and her illuminating content. "I love my community. I love how the communities have developed. I've been surprised at how diverse my followers are as far as race and age. I've had people my age and older tell me

words I've introduced that they've never heard before. I am surprised at the diversity."

I was dying to know what influenced this content. Auntie Bev shared a beautiful story about how her grandson inspired her during the pandemic. After losing her job due to Covid in 2021, her grandson visited her on Mother's Day weekend. He advised, "Grandma, I think you should go on TikTok and teach my generation how to communicate more effectively. I said are you crazy?! He told me that's where the money is!" He was convincing and helpful. Only 14 at the time, he made a suggestion that has impacted their family and the community for the better. His suggestion and Auntie Bev's dedication are truly inspiring and a testament to how the generations can work together to build impactful business platforms.

My final question for Auntie Bev was regarding Baby Boomers and

Traditionalists or the Silent Generation on social media. I wanted to know her thoughts on social media engagement or even content creation, I asked her what she would say to people who think they're too old or folks who feel they don't have anything to contribute to our collective discourse on social media. Again, Auntie Bev continues to inspire, "If you still have dreams and goals you're never too old. What I've learned is that God places people in your life to advance the gifts you have. To help you learn how to do things you need to do to reach who you are trying to reach. I would say to people in my age group, don't resist. Young people were willing to take a chance on me and I was willing to take a chance on them." Search and follow @BeverlyMahone or Auntie Bev Speaks across social media platforms. Check out her website AllWordzMatter.com and be inspired to elevate your communication.

Black Mayors Gather In Support Of Biden

Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

A gathering of Black mayors took place in Durham on Saturday to rally support for the Biden-Harris administration's reelection campaign.

Organized by the Biden-Harris campaign, the event brought together Black mayors from across North Carolina to emphasize the positive impact of Biden's policies on their communities. Hosted by Durham Mayor Leonardo Williams, the meeting provided a platform for mayors to highlight the tangible benefits experienced under the current administration.

In his remarks, Williams emphasized the significant resources allocated to cities through Biden's American Rescue Plan, highlighting its role in stabilizing local governments and supporting minority-owned businesses, such as the venue hosting the gathering.

"President Biden's administration has made historic progress to bring Black communities back from the pandemic and build an economy from the bottom up and the middle out," Williams said. "The record is clear. The fact is present. Under the Biden Administration, small Black businesses have thrived."

Williams acknowledged the possibility of a Trump victory and said it was a reality that required Black voters to be "very uncomfortably intentional" in the coming months.

"There's too much on the line to sit this out," Williams said.

Support for the Biden-Harris ticket resonated strongly during the event, as mayors praised the administration's accomplishments over the past three-and-a-half years. Other mayors echoed these sentiments, pointing to the Biden administration's investments in infrastructure, healthcare, education, and small businesses as proof of its dedication to uplifting Black communities.

Fayetteville Mayor Mitch Colvin compared his experiences working

with both the Trump and Biden administrations, stressing the latter's focus on addressing community needs rather than political expediency.

"I served as mayor under both President Biden and Donald Trump's administrations, and I can tell you after my experience working with both, there is a clear right choice in this election, and that is President Biden," Colvin said.

Like his colleagues, Colvin also worried that progress in numerous areas – from support for small businesses and HBCUs to environmental initiatives like the transition to electric vehicles and efforts to combat PFAS pollution – would be derailed if Trump somehow returned to the White House.

"While Trump was in office, we saw how life got worse for Black communities – Black unemployment went up and Black uninsured rates increased," Ahoskie Mayor Weyling White said.

Mayor Van Johnson from Savannah, Georgia, also attended the event in Durham.

Johnson praised the crucial role of Black voters in securing victory for the Biden-Harris campaign in Georgia during the 2020 election. He highlighted the administration's achievements in job growth, low unemployment rates, and initiatives promoting Black economic prosperity. Johnson cited significant increases in household wealth and reductions in poverty as evidence of this progress.

The event in Durham on Saturday follows a recent Biden-Harris campaign tour across Eastern North Carolina, aimed at securing the Black vote and establishing additional campaign offices in Rocky Mount and Smithfield.

Mayors and local community leaders described the Biden administration's impact on the lives of Black voters, spanning economic improvements to increased access to healthcare while condemning what they

perceive as Trump's divisive rhetoric and policies.

Other notable attendees included Fletcher Mayor Preston Blakely, Knightdale Mayor Jessica Day, State Senator Natalie Murdock of Durham, U.S. Congresswoman Valerie Foushee, former Durham Mayor William Bell, Elm City Mayor Tawanda Moore, Raleigh Mayor Pro Tem Corey Branch and Durham Council Member Mark-Anthony Middleton.

The event was hosted by Durham's



MASKING

Continued from page 1

while committing crimes and imposes stricter penalties for participating in protests that obstruct traffic.

Protestors who block traffic will be held liable for the injuries and deaths of people who they block from receiving medical care by paramedics in ambulances. Critics view these measures as curbing constitutional rights to protest, especially in light of recent demonstrations on college campuses regarding the Israel-Hamas war.

"House Bill 237 is a blatant attempt to retaliate against protesters who are exercising their right to protest at the expense of historically marginalized communities," said Shruti Parikh with North Carolina Asian Americans Together.

"The timing of this bill is no coincidence. It's a clear retaliation against protesters on our college campuses who spoke up against the genocide in Gaza," Parikh said.

Opponents, including advocacy groups and Democratic lawmakers, argue that the bill's provisions are overly restrictive and could disproportionately impact marginalized communities. They also condemn last-minute additions to the bill, such as changes to state campaign finance laws, which they perceive as attempts to undermine transparency and accountability in elections.

Speaking out against the bill, advocates from various organizations convened a press conference outside the North Carolina Legislative Building on Tuesday morning, denouncing its implications for masking rights, protest freedoms, and campaign finance regulations. They accuse GOP lawmakers of using the bill to suppress dissent and consolidate power.

"We now celebrate the stories of the powerful, racial justice protests of the 1960s, like the iconic 1965 march that blocked traffic and occupied the full length of the bridge in Selma, Alabama," said a member of the NAACP-NC whose name could not immediately be verified. "When people used to protest by not giving up their seats on buses, trains, and lunch counters. Civil disobedience has always been one of the country's political traditions, what's new is the effort to impose harsher penalties on protesters."

Dawn Blagrove, the Executive Director of Emancipate NC, said that the bill takes away the constitutional right to protest and that there are legislators who are frightened by the power of protest.

"When you're afraid of the people, you're afraid of their power. When you're afraid of their power, you're afraid of democracy," Blagrove said. The fate of the bill now rests with the North Carolina House, with a final vote expected soon. However, Governor Roy Cooper is anticipated to veto the legislation, setting the stage for potential override votes in both chambers and prolonging the contentious debate over masking rights and protest restrictions in the state.

"I smell politics on the other side of the aisle when they're scaring people to death about a bill that is only going to criminalize people who are trying to hide their identity so they can do something wrong," Wilson County Republican Sen. Buck Newton, who presented the bill, said on the Senate floor.

Church

Southern Baptists To Ban Churches With Women Pastors

(AP NEWS) From its towering white steeple and red-brick facade to its Sunday services filled with rousing gospel hymns and evangelistic sermons, First Baptist Church of Alexandria, Virginia, bears many of the classic hallmarks of a Southern Baptist church.

On a recent Sunday, its pastor for women and children, Kim Eskridge, urged members to invite friends and neighbors to an upcoming vacation Bible school — a perennial Baptist activity — to help “reach families in the community with the gospel.”

But because that pastor is a woman, First Baptist’s days in the Southern Baptist Convention may be numbered.

At the SBC’s annual meeting June 11-12 in Indianapolis, representatives will vote on whether to amend the denomination’s constitution to essentially ban churches with any women pastors — and not just in the top job. That measure received overwhelming approval in a preliminary vote last year.

Leaders of First Baptist — which has given millions to Southern Baptist causes and has been involved with the convention since its 19th century founding — are bracing for a possible expulsion.

“We are grieved at the direction the SBC has taken,” the church said

in a statement.

And it’s not alone.

By some estimates, the proposed ban could affect hundreds of congregations and have a disproportionate impact on predominantly Black churches.

The vote is partly the culmination of events set in motion two years ago.

That’s when a Virginia pastor contacted SBC officials to contend that First Baptist and four nearby churches were “out of step” with denominational doctrine that says only men can be pastors. The SBC Credentials Committee launched a formal inquiry in April.

Southern Baptists disagree on which ministry jobs this doctrine refers to. Some say it’s just the senior pastor, others that a pastor is anyone who preaches and exercises spiritual authority.

And in a Baptist tradition that prizes local church autonomy, critics say the convention shouldn’t enshrine a constitutional rule based on one interpretation of its non-binding doctrinal statement.

By some estimates, women are working in pastoral roles in hundreds of SBC-linked churches, a fraction of the nearly 47,000 across the denomination.

But critics say the amendment

would amount to a further narrowing in numbers and mindset for the nation’s largest Protestant denomination, which has moved steadily rightward in recent decades.

They also wonder if the SBC has better things to do.

It has struggled to respond to sexual abuse cases in its churches. A former professor at a Southern Baptist seminary in Texas was indicted in May on a charge of falsifying a record about alleged sexual abuse by a student in order to obstruct a federal investigation into sexual misconduct in the convention.

