



## Outrage After Letter Suggests HBCU Merger

By Cash Michaels  
 Contributing writer

Supporters and alumni of both Shaw University and St. Augustine's University (SAU) are alarmed about a June 17th letter to the "Falcon Nation" from Brian Boulware, Chairman of SAU's Board of Trustees, where he alleges the Raleigh business community is pressuring both historically Black universities to merge so that Shaw U's 28 acres in downtown Raleigh can be used for future commercial and residential development.

In the four-page missive, Boulware alleges he, Interim SAU Pres. Marcus Burgess, Shaw U Pres. Dr. Paulette Dillard and other administration officials from both HBCUs recently attended a dinner with leaders of Raleigh's business community.

In attendance were a television station owner, a former editor of the local newspaper, a prominent local developer, and executives of another local higher educational institution, Boulware wrote.

WRAL-TV and WTVD-TV in Raleigh have identified three of the business leaders present at the dinner as local developer Smedes York, former News and Observer publisher Orage Quarles and Capitol Broadcasting Co.'s CEO Jim Goodmon.

After exchanging pleasantries, the owner of the television station stated, "Let's get to the bottom of this: Raleigh doesn't need two black universities. We need the two to merge. I don't care what you call it. However, we need them both on SAU's property because we need downtown land to expand the development footprint."

Boulware's letter continued, I turned to the other university's president in attendance and asked, "Do you agree with this?" She responded, "I'm going to reserve judgment." I later learned that her Board



Chairman had floated the idea of a "merger" to the former SAU Chairman three or four weeks before the dinner, which he didn't take seriously. Additionally, the local developer stated, "You have no leverage in this situation. You need to consider this as an option." The developer informed us that the Raleigh business community shared similar sentiments, thus limiting our access to financial resources. Following a tense dialogue, rejection of the proposal, and the conclusion of dinner, we left promptly. The next day, an article and a news report highlighted the financial challenges SAU and other regional HBCUs in NC faced. Shortly after that, a targeted campaign

against SAU ensued. Jim Goodmon, as chairman of Capitol Broadcasting Co., owns WRAL-TV, along with several other successful television and radio stations across North Carolina. Goodmon, though confirmed to be at the dinner, has not confirmed as making the alleged remarks of the "owner of the television station." The same with real estate developer George Smedes York, former Raleigh mayor, and family construction company executive. York did cause controversy several years ago for suggesting that a Black-owned YMCA in Raleigh that was important to Southeast Raleigh wasn't needed and should be closed. He felt that all Y attendees should be using another,

white-owned YMCA facility in the city. Again, York was confirmed to be at the business dinner, but not confirmed to have been quoted by Boulware. The third business leader confirmed at the dinner was Orage Quarles, former publisher of the News and Observer newspaper, the leading newspaper in Raleigh. Quarles, who is African-American, reportedly told WTVD-TV that he attended the business meeting because he "...cares about the community." However, neither Goodmon or York have publicly confirmed that they were there. SAU Boulware's allegations sent shockwaves through the communi-

ties of both SAU and Shaw U, with many alums taking to social media and saying they resented business leaders saying that Raleigh "... doesn't need two Black universities."

"This is exactly what we've been talking about since 2008," opined The Friends of Shaw U on Facebook. "...billionaire developers are wheeling and dealing with the [Shaw] administration and the board to completely eliminate our existence along with all the Black people who live in this neighborhood."

"And so, here we are," posted a Shaw U alumna named "Lauren." "Not alumni, students, faculty, staff, parents or other constituents think it's a good idea that Shaw & St Aug merge."

"The DEVELOPERS are saying, 'we have a vision for Downtown. It's going to be GREAT! But first, let's move these Negros out of the way.'"

Another Shaw U alum blasted the school's administration for allegedly not being straightforward about its future plans for the campus property.

"If they were REALLY interested in growing the university, they would SAY SO. Not only are they willing to sell out - they are going to do it at the expense of obliterating our history. The board has a history of enriching themselves. Does anybody really think that they'll stop now? Shaw is sitting on a property that is worth well over a billion dollars."

The allegation is explosive because Shaw U is already embroiled in controversy for seeking a rezoning of its 28 acre downtown campus to lease pieces for development in order raise revenue to keep the school afloat.

Many Shaw U alumni, however, do not trust the plans as currently rolled out, fearing that the school will lose control of its property, and with it, preservation of several of its historic buildings.

Meanwhile, across town, SAU is

fighting to stay open after losing its accreditation, being millions of dollars in debt to vendors and the federal government, and facing numerous lawsuits from former employees. SAU officials say they hope to sell off some of the school's 105 acre property to satisfy what it owes.

Some of SAU's critics have expressed doubt about Chairman Boulware's version of events, alleging that his letter is just a distraction from the allegation that he has used the school as his own "personal piggy bank" since taking over last January.

Boulware vigorously denies this in his four-page letter.

After carefully reviewing the complaint that The Save SAU Coalition members had filed, I assure you that this complaint is an inaccurate characterization of my service on the SAU Board of Trustees, specifically the statement that I was using SAU as a "Personal Piggy Bank," which is untrue, Boulware wrote on the first page.

He has also made it clear that SAU is not interested in merging with Shaw U.

What happens next in this controversy will be interesting. The original purpose of the business meeting was to secure funding for ShawU and SAU, if not secure a commitment to further funding from the Raleigh business community.

But according to Boulware's letter, the local developer stated, "You have no leverage in this situation. You need to consider this as an option." The developer informed us that the Raleigh business community shared similar sentiments, thus limiting our access to financial resources.

Notwithstanding the preceding, we all have Falcon pride, and the Falcon is wounded, Boulware stated in his Falcon Nation letter. Now is the time for all who love SAU to unify and restore it to its pinnacle. Together, we stand; divided, we fall.

## Uncertainty Of Funding Once Again Risks Election Security

WASHINGTON — The federal government has sought to bolster election security for years through a popular grant program, but the wildly fluctuating funding levels have made it difficult for state officials to plan their budgets and their projects.

Rising misinformation and disinformation about elections, often fueled by conspiracy theories, as well as threats against election workers,

make the grants especially important, according to elections officials.

But U.S. House Republicans are seeking to eliminate funding for election security grants — known as Help America Vote Act, or HAVA grants — in this year's appropriations process, a move they also unsuccessfully attempted last year.

"We continue to unnecessarily risk the very integrity of our elections and

American democracy," Georgia Democratic Rep. Sanford Bishop said last week during committee debate on the funding bill.

Bishop, a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, said he was "concerned about the outdated and the insecure voting systems around the country that pose a very, very serious threat to our national security and to our democratic

system."

"It is irresponsible to ignore the wake-up call," Bishop added. "Our nation's election systems are currently and constantly under attack by foreign actors that are threatening our democratic values."

The bill was approved by the GOP-led House Appropriations Committee with no money in it for the grants.

Gideon Cohn-Postar, legislative

director at Issue One & Issue One Action, said during an interview with States Newsroom that while the grants have traditionally been bipartisan, several factors have affected backing for the program in recent years.

"It remains something that many Republicans in both the House and the Senate support," Cohn-Postar said. "But it's also been caught up, I think, in some of the false information about elections that began to

spread in 2020."

Former President Donald Trump, now the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, has continued to falsely claim that the 2020 election was stolen.

Issue One writes on its website that the organization strives to "unite Republicans, Democrats, and independents in the movement to fix our broken political system and build an

(See **UNCERTAIN FUNDS**, P. 2)

## The 2nd Anniversary of Dobbs Decision Spurs Biden Campaign Advocates Lineup

By: Jordan Meadows  
 Staff Writer

Monday marked the second anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision. This ruling overturned the long-standing precedent on abortion laws set by *Roe v. Wade*. On Friday morning in Raleigh, the Biden campaign orchestrated a press conference that made abortion access a central issue.

Democrats strategically linked former President Donald Trump to the *Dobbs* decision in a bid to energize voter turnout for November. During the event, Governor Roy Cooper and U.S. Representatives Deborah Ross (NC-02) and Valerie Foushee (NC-04) criticized Trump, portraying him as the driving force behind

the *Dobbs* ruling. Trump has boasted about his role, attributing it to his appointments of three Supreme Court justices who aligned with the majority decision.

"We broke *Roe v. Wade*. And we did something that nobody thought was possible: we gave it back to the States. And the states are working very brilliantly — in some cases conservative, in some cases not conservative — but they're working and it's working the way it's supposed to," Trump said.

Governor Cooper condemned the consequences of the *Dobbs* decision, asserting, "By overturning *Roe v. Wade*, Donald Trump unleashed extreme abortion bans across the country that are putting women's lives at risk and threatening doctors with jail."

"And it's not just abortion access that he would ban...in the last month, Trump's right-wing allies in the U.S. Senate blocked the right to contraception. Extreme Republicans in several states are standing against access to fertility treatments," Cooper continued.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, fourteen states under Republican control have enacted total abortion bans with certain exceptions. Three others prohibit the procedure after just six weeks of pregnancy, often before detection is feasible. North Carolina, for instance, recently marked the first anniversary of Senate Bill 20, which restricts abortions after 12 weeks: later in pregnancy than most Southern states, excluding Virginia.

In response to these develop-

ments, the Biden campaign's initiative seeks to galvanize public support ahead of the election, emphasizing the stakes for abortion rights and healthcare access across the United States.

"This election is going to be a critical turning point in the fight for reproductive freedom because Trump and his Republican allies have made it clear they'll stop at nothing to rip away our ability to make decisions for our own health care, our bodies, and our futures," said Ross.

"Donald Trump sees overturning *Roe* as something to brag about, but we see it for what it really is — an attack on a fundamental human right to make your own decisions about your body," said Foushee. "The choice this November is simple."

On Thursday, CNN will host a televised presidential debate between President Biden and Donald Trump, the focus on women's health and reproductive choice is expected to be discussed.

In February, the Alabama Supreme Court's decision to block access to IVF stirred controversy, prompting some prominent Republicans nationwide to distance themselves from the ruling. However, the court's rationale—that life begins at conception—is a core belief shared by many far-right lawmakers, including Mark Robinson, the Republican nominee for governor.

Robinson has pledged to sign a 6-week abortion ban if elected governor, with intentions to pursue a complete ban in the future. Congressman Dan Bishop, the Republican candidate for attorney general, has advocated for even stricter abortion restrictions—providing a two-birds scenario for campaigning Democrats.

"In April, House Democrats introduced legislation to safeguard IVF access, but Republican leadership has thus far refused to bring it to a vote," noted Congresswoman Ross,



### NORTH CAROLINA SENATE APPROVES SPENDING PLAN ADJUSTMENTS, AMID BUDGET IMPASSE WITH HOUSE

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — The North Carolina Senate approved late Monday a budget-adjustment measure that is stripped down and spends less compared to similar legislation advanced by their House GOP counterparts last week.

The Senate voted 27-19 along party lines for the Republican-drawn measure, which alters the second year of a two-year budget enacted by the General Assembly last fall.

With Republicans from each chamber currently unwilling to consider the other chamber's proposal, GOP leaders have signaled they're ready to send colleagues home after this week without a budget adjustment agreement. They could return later in the summer to act if the standoff eases.

"Even if we can't get an agreement with the House on these measures, I am confident that the state of North Carolina is going to be in good shape," Sen. Brent Jackson, a Sampson County Republican who is one of the chamber's chief budget-writers, told colleagues during floor debate. Jackson suggested lawmakers could even wait until early 2025 if necessary.

The Senate plan would spend \$31.4 billion during the fiscal year starting July 1, or \$287 million less than the House plan. A chief difference is that the House is seeking to raise teacher and state employee pay above what the two-year budget already orders in the coming year. The Senate adjustments don't contain these additional pay increases.

Senate GOP leaders also are unhappy with the House for dipping deeper into state reserves to cover expenses, which they say is a bad move with economic uncertainty ahead. The Senate bill text also has over 200 fewer pages than the House plan and omits scores of House policy prescriptions.

Still, the two chambers' plans agree on allocating \$487 million in public money for programs that help K-12 students attend private schools and eliminate a large combined program waiting list. Most of the money would go toward the state's Opportunity Scholarships, which saw a dramatic increase in applicants for this fall because family income limits for recipients were eliminated last year.

Both chambers also allocate roughly \$135 million to cover about 75% of the child care center grants that will no longer be provided by the federal government starting next month.

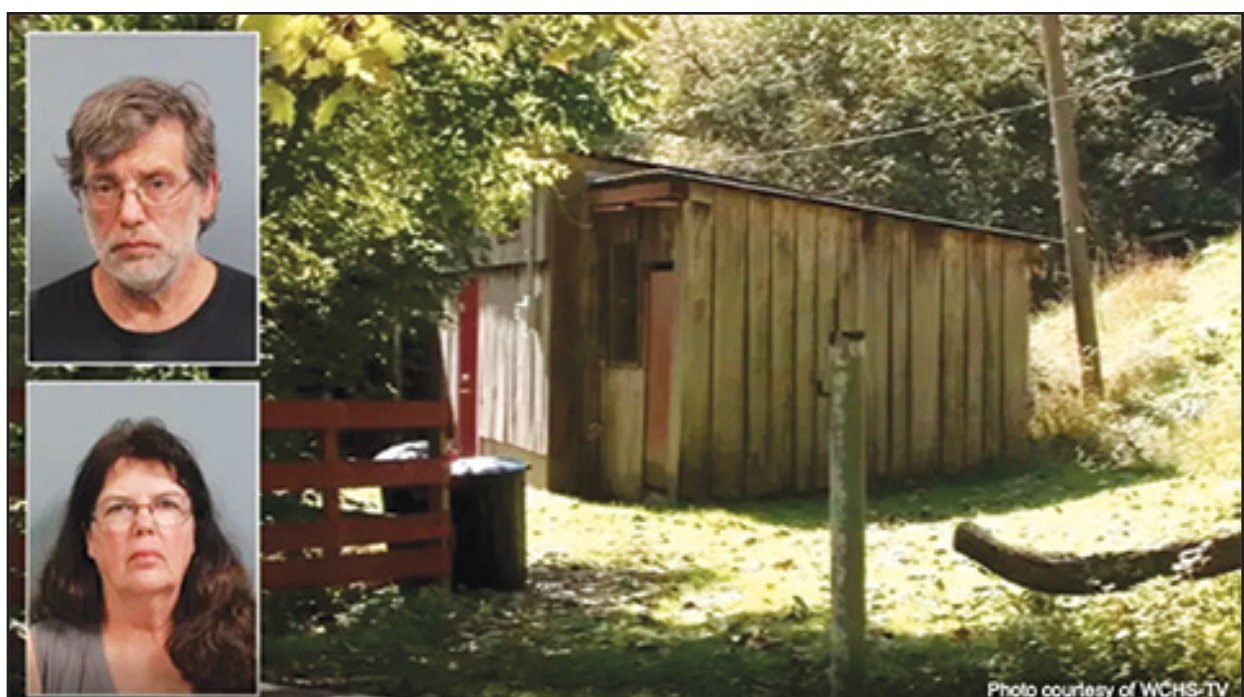
"There is nothing in this proposal that I have heard from a House member that they are opposed to," said Republican Sen. Ralph Hise, of Mitchell County, in urging the other chamber to accept the Senate measure.

There's no threat of a government shutdown without an agreement. The state would operate on the \$30.9 billion allocated for the second year in the current budget law. But a budget stalemate could threaten passage of voucher and child care spending provisions sought by many parents and businesses and that otherwise enjoy widespread support among Republicans.

Monday night's debate allowed Senate Democrats to criticize GOP spending priorities and promote those sought by Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper. They oppose expanding private-school vouchers, want hundreds of mil-







# West Virginia Couple Indicted For Slavery Type Child Abuse

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — A Sissonville couple accused of allegedly locking children up in a barn and forcing them to work are back behind bars and on a bond that's more than double what they had already been given— now set at \$500,000 each.

Donald Ray Lantz, 63, and Jeanne Kay Whitefeather, 62, appeared in Kanawha County court Tuesday pleading not guilty to over a dozen new charges against them, including human trafficking of a minor child, use of a minor child in forced labor, and child neglect creating substantial risk of serious bodily injury or death.

Kanawha County Circuit Judge Maryclaire Akers said she believed the couple's previous bond of \$200,000 was not enough.

"Along with human trafficking and neglect was serious risk of bodily injuries or death, I don't find the bond to be sufficient," Akers said.

Lantz and Whitefeather were first arrested last October after a wellness check led to the discovery of two of the couple's five adopted children living in deplorable conditions locked in a shed on the Sissonville property on Cheyanne Lane.

