



Official US Poverty Rate Declined In 2023, But More People Face Hardship

By Mark Robert Rank
 Washington University in St. Louis

The number of Americans living in poverty, according to the nation's official definition, fell slightly to about 36.8 million in 2023, the Census Bureau announced on Sept. 10, 2024. The data released also indicated that the poverty rate declined a little. However, an alternative way to measure poverty ticked up, as more people in the U.S. faced economic hardship.

I think the most interesting aspect of this report is the different directions the two measures of poverty went in 2023. On one hand, the official poverty measure declined to 11.1% in 2023 from 11.5% in 2022. At the same time, the supplemental poverty measure, an alternative way to measure poverty introduced in 2011, increased to 12.9% in 2023 from 12.4% a year earlier.

The official poverty rate fell because overall household income rose modestly in 2023 – even after taking inflation into account – according to other census data. However, like many poverty experts, I believe that the supplemental poverty measure is a better indicator of what's going on because it takes into account household expenses as well as tax credits and the effects of government programs on reducing poverty.

It turns out that one key reason for the increase in the current supplemental poverty measure is that Social Security benefits and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – also known as SNAP or "food stamps" – pulled fewer people out of poverty in 2023 than in 2022.

The supplemental poverty measure also increased as the result of out-of-pocket medical expenses being higher in 2023 than in 2022.

The annual Census Bureau re-

port only represents a year-by-year snapshot of poverty. I think estimating the long-term risk of impoverishment across a typical American's lifetime is a more meaningful approach.

To that end, I've conducted research using a large nationally representative dataset from University of Michigan researchers who have tracked the same households each year since 1968. Based on this analysis, I've found that a clear majority of Americans will experience poverty for at least one year of their adult lives.

Some 58.5% of Americans will experience at least one year below the official poverty line between the ages of 20 and 75, while 76% will either experience poverty or near poverty – meaning that their income falls below 150% of the poverty line.

The numbers presented in the an-

nual Census Bureau report indicate that only about 1 in 9 Americans are facing poverty today. But my research shows that 3 out of 4 Americans will experience poverty or near poverty at some point in their lives. The result is that poverty should be viewed as an issue of "us" rather than an issue of "them."

The U.S. has one of the highest rates of poverty among Western industrialized nations. Whether the focus is on working-age adults, children, people over 65 or the population as a whole, the U.S. is near the top in terms of the extent and depth of its poverty.

One major reason is that the federal government does much less than its counterparts in many other countries to help people stay out of poverty. The U.S. safety net is relatively weak when it comes to

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Virginia's Conservative Black Female Lieutenant Governor Wants The Top Job

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears, the first Black woman to hold statewide office in Virginia's long history, has officially set her sights on the state's top political office.

The Virginia Department of Elections on Wednesday accepted the necessary documents for Earle-Sears to run for governor next year, WRIC was first to report.

Earle-Sears is the first Republican to officially enter the race for the party's nomination in 2025. She recently said she was exploring a run.

The current governor, Republican Glenn Youngkin, cannot run for reelection because Virginia is the only state that doesn't allow governors to run for consecutive terms.

U.S. Rep. Abigail Spanberger is the only Democrat currently seeking her party's nomination to run for governor.

Earle-Sears was part of a Republican sweep of top offices in 2021 that



also saw Youngkin and Attorney Gen. Jason Miyares get elected.

A Marine veteran who immigrated to the United States from Jamaica as a child, Earle-Sears defeated Democrat Hala Ayala to become only the second woman in Virginia's long history to serve in a statewide office. Attorney Gen. Mary Sue Terry, who was elected in 1985, was the first.

A staunch conservative who speaks frequently about her Christian faith, Earle-Sears has made history as a woman in politics before.

She got her start in elected office in 2001 when she stunned both parties by defeating a 10-term Democrat in an overwhelmingly blue district to become the first Black Republican woman elected to the House of Delegates.

She served just one term before deciding not to seek reelection. She also unsuccessfully challenged U.S. Rep. Bobby Scott in a race The Associated Press described at the time as "a campaign of raw invective."

Earle-Sears went on to serve on the State Board of Education and more recently as the national chair of an organization dedicated to reelecting former President Donald Trump. She has also led a men's prison ministry, served as director of a women's homeless shelter, and run a plumbing and electrical supply company.

Remembering The Attack On America, 09-11-2001

On September 11, 2001, 2,977 people were killed in the deadliest terrorist attacks in American history.

The moment shocked the nation. Two planes, hijacked by Islamic jihadists vowing death to all Americans, plowed into both towers at the World Trade Center in New York. Another plane was flown into the Pentagon in Washington, DC. A fourth plane, presumably headed for the White House or the U.S. Capitol, was heroically diverted by passengers and ended up crashing in an empty field in Pennsylvania. After reports of the first plane hitting the North Tower, millions watched the second plane hit the South Tower on live television.

It was a terrifying, startling, and humbling event for the country. The 9/11 attacks were the deadliest on American soil since the shock attack at Pearl Harbor 60 years before, and the sense of outrage was reminiscent of that moment. The attacks in New York occurred in the country's busiest city on a busy workday. And the staggered nature of the attacks meant that news footage captured almost everything as it happened, ensuring that millions of Americans saw the events precisely as they unfolded.