SBC membership has dipped below 13 million, nearly a half-century low. Baptismal rates are in long-term decline.

The amendment, if passed, wouldn’t prompt an immediate purge. But it could keep the denomination’s leaders busy for years, investigating and ousting churches.

Many predominantly Black churches have men as lead pastors but assign pastor titles to women in other areas, such as worship and children’s ministries.

“To disfellowship like-minded churches ... based on a local-church governance decision dishonors the spirit of cooperation and the guiding tenets of our denomination,” wrote Pastor Gregory Perkins, president of

the SBC’s National African American Fellowship, to denominational officials.

The controversy complicates the already-choppy efforts by the mostly white denomination to diversify and overcome its legacy of slavery and segregation.

Amendment proponents say the convention needs to reinforce its doctrinal statement, the Baptist Faith and Message, which says the office of pastor is “limited to men as qualified by Scripture.”

“If we won’t stand on this issue and be unapologetically biblical, then we won’t stand on anything,” said amendment proponent Mike Law, pastor of Arlington Baptist Church in Virginia.

Since Baptist churches are independent, the convention can’t tell them what to do or whom to appoint as a pastor.

But the convention can decide which churches are in and which are out. And even without a formal amendment, its Executive Commit-

tee has begun telling churches with women pastors that they’re out. That included one of its largest, Saddleback Church of California.

When Saddleback and a small Kentucky church appealed to the annual meeting in 2023, delegates overwhelmingly refused to take them back.

The amendment would give such enforcement actions more teeth.

Some churches with women pastors quit on their own in the past year. They range from Elevation Church, a North Carolina megachurch, to First Baptist of Richmond, Virginia, which had close SBC ties from the convention’s founding.

Law contended the issue has been a “canary in the coalmine” for liberal denominations, several of which began ordaining women and later LGBTQ+ people.

“Southern Baptists are facing a decisive moment,” he said in a video on a pro-amendment website. “Here’s the trajectory of doing nothing: Soon Southern Baptist churches will

start openly supporting homosexual clergy, same-sex marriage and eventually transgenderism.”

Others point out that Pentecostal and other denominations have had women pastors for generations and remain theologically conservative.

Some SBC churches with women pastors are heavily involved with the convention, while others have minimal connections and identify more closely with historically Black or other progressive denominations.

Also, some SBC churches interpret the 2000 faith statement as only applying to senior pastors. As long as the church leader is male, women can serve other pastoral roles, they say.

Such churches may leave if SBC leaders interfere with congregations following “their conscience, biblical convictions, and values by recognizing women can receive a pastoral gift from God in partnership with male leadership,” said Dwight McKissic, a pastor from Arlington, Texas, on the social media platform X.

Obituaries

THE REV. JAMES LAWSON JR., CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER, DIES AT 95



LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Rev. James Lawson Jr., an apostle of non-violent protest who schooled activists to withstand brutal reactions from white authorities as the Civil Rights Movement gained traction, has died, his family said Monday. He was 95.

His family said Lawson died on Sunday after a short illness in Los Angeles, where he spent decades working as a pastor, labor movement organizer and university professor.

Lawson was a close adviser to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who called him “the leading theorist and strategist of nonviolence in the world.”

Lawson met King in 1957, after spending three years in India soak-

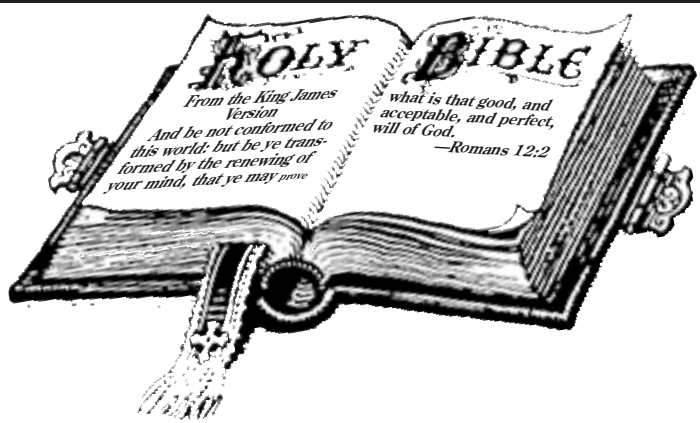
ing up knowledge about Mohandas K. Gandhi’s independence movement. King would travel to India himself two years later, but at the time, he had only read about Gandhi in books.

The two Black pastors -- both 28 years old -- quickly bonded over their enthusiasm for the Indian leader’s ideas, and King urged Lawson to put them into action in the American South.

Lawson soon led workshops in church basements in Nashville, Tennessee, that prepared John Lewis, Diane Nash, Bernard Lafayette, Marion Barry, the Freedom Riders and

(See REV LAWSON, JR, P. 12)

SERMON of the WEEK



I LOVE IT WHEN A PLAN COMES TOGETHER

Sermon by Mother Belinda McKoy “And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them. And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy; and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him. And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus.” Luke 5:17-19 KJV

For the last 15 years of my work life at NC State, my job title was Planner/Scheduler or Head Planner/Scheduler. So, I did a lot of planning, and to implement the plans, I did a lot of scheduling—not for me to do the work, but for others. There are a lot of plans, good or bad, but they are all worthless if they don’t have someone to implement them.

We have been studying Teamwork and attitude with the pastor and the Church leadership—in other words, what it takes for a good plan to come together. Don’t get me wrong. I understand that the same principles that allow a good plan to come together for a good outcome can be used for a bad plan with a bad outcome. But today, we are talking about good plans coming together for good results. I love it when a Good Plan Comes Together.

First, I want to talk about how there is a good plan for every situation. In our text today, there is a situation.

- Jesus was teaching to a house full of people.
- In attendance were the Pharisees and the doctors of the law.
- Most importantly, they needed the power of the Lord to heal them.

All the big dogs, so-called important people, and people with means had a seat in the house. The Bible said they came from “out of every town in Galilee, Judaea, and Jerusalem. That’s all good. They had a plan and were successful because they all had a seat where Jesus was and had the opportunity to be healed.

But there was a man who did not have a plan. Don’t fault the man because he didn’t have a plan. We all have had situations in our lives where we didn’t know what to do. The man was sick with palsy. In biblical times, people with palsy were most likely paralyzed. Any plan he might come up with would require great assistance.

Fortunately for this man, he had some good friends and acquaintances who saw his dilemma. The Bible says they “sought to bring him in and lay him before Jesus.”

I’m sure they all looked at the problem. One probably thought it was a lost cause, another didn’t know what to do, maybe another was thinking but couldn’t come up with anything. There had to be one that was looking for a solution. Someone had to come up with the idea; let’s go through the roof off. There was a problem, someone found a solution,

there had to be a plan.

I can imagine that after there was a consensus that they were taking him through the roof, a plan was made.

The planner started planning what it would take for us to get this man and his couch through the roof successfully.

They needed the following equipment: A rope to strap him to the couch so he wouldn’t fall as they lifted him up. A ladder to climb to the roof. Manpower - Six (two inside and four on the outside). A good plan for a good solution. We know that these men’s plans worked because Jesus recognized their efforts.

Luke 5:20, “And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.” I Love It When a Good Plan Comes Together. Just remember God has a plan for us.

Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” All we have to do is implement the plan.

Matthew 6:33, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Romans 10:9, “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”

To view complete sermons by Pastor William Eli Ratcliff and Associate Ministers, please visit our YouTube channel. Thank you.

Practical Biblical Principles

PUTTING YOUR FAITH TO WORK

Read: Matthew 17:14-21
By: John L. Caldwell, Pastor New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral

Not too often do we hear of a piece of clothing or a garment playing a crucial role in building one’s faith. Yet, we have here a unique, but beautiful story of a woman somehow putting her faith in the garment our Lord wore that day to gain her complete healing. This is what makes her healing unique. This unique event was recorded by Matthew 9:20 and Mark 5:25-27.

Jesus told His disciples to have the faith of a tiny mustard seed so that they would be able to move mountains of difficulties in their lives (Matthew 17:20). For some, if not all of us, this saying is easier said than done. It is not that we don’t believe in Jesus, it is the difficulty we have on focusing what little faith we have on our problems, especially when it comes to healing.

In Jesus’ day, the people had the fortune of being in the Lord’s physical presence and were healed. Jesus tells us we are blessed if we believe and have not seen. These words Jesus spoke to doubting Thomas who initially did not believe that Jesus had risen from the dead (John 20:29).

How do we put our faith to work under trying times? We simply have to believe in Jesus’ power to heal without having to see Him. We must believe that He has the power and desire to heal us when we seek Him. This is what faith is all about, belief, belief, belief! Our belief and hope become the evidence of things not seen. This unseen evidence which is our belief and hope causes things to happen (Hebrews 11:1).

There are several instances in the Bible where touching the Savior’s garment brought total healing to people. We find this story of people touching Jesus’ garment in (Matthew 14:34-

36). In this event, we read that the people being healed, also believed that touching Jesus’ garment would bring healing to them.