The indictment also alleges human rights violations, alleging the adopted children, who were black, were specifically targeted by the

couple and forced to work because of their race.

Akers said it's an indictment she's never seen before during her time as a judge.

"It alleges human trafficking, human rights violations, the use of forced labor," Akers said. "Human rights violations specific to the fact that these children were targeted because of their race and they were used basically as slaves from what the indictment alleges."

This comes after concerns from Kanawha County prosecutors that their original cash bonds were obtained through trafficking profits after the couple was able to acquire the \$400,000 bond money for their release from jail in February.

Kanawha County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Christopher Krivonyak had called the money posted to secure the couple's release "contraband directly or indirectly used or intended for use" to violate human trafficking laws.

After their arrest last fall, Lantz and Whitefeather had indicated that they had no income or assets, bringing into question where they had acquired the money for the bond from.

Krivonyak stated that the couple sold an 80-acre ranch in Tonasket, Washington for \$725,000 on Feb. 2. Whitefeather's brother, Marcus Hughes posted two \$200,000 bonds

to release the couple from the South Central Regional Jail three days later.

On March 28, Krivonyak noted that they had sold the Sissonville home where they were arrested for \$295,000.

Prosecutors say that even if their bond money came from a legitimate source, it's intended use was human trafficking and forced labor.

The couple's money still remains in the custody of the Kanawha County Circuit Court Clerk's office. Krivonyak believes it should be transferred over to a trust fund for the children.

In a previous statement made to the court, Whitefeather alleged that the barn where the 14 and 16 year old were found locked in was a "teenage clubhouse" and that they were not locked inside.

"Neighbors also reported that the children were forced to perform farm labor and were not permitted inside the residence," the filing stated.

Deputies said they found the two teenagers locked in the shed with only a small RV porta-potty and no running water.

The 16-year-old girl told deputies they had been locked in the building for approximately 12 hours and were last given food around 6:00 a.m. that day.

The children also said they were forced to sleep on the concrete floor of the shed without any mattress or padding.

Court documents stated that the 14-year-old boy had "open sores on his bare feet," and that the children were dirty and smelled of body odor.

In addition, deputies said they found a 9-year-old girl inside the main home, and three hours from when law enforcement first arrived, Lantz came home with an 11-year-old boy.

Whitefeather came home about an hour after that and led deputies to a 6-year-old girl who had been with acquaintances from the couple's church.

A trial for the couple is set for Sept. 9.

## STATE BRIEFS

*Continued from page 1*

lions of dollars more for child care and pre-K programs and seek even larger teacher and state employees raises. Republicans used parliamentary maneuvers to block votes on the substance of several Democratic amendments that reflected these priorities.

Cooper has said the competing House and Senate budgets are "terrible" and suggested to reporters last week that a budget impasse wouldn't be the worst result. While Cooper could veto any final budget measure, Republicans hold narrow veto-proof majorities.

"The Republican Supermajority's refusal to consider any of our amendments is a clear indication of their unwillingness to invest in the future of our state," Senate Minority Leader Dan Blue, of Wake County, said in a statement.

Cooper's proposed budget adjustments to spend \$34.7 billion in the next fiscal year were essentially dead on arrival when he announced them on the first day of this year's General Assembly work session.

# Dobbs—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

representing Wake County. "Similarly, Senate Republicans blocked separate bills protecting IVF and birth control just this month."

"As alarming as this is," Ross continued, "we know these are just the opening moves, which is why November's election is so crucial."

Congresswoman Foushee, who represents Durham and Orange counties among others, also voiced concern about the disproportionate impact of existing barriers and potential new restrictions on women of color.

"For Black women, Trump's actions have made becoming a mother even more dangerous," Foushee said. "We know that despite Black people making up only 22% of North Carolina's population, Black women accounted for 43% of pregnancy-related deaths between 2020 and 2022," Foushee said.

The issue of abortion rights resonates deeply with voters, with multiple polls showing widespread opposition to abortion bans both in North Carolina and across the nation, including a large swath of Republicans.

"I hear from people who are angry with Republican leaders from Trump to Republicans in the General Assembly who have stripped them of their freedoms and interfered with their most personal healthcare decisions," Ross said. "I hear from

younger women and their husbands who want to have the freedom to choose when and how they start their families."

President Biden has committed to safeguarding abortion access, and according to Foushee and Ross, if Democrats regain control of both the Senate and the House, they intend to pass legislation solidifying protections for all reproductive rights. In North Carolina, Democratic gubernatorial nominee Attorney General Josh Stein and attorney general candidate Rep. Jeff Jackson have also pledged their full support for defending reproductive rights.

During Friday's press conference, Dr. John Purakal, an ER physician from North Carolina, recounted treating multiple patients who had traveled from states with more stringent abortion laws. Shortly after Roe v. Wade was overturned, Purakal recalled treating a patient who had traveled a considerable distance out of fear of legal repercussions in her home state.

"Unfortunately, during that time, her health deteriorated," Purakal said. "What she thought was stress turned out to be a serious infection. She was becoming septic and her pregnancy failed. The safest medical decision was for her to have an abortion...But because of Trump and his allies passing extreme abortion

bans, her pregnancy turned what should be an informed conversation between a patient and her physician into a terrifying and dangerous experience."

Mary Lucas, a healthcare advocate from Raleigh, also shared her story at the press conference, stressing what she sees as the importance of reproductive freedom. Lucas did this by reflecting on her experience nearly two decades ago at 16 when she decided to have an abortion at a time when access was fully protected.

"I was getting ready to go to volleyball camp. I was thinking about my junior year of high school and suddenly I felt my entire life start to change," Lucas said. "As a child myself, there was no way I could care for a baby. That was in North Carolina when abortion was legal, where I could safely make the right decision for my health and for my future."

Next week, President Biden and the First Lady are anticipated to visit Raleigh, while former President Trump plans a rally in Chesapeake, Virginia. Trump and Biden are virtually even in national polling, with Trump holding a roughly six-point advantage in North Carolina. In the gubernatorial election, Stein and Roberson are locked in a tight race. Both the Republican and Democratic National Conventions are scheduled for this summer.

# SCOTUS Upholds Law That Keeps Abusers From Owning/Buying Guns

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court Friday upheld a federal law that bars people subject to domestic violence restraining orders from owning a firearm.

In an 8-1 decision on *United States v. Rahimi*, Chief Justice John Roberts wrote in the opinion that "our Nation's firearm laws have included provisions preventing individuals who threaten physical harm to others from misusing firearms."

"When an individual has been found by a court to pose a credible threat to the physical safety of another, that individual may be temporarily disarmed consistent with the Second Amendment," Roberts wrote.

Justice Clarence Thomas, a staunch advocate of the Second Amendment, was the lone dissenter.

Thomas argued that the question before the court was not if someone can have their firearms taken away under the Second Amendment, but instead whether the "Government can strip the Second Amendment right of anyone subject to a protective order — even if he has never been accused or convicted of a crime. It cannot."

The White House and gun safety advocates welcomed the long-awaited decision as a major victory.

"No one who has been abused should have to worry about their abuser getting a gun," President Joe Biden said in a statement. "As a result of today's ruling, survivors of domestic violence and their families will still be able to count on critical protections, just as they have for the past three decades."

This was the first major test of the

2022 Supreme Court decision — *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* — that struck down a New York law limiting carrying firearms in the open in a decision from the high court that greatly expanded gun rights. Thomas wrote that decision.

Because of the *Bruen* decision, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit vacated Zackey Rahimi's conviction on the grounds that the federal law violated his Second Amendment rights.

In 2019, Rahimi assaulted his girlfriend in Arlington, Texas, and threatened to shoot her if she told anyone, according to the Department of Justice. That led to a restraining order that suspended his handgun license and prohibited him from possessing firearms.

But Rahimi did not adhere to that order and then threatened another woman with a gun, and two months later opened fire in public five times. J. Matthew Wright, a federal public defender in North Texas who argued for his client, Rahimi, declined to comment on the decision.

**Roberts says appeals court was wrong**

Roberts argued the court's decision in *Bruen* does "not help Rahimi," and said the 5th Circuit's decision was wrong in its methodology.

Roberts said instead of reviewing the circumstances in which the federal law "was most likely to be constitutional, the panel instead focused on hypothetical scenarios where the provision might raise constitutional concerns."

He said that lower courts have misunderstood the methodology the

high court used in the *Bruen* decision and that those "precedents were not meant to suggest a law trapped in amber."


Roberts said that lower courts should discern "[w]hy and how the regulation burdens" on the Second Amendment right "are central to this inquiry."

"For example, if laws at the founding regulated firearm use to address particular problems, that will be a strong indicator that contemporary laws imposing similar restrictions of similar reasons fall within a permissible category of regulations," he said. "As *Bruen* explained, a challenged regulation that does not precisely match its historical precursors 'still may be analogous enough to pass constitutional muster.'"

Liberal Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote a concurring opinion in which she said while she agreed with the Rahimi decision, she still believed *Bruen* was wrongly decided. However, she added the decision "clarifies *Bruen*'s historical inquiry."

"Rather than asking whether a present-day gun regulation has a precise historical analogue, courts applying *Bruen* should 'consider' whether the challenged regulation is consistent with the principles that underpin our regulatory tradition," she said.

Sotomayor said in the Rahimi case, the government did not identify a "founding-era or Reconstruction-era law that specifically disarmed domestic abusers," but that it didn't need to because there is "shared principle" in restricting gun use by those who pose a threat.



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# Uncertain Funds —CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

inclusive democracy that works for everyone."

**GRANT FUNDING DECREASES**

Congress approved \$55 million in election security grants during the last appropriations process, which wrapped up this spring. That action came after the Republican-controlled House, which proposed zero dollars, conferred with the Democratic-controlled Senate, which had proposed \$75 million in funding.

That final funding level was a decrease from the \$75 million that Congress approved in both fiscal 2023 and fiscal 2022.

Congress didn't approve any election grant funding in the annual appropriations bill during fiscal year 2021. However, that followed lawmakers' allocation of \$425 million in the prior year's bill as well as an additional \$400 million in one of the COVID-19 emergency spending bills.

Cohn-Postar said that several states have sought to make their HAVA grants last more than one year by spending less than they receive, or saving the money up for bigger projects.

Louisiana, for example, hasn't spent any of its election security grant funding since 2018, in preparation for overhauling its election system. New Hampshire passed a state law that collects the grant funding in an endowment and then only spends a portion of that each year.

But that "careful" budgeting and uncertainty about how much grant funding Congress might provide in the next year has led federal lawmakers to look at states' use of the grants skeptically, Cohn-Postar said.

"The key thing we've come across ... is about half of the states have only spent about half of their HAVA grants," Cohn-Postar said. "And that gets brought up in every conversation that Congress has about these grants. They say, 'Hey, why should we appropriate more if you haven't spent?'"

Congress, he said, sometimes uses

states' "careful, thoughtful budgeting as an excuse to not give them money."

Republicans in Congress are also looking to reduce federal spending overall and have made cuts throughout many of the dozen annual spending bills, including the Financial Services bill, which includes the HAVA grants.

**'INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT' IN MAINE**

Maine Secretary of State Shenna Bellows said during an interview the grants "have been incredibly important, especially in the absence of sustainable elections funding from the federal government."

"We have seen the rapid evolution of cybersecurity threats and threats against election infrastructure over the last several years," Bellows said. "As the threats evolve, so must our preparedness. The election security grants are fundamental to our ability to make investments in improvements in our central voter registration system and cybersecurity protections for that system."

Congress' inability or unwillingness to create a predictable, stable funding program for states to administer federal elections is "unfortunate," she said.

"We are very proud that Maine has always enjoyed safe, free and secure elections," Bellows said. "But make no mistake, the lack of sustainable ongoing federal funding is a potential vulnerability in the future."

Washington state Elections Director Stuart Holmes said in an interview he plans his annual budget around not getting HAVA election security grants and is pleasantly surprised when Congress does provide the funding.

"Through my entire career, there's only been two rounds of HAVA that were significant investments into elections," Holmes said. "So it's a great surprise to get an extra million dollars at the beginning of the

year. But it does make it pretty much impossible to prepare and plan for anything if you have to spend it."

The grants don't expire at the end of the fiscal year and the federal government doesn't claw back unspent funding, allowing the states to take different approaches to how they use the money.

Holmes said during his interview with States Newsroom that the funding approved in fiscal 2020 allowed the state to "create an entire team of cybersecurity professionals to be dedicated to protecting our infrastructure."

"In the state of Washington, we have a centralized voter registration and election management system, and never before had we had dedicated election professionals that are watching the logs, preparing our system, testing our system and collaborating with other professionals to do testing," Holmes said. "So we're in a better position than we've ever been."

Even so, he said, "local election officials would certainly look forward to a stable funding source from the federal government as it relates to federal elections."

**NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTION FUND**

New Hampshire Secretary of State David M. Scanlan said when Congress passed the HAVA program in 2002, it told states the funding was primarily to set up a statewide voter registration database, ensure every polling place had accessible voting equipment, provide poll workers with training and set up voter education programs.

The New Hampshire Legislature at the time told the secretary of state to use the initial allocation from Congress to meet the requirements, but then to establish an election fund with the remaining money.

Originally, the secretary of state could use one-twentieth of the total funding in the account for annual costs of maintaining the federal

mandates, but that is currently one-twelfth of the total amount in the fund.

"New Hampshire has been doing a good job with the money that we have, but there's no question that the funds have helped us put in place security measures for our electronic systems," Scanlan said.

The state, he said, has used its federal election security grants to hire vendors that specialize in keeping the electronic systems safe.

When New Hampshire set up a new voter registration database, the state used the funding to ensure none of the software included anything nefarious.

"We've really been making sure that the systems that we're building are clean and that there's not something malicious lurking in the shadows," Scanlan said. "We've taken some really good steps that give me real confidence that our systems are in good shape."

**ADVOCATING FOR 'CONSISTENT, RELIABLE FEDERAL FUNDING'**

JP Martin, deputy communications director for the Arizona secretary of state, declined States Newsroom's request for an interview with the secretary of state, offering only to provide written responses to questions on HAVA election security grants.

Martin wrote in an email that "fluctuating levels of federal funding have significantly impacted our strategic planning and budgeting."

"The uncertainty of future allocations compels us to be cautious with expenditures, focusing on priorities such as enhancing physical security measures for voting equipment," Martin wrote. "For instance, securing equipment in cages—now requires a liftgate-equipped truck due to their increased weight—demonstrates the challenges of managing technological and budgetary constraints under limited HAVA funding."



# Business & Finance

## Organization Spotlight: National Sales Network Raleigh

By Ms Jheri Worldwide  
Staff Writer

According to Zippia.com, “The most common ethnicity among sales people is White, which makes up 56.2% of all sales people. Comparatively, 19.7% of sales people are Hispanic or Latino and 10.7% of sales people are Black or African American.” By employing a database of 30 million profiles, Zippia.com’s sales person estimates are verified against Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census, and current job openings data for accuracy.

Well over two million sales people are currently employed in America, emotional intelligence and business stamina are constantly tested, as with many avenues of the Black American experience. The resilience it takes to be in sales can be jarring to the most persistent among us. To overcome adversity in the office and out in the field can truly challenge the most patient and outgoing sales professional. Let’s look at an example.

Evelyn Smith Booker, in her book

“A Winner in Spite of...”, shared about her experience as a media sales professional, “I distinctly remember the interview with the station manager. After a series of exchanges, he asked me if I felt being African American and female would negatively impact my performance on the team. I responded that I considered both to be assets, positives, and that clients were interested in once color - green - and how our reach could bring them more customers. I told him that the client’s bottom line was what kind of return they could expect from their investment ... The ultimate decision was that I was their top candidate, and I was hired for the position.”

As a sales professional myself looking to make connections and grow professionally as Booker writes, “in spite of”, I sought out opportunities to be around people who looked and felt like me. People who were striving for success, like me. I asked myself, where do Black sales professionals go for support? What club do they hang out in? How can I obtain support as my career

evolves, make connections towards new opportunities, and be around people who inspire and motivate me? I found the solution in National Sales Network, the Raleigh chapter, widely known as NSN Raleigh. Led by visionary Pamela Williams, this welcoming and encouraging organization meets every other month and invites dynamic speakers to enlighten and educate sales professionals to reach their potential and remain encouraged.