NC Activists Prepare For "Long March"

By: Cash Michaels
 Contributing writer



From Friday, Sept. 20th to Sunday, Sept. 29th, they will walk across the state of North Carolina, from the mountains of the Cullowhee to the coast of Wilmington, picking up like-minded social justice leaders along way to dramatize the importance of voting, community organizing, grassroots activism and the arts.

They call it "the Long March for Unity and Justice."

Sponsored by the BCC (Beloved Community Center) in Greensboro, which is co-executive directed by Joyce Hobson Johnson and Rev. Nelson Johnson, the objectives of the Long March are to grow and make visible the urgent need to join with others to build a powerful statewide transformative movement for truth, justice, healing and reconciliation that not only impacts North Carolina, but the nation; to heal deep divisions and growing wounds from the past; to uplift issues that connect communities; mobilize communities to promote voter education and actively

increase civic engagement; and forge the people's power and transform oppressive systems and structures.

"We must address our nation's crossroads: either continue toward authoritarianism or expand democracy with greater freedom and wealth distribution," said Rev. Johnson.

The mission of the Long March for Unity and Justice is to create a compassionate and more just North Carolina that responds to the needs

(Sept. 21st) the Long March goes to Boone in Watauga County.

On Day Three (Sept. 22), the Long March heads to Charlotte in Mecklenburg County with march start at 4 p.m. from 1600 West Trade Street, and rally site at 6 p.m. at 1729 Griens Grove Road.

Day Four (Sept. 23) will see Greensboro in Guilford County and the BCC at 417 Arlington Street. Day Five (Tuesday, Sept. 24), the Long March arrives in Durham in Durham County and Raleigh in Wake County. Day Six (Weds, Sept. 25th) the Long March arrives in Gaston County and Roanoke Rapids in Halifax County.

Day Seven (Thursday, Sept. 26th) the Long March arrives in Greenville in Pitt County. Day Eight (Friday, Sept. 27th), the Long March goes to Fayetteville in Cumberland County. Day Nine (Saturday, Sept. 28) the penultimate Long March stop is in Laurinburg in Scotland County.

And on the final day of the Long March, Day Ten (Sunday, Sept. 28), Wilmington in New Hanover County.

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NORTH CAROLINA HOUSE REP. JEFFREY ELMORE RESIGNING BEFORE TERM ENDS

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — A longtime advocate for Republican K-12 education policies in the North Carolina House is resigning from his seat a few months before his term was to end.

Rep. Jeffrey Elmore of Wilkes County, who joined the House in 2013, will step down effective Friday afternoon, according to his resignation letter read Monday on the House floor.

Instead of seeking a seventh two-year House term, Elmore ran for lieutenant governor, finishing in the middle of the pack in the 11-candidate GOP primary in March.

Elmore, who has been a House Appropriations Committee chairman, told the Wilkes Journal-Patriot that he was resigning due to another opportunity, with details to be released soon.

"I was part of many great accomplishments in the past 12 years in the State of North Carolina. There will be even more great things to come in North Carolina's future," Elmore wrote in his resignation letter dated Sept. 3. He told the newspaper that he was also resigning as a Wilkes County public schools teacher.

Elmore, 46, represents the 94th House District covering Alexander County and most of Wilkes County. Republican activists in his area would pick someone to serve out the remainder of Elmore's term through the end of the year.

Republican Blair Eddins and Democrat Steve Moree are on the November ballot seeking to succeed Elmore in 2025 in the 94th District.

Elmore's departure marks the latest by a House member since this year's chief floor session ended in late June.

Republican Reps. Jason Saine of Lincoln County and John Faircloth of Guilford County and Democratic Rep. Ashton Wheeler Clemmons of Guilford County all submitted their resignations in recent weeks. In other developments, Democratic Rep. Kelly Alexander Jr. of Mecklenburg County died last Friday.

Biden Honors NCAA Basketball Champs

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden honored 2024 NCAA basketball champions South Carolina and Connecticut on Tuesday at the White House, celebrating the two powerhouse programs' most recent national title runs.

South Carolina went 38-0 on the way to its latest women's title. It was head coach Dawn Staley's third championship with the Gamecocks since 2017. Biden cheered South Carolina for ushering in an era of surging interest in women's sports.

South Carolina's title game against Iowa drew more viewers than this year's men's championship, averaging 18.7 million viewers on ABC and ESPN and peaking at 24 million viewers.

"I think it's fair to say everyone, everyone watches women's sports now," Biden said. "When new fans watch for the first time, when young girls see their idols, they see the power of your example."

Later, at a separate celebration for the University of Connecticut men's team, Biden marveled at the



success of the Huskies' squad which included four first-round picks in the latest NBA draft. UConn coach Dan Hurley's team went 37-3 in winning its second straight title.

South Carolina's unblemished year came even after Staley lost all five starters from her 2023 team that was defeated in the Final Four. The Gamecocks were dominant throughout their historic season, leading the nation in scoring defense, margin of victory and blocked shots.