What is it about the garment that Jesus wore that caused the people to focus on it as opposed to focusing on Him. Is this the way faith works and that is to focus on His garment rather than focusing on Him, the person? In the Book of Numbers 15:38-39 and Deuteronomy 22:12, we find God giving His people, men especially, who were fresh out of Egyptian slavery, the Commandment to dress in a certain manner. The Men were to make their robes a garment of square material and put blue tassel at the bottom hem edge on the four corners of the robe. When the robe is worn, these tassels were to be a daily reminder to the men that they belong to God and God alone. These tassels were also a reminder to the people to follow the Holy Commandments God had given to them by Moses.

Some who read Malachi 4:2 interpret this scripture to mean, when Jesus comes as the Messiah, He will bring healing in His wings. Here “wings” can refer to the blue tassels on the corner of His garment/robe. These tassels are referred to as ‘wings’ in the Jewish bible. In summary this scripture symbolizes the transformative and comforting powers of God’s healing grace. Much like the sun bringing warmth and light to a dark world.

It was in Galilee, Gennesaret, a town about one mile NW of the sea of Galilee, that this woman encountered Jesus. Jesus was finishing up a teaching about fasting when He was interrupted by a Jewish ruler named Jarius, who worshipped Him saying, “My daughter has just died, come, and lay Your hand on her and she will live. Jesus arose and followed him and so did His disciples” (Matthew 9:19).

As Jesus followed Jarius to his house, a woman out of nowhere,

who had ‘a bleeding issue’ for more than twelve years, broke through the pressing crowd surrounding Jesus and touched the hem of His garment. She was healed instantly. For she had been telling herself, “If only I could touch the hem of His garment, I shall be made well.” The gospel writer, Mark, tells us that this woman had spent all that she had with physicians and her condition only got worse (Mark 5:25-26). This woman heard that Jesus was in her town, and she took the advantage of the time, sort Him out and used her faith focusing on the tassel of His robe. It appears that this woman was aware of God’s instructions to the men about wearing their robes with the tassels on them. And maybe she took Malachi 4:2 literally and believed that Jesus had healing in His wings—meaning the blue tassels hanging down at the bottom of His robe. The hanging tassels on the men’s tunic was an indication that the man who wore this robe belonged to God. In this case, the robe and man become one in the same. I believe this is what the woman believed.

Obviously, the woman must have been right in her belief and actions. The moment she touched His garment, Jesus felt the virtue of healing had gone out of Him, and said, “Somebody touched Me.” And when He saw the woman, He said woman your faith has made you whole. That was it.

Jesus’ robe was special. It is believed that His mother had weaved it without seams (John 19:23). It is a fact that Jesus belongs to God, His Father.

What kind of robe or evidence do you have, or what indication/evidence do you have to show that you belong to God? If we belong to God, then it should not be a problem to focus and put our faith in Him when we need Him.



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

Editorials

Churches face new challenges in changing society

By David Mildenberg

Business North Carolina

If that strange church photo on this month's cover seems misguided for a business magazine, blame my grandmother Doris. The kindest, sweetest person I've known, she exerted great influence on me, including making clear that there was no optionality about how her young grandchildren spent Sunday mornings. My parents showed much less interest in our church, while my grandpa concluded that paying for the organ was enough to give him a pass from regular attendance.

Doris would be pleased, however, that my habit of worship attendance hasn't lapsed despite much temptation. The whole experience of checking in weekly with longtime friends and an occasional newcomer, listening to some inspired commentary, and singing with others in worship remains a joyful one.

Fortunately, my grandma steered me to a faith tradition that, for the most part, celebrates thinking and openness to different viewpoints rather than a rigid approach that would have repelled me long ago. Contrary to popular opinion, I've never been taught that attending church makes one superior to folks spending Sundays fishing or golfing. Instead, the consistent message is that one learns from all comers and that giving is more important than taking — concepts of which I consistently fall short.

Staying involved in church, however, has made it easy to notice how the influence of many religious institutions is declining, probably at an accelerating rate. It hit close to home in February when my late in-laws' 67-year-old church on a busy Charlotte street closed after weekly attendance tumbled from a peak of 200 decades ago to fewer than 40. My church is holding its own, but it's obvious that people find many alternatives to Sunday worship and seek fulfillment in different ways. The pressure to conform to my grandma's wishes is wilting.

Because of this major societal shift, we asked Ed Martin to look into its economic impact on North Carolina. Ed grew up at a one-room country church that his great-grandfather built. His report confirms that church membership, attendance and contributions are slipping, particularly in mainline denominations that have been dominant in our state for centuries. Many once-robust N.C. churches have surprisingly small crowds on Sunday mornings, despite our state's impressive population growth. Dozens of others have shut down and are up for sale. Anecdotally, I've noticed that our state's business leadership appears less involved in church governance than 10 or 20 years ago.

In the place of local congregations, a couple dozen supersized megachurches have emerged in North Carolina, led by highly skilled leaders with clear evangelical visions. BNC featured one last year: Rocky Mount's Word Tabernacle Church led by N.C. Rep. James Gailliard. While powerful, however, such churches remain the exception and always face the question of what happens when the star preacher leaves.

Ed documented that lots of money flows through churches, which justifies our magazine's interest. But he also concluded that declining local churches can have a profound, negative effect on the central role that they have historically played in caring for the marginalized, training Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, teaching English to immigrants and countless other services. Losing that community base is discouraging, particularly when it coincides with declining trust in other traditional institutions, including the local newspaper, public schools and civic organizations.

I'm an eternal optimist, which is another influence attributable to my grandma, who persevered through the Great Depression, world wars and other challenges more severe than I've faced. Churches, synagogues and mosques will remain essential bedrocks of our society, but in a different, less pronounced way.



FUNdraising Good Times



FATHER'S DAY GIFT CHALLENGE

We want to encourage everyone to think about fathers throughout the year. Think about what it means to be a first-time father without the confidence, knowledge, skills, or experience to care for a newborn. Consider the young man without a job who wants to be a part of his child's life. There are men in the military, incarcerated, and in other countries who are unable to physically be with their children. What will life be like for them when they are reunited with their children? Who will help them readjust? Who will ease the awkwardness, tension, and other feelings that long absences create?

Nonprofits help fill the gap and when appropriate they help reunite men with their children. There are nonprofits that support single fathers; that provide vocational and professional training to help fathers increase their earning power; and that help fathers overcome homelessness, drug addiction or alcoholism. Nonprofits help fathers overcome a history of suffering from or inflicting domestic violence. Many focus on new fathers, and still others focus on those with a history of estrangement from their children. Nonprofits provide support to LG-BTQ+ families who may feel isolated from "traditional" families within their neighborhood. Faith-based organizations strengthen men's spiritual understanding, encourage forgiveness of self and others, and share skills and resources that strengthen a man's ability to become the father he always wanted to be.


One example of a nonprofit that is committed to families and fatherhood is Families Matter in Memphis. Their AFIRM initiative is an example of a comprehensive program that supports fathers emotionally, with relationship skills, and with job training aimed at increasing the earnings of low-income fathers. They help fathers navigate the child support system so that dads can pay child support consistently. They are positive in their approach — they "make good fathers better." And they do it with love.

Here's our Father's Day recommendation: what better way to assure the stability and growth of our future, than by providing continuous resources to men who want to be active fathers. There is something each of us can do to help ensure that fathers have the skills, resources, and support they need to be actively engaged with their children. Let's honor our fathers — young and old — by making a gift in their name to help nonprofits step up and make a difference in the growth and development of fatherhood. As always, it doesn't have to stop with you: encourage your friends, family members, and associates to match or surpass what you are doing. We hope that this can become a tradition for you and your family going forward.

seats" class, but has evolved into a "plenty of good room in my Father's Kingdom" class. COVID-19 reduced our numbers, and a willingness to discuss social and political issues in Sunday school has caused some to not come back.

If you believe discussions of social issues should not be allowed in Sunday school, or you're unwilling to compare messages from the Old Testament with the New Testament, this class might not be for you. However, if you are open to the opinions of others and comfortable with what life, the Holy Spirit, and your understanding has taught you, you would love this class. We welcome all, no matter their beliefs, and do not judge absences.

I've come to understand that my role is to love in all circumstances. Jesus taught me this through his stories, like the prodigal son, the woman at the well, and the one caught in adultery. The questions we have on this journey are vast, but the largest of all is whether we live what we believe or if our major job is to quote scriptures.



Guest Columnist
Armstrong Williams

TRUMP GUILTY, BUT WAS JUSTICE DONE?

Two weeks ago, a unanimous New York jury found former President Donald Trump guilty of 34 felonies after deliberating less than 48 hours and observing Mr. Trump's refusal to testify in his own defense. The jury found that the former president created false business records to conceal a \$130,000 payment to Stormy Daniels for her silence with the purpose of either influencing the outcome of the 2016 presidential election or defrauding the IRS. (The payments were fraudulently represented as deductible legal expenses). Sentencing by Judge Juan Merchan is set for July.

Did the guilty verdicts reflect justice? Did they prove no one is above the law? These questions defy simple "yes" or "no" answers.

Justice incorporates values that are in tension. On the one hand is the idea that everyone should be equal in the eyes of the law irrespective of wealth, power, race, political opinion, religion or gender. It finds expression in the words enshrined above the main entrance to the Supreme Court Building, "EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW."