Full disclosure, I am a member of NSN Raleigh. Wanda McArn invited me via LinkedIn and joined after my very first visit. I’ve been privileged to witness a variety of speakers at our NSN Raleigh gatherings, but the most recent presentation was by far the best to date. Diana N. Graham, CEO of Crowned for Success Global Consulting, LLC and Army Combat Veteran, spoke to us about “The 3 C’s” which include Clarity, Communication, and Community. This engaging keynote was interactive and informative. We went home with tangible tools on how to be better in our profes-



sional roles and our capacity as community leaders. Diana has worked with organizations like City of Durham, Department of Veteran Affairs, Small Business Administration, Strayer University, North Carolina Central University, Duke

University, Triangle Community Foundation, also Durham Housing Authority among many others. Her confidence and wealth of knowledge and experience shined through as she walked us through a series of exercises to strengthen our skills. I

was truly inspired, also entertained! This was exactly the type of information and support I was seeking when looking for an organization to help improve myself professionally and personally. NSN Raleigh speakers have educated us on a variety of topics from real estate investments, follow-up communication ideas, and so many other essential elements of being Black business professionals tailored to our experience and spoken in our language.

NSN is an international organization with chapters throughout the United States and in the United Kingdom. With sponsors like Johnson & Johnson, Fidelity Investments, Boston Scientific and more, joining NSN Raleigh has inspired and opened doors for me. I encourage all sales professionals or anyone looking to expand and grow their network to follow us on social media and sign up for a future meeting. Oprah Winfrey taught us, “we can’t become what we need to be by remaining what we are.” NSN is advancing sales professionals worldwide, join us!

## Debate Sparks Over USDA’s Equity Initiatives at Raleigh Conf.

By: Jordan Meadows  
Staff Writer

During the 18th annual Minority Farmers & Land Owners Conference in Raleigh on Friday, June 14th, a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Equity Commission panel convened.

The USDA side featured Charlie Rawls, former General Counsel of the Farm Credit Administration and USDA, Michelle Hudes, Co-Executive Director of the National Young Farmers Coalition, and Dwayne Goldman, Senior Advisor for Racial Equity to the Secretary of Agriculture. The panel presented their 2024 Final Report of Recommendations aimed at advancing equity within the USDA.

On the opposite side of the stage, Eloris Speight, Executive Director of the Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Research Center, offered critiques of the report assessed by her center, along with additional recommendations to augment the USDA’s initiatives.

Goldman highlighted the initial

identification of 12,000 farmers in the American Rescue Plan of 2021, acknowledging a larger number existed but were hesitant to self-identify due to fear. He explained that nearly 20,000 farmers eventually expressed interest before the initiative was canceled due to lawsuits filed arguing that it discriminated against White farmers based on race. Goldman also discussed the \$2.2 billion in the subsequent program, which attracted over 50,000 Black applicants.

One of Speight’s concerns centered on the program’s focus on “equality” rather than “equity.” She argued that equality entails everyone receiving the same resources, whereas equity involves prioritizing greater assistance for those who are most disadvantaged—in this instance, she specifically highlighted Black farmers.

“When the Inflation Reduction Act replaced the program in the American Rescue Plan, it shifted its focus: it said, ‘pay distressed farmers.’ It provided \$3.1 billion to do that,” Goldman said. “What the Inflation



Reduction Act also did was actually increase the amount of money that could be used to provide financial assistance to folks who have suffered from discrimination in farmland programs.”

Another one of Speights’ arguments was that fewer Black farmers received financial assistance com-

pared to their White counterparts. She did not clarify whether this statistic accounted for proportional representation among applicants, nor did she discuss the comparative financial burdens faced by each group.

However, she did critique the Pigford vs. Glickman settlement

in 1999, highlighting its flaws, and noted that the recommendations similarly fell short in addressing the specific concerns of the Black farming and landowning community.

“The overriding concern is that, if this is the blueprint for equity, then that becomes very concerning for us... what we have decided is to do our own report,” Speights said.

“I think that could be very helpful,” Rawls said. “You can do things that a government-authorized commission can’t do because you can talk directly about things like race – we were constrained. That’s why maybe we’re a little wobbly on ‘is it socially disadvantaged or underserved’: we know what we’re all talking about but we can’t talk about it.”

Rawls continued by saying, “There’s a lot of folks in the country right now that want to talk— you know this report talks about being mindful of history, and they claim to be using historical analysis to be making decisions about the constitutionality of things. But they’re not really paying attention to the history... we need more people talking

about history and what really has happened since Reconstruction.”

This statement provoked strong reactions from many attendees. Some exclaimed aloud, while others voiced their discontent with remarks like “This is a joke” and “This is insulting.”

Some attendees passionately criticized the USDA panel members, offering various suggestions. One questioned why funds were allocated to Ukraine instead of supporting Black farmers domestically. Another urged the USDA to improve the speed and efficiency of its policy implementation. A third attendee sought clarification on how the recommendations of the equity commission would financially support young aspiring farmers.

In any case, the session engaged the local farming community, research groups, governmental bodies, and concerned individuals in a lively exchange about the future of their shared interests, professions, and livelihoods in agriculture.

Unfortunately, no long term resolution was reached.

## Venture Capital Fearless Fund Firm Co-Founder Has Stepped Down

NEW YORK (AP) — One of the co-founders of an Atlanta-based venture capital firm that supports women of color has stepped down as chief operating officer as the company battles a lawsuit that has become emblematic of a conservative backlash against corporate diversity programs.

Ayana Parsons confirmed in a statement that she has stepped down as general partner and chief operating officer of the Fearless Fund, which she co-founded in 2019 with Arian Simone to address the wide racial disparity in funding for businesses owned by women of color.

“I remain steadfast in my support of the Fearless Fund and committed to the advancement of women and

people of color,” Parsons said in a statement posted to her LinkedIn page on Monday. “The best way I can that is to boldly focus on new strategies and tactics. Because if the courts are going to sideline our best practices, we need to design and implement alternatives. We must innovate.”

The announcement came about three weeks after a federal appeals court panel ordered the suspension of a grant contest for Black women business owners run by the Fearless Fund’s foundation arm. The grant program is the target of a lawsuit by the American Alliance for Equal Rights, a group led by Edward Blum, the conservative activist behind the Supreme Court case that ended affirmative action in college admissions.

In a 2-1 ruling, the three-judge panel ruled that the lawsuit, which claims the program is discriminatory, is likely to prevail.

The Fearless Fund has invested nearly \$27 million in some 40 businesses led by women of color since launching in 2019 with backing from prominent companies like J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., Bank of America and Mastercard. Among the companies the Fearless Fund has backed are restaurant chain Slutty Vegan and Thirteen Lune, an e-commerce platform that promotes beauty brands created by people of color.

Simone has said the Fearless Fund has struggled to raise new investment amid the lawsuit.

The lawsuit targets the Fearless

Foundation’s Strivers Grant Contest, which awards \$20,000 to businesses run by Black women. Blum has argued that the contest violates a section of the Civil Rights Act of 1866 prohibiting racial discrimination in contracts. Lawyers for the Fearless Fund argue that the grants are not contracts but donations protected by the First Amendment.

In the statement Monday, Simone said Parsons had “poured tireless hours into advising many of our portfolio companies.”

“We are sad to see her go and wish her only the best in her new endeavors,” Simone said.

Parsons, along with her husband, also co-founded Yardstick Management, a consulting firm geared toward underrepresented business

leaders, which they sold in 2023 after 11 years.

Parsons did not give a reason for her decision to step down or say what her next steps would be,

though on her LinkedIn page, she said she would be “enjoying island life with my amazing family while continuing to fight for and embody FREEDOM.”

## Novo Nordisk To Expand JoCo Operations By \$4.1B



Novo Nordisk, a leading global pharmaceutical company, announced it will invest \$4.1 billion to build a second fill and finishing manufacturing site in Clayton, North Carolina, creating 1,000 new jobs in Johnston County. The new facility will expand Novo Nordisk’s current operations in Clayton and will grow the company’s ability to produce current and future injectable treatments for people with obesity and other serious chronic diseases. This announcement is one of the largest manufacturing investments in Novo Nordisk’s 101-year history.

“Novo Nordisk’s decision to expand its manufacturing capability with a multi-billion-dollar investment is testament to North Carolina’s top-notch workforce and long history of being a leader in the life sciences and biopharmaceutical industries,” said Christopher Chung, CEO of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina. “This announcement is the largest life sciences investment in the state’s history, and we are proud that Novo Nordisk has confidence in the workforce, resources and partnerships North Carolina provides.”

Novo Nordisk’s expansion will add 1.4 million square feet of production space for aseptic manufacturing and finished production processes, doubling the combined square footage of all three of the company’s existing facilities in North Carolina. It will also add 1,000 new jobs, besides the nearly 2,500 Novo Nordisk employees already working in the region. Novo Nordisk established a presence in North Carolina 31 years ago for its first manufacturing site in the United States. In 2016, the company announced an expansion across the street from its original facility, becoming, at the time, the largest life science investment in North Carolina’s history. The facility aims to be LEED Gold certified, utilizing state-of-the-art technology, roof-top solar panels and innovative water strategies, to deliver its products in an efficient and environmentally sustainable way. Early clearing and foundational work are already underway to prepare the 56-acre facility footprint with construction being gradually finalized between 2027 and 2029. Roughly 2,000 external contractors working on the project. Although wages will vary depending on the position, the average salary for Novo Nordisk’s new positions will be \$70,000, exceeding Johnston County’s average wage of \$50,605.

The Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina would like to recognize the North Carolina Department of Commerce as well as other key partners involved in this project, including the North Carolina General Assembly, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, the North Carolina Community College System, Johnston Community College, the North Carolina Biotechnology Center, Duke Energy, Johnston County and Johnston County Economic Development.

## NC Legislative Black Caucus Foundation’s 37th Annual HBCU Scholarship Banquet

Hundreds attended the 37th Annual HBCU Scholarship Banquet in the RTP. The Keynote speaker was the new chancellor of NCCU, Dr. Karrie Dixon. Jasmine Jackson, a sophomore at ECSU, explains how the scholarship from the NC Legislative Black Caucus Foundation assisted her education. She is majoring in Kinesiology with a minor in public health.

The goal of the NC LBCF is to provide scholarships to students at all 10 public and private Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in North Carolina. Since 2010, over \$1.9 million in scholarships have been awarded.

Mathias Bishop Photos





# Small Business Funding: Where To Find The Money You Need

Melissa Houston

CPA

Starting and running a small business often comes with significant financial challenges. Whether you're launching a new venture or looking to expand an existing one, it will require money.

For new businesses, you need money to cover startup costs such as purchasing inventory, leasing space, marketing, and hiring employees. Without sufficient capital, these resources can be difficult to attain. For established businesses, additional funding may be necessary to scale operations, invest in new technology, expand into new markets, or manage cash flow during seasonal fluctuations.

Extra funding can also be essential for navigating unexpected challenges, such as economic downturns or unforeseen expenses, ensuring the business remains resilient and competitive in a dynamic market environment.

Fortunately, there are several options available to help you finance your small business. Here's a look at some of the most common and effective funding sources:

1. Personal Savings
2. Family and Friends
3. Business Loans



These loans typically offer favorable interest rates and terms, but they can be difficult to qualify for if you don't have a strong credit history or sufficient collateral. Consider alternative lenders if traditional bank loans aren't an option.

you to qualify. SBA loans often come with competitive rates and longer repayment terms.

5. Business Credit Cards
6. Crowdfunding
7. Angel Investors

offer substantial amounts of funding and often bring valuable experience and mentorship to the table. Investors will expect a return on their investment and a say in how the business is run.

8. Venture Capital  
Venture capital firms are interested in businesses with high growth potential. In exchange for funding, they take an equity stake in the company and often play an active role in its management. This option is best suited for businesses with significant growth potential and a clear exit strategy.

9. Grants and Competitions  
Various organizations offer grants and business plan competitions that provide funding to small businesses, especially those led by women and minorities. These small business grants do not need to be repaid, but

they can be highly competitive. Research opportunities in your industry and apply to as many as possible.

10. Peer-to-Peer Lending  
Peer-to-peer lending platforms connect borrowers with individual investors. These loans often have more flexible terms than traditional bank loans, and the application process can be quicker and less stringent.

The bottom line is that securing funding for your small business can be challenging, but with the right approach, it's possible to find the financial support you need. Carefully consider each of these options, weigh the pros and cons, and choose the one that best aligns with your business goals and financial situation. By leveraging the right funding sources, you can give your small business the best chance of success.

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# Health & Wellness

## Kidneys From Black Donors Are More Likely To Be Thrown Away

By Ana S. Iltis  
Wake Forest University

As one of the leading causes of death in the U.S., kidney disease is a serious public health problem. The disease is particularly severe among Black Americans, who are three times more likely than white Americans to develop kidney failure.

While Black people constitute only 12% of the U.S. population, they account for 35% of those with kidney failure. The reason is due in part to the prevalence of diabetes and high blood pressure – the two largest contributors to kidney disease – in the Black community.

Almost 100,000 people in the U.S. are awaiting kidney transplantation. Though Black Americans are more likely to need transplants, they are also less likely to receive them.

Making matters worse, kidneys from Black donors in the U.S. are more likely to be thrown away as a result of a flawed system that erroneously considers all Black donor kidneys as more likely to stop working after a transplant than kidneys from donors of other races.

As a scholar of bioethics, health and philosophy, I believe this flawed system raises serious ethical concerns about justice, fairness and good stewardship of a scarce resource – kidneys.

How did we get here?

The U.S. organ transplantation system rates donor kidneys using the kidney donor profile index, an algorithm that includes 10 factors, including the donor's age, height, weight and history of hypertension and diabetes.

Another factor in the algorithm is race.

Research on previous transplants shows that some kidneys donated by Black people are more likely to stop working sooner after transplantation than kidneys donated by people from other races.

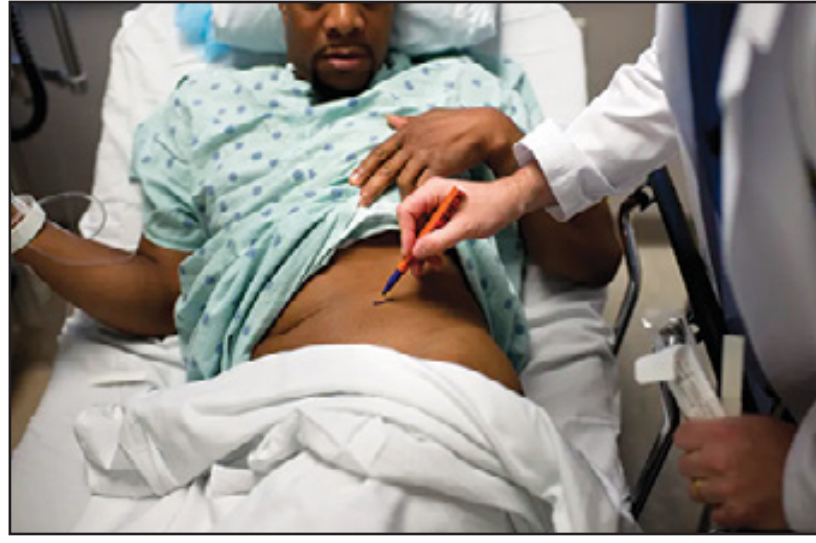
This brings down the average time a transplanted kidney from a Black donor can last for a patient.

As a result, kidneys donated by Black people are discarded at higher rates because the algorithm downgrades their quality based on the donor's race.

This means that some good kidneys may be wasted, raising several ethical and practical concerns.

Risk, race and genetics  
Scientists have shown that races are social constructs that are poor indicators of human genetic diversity.

Using a donor's race assumed people who belong to the same socially constructed group share important biological characteristics despite evidence that there is more genetic variation within racial groups than between other racial groups. Such is the case for Black Americans.



It is possible that the explanation for observed differences in outcomes lies in genetics and not in race.

People who have two copies of certain forms or variants of the APOL1 gene are more likely to develop kidney disease.

About 85% of people with those variants never develop kidney disease, but 15% do. Medical researchers

do not yet understand what is behind this difference, but genetics is likely only part of the story. Environment and exposure to certain viruses are also possible explanations.

People who have two copies of the riskier forms of the APOL1 gene almost all have ancestors who came from Africa, especially from West and sub-Saharan Africa. In the U.S., such

people typically are categorized as Black or African American.

Research on kidney transplants suggests that kidneys from donors with two copies of the higher-risk APOL1 variants fail at higher rates after transplantation. This could explain the data on Black donor kidney failure rate.

How might this practice change?

Health care professionals decide how limited resources are used and distributed. With that comes an ethical responsibility to steward resources fairly and wisely, which includes preventing unnecessary loss of transplantable kidneys.

Reducing the number of wasted kidneys is important for another reason.

Many people agree to organ donations to help others. Black donors may be disturbed to learn that their kidneys are more likely to be discarded because they came from a Black person.

This practice can further decrease the trust of Black Americans in a health care system that has a long history of mistreating Black people.

Making organ transplantation

more equitable could be as simple as ignoring race when evaluating donor kidneys, as some medical researchers have proposed.

But this approach would not account for the observed difference in transplantation outcomes and could result in transplanting some kidneys that are at increased risk for early failure due to a genetic issue.

And since Black kidney recipients are more likely to receive kidneys from Black donors, this approach could perpetuate transplant disparities.

Another option that would improve public health and reduce racial health disparities is to identify the factors that lead to some kidneys donated by Black people to fail at higher rates.

One way researchers are working to identify higher risk kidneys is using the APOLLO study, which assesses the impact of key variants on donated kidneys.

In my view, using the variant instead of race likely would decrease the number of kidneys wasted while protecting recipients from kidneys that are likely to stop working sooner after transplantation.



**THE GOLDEN YEARS**  
By Judykay Jefferson

### HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH

For as long as I can remember, food has been a big deal to me. As an only child of two deep South-raised working parents, I developed an appreciation for highly seasoned food at an early age. I was never a picky eater except I had a resistance to eating anywhere other than at my kitchen table. I knew it was unlikely that there was better food anywhere. The one exception was New Orleans, my mother's home. On our annual sojourn to Mardi Gras, I ate strange concoctions prepared by my Aunt Betty and her many friends. I was lured by the herbaceous fragrances that felt both foreign and familiar. My love affair with food was foundational in my upbringing and I was a loyal lover.

I was also a fat child. At the age of 8 years old it seemed that I went to bed a skinny child on March 7th and awoke almost as wide as I was talk on March 8th, my birthday. My mother, who refused to accept defeat put me on my first diet. We went from pork sausage to beef sausage; from frying to broiling. Somewhere around age 11, puberty happened, and I grew 3 inches and lost most of the extra weight, magically.

During the next five decades I went to college, learned to eat fast food, moved to Mississippi and discovered that anything dipped in a batter and fried was just divine. I ate good, and gained 200 pounds. I moved to North Carolina weighing 350 lbs. with severely limited mobility. At the end of my second year in North Carolina, I underwent weight-loss surgery and had to learn an entirely new way of eating. Suddenly, what I ate mattered. I lost 200 lbs. and in December of this year, will have kept it off for ten years. I also got old during those ten years.

Being old has brought new health challenges, some of which impact my nutrition. Eating a nutritious diet is essential for maintaining good health as we age. As we age, the importance of good nutrition intensifies. It becomes a cornerstone of healthy aging, impacting everything from physical strength to cognitive function. Understanding the impact of nutrition on our senior years, along with the challenges faced in maintaining it, empowers us to make informed choices for a vibrant and healthy later life.

One of the key benefits of good nutrition in aging is the support it provides for our physical health. As we mature, our bodies naturally experience a decrease in muscle mass and bone density. A diet rich in protein, calcium, and vitamin D can help mitigate this decline. Protein, found in lean meats, fish, and legumes, is essential for maintaining muscle strength, while calcium and vitamin D, abundant in dairy products and leafy greens, are crucial for bone health, preventing osteoporosis and fractures.

Furthermore, good nutrition strengthens our immune system, making us less susceptible to infections and chronic diseases. Seniors are at increased risk for conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and certain cancers. A diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains provides a wealth of essential vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants that can help prevent these illnesses.

Nutrition also plays a crucial role in maintaining cognitive function. Studies have shown that a diet rich in omega-3 fatty acids, found in fatty fish, and B vitamins, found in whole grains and leafy greens, can help improve memory, focus, and overall cognitive health.

However, maintaining good nutrition as we age presents several challenges. One challenge is the decreased ability to absorb nutrients. Changes in the digestive system, such as reduced stomach acid production, can make it harder for the body to absorb essential vitamins and minerals. Additionally, some medications commonly taken by seniors may interfere with nutrient absorption.

Another significant challenge is the decreased sense of taste and smell that often occurs with age. Food may become bland and less appealing, leading to a decreased appetite and a tendency to choose less nutritious options. Social isolation, a common issue among seniors, can make meal preparation and eating less enjoyable. Sometimes it just seems easier to just "grab something" rather than cooking. It doesn't take long before the increased sodium and sugar negatively impact your health. My solution is cooking for myself. An added step is growing a few herbs, peppers, okra, squash and tomatoes on my deck. I love the idea of cooking and eating my harvest. I feel like I've taken another step toward good nutrition.

Although benefits of maintaining good nutrition outweigh the challenges, the struggle is real but worth it. Regular healthcare checks can keep us on track and eating with intention helps in making responsible choices. Prevention is cheaper than medicine.

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# Arts & Culture

## Outlaw Music Festival Rocks N.C. With A Legendary Lineup

By: Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

The highly anticipated Outlaw Music Festival made its way to North Carolina last weekend, featuring its most impressive lineup to date and offering a diverse showcase of musical talent across various genres and generations. The festival kicked off in Charlotte on Saturday before moving to Raleigh the following day.

Headlining this year's event were music icons Bob Dylan, a folk songwriting legend and Rock and Roll Hall of Famer, and Robert Plant, the renowned frontman of Led Zepelin.

Joining the lineup is bluegrass sensation Alison Krauss, who will be performing alongside her band Union Station. Krauss, known for her captivating voice and virtuoso

musicianship, brings a blend of bluegrass and country that has garnered international acclaim. Also featured is rising star Celisse, celebrated for her versatility as a multi-instrumentalist and spoken word artist, promising a dynamic addition to the festival's diverse offerings.

Singer-songwriter Brittney Spencer is recognized for her mix of soulful vocals with a country vibe. Spencer gained widespread attention after a video of her covering The Highwomen's song circulated on social media in 2020.

The event also featured John J. Mellencamp—also known as Johnny Cougar—the esteemed American singer-songwriter known for his distinctive brand of heartland rock, characterized by its traditional instrumentation and evocative lyrics.

Notably absent due to illness was

Willie Nelson, a legendary figure in outlaw country music and founder of the festival. In a statement, Nelson said, "This year's Summer Outlaw Music Festival Tour promises to be the biggest and best yet with this lineup of legendary artists. I am thrilled to get back on the road again with my family and friends playing the music we love for the fans we love."

The festival in Raleigh kicked off with a memorable performance by Bob Dylan, who opened the show in grand style with a cover of Willie Dixon's blues classic "My Babe." Dylan's setlist included a diverse array of songs such as Chuck Berry's "Little Queenie"; The Fleetwoods' "Mr. Blue"; Hank Williams' "Cold, Cold Heart"; and Sanford Clark's "The Fool," interspersed with selections from his more recent albums,

notably tracks from 2012's acclaimed "The Tempest."

Dylan has previously performed a series of shows on this tour, but this marks his first full participation throughout the entire trek. Recently, he also announced a handful of solo tour dates set to commence next month. While Dylan joined the Outlaw Festival for a couple of shows back in 2017, this tour marks his inaugural full-scale involvement. His long-standing friendship with Willie Nelson dates back several decades, with highlights including their collaborative effort on the song "Heartland" in 1993.

"[Willie] is like a philosopher-poet," Dylan remarked. "He cuts straight to the core and leaves the listener to ponder. His guitar playing is extraordinary, though he doesn't always get recognized as a musician.

In my view, he ranks among the best. He takes a song and truly makes it his own."

Established in 2016, the festival has evolved into a cornerstone of the annual concert calendar, featuring past luminaries such as Chris Stapleton, Neil Young, and Sheryl Crow. Attendees of this year's concert enjoyed the Outlaw Village Vendor

Market, offering a variety of hand-crafted goods including jewelry and apparel.

The Outlaw Music Festival also hosts an array of notable musicians including Van Morrison, ZZ Top, Eric Church, Bonnie Raitt, Tyler Childers, Sturgill Simpson, as well as notable North Carolina natives such as Luke Combs and the Avett Brothers.



## Cooper Announces N.C. Music Office

RALEIGH - A new office to promote and celebrate North Carolina music, musicians and the music industry is being established within the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Governor Roy Cooper announced.

The new North Carolina Music Office will facilitate a multitude of music-based programming and investments across the state; enhance economic development spurred by creative economies; further attract music industry investments; and increase awareness of the state's vibrant music heritage, culture, and education. North Carolina joins a small number of states that have a state-supported music office, including Texas, Louisiana and Tennessee. Governor Cooper made the announcement and issued a proclamation during an event for Make Music Day, a global music celebration.

"North Carolina's vibrant music industry is a key part of our state's creative economy, driving economic growth and supporting nearly 45,000 jobs," said Governor Roy Cooper. "An official N.C. Music Office will support this growing and important industry."

The N.C. Music Office will be housed in the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, and it will provide an umbrella for the department's varied music assets and initiatives. A team is developing a state music strategy that will coordinate with DNCR divisions and partners including the N.C. Arts Council, the Come Hear NC initiative, the N.C. Museum of Art, the N.C. Museum of History, N.C. State Historic Sites, the N.C. Symphony, N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences, Hometown Strong, the N.C. African American Heritage Commission, and the N.C. American Indian Heritage Commission. The office will also work with other state agencies and organizations including Visit NC, the N.C. Department of Commerce, and PBS North Carolina.

"The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources is uniquely positioned to support the new North Carolina Music Office thanks to our already robust cultural and educational programming centered on North Carolina music," said DNCR Secretary Reid Wilson. "We are excited to expand our resources and opportunities for the state's thriving music industry—one that creates jobs and improves quality of life in all 100 counties."

## Arts Council of Fayetteville | Cumberland County Awards \$182,679 In Spring Cycle

Fayetteville, N.C. – The Arts Council of Fayetteville | Cumberland County is pleased to announce the distribution of \$182,679 in funding during the Spring 2024 grant cycle. This funding includes \$147,376 in Project Support grants and \$35,303 in Mini Grants. These two grant programs are designed to stimulate the

local arts economy and support the livelihoods and career development of local artists and arts, culture, and history-focused programming.

The Project Support grants provide substantial funding for organizations with programs beginning on July 1, 2024, ensuring a broad range of artistic and cultural activities can

flourish in the community. The Mini Grants, awarded to local artists, nonprofits, institutions of higher education, and municipal offices, emphasize the Arts Council's commitment to fostering creativity and innovation at all levels.

Michael Curtis Houck, the Arts Council's Director of Grants and Allocations, expressed his enthusiasm about the impact of these grants. "We are incredibly proud to support our local artists and organizations through these vital funding programs. The arts are a crucial part of our community's identity and economic vitality, and this funding ensures that creativity continues to thrive across Cumberland County."

The Arts Council of Fayetteville | Cumberland County remains dedicated to enhancing the cultural landscape through these grant programs, which play a pivotal role in sustaining the vibrant arts community and enriching the lives of residents and visitors alike. In FY25, the Arts Council has shifted to two Project Support Grant cycles; a second opportunity is now accepting applications with a due date of August 15 to support activity in winter/spring 2025; Mini Grants for individual artists will continue on a quarterly basis with the next cycle accepting applications through August 1.

The Arts Council awarded Project Support Grants to the following organizations for Arts, Culture, and History-focused projects and programs:

Artist Village Community Theatre will produce a theater series consisting of three productions between October 2024 and May 2025.

Cape Fear Studios, Inc. will produce ten gallery exhibitions across the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Cape Fear Valley Medical Foundation, Inc. will provide art therapy sessions in the Adult Behavioral Health Unit & the Youth Behavioral Health Unit (two awards).

Cape Fear Valley Medical Foundation, Inc. will provide art therapy sessions for patients and caregivers in the Cancer Center.

City of Fayetteville/Fayetteville-Cumberland Parks and Recreation will produce the annual Independence Day Concert on July 4 in Festival Park featuring the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra.

Community Concerts of Fayetteville, Inc. will produce a series of concerts taking place at Crown Theatre during the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Crossroads Outreach Alternative Program Ministries will produce Arts Ex'Posion, weekly after-school courses with a multi-disciplinary arts focus.

Cumberland Choral Arts will produce a choral series with six concerts over the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Cumberland Choral Arts will produce a youth choral series with concerts and public presentations across the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Fayetteville State University will produce The Sound that Jazz Makes, a year-long new play development project with a premiere in 2025 during Juneteenth.

Friends of the Skateparks Foundation will produce the One People Reggae & Arts Music Festival, a one-day music and vendor festival with performances by Inner Circle, Etana, and The Wailers.



Cape Fear Studios announces our new exhibition, our 13th National 2D Competition. The exhibit will be on display June 28 – July 23, 2024 in the Cape Fear Studios Main Gallery, 148 Maxwell Street, Fayetteville, NC. Come and view the works of artists from all across the United States, juried by nationally acclaimed North Carolina artist, Paula Holtzclaw. Awards for this competition will be announced at the opening reception on Fourth Friday, June 28 from 6-8 pm.

## Ag Grow Culture

## FEMA Backs \$11M Flood Infrastructure For Princeville

WASHINGTON -- A historic, flood-prone North Carolina community will become more resilient as a result of FEMA approving an \$11.2 million grant.

Princeville, located below the Tar River, has experienced repetitive flooding since it was incorporated by freed slaves in 1885.

During Hurricane Floyd in 1999, the Princeville levee failed and the town was submerged. In some areas the water rose 23 feet and took 10 days to recede. The levee does not fully wrap around the town and may not fully protect the community from future significant flooding.

This grant will fund the build out of infrastructure on a 53-acre green field in Edgecombe County outside of the Tar River floodplain on higher ground. The infrastructure includes stormwater management, wastewater collection, water distribution and electric power systems to support new housing

and civic services for Princeville residents.

"Many economically disadvantaged communities like Princeville were built in places more vulnerable to flooding and critical resilience actions are needed to increase residents' protection," said FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell. "This is why funding is so important to make the town withstand nation's costliest natural hazard, flooding, that is only becoming more devastating due to climate change. Through the Justice 40 initiative, FEMA and the Biden-Harris Administration are making sure flood-prone communities like Princeville have more access to the necessary resources to become resilient."

The funding comes from the first

funding cycle of FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program in 2020. The program funds projects that protect people and infrastructure in communities like Princeville from natural hazards and the effects of climate change.

The project qualifies as a Justice40 project, a Biden-Harris Administration initiative that aims to provide 40% of federal climate grants to disadvantaged communities through various FEMA programs. Project obligations like the one in Princeville -- located in a disadvantaged community -- help the administration meet this goal.

Disadvantaged communities like Princeville have been marginalized and overburdened by pollution and underinvestment.

Increased funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is helping FEMA direct money toward more communities like Princeville so they can develop projects to better withstand the growing climate threat.

Last year, FEMA announced more than \$1.2 billion -- 71% -- in BRIC national competition selections and approximately 53% of all BRIC and Flood Mitigation Assistance selections -- \$1.6 billion -- will benefit disadvantaged communities. FEMA expects to announce the next round of funding selections later this summer.

FEMA is providing 90% of the cost share at \$10.1 million and the remaining 10% will be funded by the state of North Carolina.

## AI Platform To Boost Outreach

EAST GREENSBORO, N.C. (June 24, 2024) – North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University will partner with North Carolina State University and data and AI (artificial intelligence) provider SAS to create a unique, cloud-based platform to advance agricultural research at the two land-grant universities and tailor the platform to make those results easier to deliver across the state.

Using a \$1 million allocation from the N.C. General Assembly, SAS will use the SAS@ Viya® data and AI platform to allow researchers at both universities to integrate data from many different sources; manage it more effectively; and present it more easily to farmers, ranchers, growers and producers across the state through the universities' Cooperative Extension divisions.

"SAS Viya will allow us to expand our 'precision,' or data-driven, agricultural research by giving us robust, predictive analytical power," said Gregory Goins, Ph.D., associate dean for research in the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (CAES). "Agriculture is already data-driven. These tools give farmers and researchers alike more insight to make cost-saving decisions and problem solve, whether in the lab or in the field."

SAS Viya is also expected to help the college grow its \$46 million research portfolio by making grants easier to obtain, said Shirley Hymon-

Parker, Ph.D., CAES interim dean.