In tension with the equal justice goal is the idea that a criminal should not escape punishment because others, equally or more culpable, have avoided punishment. Murderers were not set free because O.J. Simpson was acquitted of murdering Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman notwithstanding overwhelming incriminating evidence. Imperfect justice is superior to no justice and the law of the jungle. There, life is poor, brutish, nasty and short.

Justice is invariably imperfect. It is never perfectly equal. Law enforcement resources are limited. Prosecutors are human. Their law enforcement priorities are not the same. Many are elected and skew their prosecution decisions to court voter popularity. Former U.S. Attorney General Robert Jackson worried as long ago as 1940 that legions of technical, ambiguous criminal prohibitions invited prosecutors to weaponize the law to harass or destroy their personal or political enemies: "[I]t is not a question of discovering the commission of a crime and then looking for the man who has committed it, it is a question of picking the man and then searching the law books, or putting investigators to work, to pin some offense on him. It is in this realm in which the prosecutor picks some person whom he dislikes or desires to embarrass, or selects some group of unpopular persons and then looks for an offense, that the greatest danger of abuse of prosecuting power lies."

Unequal justice is especially pronounced in the political world where law enforcement is controlled by partisan forces. Congress attempted to fix the problem with the Independent Counsel Act of 1978 to remove partisanship from the investigation of political muckamucks. But the cure proved worse than the disease. Independent counsels spent limitless sums going down rabbit holes to forestall insinuations of coverup. Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr spent more than \$95 million investigating former President William Jefferson Clinton over a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky, perjury and obstruction of justice. No criminal charges were ever filed. Independent counsels were abandoned in 1999.

Richard M. Nixon complained that his Watergate wrongdoings were indistinguishable from Lyndon Johnson's multiple illegalities. The latter included warrantless spying on Martin Luther King Jr., lying to Congress to obtain the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution spawning the Vietnam War, massive vote-buying in the 1948 U.S. Senate election, and the exercise of political influence with the Federal Communications Commission to make his wife Lady Bird a millionaire, as meticulously documented in Robert Caro's "Means of Ascent."

Mr. Nixon's double standard argument, however, was dead on arrival. He was forced to resign under an impeachment cloud and accepted a pardon from Gerald R. Ford to escape prosecution for obstruction of justice.

Everything about Trump is sui generis. Comparisons are problematic. He had sex with a porn star shortly after Melania had given birth. He hired liar and thug Michael Cohen as his Roy Cohn-like attorney. He volunteered his vile, vulgar remarks about women on the "Access Hollywood" tape. He demanded former Vice President Mike Pence choose between him and the Constitution in counting state-certified electoral votes. He berated and threatened Georgia's Secretary of State Brad Raffensberger if he failed to invent 11,780 votes to make Trump victorious over President Joe Biden in Georgia.

Letters To The Editor



Livingstone College Receives Its 5th \$1 Million Contribution

Dr. Anthony J. Davis, president of Livingstone College, announced Tuesday afternoon that the college was blessed to receive its fifth \$1 million contribution. The donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, has given the College four additional \$1 million contributions, the first being received during the College's homecoming celebration last October. Dr. Davis exclaimed at that time that the initial \$1 million contribution was the largest individual gift from a non-alumnus in the College's history.

This additional gift will address the College's challenges related to capital improvements and the campus's infrastructure. It will also enable us to continue our mission to educate, equip, and empower our students to compete and contribute in a global context with confidence and competence. Dr. Davis appreciates the community's support and hopes that this exemplary act of philanthropy will ignite the spirit of giving among other members of the community.

A Different Voice

By Dorothy Shaw Thompson



WHAT DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE?

When I was in the first grade until my birthday in October, I was 5 years old. I was born in Washington D.C., where we had public schools. When we left there and moved to Windell, North Carolina, to live on my grandmother's farm, a significant question arose: Could I go to first grade even though the cut-off date was earlier than my birthday? At Carver Elementary, two individuals became angels on my journey: Mrs. Addie Harris, an exceptional first-grade teacher, and Mr. James Speed, the principal. Similarly, my older sister Barbara faced the same situation. Should either of us be held back because there was no national standard for a cut-off date for entering school? These angels had the power to decide our fate, affecting who my classmates would be, what grade I could be placed in, and how old I would be when I graduated high school. I believe they chose wisely. Instead of going back home to play with my younger cousins, I was given permission to go to the first grade, and my sister advanced to the fourth.

Many years later, I read a book called "The Soul's Code." The writer suggests that on our journey, we encounter people who are there to offer the right words that often enhance our journeys throughout our lives. Mrs. Harris was certainly one of those people, showing up for me on numerous occasions. As a child, I was very curious and optimistic. The discovery of the word "breakfast" was bliss for me at age 5; it was a 9-letter word I could spell and understood its meaning.

One morning, I walked into the classroom worried because my mother had told me that I asked too many questions. My teacher saw the expression on my face and inquired about it. She suggested that my mother was probably tired and didn't have the answers to my questions, but that I should never stop asking them. This righted my world and restored me to my brightness.

I also attend a Sunday school class that is perfect for me. Although I am technically the teacher, in our class, we are each other's educators. Mrs. Laura P. Wimberly set the standard for this approach. She wasn't a teacher in the official sense but an engager, an inspirer, and a carrier of the message that the Holy Spirit is the real teacher, implying that there are no wrong questions and no perfect answers on the journey called life. She encouraged us to read the Bible for ourselves if we truly wanted to understand Christianity.

This class is not for those who think they have all the answers or get angry when others disagree. It was once a "no excuse, no extra

Classifieds

DURHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY NOTICE TO CREDITORS In The General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk

File Number 24E001596-310

The undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of DORIS MOORE HOLLOWAY, late of Durham County, NC does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned at the address below on or before the 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.

John M. Holloway, Executor
15622 Copper Beech Dr.
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774
5/23, 5/30, 6/6, and 6/13/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In The General Court Of Justice Superior Court Division Before the Clerk

File Number 24E001584-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ADNA FAYE HICKS DENNIS late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 26th day of 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.

John Paul Dennis, Executor
185 Zostera Drive
Little River, SC 29566
5/23, 5/30, 6/6, and 6/13/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS File Number 24E001619-310

Having qualified before the Clerk of Superior Court of Durham County as Public Administrator of the Estate of VIRGINIA ROAN STEPHENS JACKSON, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to send them, duly itemized and verified, to P.O. Box 51429, Durham, NC 27717, on or before the 23rd of August, 2024 (three months after the date of this Notice) or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the Estate are requested to make prompt settlement with the undersigned.

This the 23rd day of May, 2024.

Robert E. Levin Public Administrator of the Estate of Virginia Roan Stephens Jackson, Deceased
P.O. Box 51429
Durham, NC 27717
5/23, 5/30, 6/6, and 6/13/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OE PROCESS BY PUBLICATION In The General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk

File Number 24E001630-310

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of SELMER RAY JORDAN, late of Durham County, NC does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned at the address below on or before the 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.

Law Office of Anne Page Watson, Executor of the Estate of Selmer Ray Jordan, c/o The Law Office of Anne Page Watson, PLLC, 3400 Croasdale Drive, Suite 205, Durham, NC 27705.

5/23, 5/30, 6/6, and 6/13/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

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

File Number 24-E-277

The Undersigned, having

qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of EDWINA DELAINE HOLLAND, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 24th day of 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.

Shawn Holland
Executor
55 Grapevine Trail
Durham, NC 27707
5/23, 5/30, 6/6, and 6/13/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In The General Court Of Justice Superior Court Division Before the Clerk

File Number 24E001603-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ANDREW B. CURL late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 2nd day of 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.

Ira Wilkins Curl, Executor
c/o Marion Law Office, PLLC
2741 University Drive
Durham, NC 27707
5/30, 6/6, 6/13, and 6/20/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS File No. 24E001628-310

All persons, firms or corporations having claims against EDWARD LEE PARKER, deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before September 10, 2024, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 30th day of May, 2024.

Jonathan Parker, Tamrah Watson, Co-Executors
c/o Michael K. Perry, Attorney,
Perry, Brandt & McLemore
P.O. Box 2108
Wake Forest, NC 27588
May 30, June 6, 13, 20
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OE PROCESS BY PUBLICATION In The General Court Of Justice Superior Court Division FILE NO. 24CV004190-310.

This Land Properties, Inc., Plaintiff, vs.
Kathy Lynn Ibrahim Muldovan Sorenson (a/k/a Kathy Ibrahim Myers, a/k/a Kathy Ibrahim), Defendant

TO: Kathy Lynn Ibrahim Muldovan Sorenson (a/k/a Kathy Ibrahim Myers, a/k/a Kathy Ibrahim)

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: a judgment that the plaintiff (This Land Properties, Inc.) is the sole owner of the following real estate located in Forsyth County, North Carolina: BEING all of Lots 39, 40, 41, and 42 of Southdale, as per plat recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 71, Forsyth County Registry, together with all improvements, privileges, and appurtenances thereto.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than July 16, 2024. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This is June 6, 2024.

Gary K. Berman,
Attorney for the Plaintiff
NC Bar #6504
BERMAN & ASSOCIATES, ATTYS.
123 West Main Street, Suite M-08
Durham, NC 27701
919-683-2458
6/6, 6/13, and 6/20/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In The General Court Of Justice Superior Court Division Before the Clerk

File Number 24E001633-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of

the Estate of KENNETH AARON CAMPBELL late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 9th day of 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 6th day of June, 2024.