"As the nation's largest land-grant HBCU, we are excited to use this platform. We expect it to not only boost our research capacity, but to help us attract top student and faculty talent and to develop data-driven, 'farm of the future' capabilities," she said. "We look forward to bringing research out of the lab faster and more effectively, and into the communities that are eager to use it."

One of the A&T researchers using the platform is Harmandeep Sharma, Ph.D., a research assistant professor in crop science in the CAES.

Sharma, the director of the college's plant sensor lab, will use the SAS Viya platform to analyze data from both drones and in-ground sensors monitoring specialty crops, such as hot peppers, industrial hemp and fresh market tomatoes. Her goal is to develop predictive models for studying the impacts of precise amounts of such inputs as irrigation water and fertilizers, on crop production and quality.

"This platform will help us transfer knowledge on sustainable crop production much more efficiently, ultimately benefiting small-scale farmers with limited resources who are interested in adopting high-value crops," she said.

Sharma is one of four recipients of the SAS HBCU+ Fellow Award, given this year in April. Through this program, she will receive tailored

support for teaching and learning data analytics, along with access to technical experts and curriculum consultants to help her use the SAS Viya platform with her classes.

The partnership builds on previous work between SAS and N.C. State's Plant Science Initiative. One of NCSU's projects used data and in-field sensors to detect diseases and improve the profitability of sweet potatoes.

According to legislators, the General Assembly's investment in the platform for the two land-grants represents an investment in the state's \$111 billion agriculture sector.

"We see this public-private partnership as an opportunity to serve agriculture in an innovative way – unlocking information, insights and new approaches to benefit our state's growers, producers and researchers," Sen. Brent Jackson, chairman of the Agriculture and Appropriations committees in the chamber, told SAS. "These collaborative efforts from two great universities are vital to the ongoing effort around continued advancement in agriculture."

"The SAS platform is robust and configured precisely for this type of deployment to support advanced analytics in agriculture," said Leah Burton, SAS Principal Industry Consultant, Higher Education. "We're excited about the possibilities fostered by the strength of these partnerships."





# Community

## Mr. Charles Norfleet Hunter: Catalyst in NC's Community

By: Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer



CHARLES N. HUNTER

Charles Norfleet Hunter, born in 1852 in Raleigh, was an African American educator, journalist, and historian. His family gained emancipation from slavery when he was around 12 years old; their former master was William Dallas Haywood, a one-time mayor of Raleigh.

Hunter noted that despite the oppressive laws of the time, which criminalized teaching slaves to read or write, his family members were remarkably intelligent and achieved literacy—an accomplishment he found especially notable given the legal restrictions in North Carolina statutes from 1832 to 1854: it was a crime to teach “or attempt to teach” a slave to read or write or “sell or give him any book or pamphlet.”

Following the Civil War, Hunter received his education at Freedmen’s schools in Raleigh. He later served as chief clerk in the assessor’s office of the Internal Revenue Service, overseeing operations in several southern states. Hunter actively participated in various reform movements during the late nineteenth century. In the 1870s, he was involved in the Temperance movement—dedicated to promoting moderation and complete abstinence in the use of intoxicating liquor.

In 1875, Hunter began his teaching career, starting with Black students in Robeson County. Over time, he taught in city schools in Durham, Goldsboro, and Raleigh, as well as rural schools in Wake, Chatham, and Johnston counties. One year later, Hunter married Eliza Hawkins, who was originally from Warrenton but had relocated to Raleigh after the Civil War.

In 1890, he became Principal of the Crosby-Garfield Center. With the support of Republican congressman James Edward O’Hara, the second Black American elected to Congress from North Carolina, Hunter made history as Raleigh’s first Black Postmaster. He resigned from this position when Grover Cleveland assumed the presidency in 1885.

Known for his prolific writing, Hunter authored numerous letters to editors and maintained correspondence with local and national political figures, as well as family members. He played a pioneering role as a publisher of newspapers aimed at Black North Carolinians.

Hunter served as editor of the Progressive Educator for the N.C. State Teachers’ Association, a pivotal organization for Black educators. Upon relocating to Goldsboro, he took on the editorship of The Appeal. Additionally, his writings appeared in The New National Era in Washington, D.C., as well as the

Gazette and Independent in Raleigh, all of which were publications aimed at a Black audience.

Through his journalistic endeavors, Hunter used his voice to shed light on the challenges faced by emancipated Blacks during Reconstruction and the early twentieth century, addressing issues such as voting rights, lynching, economic advancement, and education.

Together with his brother Osborne Hunter, Jr., Charles Hunter co-founded the North Carolina Industrial Fair, an exposition highlighting the advancements of African Americans in the state. The inaugural “Colored State Fair” in 1879 featured a keynote address by Governor Thomas Jordan Jarvis, and the following year, renowned anti-slavery advocate and U.S. Ambassador to Haiti, Frederick Douglass, delivered the keynote speech. In later years, Hunter contributed to the Raleigh Gazette and Raleigh Independent around 1917.

In June 1918, Charles Norfleet Hunter relocated to Portsmouth, Virginia, where he found employment at the Norfolk Navy Yard. He returned to Raleigh in 1921; however, due to his age and limited formal education, he encountered challenges in obtaining and maintaining teaching positions. From 1922 to 1931, Hunter served as principal at schools dedicated to Black students in various locations, including Garner, Haywood, and Pittsboro.

In the early twentieth century, Charles Hunter turned his attention to researching the history of Raleigh’s Black community. His memoir, “Review of Negro Life in North Carolina with My Recollections”, was privately published in 1928. Charles Norfleet Hunter passed away in Raleigh on September 4, 1932.



## J.W. Ligon Class Of 1972 Walks Across The Stage After 52 Years

By Alicia Adcock

Special to The Carolinian

On June 12, 2024, the J.W. Ligon Jr./Sr. High School Class of 1972 had their wish come true when they walked across the Ligon Stage and received a Graduation Certificate of Recognition.

The Class of 1972 attended Ligon for two years, and they have always regretted that they were unable to graduate from Ligon, because it was changed to a Magnet Middle School.

Janet Jones Jeffries, made Ligon Magnet School administrators, Gary Duvall, Principal, and Meghan Retseck, Event Planner Coordinator, aware of this during the 70th Anniversary Roundtable discussion.

On the day of the Roundtable discussion, April 12, 2024, Meghan Retseck told Janet Jeffries that she was invited to take her Graduation Walk across the Ligon Stage during the 8th Grade Moving Up Graduation Ceremony with 150 plus students.

There are no words to describe how excited Janet was about this, and

she started right away letting the other classmates of 1972 know how special this honor would be.

Students from the J.W. Ligon Class of 1972, one by one received a Certificate of Recognition, shook Gary Duvall’s hand, the Principal, and took “their long awaited walk” across the Ligon Stage after 52-years included: Linda Mial Burt, Pauline Hall Dunn, Lucille Duel Fowler, Joan Griffith, King David Harris, Brenda Jeffers, Delorise Davis Jeffries, Janet Jones Jeffries, Claude Lee, Dovie Banks Saunders, and Kenneth Singletary.

It was a day in history that will never be forgotten by these students, and they were just as proud and happy, as they would have been 52-years ago.

The Ligon Magnet School Moving Up Ceremony was one of Joy and Happiness for parents, teachers, students, and guests, and congratulations to Inelisse Valencia-Galacia, National Junior Honor Society president for her inspirational message and remarks, and to all the students,

especially those receiving awards, and top honors in Foreign Languages, Honor Society, and all of the Arts and Academics, Award of Excellence, Award of Merit, Award of Clubs and Student Organizations, Principal Award, and Assistant Principal Award. Kudos to the Student Orchestra; Superb!

Thanks to Ligon Magnet Middle School, the PTA, Lainey McQuain, 8th Grade ELA, Karolyn Emore, 8th Grade ELA, Ebony Terry, 8th Grade Science, Zenovia Hogue, School Counselor, Brandon McRae, Assistant Principal, Meghan Retseck, Event Planner Coordinator, Gary Duvall, Principal, and all that made this Moving Up Graduation Ceremony, June 12, 2024, a Historical Event, just because somebody cared enough to “Make Dreams Come True”, and for continuing to carry out the high standards of excellence, and legacies of Ligon “Little Blues.”

Remember the Old, Remember the New, Remember The Gold and the Blue...

## James Martin, New Chancellor Of NC A&T State University

RALEIGH, N.C. – James Martin II, an accomplished civil engineer who has led engineering and STEM initiatives at three large public research universities, was elected chancellor of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University today by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors.

UNC System President Peter Hans recommended Martin, vice chancellor of STEM Innovation and Research at the University of Pittsburgh, following a national search that drew a highly competitive field, including three finalists endorsed by the North Carolina A&T Board of Trustees.

Martin’s appointment will begin on Aug. 15. He succeeds Harold Martin Sr., who will retire after 15 years as chancellor.

James Martin, who served four years as the U.S. Steel Dean of Engineering in Pittsburgh’s Swanson School of Engineering, has decades of experience as an engineering professor, institute director, dean and leader of science initiatives at major public universities, including Clemson University and Virginia Tech.

During his career, he has promoted academic innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration and improved organizational culture. He will now lead the nation’s largest historically Black university on a trajectory to become a top-tier research institution, termed “Research 1” by the Carnegie Classification that categorizes universities by their levels of research activity.

“James Martin is the right leader to engineer North Carolina A&T’s continuing rise,” Hans said. “He believes in what he calls ‘impatient optimism,’ a productive sense of possibility in what can be achieved when people think across disciplines, feel a sense of shared purpose, and commit to an ambitious vision. It’s exactly the kind of mindset that will help affirm the university’s status as one of the nation’s best research institutions and engines of social mobility.”

“North Carolina A&T is a recognized national leader in harnessing technology and access to learning to unlock human potential,” Martin said. “That’s one of many reasons why it’s so exciting to have been chosen to lead the university at a moment when America is in particular need of the very things that North Carolina A&T does best. Our students, faculty, staff and alumni are on an incredible ascent, having accomplished so much in recent years. I look forward to joining them on that journey and ensuring that we continue to build on A&T’s exceptional momentum as



we set ambitious new sights for the months and years ahead.”

As dean at Pittsburgh, he oversaw an engineering program with 2,900 undergraduates, 850 graduate students and 200 faculty. There he raised research dollars by 50 percent, built strategic partnerships with industry and government, and increased diversity, enrollment and graduation rates. Previously, he chaired the civil engineering department at Clemson University and was the founding executive director of Clemson’s Risk Engineering and Systems Analytics Institute (RESA).

A scholar in disaster risk engineering and earthquake science, he has conducted research around the world in earthquake zones, leading

to stronger building codes in the United States. He has provided international engineering consulting for nearly 100 firms and government agencies.

He began his career as a faculty member in civil and environmental engineering at Virginia Tech, where he later led an engineering fellowship program for underrepresented students and founded the university’s Disaster Risk Management Institute. He earned a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering at The Citadel and a master’s and doctorate in civil engineering from Virginia Tech. He was born in Union, South Carolina to a family with deep roots across the Carolinas.

His numerous national, state and university awards for research, teaching, scholarship and service include the American Society of Civil Engineer’s Norman Medal, the highest honor for published work in his field. He was also inducted into the Virginia Tech Department of Civil Engineering’s Academy of Distinguished Alumni in 2015.

“Dr. Martin is an exceptional leader with a strong vision for where we can take our university in the coming years,” said A&T Board of Trustees Chair Kimberly Bullock Gatling. “North Carolina A&T has enjoyed enormous success in recent years, and I have no doubt that Dr. Martin will continue the university’s strong ascent and increase our national presence as a doctoral, research land-grant HBCU.”

### 2024 MERRICK-MOORE/MILL GROVE ALL SCHOOL REUNION

Durham, NC—The 2024 Merrick-Moore/Mill Grove All School Reunion will be held July 5 and 6 (Friday and Saturday) following Independence Day at the Hyatt House Hotel in Research Triangle Park. The Planning Committee agreed on the change to avoid a conflict for many alumni who attend Labor Day college and university football games and family reunion celebrations. This year the M-M/MG activities begin with Friday’s 4:00pm registration and the 5:00pm meet and greet reception. On Saturday the highlighted event is the banquet which includes live entertainment and 50s and 60s music beginning at 5:00pm. The hotel location is 10962 Chapel Hill Road, Morrisville, NC, 27560.

Merrick-Moore, located in Durham at 2325 Cheek Road, is presently an elementary school. The current facility was completed in 1950 and the first high school class graduated in 1951. The 1969 graduates represent the last Merrick-Moore high school class. Mill Grove, a three-teacher school, was built for the 1924-25 school year as an elementary facility, but over the following decade high school grades were added. By 1937, the first graduates received diplomas from Mill Grove.

The purposes of the Merrick-Moore/Mill Grove Alumni Association are to perpetuate the name of the schools in order to keep alive the history and heritage of the schools and the students who attended them, to hold a reunion from time to time for the persons who attended the schools, and to provide aid, assistance, and help to the school as may be determined by the board of directors.

The reunions are called all school because it includes any student regardless of years, school administrators, teachers, instructors and staff. For more information, contact the event website at [www.merrick-moore-millgrovealumni.org](http://www.merrick-moore-millgrovealumni.org), email [mm69mg37@gmail.com](mailto:mm69mg37@gmail.com), or write to P.O. Box 15313, Durham, NC, 27704.

## A Durham Childcare Center Prepares To Close Amid Loss Of Federal Stabilization Grants



NC Newsline—Stephanie Smith’s nearly eight-year run as a home childcare provider in Durham is coming to an end just as the Child Care Stabilization Grants that came from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) expire.

The childcare veteran with more than 20 years of experience says she can no longer afford to keep the doors open due to rising expenses and state and federal childcare subsidies that haven’t kept pace with the cost of doing business.

So, Smith made the tough decision to close the doors to her Kids Rising into Success Childcare center, which she opened in 2016. The center has one student left and will close for good June 30.

A big issue for Smith has been a chronic health condition that requires frequent doctor’s visit. As a four star-rated childcare facility, Smith said she must have a highly qualified assistant with a four-year degree in early childcare education to fill in when she isn’t there.

“North Carolina is really a stickler for education right now,” Smith said. “There’s a belief that education equals quality and that’s not the case. I believe that experience equals quality and there’s a fine line between education and experience and

what quality means. North Carolina has focused so much on the education piece that a lot of great teachers with 30 years of experience — but lack the education — are leaving the industry.”

Smith couldn’t afford to hire an assistant with a bachelor’s degree at the hourly rate he or she would command. An assistant that Smith had before the pandemic quit to take a better paying job with a major retailer, she said.

“I would have to pay them \$15 an hour or more and I couldn’t afford that,” Smith said. “I’m in a boat where I don’t want to increase my tuition because parents aren’t able to afford to pay the parent fee.”

Counties set childcare subsidies based on family size, income and other measures. Parents must pay the difference between what childcare centers charge and the subsidy they receive.

Newsline has previously reported that the state will soon spend the last of \$1.3 billion in federal grant money to support childcare providers make through the pandemic. The money allowed some providers to increase staff pay. When the federal money runs out, some childcare centers will be forced some to raise fees on families or close.

Smith did raise tuition on two occasions. The parents’ portion of childcare (parents’ fees) cost jumped from \$75 a month to as much as \$230 a month for some families, she said.

“When I increased tuition, I lost students,” Smith said. “If I increase it anymore, I won’t gain any students, so it’s better for me to find another job in childcare consulting or childcare advocacy.”

Smith said she even waived parents’ fees to make tuition more affordable to parents struggling to stay afloat.

“What’s happening is their parent fees increased, and so they were struggling to pay their parent fee,” Smith said. “I waived several parent fees, which put me behind on my bills.”

Smith’s decision to close her childcare center comes as childcare advocates are vigorously lobbying state lawmakers to make a \$300 million emergency appropriation to help keep childcare centers open and teachers in classrooms. It also comes as the Republican-led House and Senate joust over state budget legislation. Both chambers are proposing to allocate roughly \$135 million for childcare center grants that will no longer be provided by the federal government starting next month.



# Church

## Obituaries

### DEACON EUGENE WEEKS

Eugene Weeks was born to David Anderson and Mary Emma Weeks Anderson on July 9, 1940, in New Jersey City, New Jersey. He departed this life and entered the heavenly realm on June 14, 2024, surrounded by his wife and family at Rex Hospital.

Eugene attended Kimberly Park Elementary and graduated from Carver High School in Winston-Salem, NC. He furthered his education at North Carolina Wesleyan University in Rocky Mount, obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Sociology.

Eugene married the love of his life, Wilma Mae Summers, on June 21, 1964, in Gibsonville, NC. They enjoyed life together, which included adventure and traveling across the country. Eugene always had a heart for helping people; if he didn't have an answer, he diligently searched for resources for the people. He enjoyed sports, especially watching the Dallas Cowboys.

Eugene's spiritual journey began at an early age when he was baptized. After relocating to Raleigh, he found a spiritual home at Watts Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. He was a dedicated member, serving on the Deacon Board and sharing his wisdom as a teacher in the New Members Class for several years.

Eugene Weeks, a pillar of the Raleigh community, had been a grassroots leader for the past 44 years. His tireless efforts had been focused on advocating for public safety, creating job opportunities, initiating youth programs, fostering safe neighborhoods, promoting economic recovery, and enhancing the overall quality of life in Southeast Raleigh.

Eugene received several awards and commendations during his tenure in the United States Air Force from July 1961 to September 1981. He retired after 20 years of service to his country. Later, Eugene joined the Department of NC Veteran of Foreign Wars. He went on to work as an educator at Broughton High School where he taught from 1981-2000. He still holds the honor of being the first and only teacher to be recognized and inducted as an Honorary Member of the National Honor

Society. In addition to serving as an educator, Eugene served as the Precinct Chairman of District 01-02 for over eight years and worked very hard to "Get out the Vote" throughout the city of Raleigh and Wake County. He worked very actively on the Ad-Hoc Committee for establishing the Southeast Raleigh Quality of Life Team (An Impetus for Progress) whose goal was to bring improvement to conditions that affect the quality of life of residents of Southeast Raleigh.

As the Chairman of the Human Relations Commission, Eugene was very instrumental in establishing a Mayor's Unity Breakfast that allowed a diverse group of Raleigh Citizens to work together. As chair of the Human Relations Commission for Non-Profit City Grants, Weeks presented on behalf of Non-profit organizations for grant considerations in the annual budget. As a result of his hard work, June 21, 2007 was named "Eugene Weeks Day" by proclamation of former Mayor Charles Meeker. Eugene worked tirelessly to present issues of the citizens of Raleigh to the City Council, Board of Commissioners, and the Wake County Public School Board concerning human relations. Key issues that Eugene continues to fight for were public safety, jobs, youth initiatives, safe neighborhoods, gang prevention, street and road conditions, economic growth, and development in Southeast Raleigh.

As the Chairman of Raleigh Recreation, Parks, and Greenway Advisory Board, he fought for equal recreational opportunities for Southeast Raleigh. He also served as the Chairman of the Voter Education Coalition, Vice Chairman of the South Citizen Advisory Council, a Board member of the Garner Road YMCA, Chairman of the Foxfire Community Association, and Co-Chairman of the Southeast Raleigh Community Day Fellowship. Eugene advocated for a freestanding library on Rock Quarry Road, was instrumental in the construction of the Sanderford Road Park Community Center, and organized Community Watch programs for Southeast Raleigh neighborhoods.

In October 2010, Eugene Weeks was chosen to fill the seat of Councilman West on the Raleigh City Council. He continued to work on behalf of the citizens of Southeast Raleigh for economic growth and development, safe communities, youth initiatives, street and road conditions and equal opportunities.

Eugene was involved in numerous community services activities and served as a mentor to African American males. He actively volunteers with organizations such as the "Get Out to Vote" campaign, and Community Watch Programs. He received many outstanding achievements for his work such as, the Fred Fletcher Award for Park Volunteerism, 2009 Neighborhood Award, 2009 Chavis Community Center Service Legacy Award and the 2012 NAACP Raleigh, Apex Branch Humanitarian of the Year Award.

Eugene was active in bringing up issues pertaining to Shaw University and Saint Augustine's University. He secured funds for a design study for Tarboro Road; helped coordinated the efforts and approval by the City Council to get a football stadium on Saint Augustine's campus; helped secure city funds to assist Shaw University in acquiring a mural for the blank walls on Blount Street in celebration of their 150th year anniversary; and helped to secure 4.2 million dollars in the Transportation Bond for the New Bern Avenue Corridor improvement. He persuaded the city to replace bus benches for bus shelters in SE Raleigh.

After the closure of two Kroger Stores in his district-coordinated efforts to get two different grocery stores operating again. He continued to: work for more efficient transportation for citizens and students; work to eliminate homelessness in the City of Raleigh, and for more affordable housing for our citizens; work with the city council to continue to increase funds for summer youth employment programs; and to secure city funds for the expansion of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Gardens.

Eugene always hoped to continue on a mission for a better quality of life for all citizens.



## Why Is A Gutenberg Bible Relevant 500 Years After Its Initial Printing?

NEW YORK (AP) — It's not just a book.

Back in the 1450s, when the Bible became the first major work printed in Europe with moveable metal type, Johannes Gutenberg was a man with a plan.

The German inventor decided to make the most of his new technology — the movable-type printing press — by producing an unprecedented version of the Scripture for wealthy customers who could interpret Latin: leaders of the Catholic Church.

Though he planned on printing 150 Bibles, increasing demand motivated him to produce 30 extra copies, which led to a total of 180. Currently known as the "Gutenberg Bibles", around 48 complete copies are preserved.

None is known to be kept in private hands. Among those in the United States, a paper Bible can be seen at the Morgan Library & Museum, in New York City. Two more copies in vellum lie in the underground vaults, next to 120,000 other books.

Why should anyone — religiously observant or not — feel compelled to see a Gutenberg Bible up close? Here's a look at how its printing influenced the history of books and the religious landscape. And what a 500-year-old volume can still reveal. What is a Gutenberg Bible?

The term refers to each of the two-volume Bibles printed in Guten-

berg's workshop around 1454.

Before that, all existing Bibles were copied by hand. The process could take up to a year, said John McQuillen, associate curator at the Morgan Library. In contrast, it is believed that Gutenberg completed his work in about six months.

Each Gutenberg Bible has nearly 1,300 pages and weighs around 60 pounds. It's written in Latin and printed in double columns, with 42 lines per page.

Most were printed on paper. A few others on animal skin.

When a Bible came off the press, only the black letters were printed. Hand decorations and bindings were added later, depending on each buyer's taste and budget.

Some ornamentations were added in Germany. Others in France, Belgium or Spain.

Therefore, each Gutenberg Bible is unique, McQuillen said.

Why were these Bibles a turning point?

Gutenberg's invention produced a massive multiplication of complete copies of biblical texts.

The first impact was among scholars and learned priests who had easier access than ever before, said Richard Rex, professor of Reformation History from the University of Cambridge.

"This massive multiplication even led to the wider adoption of the term 'Bible' (Biblia) to describe the book,"

Rex said. "Medieval authors and others do speak sometimes of 'the Bible', but more commonly of 'scripture'."

Psychologically, Rex said, the appearance of the printed text — its regularity, precision and uniformity — contributed to a tendency to resolve theological arguments by reference to the biblical text alone.

Later on, the printing of Bibles in vernacular languages — especially from Luther's Bible (early 1520s) and Tyndale's New Testament (mid 1520s) onwards — affected the way that ordinary parishioners related to religion and the clergy.

The limits of literacy still meant that access to the Bible was far from universal. Gradually, though, religious leaders stopped being its main interpreters.

"The phenomenon of lay people questioning or interpreting the biblical text became more common from the 1520s onwards," Rex said. "Although the early Protestant Reformers, such as Luther, emphasized that they did not seek to create an interpretative 'free for all', this was probably the predictable consequence of their appeal to 'scripture alone'."

**MORE THAN A BOOK**  
Three times per year, a curator from the Morgan Library turns the page of the Gutenberg Bible on display. It's leaves not only tell a tale of Scripture, but of those who possessed it.

## Practical Biblical Principles

### OUR FATHER

Read: Matthew 6:9; Luke 11:2

By: John L. Caldwell, Pastor

New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral

It is noted that the Bible does not record the institution of Father's Day or Mother's Day. Father's Day was established by President Richard Nixon in 1972, and Mother's Day was established in 1914 by President Woodrow Wilson some 52 years before Father's Day was established.

Can you think of any reason as to why Father's Day was established some 52 years after Mother's Day? And Yet the Bible speaks nothing about either of these holidays. Needless to say, both of these holidays are man-made. This is not a put down of these worthy holidays just stating a fact.

Mothers and Fathers should be celebrated by the family. Here again which parent qualifies to be celebrated in the family? Speaking of fathers only, is it only the father who has taken his role and family duties serious enough to provide for and protect his family that should be celebrated? What about the fathers who "didn't make the grade" so to speak. Should we celebrate these fathers, as well? Up to this present day in Europe, on the 19th of November, Father's Day is celebrated along with the men and boys who are not fa-

thers. As practicing Christians, are we called to not show partiality one to another? Just something to think about when we pray. What is it to be a father? God raised this question with Job, "Does the rain have a father?" (Job 38:28).

When we take the time to ponder this Father's Day celebration, we can see just how much damage the enemy has done to the family just as he had told God he would do in the first eleven verses of the first chapter of Job. God still allows the enemy to test the families of today, especially the man of the family, the so-called head of household.

Satan is relentless against the father-led household. Today the net results of the devil's damage to the families of God are that more than half of the head of household in America today are women, who for some reason or another had to take over the responsibility of running the household.

God will give today's women head-of-households the power and strength to take care of the family. We thank God for this blessing.

Fatherhood is a serious role God had given to man. The man is to be the breadwinner and caretaker of his family with the wife as his partner and companion. The devil intends

to interfere with this role as much as possible. How successful the enemy will be, has all to do with how close the father clings to God and His word. God is very much aware of what is going on with all fathers in their family successes and failures.

God called Abraham to first take on a father's role when He called Abraham out to look at the stars at night and told him that's how many descendants you will be the father of. God made a covenant with His chosen servant to be a father of faith and a religious father to all the world (Genesis 17:2-4). Sarah, the faithful wife, almost messed this Covenant promise up when she had her personal maid lay with her husband in order to try and make God's promise for a child to come true in their later years.

Just like Jesus made it right with the thief on the cross so will He make it right for the fathers who made the grade, so to speak, and for those who didn't do too well. Jesus saves! All families should take notice to try and do well by all fathers, regardless. God's word still holds true and that is "to honor our fathers and mothers so that our days may be longer upon the earth." This holds true for the good, bad and the ugly fathers!

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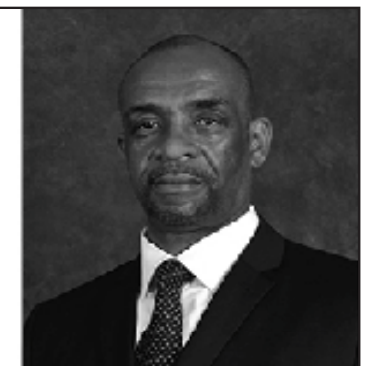
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Editorial Policy

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

# Editorials

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

By Rodney Ross

When DEI turned into DIE, the acronym’s meaning changed from “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion” to “Don’t Include Everyone”.

What happened to DEI? When the problem of over policing reached a peak with the killing of George Floyd by excessive force, the world over said “enough.” The resounding theme was that when black lives matter, all lives matter. Far too often deadly force was presented as someone not white being killed by someone who is white; as cell phone cameras became a portside view of our streets.

The result was pandering from the left and a blatant circumvention of reality from the right. The politics of perception found its way into the corporate world as accountability became the modern tar and feathering. From this diversity inclusion and equity was reborn. Seemingly overnight positions for DEI officers were filled by either double and triple minorities along with corresponding curriculum. It was as if the publishers already had their books bound, prepackaged with shipping labels.

There were token gestures like more black, ethnic and biracial actors were used in marketing. Geotagging allowed people who looked like the viewer to be seen in commercials on television and the internet. It seemed like progress until it did not.

The support for small minority businesses dried up as well as employment. The focus shifted from our country holding itself accountable, to returning back to fixing the world’s problems - at the expense of ignoring what was broken at home. The people we elected bridled law enforcement, forcing them to relax its policing. Those who were exposed for overstepping were made examples of to satisfy the public. The ripple effect was their staff transitioned to another occupation. Were the bad apples weeded out, or did they simply lay dormant like mosquitos to avoid the frost of public opinion?

As crime skyrocketed, in predominantly liberal communities, pharmacies closed. Retail chains, and restaurants shut down because it was not safe and theft made it unprofitable. When major retailers withdrew, the loss of businesses also meant loss of employment. Supply chain woes and inflation caused the price of business and living to become unattainable for the most vulnerable. Even affirmative action took a loss.

When a scholastically qualified minority from Asian descent was denied entry to an elite school because the university preference was to choose an underprivileged African American from an underserved community, the program was deemed discriminatory by those in power.

This leaves some communities worse than where we started. What are the chances that someone in a poor community, who does not have adequate access to education, and manages low average SAT scores, with no financial backing will be able to pursue the American Dream? What is the American Dream today anyway? In the pursuit of happiness, it used to be owning your home, being married with kids from your spouse, and a pet. Now it’s being able to afford a dwelling to rent for perpetuity and hoping you can afford your streaming services and low quality food. We now have influencers who show you the life you will never live because you were not born into a class of privilege that has access to connections and opportunities.

What have our elected leaders, that we put into power, done about this other than collect a check from literally everyone. Their salaries are based on taxed revenue. Taxes are higher than at any point in some people’s lifetime. The cost of everything is higher. This results in higher taxed revenue collected. Small businesses are taxed more in order to do business. Inflation makes it more expensive for small businesses to borrow money, and that interest collected goes back to the government. Whose pockets benefited more, than our civic leaders that we hired when we pressed their name in the ballot box. How is it they are managing far better than the people who hired them? Are we happy with our choice? Is it better than what it was before we put these men and women into their position? How is DEI working out for the black community? It probably should not be missed that the funding for our community has evaporated like water in a drought. Our thirst for economic equality lingers.

Both politicians and Big business companies’ commitment to everyone but the black family unit should be unmistakably conspicuous, evident, and obvious. It seems like there is no problem waiving the rainbow flag of inclusion, but that degree of commitment falls off a cliff when it includes the black community.

Those who are misguided and jaded, who are infected by the prison cell around their locked minds will tell you, vote democrat. Vote republican. Just vote. Vote for what? What are we exactly voting for? The results of our last round at the ballot priced communities out of affordable homes. How much of the housing inventory is owned by big business, and how many of those companies are in England or China. All of these shell companies make it difficult to find definitive answers as regards to who owns your community.

Our last attempt at voting created an environment that under-employed African Americans. We vote for a system that says it will create more jobs, and then import its employees from off the borders both legally and illegally. Consider this. If you drive too fast down any of our interstates and highways, see if you are caught, ticketed and not held accountable. Yet, people are allowed entry into the country illegally without penalty. Many are allowed to absorb the social resources you pay for with your taxed revenue and consumption. In some places they are given access to vote, more than likely for the very people who allowed them to cross the border illegally-to replace our voting power. The black community has been double crossed again.

Before the Ukraine instigation towards Russia, what was our conversation? Before the genocide in Palistine? It was reparations. America does not want the conversation of reparations which is why we are always talking about someone else’s problems being bigger than the one here. Could it be that they are waiting for the people of that era to be extinct like the dinosaurs. This way, with a few key swipes on a computer, all of the information of that time will be purged into a few neat sentences where stories are cherry picked and changed to fit the narrative that we are all equal and have equal protections under the law.

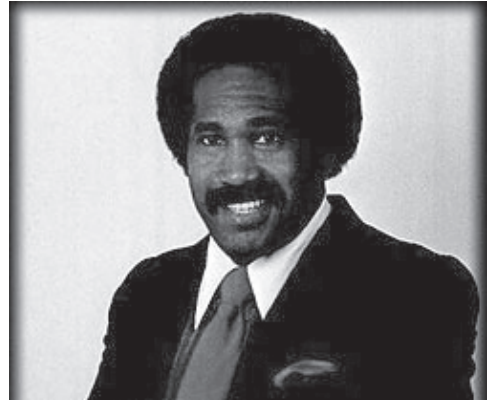
Imagine when the names like Freddirek Douglass, Denmark Vessey and even Martin Luther King, Jr. disappear. If they decide to make King’s personal life more relevant than the human rights and fair economics he was shot in the face for, the generation that comes after us will be proud to have “got it right”, even though they could not be more wrong.