Jerry Campbell, Administrator
8836 Campfire Trl
Raleigh, NC 27615-3910
6/6, 6/13, 6/20, and 6/27/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In The General Court Of Justice Superior Court Division Before the Clerk

File Number 24E001670-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 30th day of May 2024, as Executor of the ESTATE OF NORMA CLEMENTS, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 6th day of September, 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 6th day of June, 2024.

John Edwin Clements
EXECUTOR
ESTATE OF Norma Clements
c/o Richard G. Long III, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
6/6, 6/13, 6/20, and 6/27/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In The General Court Of Justice Superior Court Division Before the Clerk

File Number 24E001685-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 31st day of May 2024, as Executor of the ESTATE OF KAREN E. KILARA, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 6th day of September, 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 6th day of June, 2024.

Margaret Sky
EXECUTOR
ESTATE OF KAREN E. KILARA
c/o Richard G. Long III, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
6/6, 6/13, 6/20, and 6/27/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In The General Court Of Justice Superior Court Division Before the Clerk

File Number 24-E-537

The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATRIX of the Estate of LAWRENCE FORD JR. late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 9th 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 6th day of June, 2024.

Brenda Ford Harding,
Administratrix
1001 Grandover Dr.
Durham, NC 27713
6/6, 6/13, 6/20, and 6/27/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OE PROCESS BY PUBLICATION In The General Court Of Justice Superior Court Division FILE NO. 24SP001412-310

ROBERT E. LEVIN,
Public Administrator of the Estate of ANGELA RENEE SIMPSON, DECEASED, Petitioner,

V.
LACE BULLOCK, Guardian Ad Litem for ALL PERSONS IN ESSE AND NOT IN ESSE WHO MAY CLAIM TO HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF ANGELA RENEE SIMPSON, DECEASED,

Respondents

TO: All Persons In Esse And Not In Esse Who May Claim To Have An Interest In The Estate of Angela Renee Simpson, Deceased

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above action The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Petitioner has filed a Petition to for Surplus Funds.

You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than the 16th day of July, 2024, which is 40 days from the first publication of this notice. Upon your failure to file a pleading by the above date, party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 6th day of June, 2024.

Thomas K. Reardon, Attorney for Robert E. Levin, petitioner
HAYWOOD, DENNY MILLER, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 51429
Durham, NC 27717
Telephone: 919-403-0000
6/6, 6/13, 6/20, and 6/27/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OE PROCESS BY PUBLICATION In The General Court Of Justice Superior Court Division FILE NO. 24SP001386-310

ROBERT E. LEVIN,
Public Administrator of the Estate of CATHERINE SUSANNE MICHELENA, DECEASED,
Petitioner,

V.
LACE BULLOCK, Guardian Ad Litem for ALL PERSONS IN ESSE AND NOT IN ESSE WHO MAY CLAIM TO HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF CATHERINE SUSANNE MICHELENA DECEASED,
Respondents

TO: All Persons In Esse And Not In Esse Who May Claim To Have An Interest In The Estate of Catherine Susanne Michelena, Deceased

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above action The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Petitioner has filed a Petition to for Surplus Funds.

You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than the 16th day of July, 2024, which is 40 days from the first publication of this notice. Upon your failure to file a pleading by the above date, party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 6th day of June, 2024.

Thomas K. Reardon, Attorney for Robert E. Levin, petitioner
HAYWOOD, DENNY MILLER, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 51429
Durham, NC 27717
Telephone: 919-403-0000
6/6, 6/13, 6/20, and 6/27/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In The General Court Of Justice Superior Court Division Before the Clerk

File Number 24E001656-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of ANDREAS PETER HANDRINOS late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 9th day of 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 6th day of June, 2024.

Terri Romberger, Administrator
c/o Kristen Mackintosh
Mackintosh Law, PLLC
127 US 70, Garner, NC 27529
6/6, 6/13, 6/20, and 6/27/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In The General Court Of Justice Superior Court Division Before the Clerk

File Number 23-E-1625

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JOYCE HEGGIE VISCONTI late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 9th day of 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 6th day of June, 2024.

Diana Hocutt, Executor
171 Willie Mae Lane
Timberlake, NC 27713
6/6, 6/13, 6/20, and 6/27/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of LEROY CORNELIUS SKINNER, deceased, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate of LEROY CORNELIUS SKINNER to present them to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of September, 2024, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment.

This, the 3rd day of June, 2024.

EDWARD J. FALCONE
Attorney for the Estate of LEROY CORNELIUS SKINNER
120 E. Parrish Street, Suite 200
Durham, North Carolina 27701
(919) 682-9273
6/6, 6/13, 6/20, and 6/27/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File Number 24-E-455

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of ZOE JANE CHAMBERS deceased, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to present them, duly verified, to the undersigned at 5512 Strathmore Drive, Raleigh, NC 27613 on or before the 16th day of September, 2024, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate settlement with the undersigned.

This the 13th day of June, 2024.

Shawn Chambers, Administrator
6/13, 6/20, 6/27, and 7/4/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In The General Court Of Justice Superior Court Division Before the Clerk

File Number 23-E-473

The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of LOC PHAM A/K/A LOC VAN PHAM late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 16th day of September 2024, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

This the 13th day of June, 2024.

Shawn Chambers, Administrator
6/13, 6/20, 6/27, and 7/4/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

ADVERTISMENT FOR BIDS

The North Carolina Department of Adult Correction has the following contract in Caswell County out for bid: C-C11712 Dan River PWF- Fire Alarm Replacement . The bid opening is scheduled for: Tuesday, 07/16/2024 . To obtain the Notice to Bidders, any Pre-Bid Requirements, and any Addenda visit: <https://evp.nc.gov/solicitations/details/?id=da295935-2627-ef11-840a-001dd809614e>

WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following job:

Town of Fuquay-Varina

Judd Parkway at Angier Road Intersection Improvements

Wake Co. Bid Date: June 27th

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@stwcworp.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.

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

This the 13th day of June, 2024.

Khoa Pham, Administrator
236 Morningside Drive
Durham, NC 27713
6/13, 6/20, 6/27, and 7/4/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS File Number 24E001651-310

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against CLYDE WILLIAM HUNT, JR., deceased, are notified to exhibit them to Teresa Lynn Hunt, Executor of the decedent's estate on or before September 13, 2024, c/o Katherine T. Merritt, Attorney for the Estate, at P. O. Drawer 1529, Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278, or be forever barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named Executor.

This the 13th day of June, 2024.

Teresa Lynn Hunt, Executor of the Estate of Clyde William Hunt, Jr.
Coleman, Merritt, Murphy & Rainsford
Katherine T. Merritt, Attorney for Estate

P.O. Drawer 1529,
Hillsborough, NC 27278
6/13, 6/20, 6/27, and 7/4/2024

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.
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 OE 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
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 24E000213-910
The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of STEPHEN KENDALL SCHULTZ late of Wake County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 16th day of 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 13th day of June, 2024.
Teresa Phillips, Administrator
6296 Stanleyville Drive
Rural Hall, NC 27045
6/13, 6/20, 6/27, and 7/4/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 24E002329-910
The Undersigned, having qualified as ANCILLARY EXECUTOR of the Estate of SHIRLEY MAE KEYES late of Wake County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 16th day of 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 13th day of June, 2024.
Evon Keyes Weston,
Ancillary Executor
1823 Crystal Downs Lane
Raleigh-Durham, NC 27604
6/13, 6/20, 6/27, and 7/4/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OE PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division
FILE NO. 24CV011704-910
COMPLAINT FOR ABSOLUTE DIVORCE (COMP)(DIVR)
To Beatrice Rose Egerton A/K/A Beatrice Walker A/K/A Beatrice Washington, 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 23, 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, James Egerton, will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This, the 13th day of June, 2024.
James Egerton, Plaintiff
2703 Conifer Drive, Apt. A
Raleigh, NC 27606
6/13, 6/20, and 6/27/2024

FORECLOSURE

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
NEW HANOVER COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
In The General Court Of Justice,
Superior Court Division
24 SP 28

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY THIS ACTION BROUGHT PURSUANT TO THE POWER AND AUTHORITY CONTAINED WITHIN THAT CERTAIN DEED OF TRUST EXECUTED AND DELIVERED BY CHARLES EDWARD WILLS AND MARGARET ANNE WILLS DATED AUGUST 2, 2013 AND RECORDED ON AUGUST 21, 2013 IN BOOK 5763 AT PAGE 1644 IN THE OFFICE OF REGISTER OF DEEDS OF NEW HANOVER COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA.

As a result of a default in the obligations contained within the Promissory Note and Deed of Trust and the failure to carry out and perform the stipulation and agreements contained therein, the holder of the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust made demand to have the default cured, which was not met. Therefore, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will place for sale that parcel of land, including improvements thereon, situated, lying and being in the City of Wilmington, County of New Hanover, State of North Carolina, and being more particularly described in the heretofore referenced Deed of trust. Said sale will be a public auction to the highest bidder for cash, at the usual place of sale at the New Hanover County Courthouse, Wilmington, North Carolina, on June 25, 2024 at 10:00 AM Address of Property: 233 Normandy Drive, Wilmington, NC 28412 Tax Parcel ID: R07609-004-007-000 Present Record Owners: Margaret Ann Wills aka Margaret Anne Wills

The terms of the sale are that the real property hereinbefore described will be sold for cash to the highest bidder. A deposit of five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid or Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, is required and must be tendered in the form of certified funds at the time of the sale. The successful bidder will be required to pay revenue stamps on the Trustee's Deed, any Land Transfer Tax, and costs for recording the Trustee's Deed.