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## Letters To The Editor



SOLAR RECORDS/DICK GRIFFEY PT2

1977 is when SOLAR Records was founded by Mr. Dick Griffey in Los Angeles, California. Artists such as, The Whispers, Shalamar, Lakeside, Klymaxx, The Deele and Midnight Star recorded for SOLAR Records during the 1970s and 1980s. SOLAR means Sound of Los Angeles Records. It was recognized as the Motown of the 1980s. Mr.Griffey was very good when it came to promoting and preserving the sounds of Black American music.

While Mr. Griffey was busy with the promotion of the music of SOLAR, he was involved in the Anti Apartheid Movement. There were many African Americans opposed the Apartheid system in South Africa. As a Pan Africanist, Dick Griffey felt duty bound to play a role in the dismantling of that deplorable system. In fact, Mr. Griffey was involved in a telethon to raise money for the African National Congress (ANC). This is the organization in South Africa that Nelson Mandela was active in.

Mr. Griffey managed to stay involved with the Budweiser Superfest. While the Budweiser Superfest was aimed at black folks, initially, white promoters were used.

Dick Griffey became the 1st black member of the Recording Industry Association. Clearly, Mr. Griffey wore many hats. Also, Mr. Griffey helped manage Rev. Jesse Jackson during his presidential campaign in 1984. In fact, Dick Griffey promoted Rev. Jackson’s 1984 Democratic Convention speech, “Our Time Has Come” on SOLAR Records.

SOLAR Records became known as “The House That Dick Built” He truly made his mark in our community. Sadly, Mr.Griffey passed away from complications from quadruple- bypass heart surgery in 2010. There are people who can give testimony to the work that Dick Griffey put in. Howard University Professor Scot Brown has written about the work and contributions of Mr. Griffey. Ayuko Babu (Founder of The Pan African Film Festival) says, “Had it not been for Dick Griffey, I never would have done the festival”.

I would urge the readers to take a page out of Mr.Griffey’s playbook. We have a moral obligation to our community to play a role in dismantle injustice. Lastly,we must be duty bound to preserve and celebrate the music that we created here in America. Remember, out music and culture has been influential globally.

– Linden Beckford, Jr.



To Be EQUAL  
By Marc H. Morial  
President, National Urban League

BLACK-OWNED BUSINESSES FACE SIGNIFICANT OBSTACLES. ANTI-RACIAL JUSTICE EFFORTS ARE MAKING THEM WORSE

The good news: Black-owned businesses are more likely than other businesses to have a low level of debt, or no debt at all. The bad news: that’s because Black-owned businesses are far less likely to be approved for loans in the first place, and Black business owners are more likely to pull from their personal savings for business expenses.

The Alliance for Entrepreneurial Equity, a partnership of the National Urban League and Third Way, embarked on an “analytical journey” to understand the nuanced dynamics of racial inequality in the business landscape and underscore the urgency of advancing equal opportunities for Black communities and other communities of color.

The result, the 2024 State of Black Business report, finds that Black Americans are drastically underrepresented among business owners relative to their share of the population. They are more likely than other businesses to be shut out of traditional financing opportunities. They are starved for venture capital investment. And they are less likely to be awarded government contracts.

Yet efforts to correct these disparities are under attack by extremist activists determined to preserve – if not widen – the racial gaps in the entrepreneurial ecosystem. Earlier this year, a federal court shut down a pathway to opportunity for historically disadvantaged business owners and forced the Minority Business Development Agency to offer its services to non-marginalized communities. The same right-wing activist who successfully challenged affirmative action in college admissions has sued to end a grant program for Black women entrepreneurs. Lawmakers in more than 30 states have introduced or passed more than 100 bills to shut down diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.

Despite growing at a rate of 30% between 2018 and 2021, Black-owned businesses with at least two employees represent only 2.5% of all businesses in the United States. These businesses are smaller – only 3% have more than 20 employees, with the vast majority having fewer than five employees.

They’re also younger. Nearly half are less than two years old, compared to 19% of white-owned businesses.

Black-owned businesses face the greatest obstacles to financing, by far, more than any other demographic. Only 32% -- compared with 56% of white-owned businesses -- are fully approved for the financing they seek, while 40% - compared with 18% of white-owned businesses, are completely denied loans, lines of credit, and cash advances.

Even when financing is approved, Black-owned businesses are more likely to be offered high interest rates. As a result, these businesses are more likely to delay plans to expand and have a harder time refinancing their existing debt.

The racial gap in venture capital investment is even more startling. Only 0.5% of venture capital funding went to Black founders in 2023.

As the fourth anniversary of George Floyd’s murder approaches, the demand for racial justice that arose in its wake is being stifled, along with the nation’s history of discriminatory hiring and lending practices, voter suppression and gerrymandering.

The same activists who are trying to stifle discussions of historical racism in America’s classrooms likely would prefer to stifle AEE’s report.



Guest Columnist

Armstrong Williams

FOR CAITLIN CLARK, ADVERSITY LEADS TO TRIUMPH

In 1947, legendary baseball star and Hall of Famer Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier, becoming the first Black athlete to play in Major League Baseball in the modern era when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers. Before that, he and his fellow Black athletes were relegated to the Negro leagues, lesser-known leagues at the time but ones that had superstars and an overall grueling competition that rivaled if not exceeded the MLB’s. When Robinson joined the MLB, he faced all kinds of racist acts, from verbal abuse and threats, like when Philadelphia Phillies manager Ben Chapman and his players infamously taunted Robinson with racial epithets during a game, to physical intimidation and discrimination, such as pitchers purposely throwing at his head or spiking him with their cleats, to hotels and restaurants refusing to accommodate him. Robinson said, at the time, “I felt tortured and tormented. I had to stay out there and stand there and take all that abuse.”

In 2001, at the Indian Wells Open, legendary tennis star Serena Williams and her sister Venus were accused of match-fixing. This comment was exacerbated when Venus, who was meant to play against Serena in the semifinals, withdrew from the match due to a leg injury just moments before it was meant to begin, automatically propelling Serena to the finals. At the finals, where Serena faced off against Kim Clijsters, there was noticeably loud booing from the crowd, who continued to express their anger toward Serena during the match. Serena won, but the boos continued, and while she, her father and Venus were walking to their seats, one man said to them “I wish it was ‘75; we’d skin you alive.” At the 2007 Sony Ericsson Championship, a heckler shouted to Serena, “That’s the way to do it! Hit the net like any Negro would!” Not only that, but fans and journalists alike routinely made racially driven remarks about her physique and attitude.

Earlier this month, in a WNBA game between the Indiana Fever and Chicago Sky, college and WNBA superstar Caitlin Clark of the Fever was body-checked by Sky star player Chennedy Carter in a flagrant display of unsportsmanlike conduct. Carter has been lambasted by WNBA fans and passive onlookers of the sport. There was even a moment when a person in Washington, D.C., confronted Carter outside of her team’s hotel. Longtime fans of the game have noted that this type of dirty play is common among WNBA players, yet with fresh new faces watching the sport as a direct result of Clark’s entry into the league, many onlookers questioned the racial dynamics of the situation and how it may have motivated the push.

Professional basketball is generally dominated by Black athletes. In fact, despite the fact that Blacks make up approximately 13% of the U.S. population, nearly 64% of WNBA players are Black. This statistic is practically the same in the NBA, with approximately 70% of players being Black.

Is it possible that Clark, a White athlete joining the WNBA, a league with historically low ratings and an average attendance of around 6,000 fans per game (compared to the NBA’s 18,000), and who has significantly elevated the sport to unprecedented levels, might face criticism from Black athletes? Can we also say that fans and passive observers who witnessed Carter’s shove of Clark, a common occurrence in competitive sports, may be exhibiting more severe reactions toward her due to her being a Black woman?

The level of people and personalities coming to Clark’s defense for a simple shove is disproportionately high, so high that even U.S. Rep. Jim Banks (R-Ind.) sent a letter to the WNBA encouraging them to curb “excessive” physical play. I think we can say with absolute certainty that the backlash regarding the event would not have happened if Clark were a Black athlete. We can say that with certainty because, as previously mentioned, this level of play is common in the WNBA and has been common for years.

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# 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 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  
Before the Clerk

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, ATTS.  
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  
Before the Clerk

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 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  
Before the Clerk

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 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.

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

In The General Court Of Justice  
Superior Court Division  
Before the Clerk

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

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 23CVD003980-310

VALERIE WULFF, PLAINTIFF  
VS.

PENNY S. BYRD, DEFENDANT  
TO: PENNY S. BYRD

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above entitled action. The nature of the relief sought is as follows:

Complaint for Personal Injuries as a result of a Motor Vehicle Accident on May 6, 2023 on Leesville Road in Raleigh, NC.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than August 6, 2024 and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 27th day of June, 2024.

Robert T. Perry  
N.C. State Bar #11051

PERRY, PERRY & PERRY, P.A.  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
601 Fayetteville Street, Suite 300  
Post Office Drawer 2051  
Durham, North Carolina 27702

Telephone: (919) 683-8685  
6/27, 7/4, and 7/11/2024

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In The General Court Of Justice  
Superior Court Division  
Before the Clerk

File Number 24E001710-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of JAMES G. VAMPLE 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 27th 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 27th day of June, 2024.

Kara Turner, Administrator  
1809 Faison Road  
Durham, NC 27705

6/27, 7/4, 7/11, and 7/18/2024

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File Number 24E001763-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 19th day of June, 2024, as Executor of the ESTATE OF YVONNE R. SPURNEY aka YVONNE CECILE SPURNEY, 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 27th 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 27th day of June, 2024.

ROBERT FRANK SPURNEY  
EXECUTOR  
ESTATE OF YVONNE R. SPURNEY  
AKA YVONNE CECILE SPURNEY  
c/o Jennifer Dalman, Attorney  
Walker Lambe, PLLC  
Post Office Box 51549

Durham, North Carolina 27717  
6/27, 7/4, 7/11, and 7/18/2024

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The Undersigned, having qualified on the 20th day of June, 2024, as the Executor for the Estate of CLAUDE SPRINGS, SR. aka CLAUDE SPRINGS, deceased, formerly of Durham County, North Carolina, File No. 24-E-000496-310, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 27th day of September, 2024, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery of such claims. All persons indebted to said Estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 27th day of June, 2024.

Jacqueline Melvin, Co-Executor  
Anthony L. Springs, Co-Executor  
ESTATE OF Claude Springs, Sr.,  
aka Claude Springs, deceased  
c/o Ethan C. Timmins, Attorney  
NC Bar No. 53086

Patrick Law, PLLC  
3805 University Drive, Suite A  
Durham, North Carolina 27707

6/27, 7/4, 7/11, and 7/18/2024

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

FILE NO. 24E001565-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 5th day of June 2024, as Executor of the ESTATE OF TOMMIE LOU CALHOUN, 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 27th day of September, 2024 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

This, the 27th day of June, 2024.

Julie Stoops, Executor  
ESTATE OF Tommie Lou Calhoun  
c/o Richard G. Long III, Attorney  
Walker Lambe, PLLC  
Post Office Box 51549

Durham, North Carolina 27717  
6/27, 7/4, 7/11, and 7/18/2024

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF DAVID BRIAN  
SCHMIDT



**DURHAM COUNTY**

claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned at the address below on or before the 27th 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 27th day of June 2024.

Douglas A. Hann, Administrator of the Estate of Frederick Sacco Hann, c/o The Law Office of Anne Page Watson, PLLC, 3400 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 205, Durham, NC 27705.

6/27, 7/4, 7/11, and 7/18/2024

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY**

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
BRUNSWICK COUNTY  
**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**  
In The General Court Of Justice  
Superior Court Division  
File Number: 23 CVS 201  
KENNETH OLKOWSKI and CORA OLKOWSKI, Plaintiffs,  
v.  
DOMONICK B. GIBBS and TREVOR GIBBS-ULRICH, Defendants.  
TO: DOMONICK B. GIBBS and TREVOR GIBBS-ULRICH, Defendants.

Take notice that pleadings seeking relief against you have been filed in the above-entitled civil action. The nature of the relief being sought is Breach of Contract, Fraud, Unfair and Deceptive Trade Practices, Civil Conspiracy and Punitive Damages

You are hereby required to make defense to such pleadings not later than (40) days from the first publication of this Notice and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This, the 27th day of June 2024.

Brandon C. Pettijohn, Attorney  
1022 Grandiflora Drive, Suite 160  
Leland, NC 28451  
Phone: (910) 910- 9010  
6/27, 7/4, and 7/11/2024

**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 24E001196-910

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JANICE PENNY TART late of Wake County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 2nd day of September 2024, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

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

This the 30th day of May, 2024.

Donna T. Dyer, Executor  
4620 Benson Rd.  
Garner, NC 27529

5/30, 6/6, 6/13, and 6/20/2024  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY  
**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**  
In The General Court Of Justice  
District Court Division  
FILE NO. 24CV017073-910  
**COMPLAINT FOR ABSOLUTE DIVORCE (COMP)(DIVR)**  
RUTH JANINE STEELE  
Plaintiff, Vs.  
TERRANCE LAMONT STEELE  
Defendant.

To: Terrance Lamont Steele, Defendant.

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is for ABSOLUTE DIVORCE. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than July 16, 2024 said date being at least thirty (30) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, Ruth Janine Steele, will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This, the 6th day of June, 2024.

Ruth Janine Steele, Plaintiff  
1224 Topping Lane  
Knightdale, NC 27545  
6/6, 6/13, and 6/20/2024  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY  
**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**  
In The General Court Of Justice  
District Court Division  
File No. 24CV009539-910  
To: OSCAR OMAR HERNANDEZ ZAMORA

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is for absolute divorce. You are required to make a defense to such pleading no later than July 16, 2024, said date being at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, NADIA GISELA ESPINOSA CRUZ, will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This, the 6th day of June 2024.

Yvonne Armendariz, Esq.  
Armendariz Law Office, PLLC  
6110 Lake Wheeler Road  
Raleigh, NC 27603  
Telephone: (919) 656-1524  
Yvonne@armendarizlaw.com  
6/6, 6/13, and 6/20/2024  
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**

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**

**D/M/WBE**  
**SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED**

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Wildwood Park Bridges and Boardwalks, Package B1** project for Greenville Recreation and Parks Department which bids June 27, 2024, at 2:00 PM. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company, 400 Patetown Road, Goldsboro, NC 27530 \* City of Greenville Current Bid Opportunities website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, demolition, clearing and grubbing, hauling, earthwork, erosion control, and seeding. Please contact Justin E. Hill (jehill@taloving.com) if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-734-8400; fax 919-736-2148; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to bid closing time of the bid date. T. A. Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Please advise if assistance is needed with obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or insurance/bonding to satisfy the work requirements. We are willing to accept quotations for all or partial quantities and items of work. We can offer 2-party check payments and quick payment agreements, but the agreements need to be negotiated prior to the bid date.

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 OF 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

**D/M/WBE**  
**SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED**

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Beaufort County Bridge No. 75 Pipeline Relocation** project for the Town of Chocowinity which bids July 9, 2024, at 2:00 PM. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company, 400 Patetown Road, Goldsboro, NC 27530 \* Town of Chocowinity, Municipal Building; 3391 Highway 17; Chocowinity, NC 27817 \* Rivers and Associates, Inc.; 107 East Second Street; Greenville, NC 27858 \* ConstructConnect website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to clearing and grubbing, hauling, asphalt paving, striping, traffic control, erosion control, seeding, linework, directional drilling, bypass pumping, and painting. Please contact Jeff Price (jprice@taloving.com) if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-734-8400; fax 919-736-2148; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to bid closing time of the bid date. T. A. Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Please advise if assistance is needed with obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or insurance/bonding to satisfy the work requirements. We are willing to accept quotations for all or partial quantities and items of work. We can offer 2-party check payments and quick payment agreements, but the agreements need to be negotiated prior to the bid date.

**D/M/WBE**  
**SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED**

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Gum Neck Elevated Tank and Booster Pump Station - Contract No. 1 - Elevated Tank** project for Tyrrell County which bids July 9, 2024, at 2:00 PM. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company, 400 Patetown Road, Goldsboro, NC 27530 \* Tyrrell County; 108 South Water Street; Columbia, NC 27925 \* LKC Engineering, PLLC; 140 Aqua Shed Court; Aberdeen, NC 28315 \* Carolinas AGC Website \* Dodge Data and Analytics website \* Hispanic Contractors Association of the Carolinas website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, demolition, clearing and grubbing, hauling, earthwork, erosion control, seeding, sodding, electrical, jack & bore, flatwork, CIPC, concrete forms, concrete rebar, painting, and fencing. Please contact Michael Cox (mcox@taloving.com) if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-734-8400; fax 919-736-2148; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to bid closing time of the bid date. T. A. Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Please advise if assistance is needed with obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or insurance/bonding to satisfy the work requirements. We are willing to accept quotations for all or partial quantities and items of work. We can offer 2-party check payments and quick payment agreements, but the agreements need to be negotiated prior to the bid date.