The real property hereinabove described is being offered for sale "AS IS, WHERE IS" and will be sold subject to all superior liens, unpaid taxes, special assessments and other encumbrances. Other conditions will be announced at the sale. The sale will be held open for ten (10) days for upset bids, as by law required. The sale will not confirm until there have been ten (10) consecutive days with no upset bids having been filed. If for any reason the Trustee is unable to convey title to this property, or if the sale is set aside, the sole remedy of the purchaser is the return of the bid deposit.

Furthermore, if the validity of the sale is challenged by any party, the Trustee in its sole discretion, if it believes the challenge to have merit, may declare the sale to be void and return the bid deposit. In either event, the purchaser will have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee's attorney, or the Trustee.

Additional notice required for Residential Real Property with Less Than Fifteen (15) Rental Units: An order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving the notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least ten (10) days, but no more than 90 day, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.

This, the 13th day of June, 2024.
Albertelli Law Partners
North Carolina, P.A.,
Substitute Trustee By:
Franklin L. Green, Esq.
Albertelli Law Partners
North Carolina, P.A.
205 Regency Executive Park Drive
Suite 100 Charlotte, NC 28217
Phone 704-970-0391
Date: 6/13 & 6/20/2024

D/M/WBE
SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED
Pipeline Utilities, Inc. (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the WWTP Force Main Transmission Line project for the Town of Pittsboro which bids June 25, 2024, at 2:00 PM. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: Pipeline Utilities, Inc.; 2204-F Associate Drive; Raleigh, NC 27603.
Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, clearing and grubbing, hauling, asphalt paving, striping, traffic control, erosion control, seeding, sodding, linework, jack & bore, bypass pumping, flatwork, and fencing. Please contact Dustin Downie (ddownie@taloving.com) if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-772-4310; fax: 919-772-3261; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to bid closing time of the bid date. Pipeline Utilities, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.
Please advise if assistance is needed with obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or insurance/bonding to satisfy the work requirements. We are willing to accept quotations for all or partial quantities and items of work. We can offer 2-party check payments and quick payment agreements, but the agreements need to be negotiated prior to the bid date.

D/M/WBE
SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED
Pipeline Utilities, Inc. (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the Chiller Plant project for North Carolina Department of Administration which bids June 20, 2024, at 3:00 PM. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: Pipeline Utilities, Inc.; 2204-F Associate Drive; Raleigh, NC 27603 * New Atlantic Contracting, Inc.; 2635 Reynolda Road; Winston Salem, NC 27106.
Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, demolition, clearing and grubbing, hauling, asphalt paving, striping, traffic control, earthwork, erosion control, seeding, sodding, landscaping, electrical, linework, bypass pumping, dewatering, flatwork, painting, and fencing. Please contact Dustin Downie (ddownie@taloving.com) if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-772-4310; fax: 919-772-3261; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to bid closing time of the bid date. Pipeline Utilities, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.
Please advise if assistance is needed with obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or insurance/bonding to satisfy the work requirements. We are willing to accept quotations for all or partial quantities and items of work. We can offer 2-party check payments and quick payment agreements, but the agreements need to be negotiated prior to the bid date.

D/M/WBE
SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED
T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE subcontractors and suppliers for the following projects that bid for NCDOT:
Bid Date: 06/18/2024 at 2:00 PM
Project: Replace Bridge #7 Over Slash Creek in Dare County (Central Division)
Plans and specifications are available for inspection at the following locations: TA Loving Company, NC DOT Division office.
Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, demolition, clearing and grubbing, hauling, asphalt paving, striping, traffic control, earthwork, erosion control, seeding, linework, directional drilling, and concrete flatwork.
Please contact Justin E. Hill at our office as soon as possible if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Quotes may be emailed to Justin E. Hill - jehill@taloving.com. All quotations will be accepted up to bid closing time of the bid date. Our address, phone number, and fax number is as follows.
T. A. Loving Company PO Box 919 Goldsboro, NC 27533 919-734-8400 (phone) 919-736-2148 (fax).
TA Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer

D/M/WBE
SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED
Pipeline Utilities, Inc. (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Force Main HDD Crossings project for the Town of Pittsboro which bids June 25, 2024, at 2:00 PM. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: Pipeline Utilities, Inc.; 2204-F Associate Drive; Raleigh, NC 27603.
Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, hauling, asphalt paving, striping, traffic control, erosion control, seeding, sodding, linework, jack & bore, bypass pumping, flatwork, and fencing. Please contact Dustin Downie (ddownie@taloving.com) if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-772-4310; fax: 919-772-3261; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to bid closing time of the bid date. Pipeline Utilities, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.
Please advise if assistance is needed with obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or insurance/bonding to satisfy the work requirements. We are willing to accept quotations for all or partial quantities and items of work. We can offer 2-party check payments and quick payment agreements, but the agreements need to be negotiated prior to the bid date.

D/M/WBE
SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED
T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE subcontractors and suppliers for the following projects that bid for NCDOT:
Bid Date: 06/20/2024 at 2:00 PM
Project: Replace Bridge #188 Over Ward Swamp in Sampson County (Division 3)
Plans and specifications are available for inspection at the following locations: TA Loving Company, NC DOT Division office.
Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, demolition, clearing and grubbing, hauling, asphalt paving, striping, traffic control, earthwork, erosion control, and seeding.
Please contact Justin E. Hill at our office as soon as possible if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Quotes may be emailed to Justin E. Hill - jehill@taloving.com. All quotations will be accepted up to bid closing time of the bid date. Our address, phone number, and fax number is as follows.
T. A. Loving Company PO Box 919 Goldsboro, NC 27533 919-734-8400 (phone) 919-736-2148 (fax).
TA Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer



Rev. James Lawson Jr., Dies At 95 — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

ion Barry, the Freedom Riders and many others to peacefully withstand vicious responses to their challenges of racist laws and policies.

Lawson's lessons led Nashville to become the first major city in the South to desegregate its downtown, on May 10, 1960, after hundreds of well-organized students staged lunch-counter sit-ins and boycotts of discriminatory businesses.

Lawson's particular contribution was to introduce Gandhian principles to people more familiar with biblical teachings, showing how direct action could expose the immorality and fragility of racist white power structures.

Gandhi said "that we persons have the power to resist the racism in our own lives and souls," Lawson told the AP. "We have the power to make choices and to say no to that wrong. That's also Jesus."

Years later, in 1968, it was Lawson who organized the sanitation workers strike that fatefully drew King to Memphis. Lawson said he was at first paralyzed and forever saddened by King's assassination.

"I thought I would not live beyond 40, myself," Lawson said. "The imminence of death was a part of the discipline we lived with, but no one as much as King."

Still, Lawson made it his life's mission to preach the power of nonviolent

direct action.

"I'm still anxious and frustrated," Lawson said as he marked the 50th anniversary of King's death with a march in Memphis. "The task is unfinished."

Civil rights activist Diane Nash was a 21-year-old college student when she began attending Lawson's Nashville workshops, which she called life-changing.

"His passing constitutes a very great loss," Nash said. "He bears, I think, more responsibility than any other single person for the civil rights movement of Blacks being nonviolent in this country."

James Morris Lawson Jr., was born on Sept. 22, 1928, the son and grandson of ministers, and grew up in Massillon, Ohio, where he became ordained himself as a high school senior.

He told The Tennessean that his commitment to nonviolence began in elementary school, when he told his mother that he had slapped a boy who had used a racial slur against him.

"What good did that do, Jimmy?" his mother asked.

That simple question forever changed his life, Lawson said. He became a pacifist, refusing to serve when drafted for the Korean War, and spent a year in prison as a conscientious objector. The Fellowship of Reconciliation, a pacifist group, sponsored his

trip to India after he finished a sociology degree.

Gandhi had been assassinated by then, but Lawson met people who had worked with him and explained Gandhi's concept of "satyagraha," a relentless pursuit of Truth, which encouraged Indians to peacefully reject British rule. Lawson then saw how the Christian concept of turning the other cheek could be applied in collective actions to challenge morally indefensible laws.

Lawson was a divinity student at Oberlin College in Ohio when King spoke on campus about the Montgomery bus boycott. King told him, "You can't wait, you need to come on South now," Lawson recalled in an Associated Press interview.

Lawson soon enrolled in theology classes at Vanderbilt University, while leading younger activists through mock protests in which they practiced taking insults without reacting.

The technique swiftly proved its power at lunch counters and movie theaters in Nashville, where on May 10, 1960, businesses agreed to take down the "No Colored" signs that enforced white supremacy.

"It was the first major successful campaign to pull the signs down," and it created a template for the sit-ins that began spreading across the South, Lawson said.

Lawson was called on to organize what became the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, which sought to organize the spontaneous efforts of tens of thousands of students who began challenging Jim Crow laws across the South.

Angry segregationists got Lawson expelled from Vanderbilt, but he said he never harbored hard feelings about the university, where he returned as a distinguished visiting professor in 2006, and eventually donated a significant portion of his papers.

Lawson earned that theology degree at Boston University and became a Methodist pastor in Memphis, where his wife Dorothy Wood Lawson worked as an NAACP organizer. They moved several years later to Los Angeles, where Lawson led the Holman United Methodist Church and taught

at California State University, Northridge and the University of California, Los Angeles. They raised three sons, John, Morris and Seth.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said Lawson taught Southern California activists and organizers "and helped shape the civil rights and labor movement locally just as he did nationally."

"Today Los Angeles joins the state, country and world in mourning the loss of a civil rights leader whose critical leadership, teachings, and mentorship confronted and crippled centuries of systemic oppression, racism and

injustice," Bass said in a statement.

Lawson remained active into his 90s, urging younger generations to leverage their power.

Civil rights leader Rev. Al Sharpton, founder and president of the National Action Network, called Lawson "the ultimate preacher, prophet, and activist."

"In his senior years, I was privileged to spend time with him at his church in Los Angeles," Sharpton said. "He would sit in his office and tell me inside stories of the battles of the 1950's and 1960's that he Dr. King and others

engaged in. Lawson helped to change this nation — thank God the nation never changed him."

Eulogizing the late Rep. John Lewis last year, he recalled how the young man he trained in Nashville grew lonely marches into multitudes, paving the way for major civil rights legislation.

"If we would honor and celebrate John Lewis' life, let us then re-commit our souls, our hearts, our minds, our bodies and our strength to the continuing journey to dismantle the wrong in our midst," Lawson said.

Classifieds

GWUHC Design & Build Construction

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Greater Walltown UHC, Inc., located at 706 Belvin Avenue Durham, NC, is accepting proposals for the selection process to enter into a contract with a Design-Build (DB) firm to provide pre-construction and construction services that will result in the the designing and building of a one-story church building. Interested and eligible parties are asked to prepare and submit a response to the Request for Proposal (RFP) for consideration by July 11, 2024.

Questions? Please contact:
Elder Timothy Moore, Pastor
email: timothymoore_287@msn.com
telephone: (919) 672-4361

<https://www.greaterwalmartuhc.org/index.php>

Black World Series Week Begins On Tuesday, July 30

The Metropolitan Junior Baseball League (MJBL) is presenting its 33rd annual championships competition Tuesday, July 30 through Sunday, August 4, with the 20th Annual Bobby Bonds Memorial Symposium on the opening afternoon. Richmond has been the host city since 2018. The symposium will be held at the Congressional Auditorium in Washington, DC, hosted by Representative Jennifer McClellan (VA-04). Some high-powered professionals will be panelists, including Paxton Baker, Washington Nationals minority owner, Howard University professor Ricky Clemens, former Major League Baseball (MLB) VP for the National League, Sonja Stills, Commissioner of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, David James, VP Baseball and Softball Development for MLB, Jarvis Stewart, founding partner of the Washington Nationals, and former MLB player and manager, Dusty Baker, with opening remarks via zoom. It is a panel-driven think tank addressing issues that plague youth in inner-city communities and how the game of baseball and education help alleviate some of the problems. This year's topic is Reconnecting Baseball to the African American Community.

The symposium spans two decades when MJBL presented a proposal to MLB with the concept that

Historically Black Colleges and Universities could play an integral role in reversing the decline of African American participation in the game. Corey Nicholson, MJBL board chairman, said "When MLB rejected our initial proposal, Bud Selig was MLB commissioner. Robert Manfred is the commissioner now and under his leadership, he's made some commendable strides for inclusion, highlighted by the recently incorporating the Negro Leagues stats into the MLB record books. I believe he realizes the value of the sustained 20-year initiative and will incorporate some of our recommendations we present at Capitol Hill." Nicholson and Manfred are Harvard Law School alumni, which may contribute to Nicholson's optimism.

On Wednesday, a skills showcase, the Mike Berry Homerun Derby, the Opening Ceremony and pool play games highlight the day. The showcase is a baseball skills display and runs from 10 am to 12 noon at Highland Springs High School. The featured game between the Richmond MJBL All Stars and the Freedom Farm All Stars from Nassau Bahamas, 19-under, will start at 7 pm at the Diamond, the home of the San Francisco Giants double-A affiliate, the Richmond Flying Squirrels.

Pool play games will involve six divisions, 10-under, 12-under, 14-under, 16-under, 19-under and

a women's 18u softball championship. Some states involved in the championships include Virginia, Connecticut, Florida, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, South Carolina and Washington, DC. On Saturday, championship games will be played in the 10-under, 12-under and 14-under competitions. The 16-under, 19-under and women's championships will end this year's extravaganza on Sunday. The Ken Free Most Valuable Player Classic Scholarship will be awarded to the top 19-under player. The Charles "Pee Wee" Robinson Award will be presented to a 12-under or 10-under division participant. All registered players receive a free pass to nearby Kings Dominion Theme Park.

MJBL was founded in 1966 by Dr. William M.T. Forrester, the late father of current Executive Director William "Bill" Forrester. The league was established in Richmond during segregation when Black youngsters had limited opportunities to participate in organized baseball. While open to everyone, MJBL remains the only national youth league geared toward inner-city Black athletes. Forrester recently released the book Black World Series, chronicling the amazing MJBL journey. Nicholson and other MJBL supporters believe this year's event builds on the organization's illustrious history.

Durham County Seeks Applicants for RYSE Assessment Center Board

Durham, N.C. - Durham County Government is excited to announce the formation of the Advisory Board for Durham County's new Resources for Youth Success & Empowerment (RYSE) Assessment Center and invites residents to apply. The RYSE Advisory Board will be instrumental in guiding the development and implementation of the RYSE Assessment Center services, including the Youth Diversion Program. Individuals interested in ensuring the effectiveness and success of the RYSE Assessment Center are encouraged to apply to serve on the board.

The RYSE Assessment Center, located at 2432 Broad St., provides a non-threatening, inclusive atmosphere for parents who are simply looking for information for their youth who are exhibiting social, emotional, or behavioral challenges. The RYSE Assessment Center is a community-focused program that connects youth and their families to a plethora of resources in Durham County. Youth ages 10-17 and their families will have an opportunity to work with a case manager to create a plan that aids their growth and meets their needs. The Assessment Center also includes a 90-to-120-day diver-

sion program that connects at-risk youth to needed resources to reduce their contact with the criminal legal system. Both programs at the center are voluntary and cost-free. The center is not a service provider, but a resource hub for Durham residents to collaborate with Durham programs and organizations.

"We at the RYSE Assessment Center strive to act as a resource hub for the youth of Durham. Durham has a lot of resources, but if you are a parent/guardian of a youth that is struggling you might not know where to turn, we are here to help," said Jennifer McRant, Program Manager RYSE Assessment Center. "Our goal is to connect the community with the help of an advisory board to guide the center and keep us grounded."

The RYSE Advisory Board will consist of community stakeholders with knowledge and experience in youth services. The board will provide oversight and strategic guidance to the RYSE Assessment Center and its Youth Diversion Program, meeting quarterly to evaluate and discuss the center's goals, purpose, and implementation of services.

Durham County is seeking young people aged 14 -17 for Youth Member

At-Large positions to bring valuable generational insights to the board. Interested youth can apply at <https://form.jotform.com/241504951618154>.

Additionally, residents aged 18 and over who are parents or caregivers of children who have used services such as mental health, juvenile justice, or community-based programs, or who are former users of these services, are encouraged to apply for a Community Member At-Large position. This role will leverage individual's specialized knowledge and experience to enhance the RYSE Assessment Center. Those interested in applying for a Community Member At-Large position can apply at <https://form.jotform.com/241486639477068>.

The responsibilities and the qualifications for the Youth Members At-Large and Community Members At-Large are as follows:

Responsibilities:
Offer expert opinions and recommendations to enhance the center's services.

Participate in discussion processes for the Youth Diversion Program.

Provide insights based on your unique perspectives and experiences.

Youth Members: Serve on board for a one-year term.

ROMEOGUEST
A NEW YORK COMPANY



RBI

NOTICE TO SUBCONTRACTORS ADVERTISEMENT FOR PREQUALIFICATION NC State University: Baseball Renovation and Addition - DOAK FIELD



Notice to Subcontractors: Romeo Guest - Right Build, A Joint Venture, on behalf of NC State University, is prequalifying subcontractors for the bid packages noted below related to Phase 2 of the Baseball Renovation & Addition project at Doak Field. This project includes new player performance space along with renovations and additions to concessions and premier fan experience amenities.