2703 Conifer Drive, Apt. A  
Raleigh, NC 27606  
6/13, 6/20, and 6/27/2024  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
File Number 24E001945-910

ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against REBECCA WALL aka Rebecca Bridges Wall, deceased, of Wake County, N.C. on 4/13/2024 are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before (3) months from the date of the first date of publication, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This June 27, 2024.

June Bazemore, Executor  
5521 Beaufort Inlet Ct.  
Raleigh, NC 27610  
6/27, 7/4, 7/11, and 7/18/2024  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
In The General Court Of Justice  
Superior Court Division  
Before the Clerk  
File Number 24E002402-910

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of MARGARET ANN CARRARA A/K/A MARGARET FAIRCLOTH CARRARA 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 27th 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 27th day of June, 2024.

Debra Carrara Floyd, Executor  
101 South Hampton Dr.  
Knightdale, NC 27545  
6/27, 7/4, 7/11, and 7/18/2024

**D/M/WBE**  
**SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED**

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Gum Neck Elevated Tank and Booster Pump Station - Contract No. 1 - Elevated Tank** project for Tyrrell County which bids July 9, 2024, at 2:00 PM. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company, 400 Patetown Road, Goldsboro, NC 27530 \* Tyrrell County; 108 South Water Street; Columbia, NC 27925 \* LKC Engineering, PLLC; 140 Aqua Shed Court; Aberdeen, NC 28315 \* Carolinas AGC Website \* Dodge Data and Analytics website \* Hispanic Contractors Association of the Carolinas website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, demolition, clearing and grubbing, hauling, earthwork, erosion control, seeding, sodding, electrical, jack & bore, flatwork, CIPC, concrete forms, concrete rebar, painting, and fencing. Please contact Michael Cox (mcox@taloving.com) if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-734-8400; fax 919-736-2148; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to bid closing time of the bid date. T. A. Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Please advise if assistance is needed with obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or insurance/bonding to satisfy the work requirements. We are willing to accept quotations for all or partial quantities and items of work. We can offer 2-party check payments and quick payment agreements, but the agreements need to be negotiated prior to the bid date.

**D/M/WBE**  
**SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED**

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Gum Neck Elevated Tank and Booster Pump Station - Contract No. 1 - Elevated Tank** project for Tyrrell County which bids July 9, 2024, at 2:00 PM. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company, 400 Patetown Road, Goldsboro, NC 27530 \* Tyrrell County; 108 South Water Street; Columbia, NC 27925 \* LKC Engineering, PLLC; 140 Aqua Shed Court; Aberdeen, NC 28315 \* Carolinas AGC Website \* Dodge Data and Analytics website \* Hispanic Contractors Association of the Carolinas website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, demolition, clearing and grubbing, hauling, earthwork, erosion control, seeding, sodding, electrical, jack & bore, flatwork, CIPC, concrete forms, concrete rebar, painting, and fencing. Please contact Michael Cox (mcox@taloving.com) if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-734-8400; fax 919-736-2148; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to bid closing time of the bid date. T. A. Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Please advise if assistance is needed with obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or insurance/bonding to satisfy the work requirements. We are willing to accept quotations for all or partial quantities and items of work. We can offer 2-party check payments and quick payment agreements, but the agreements need to be negotiated prior to the bid date.

**FORECLOSURE**

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
CUMBERLAND COUNTY  
**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**  
In the General Court of Justice,  
Superior Court Division  
24-SP-180

**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 Sally A. Bradbury dated November 20, 1997, and recorded on November 25, 1997 in Book 4762 at Page 551 in the Office of Register of Deeds of Cumberland 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 Wade, County of Cumberland, 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 Cumberland County Courthouse, Fayetteville, North Carolina, on July 1, 2024, at 10:00 AM. Address of Property: 4236 Lee Rd, Wade, NC 28395 Tax Parcel ID: 0479-64-0165 Present Record Owners: Sally A. Bradbury

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

**NOTICE TO TRADE SUBCONTRACTORS**  
**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID:** Sealed proposals will be received by Balfour Beatty for the **Elizabeth City State University Infrastructure Upgrades Package 1**

Bids for the following packages will be opened on **July 25, 2024, at 2:00 PM**

- 01G – General Trades
- 26A – Medium Voltage Electrical Distribution
- 31A – Electrical Ductbank
- 31B – Site Water Distribution
- 31C – Ductbank & Electrical Combo Package

All bids will be received and opened publicly at:  
**Elizabeth City State University**  
**2nd Floor, G.R. Little Library**  
**1704 Weeksville Road, Elizabeth City, NC 27909**

**Bids will not be accepted from bidders that are not pre-qualified.** Bids may be hand-delivered to Melanie Baker in the Trigg Hall Building from 8:00 AM-1:00 PM on July 25, 2024, for the 2:00 PM bid opening.

On Monday July 1, 2024, a Pre-Bid and HUB Outreach Meeting will be held at 1:00 PM. The Pre-Bid and Outreach meeting will be held virtually.

The virtual meeting can be accessed at the following link:  
[https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting\\_OGRkY2QxNzMtYmQzNi00MmY4LWEzYwQtN2M4NjYxM2Y3Zjk5%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%2201f3a409-b48f-4f2c-b95b-7ea1977a06ed%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%224b957b08-ff4e-43c2-8124-6735c2c2d640%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_OGRkY2QxNzMtYmQzNi00MmY4LWEzYwQtN2M4NjYxM2Y3Zjk5%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%2201f3a409-b48f-4f2c-b95b-7ea1977a06ed%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%224b957b08-ff4e-43c2-8124-6735c2c2d640%22%7d)

Bid Documents will be available online, at  
<https://app.buildingconnected.com/projects/6675bcf84c4471057e1d8c46>

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

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 20th 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: 6/20 & 6/27/2024



# Sports



The North Carolina FC and the Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC met in a USL-1 regular season soccer match at WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary, N.C. on June 22, 2024. The teams battled to a 0-0 tie. The game has the NCFC at a 4-5 win loss record with 6 draws. *Steve Worthy Photos*



## Richardson Sprints Onto US Olympic Team In 10.71 Seconds

EUGENE, Ore. (AP) — Two steps before she reached the finish line, Sha'Carri Richardson started pounding her chest.

She knew she had it won. Anyone who doesn't see her as the sprinter to beat later this summer at the Paris Olympics should probably think again.

Richardson notched the latest stop on her "I'm Not Back, I'm Better" tour with a 10.71-second sprint in the 100 meters at U.S. track trials on Saturday that makes her the fastest woman in the world this year and officially earned her a trip to France where the women start racing Aug. 2.

The final marked the third time in this meet that Richardson did not get off to a stellar start. It also marked the third time in the meet she finished well in the clear.

She was .09 seconds ahead of training partner Melissa Jefferson, the 2022 U.S. champion. Another sprinter in coach Dennis Mitchell's camp, Twanisha Terry, finished third and also earned a spot on the women's 100-meter team.

"I feel honored," Richardson said. "I feel every chapter I've been through in my life prepared me for this moment."

A few seconds after her line-crossing celebration, she was down on a knee, clearly caught up in emotion.

"The emotion was just joy because of the hard work I put in, not just physically on the track, but mentally and emotionally to grow into the mature young lady I am today," she said.

It has been quite a ride for the 24-year-old Texan. Three years ago, she won this race, too (in 10.86



seconds), only to see the victory stripped because of a positive marijuana test that laid bare everything from her own struggles with depression to an anti-doping rulebook that hadn't changed with the times.

That's when the hard work began. What emerged, Richardson said, was a better and more in-tune person than the one who lit up this same Hayward Field back in 2021 — her orange hair flowing, looking like this sport's breakout star.

It took nearly two years for the results to show up on the track again. But she won the national championship in 2023 and declared "I'm not back, I'm better," then

backed that up a month later with the world title.

"I'd say the message I'm sending out is to believe in yourself no matter what," Richardson said, echoing much the same thoughts from last year in Budapest. "You want to remain solid in yourself. Stay grounded in yourself and your hard work."

It's risky business to hand her the gold medal in Paris given the competition she'll face. Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, Shericka Jackson and two-time defending champion Elaine Thompson-Herah have 19 Olympic medals between them — Richardson has never been to the games — and all are slated to run at next week-

end's Jamaican trials.

A recent injury to Thompson-Herah has mixed up that math. Meanwhile, Fraser-Pryce has been a rarely seen commodity in 2024 and Jackson is the two-time world champion at 200 meters — a race Richardson finished third in at worlds and is entered in next week at trials.

Back in the U.S., the Americans are feeding off each other, and Mitchell, a huge name in sprinting in the 1990s, pulled off a rarity by placing all three of his best sprinters in the Olympics. "The odds of getting all three is probably a point-zero-zero-zero-zero-zero-something," Mitchell said. "But those girls didn't

care about those odds. They went out there and had a plan and they executed well and they deserve everything they got."

Given she bettered the season's best time despite a mediocre start and after pounding her chest and pulling up before the end of the race, it's hard to argue that Richardson is the favorite. Asked if she had a time in mind for the Olympics, she did not bite.

"I just know that if I execute and run the race I'm trained to prepare for that the time will come with it," she said.

NEXT UP, NOAH

Next up, it's Noah Lyles' turn. Before Richardson took center stage, the reigning world champion at 100 meters ran his preliminary heat in 9.92 seconds, the fastest time in the first round of men's qualifying. He'll race Sunday for a spot in the Olympics.

Lyles, like Richardson, dealt with depression in the COVID-fueled days of the Tokyo Olympics. He made it to the games but took a bronze medal in the 200. The last 24 months have been about adding the 100 to his repertoire. He looked in good form

in his first race this week at Hayward.

"It's been 'a long time' for a long time," Lyles said. "And I'm just so glad to be happy, glad to be out here, glad to be racing and feeling like myself."

OTHER TICKETS PUNCHED

Michigan State's Health Baldwin won the decathlon to make his first Olympic team. He'll be joined by Zack Ziemek, who is on his third team, and Harrison Williams, who is also making his debut.

Jasmine Moore, Keturah Orji and Tori Franklin earned the three spots in women's triple jump.

SHOT PUT

Ryan Crouser overcame a balky elbow to win his eighth outdoor national title. He's looking for a third straight Olympic gold medal. Joe Kovacs, who finished runner-up to Crouser at both Olympics, finished second and Payton Otterdahl came in third.

Speaking to the strength of the U.S. in the event, Crouser said "if the whole world came to trials they'd get one, maybe one, spot" in the Olympics.

## Classifieds

### REQUEST FOR BIDS

The City of Raleigh is seeking bid proposals from qualified contractors to complete the rehabilitation of a City-owned property located at 1602 Pender St. Proposals will be accepted until 3:00 P.M. on July 31, 2024. A Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on-site at 10:00 am July 8, 2024.

RFB submission packets are available from [evp.nc.gov/](http://evp.nc.gov/) or you may request a packet by emailing [tammie.nelson-donato@raleighnc.gov](mailto:tammie.nelson-donato@raleighnc.gov).

If you have any questions, please contact Tammie Donato, or Pat Dawson at [pat.dawson@raleighnc.gov](mailto:pat.dawson@raleighnc.gov) or John Duncan at [john@triangleconstruction.net](mailto:john@triangleconstruction.net) between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The City reserves the right to reject any proposals received or to negotiate the terms of the agreement that best serve the interests of the City of Raleigh.

### D/M/WBE

#### SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the Gum Neck Elevated Tank and Booster Pump Station - Contract No. 2 - Booster Pump Station project for Tyrrell County which bids July 9, 2024, at 2:00 PM. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company, 400 Pate-town Road, Goldsboro, NC 27530 \* Tyrrell County; 108 South Water Street; Columbia, NC 27925 \* LKC Engineering, PLLC; 140 Aqua Shed Court; Aberdeen, NC 28315 \* Carolinas AGC Website \* Dodge Data and Analytics website \* Hispanic Contractors Association of the Carolinas website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, demolition, clearing and grubbing, hauling, earthwork, erosion control, seeding, sodding, electrical, painting, and fencing. Please contact Michael Cox ([mcox@taloving.com](mailto:mcox@taloving.com)) if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-734-8400; fax 919-736-2148; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to bid closing time of the bid date. T. A. Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Please advise if assistance is needed with obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or insurance/bonding to satisfy the work requirements. We are willing to accept quotations for all or partial quantities and items of work. We can offer 2-party check payments and quick payment agreements, but the agreements need to be negotiated prior to the bid date.

## Olympic Track And Field Seeing Dollar Signs With Splashy New Cash Infusions

EUGENE, Ore. (AP) — One aspiring Olympian is taking a break from his day job at the deli section while he makes his run for Paris. Another athlete worked as a nanny, but when she left to focus on running at the Games, the family understood.

When these runners and hurdlers learned they would be racing for a big, fat first-prize check worth \$50,000 to go with the gold medal at this summer's Olympics, they were, understandably, excited.

"That'd be big," American hurdler Dylan Beard said this week at U.S. track and field trials, while taking a break from his job at the Walmart Supercenter in Wake Forest, North Carolina. "I mean, I wouldn't even know what to do with that much money."

In a move that many in track — and the Olympic world, in general — felt was long overdue, World Athletics, the governing body for track, announced earlier this year that there would be a first-of-its-kind cash prize available for all of track and field's winners in Paris. That's a prize pool of \$2.4 million spread across 48 events.

That move, combined with the recent rapid-fire introduction of track meets featuring enhanced prize pools — and even a new track league fronted by sprinting great Michael Johnson — represents the biggest publicly touted cash infusion into the sport in decades.

It could be a lifeline for track athletes, who have struggled for attention since Usain Bolt left the spotlight.

The sport has seen a widening gulf between haves — such as Noah Lyles, Sha'Carri Richardson and Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone — and the have-nots since the heyday of the 1980s. That's when the likes of Carl Lewis, Edwin Moses and Jackie

Joyner-Kersey were mainstream stars who could often be seen on the track in the day, then on "The Tonight Show" at night.

For Olympic steeplechaser Evan Jager, who won silver at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics, a current ESPN documentary about former sprinter Butch Reynolds, who starred in the sport in the '80s and early '90s, highlighted one key difference between today and yesterday.

"It was like \$70K for some of the appearance" fees for running in meets, Jager said. "Granted, he was at the top of the sport at the time, but you don't hear too many athletes getting that much money in appearance fees (today) at some of these meets."

Johnson's Grand Slam Track league will sign athletes to actual contracts, then add appearance fees for some others, with plans to bring 96 runners together four times a year to compete for \$100,000 first-place prizes. (Some field athletes are, predictably, upset at not being included in the rollout, but Johnson says he's taking things one step at a time.) Johnson touted a \$12.6 million prize pool and said he had secured more than \$30 million to bankroll the league, which will start in 2025.

In addition to the \$50,000 first prizes for the Olympics, World Athletics this month announced the start of the Ultimate Championship in 2026, which will bring together the best in the sport to compete for a prize pot of \$10 million and first prizes worth \$150,000.

Also, Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian recently went public with plans for an all-women's track meet in September that will feature Olympic silver and bronze medalist Gabby Thomas and promised the largest

purse ever for a female-only track meet.

All of this looks like progress to three-time Olympic medalist Brittney Reese, who is not competing but remains active in the track community.



## Simone Manuel Wins Olympic 50 Freestyle

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Simone Manuel was feeling a bit prepared for her final shot to swim an individual event at the Paris Olympics.

So she pulled out some video of her greatest hits.

Talk about a confidence boost.

The first Black female swimmer to win an individual gold medal at the Olympics, Manuel earned an individual spot on the final night of the U.S. swimming trials with a victory in the 50-meter freestyle Sunday.

Coming back from overtraining syndrome, which hampered her preparations leading up to the Tokyo Games, Manuel won the frantic dash from one end of the pool to the other in 24.13 seconds.

She looked a bit surprised when she saw the "1" beside her name on the scoreboard, pumping her fist emphatically. She kept shaking her head as she walked across the deck.

"I wasn't feeling real confident after last night," said Manuel, who was only the fourth-fastest qualifier in the semifinals, nearly a half-second behind Gretchen Walsh. "I spent a lot of time watching races where I won. I wanted to channel that Simone because I know I'm a winner."