Bid Packages for Phase 2 will include:

Bid Package	Title	Anticipated Value
2-01A	General Trades	\$366,747.00
2-01B	Final Cleaning	\$13,349.00
2-01C	Surveying & Staking	\$10,000.00
2-02A	Demolition	\$69,055.00
2-03A	Cast-in-Place Concrete	\$1,027,450.00
2-04A	Asph/Flt	\$79,100.00
2-05A	Structural Steel	\$1,055,853.00
2-05B	Architectural Metals	\$633,548.00
2-05C	Turnkey Steel	\$1,067,401.00
2-06A	Architectural Millwork	\$109,922.00
2-07A	Membrane Roofing	\$159,252.00
2-07B	Metal Roofing/Soffits & Fascia	\$495,790.00
2-07C	Turnkey Roofing	\$655,542.00
2-07D	Metal Wall Panels & Louvers	\$312,264.00
2-07E	Air Barrier	\$80,250.00
2-07F	Joint Sealants and Subgrade Waterproofing/Dampproofing	\$171,150.00
2-07G	Membrane Waterproofing	\$108,825.00
2-07H	Spray Foam Insulation	\$7,565.00
2-08A	Doors, Frames & Hardware	\$75,765.00
2-08B	Aluminum and Glazing	\$333,215.00
2-08C	Acrylic OHD's and Coiling Service Doors	\$137,120.00
2-09A	Drum Acoustics	\$506,022.00
2-09B	Acoustical Ceilings and Panels	\$127,241.00
2-09C	Carpet and Resilient Flooring	\$59,876.00
2-09D	Floor and Wall Tile	\$52,266.00
2-09E	Terrazzo Flooring	\$42,710.00
2-09F	Rubber Sports Flooring	\$19,600.00
2-09G	Turnkey Flooring	\$174,452.00
2-09H	Painting and Coatings	\$68,470.00
2-10A	Specialties	\$42,060.00
2-11A	Sports Equipment & Indoor Synthetic Turf	\$219,730.00
2-12A	Window Blinds	\$10,400.00
2-14A	Wheelchair Lift	\$26,500.00
2-21A	Fire Protection	\$115,000.00
2-22A	Plumbing	\$65,438.00
2-23A	HVAC	\$1,100,000.00
2-26A	Electrical	\$1,307,860.00
2-32A	Utility Structure	\$4,200,024.00
2-32B	Site Concrete	\$158,598.00
2-32C	Fences and Gates	\$43,900.00
2-32D	Interior Synthetic Grass Surfacing	\$22,432.00

Important Items to Note:

- First tier subcontractors must pre-qualify to be considered for contract award. Note, 2nd tier subcontractors will not be required to pre-qualify.
- Please contact Scott Wolynec at swolynec@newsouthconstruction.com to obtain the required forms to complete the prequalification process.
- A Pre-Proposal Meeting will be hosted on 6/20/2024 @ 2:00pm at Administrative Services III - 2701 Sullivan Drive Raleigh NC 27607 RM: 124A & B.
- The targeted bid day TBA at a later time.
- Prequalification applications should be submitted by Email to swolynec@newsouthconstruction.com and japelle@rightbuild.com or Mailed to Romeo Guest - Right Build, A Joint Venture Attn: Scott Wolynec at 2232 Page Road, Suite 102, Durham, NC 27703.
- Pre-Qualification Deadline: Thursday, July 11, 2024 @ 5:00pm

Nurturing Dads Raise Emotionally Intelligent Children

By Kevin Shafer

Brigham Young University

When my oldest son was born in July of 2008, I thought I could easily balance my career and my desire to be far more engaged at home than my father and his generation were. I was wrong.

Almost immediately, I noticed how social policies, schools and health care systems all make it difficult for dads to be highly involved and engaged at home. Contradictory expectations about work and family life abound.

As a fatherhood researcher with four kids of my own, I am convinced that fathers are transformative figures for children, families and communities.

But a man's mere presence, paycheck and willingness to punish misbehaving children is not nearly enough. Many of the benefits of fathering for children come from dads being nurturing, loving and engaged in all aspects of parenting.

When fathers are caregivers – when they provide emotional support and act affectionately toward their kids – the effects go well beyond growth, development, good health and solid grades. My research shows the benefits also include having children who value emotional intelligence, gender equality and healthy competition.

Nurturing versus stoic dads
Thinking about the broad impact fathers have, I analyzed how fathering affects different social values – such as a belief in gender equality – in May 2021.

Surveying more than 2,500 American fathers 18 and older, I found that involved fathering has a long-lasting impact on the personal principles and cultural perspectives of children.

In my survey, the differences between the least nurturing and the most nurturing fathers are stark.

Surveyed fathers who reported that their own fathers were highly withdrawn tended to be hyper-competitive, emotionally stoic and unappreciative of women's contributions outside the home.

In contrast, surveyed fathers who said they had highly nurturing dads were much more likely to achieve their goals in a healthy manner, be more emotionally open and believe in equitable partnership.

How dads instill values
Several decades ago, many fathers were unwilling or unable to



provide their children with emotional support or physical care. Instead, they focused on breadwinning, children's discipline and simply being present in the home.

These traditional norms left many contemporary fathers ill-equipped for modern parenthood. Contemporary social norms set broad expectations for fathers: rule enforcement and economically supporting the family while also providing for children's physical and emotional needs.

Broad paternal involvement with kids is important because dads have unique effects on kids. Children's values, beliefs, emotional expression and social development are strongly associated with fathering. Kids are better regulated emotionally, more resilient and more open-minded when their fathers are involved in their education and socialization.

Boys, for better and worse, often mirror the habits, interests and values of their own fathers.

My colleague Scott Easton and I found that how one's father behaves is especially powerful given that cultural, social and institutional norms about fatherhood are much weaker than they are for motherhood.

For example, mothers have traditionally been known for showing children affection and providing emotional support. Social expecta-

tions for these behaviors are not well defined among fathers. As a result, dads have a much larger impact on their sons' fathering behaviors than moms have on their daughters' mothering behaviors.

Positively, this means that a sizable portion of men replicate the best attributes of their own fathers – such as being loving and affectionate. Negatively, this means bad behaviors – such as extremely

5 Strategies To Grow Black Homeownership

By Antoine M. Thompson

Black Housing Policy Network

In 1865, over 159 years ago, the U.S. eliminated or outlawed slavery in the U.S. with the passage of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. One of the promises and pledges to freed slaves was that each would receive 40 acres and a mule. This commitment would help former slaves with building a home, raising a family and growing wealth through land ownership and entrepreneurship. While some Black Americans were able to receive land in the 1860s and 1870s, unfortunately, many former slaves nor their descendants ever received land. In fact, many Black Americans that were given land were chased off their land with force and brutality from the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) and other white supremacy organizations.

Still to this day the dream of land and homeownership continues to be elusive for Black Americans from slavery, post slavery, the Jim Crow

Era, the Civil Rights Era to the present. Whether it was the trick bag of sharecropping, land contracts, subprime loans, eminent domain policies or outright redlining of Black neighborhoods by banks and government organizations, it should not come as a surprise that there continues to be a persistent 30-point racial gap in homeownership rates in the U.S. Racial disparities in homeownership is at the core of wealth inequality in this country, you can't separate the two. America is anchored in home and land ownership, always has been, always will be. In fact, for many years, only white men that owned property could vote in the U.S.

Below are several strategies to help grow Black homeownership in the U.S.

Federal Student loan forgiveness for purchasing a home. African Americans are disproportionately impacted by student loan debt forcing many to forgo homeownership. A program that addresses this dis-

parity and forgives student loan debt would help many Black Americans achieve their homeownership dreams.

Create down payment assistance and federal Housing programs for Black descendants of slavery. Currently there are initiatives and dedicated federal housing and mortgage lending programs and incentives for Native Americans, similar efforts should be established for Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC), those that are descendants of slaves in America.

Create federal and state homeownership zone programs in communities with persistent low rates of Black homeownership especially in formerly redlined communities. Intentional efforts to invest in rehabilitation of existing homes, coupled with infill housing, funding for homebuyer education, downpayment and closing subsidies, special purpose mortgage credit programs, energy efficiency grants, and property tax incentives would have a huge impact

and institutions. Paid family leave, flexible work arrangements and integration of fathers into prenatal and postnatal care are all effective ways to encourage fathers to be more involved.

Many fathers increased their share of child care tasks during the COVID-19 pandemic. These shifts may become permanent, ultimately changing cultural values around parenting and gender roles.

Society also needs to provide clearer messaging to fathers about what does and does not work in parenting. For example, my colleagues and I have shown that men who believe they should be nurturing parents are more involved in their children's lives. Fathers who demonstrate healthy masculine traits like assertiveness and strong goal orientation also tend to be sensitive, engaged parents.

Thus, there are many routes to transformative fathering. And this is not simply behavior for biological fathers. Fatherhood is broadly defined, and people often look to nonbiological father figures like relatives, stepfathers, foster fathers and unrelated mentors.

All men who support and care for children have a critical role to play in instilling positive social values in future generations.

on increasing Black homeownership. Lower mortgage interest rates despite the current historically low rate of Black unemployment in the U.S., high mortgage interest rates are limiting the potential for increasing the growth rate of Black homeownership. According to data from Freddie Mac, there are over 2 million mortgage/credit eligible potential Black American homebuyers in the U.S.

Increasing the number of Black Real Estate Agents, Appraisers, Loan Officers and Underwriters the housing ecosystem sorely lacks diversity. Underrepresentation in these key professions plays a major role in housing discrimination, redlining, bias in mortgage lending, and the undervaluing of properties owned by Black Americans.

It's important to note that Juneteenth and homeownership month are in the same month. Hopefully, one day, the promise of land and home ownership will be realized equally and equitably for Black Americans.



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