It was the first White House visit for South Carolina. Staley and the

Gamecocks did not go to the White House following championships in 2017 and 2022. Vice President Kamala Harris paid a visit to the team while she was in Columbia, South Carolina, earlier this year.

Staley, a three-time Olympic gold medalist and coach of the U.S. women's basketball team in Tokyo three years ago, recently served as a member of the presidential delegation to the Paris Olympics.

Several prominent current and former South Carolinian politicians attended Tuesday's ceremony for the Gamecocks, including Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham, Democratic Rep. James Clyburn, and former Columbia mayor Steve Benjamin, who is now a senior adviser to the president.

Biden joked that the South Carolina's officeholders could have some fierce competition if the popular Staley were to give politics a try.

"All of those of you who hold public office in South Carolina, you better hope she keeps coaching and doesn't run," Biden said of Staley.

EXTRA PRIVATE SCHOOL VOUCHER FUNDING GETS INITIAL OK FROM NORTH CAROLINA SENATE

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — The North Carolina Senate took the first step in clearing the state's waitlist for private school vouchers Monday after passing a supplemental spending plan that also includes more Medicaid money, rural broadband access and requirements for sheriffs to assist federal immigration agents.

The Senate reconvened after Republican chamber leaders announced last week that they reached a spending plan agreement that includes \$463 million for the state's Opportunity Scholarship. It passed the proposal, as well as veto overrides, largely along party lines. The House is expected to take up a vote Wednesday.

If the House passes the spending plan, it will go to Cooper for a likely veto. Senate leader Phil Berger said an override vote would be more likely to happen in November.

After the General Assembly removed income caps to qualify for the Opportunity Scholarship program last year, voucher applications soared. About 55,000 children were waitlisted because of a lack of funding, and Republican lawmakers' inability to pass a budget readjustment bill in June before the legislative session ended only prolonged that issue.

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LONG MARCH

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The Long March is supported by the NC Black Alliance, NC Council of Churches, Black Workers for Justice, Blueprint NC, Forward Justice, Down Home NC, Freedom Center, Red, Wine & Blue, Poor People's Campaign, Second Chance Alliance, Union of Southern Service Workers, People's Power Coalition, Justice Served NC, Southern Vision Alliance, and NC BLOC, and fosters unity and collaboration through the We The People Unity Covenant.

The BCC previously led the nation's first Truth and Reconciliation Process to disclose the truth related to the November 3, 1979, Greensboro Massacre - that the police on that day, by deliberately being absent, allowed the Ku Klux Klan to attack community protesters.

That process led to a formal apology from the Greensboro City Council in 2020.

STATE BRIEFS

Continued from page 1

Now, the new proposal — which outlines more spending through the early 2030s — offers waitlisted families the option to be retroactively reimbursed for their fall private schooling costs. About \$377 million for Medicaid spending and \$160 million to address enrollment growth for K-12 public schools and community colleges are also in the plan.

Rachel Brady of Wake Forest, a mother who led a rally in July urging the General Assembly to eliminate the waitlist, praised Monday's affirmative vote. Brady said it should ultimately give financial relief to her family and others who have chosen private schools for their children or who want to do so.

"We're so thankful they listened to us," Brady, who is among the waitlisted families, said in an interview. "We're just so excited."

Democrats dominated the Senate floor debate by voicing concern that voucher spending would negatively affect resources for public schools, especially in rural counties, while wealthy families also can now benefit from scholarships. Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper also said last week that the plan could cause a "budget crisis" as state revenues trailed off during the past fiscal year. Additional tax cuts are already planned.

"We're telling children in underfunded schools that their education is less important than providing a taxpayer-funded handout to those who can afford private tuition," Guilford County Democratic Sen. Michael Garrett said on the floor.

POVERTY

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protecting Americans from economic destitution.

The result is that the percentage of Americans experiencing poverty in any given year is among the highest among comparable nations.

In addition, the extent of both income and wealth inequality tends to be more extreme in the U.S. compared with other high-income countries.

The U.S. made substantial progress in terms of reducing poverty in the middle of the 20th century. The poverty rate was cut in half from 22.4% in 1959 to 11.1% in 1973.

This improvement was due to the robust economy of the 1960s and government initiatives known as the "War on Poverty." However, since 1973, the overall rate of poverty has ranged between 11% and 15%. It has tended to decline somewhat during periods of economic growth, and it has risen during periods of economic stagnation and recession.

The official poverty rate of 11.1% in 2023 matches the poverty rate in 1973. The supplemental poverty measure, which stood at 12.9% in 2023, reflects a similar lack of progress. It was first calculated in 2009, when it stood at 15.1%.

There are two major success stories, however.

First, older Americans have become less likely to experience poverty.

In 1959, 35.2% of people who were 65 and up were experiencing poverty — the highest rate of any age group. In 2023, only 9.7% of older Americans were in poverty, as indicated by the official rate, and that was among the lowest for any age group.

The primary reason for this reduction was the expansion of Social Security benefits and the introduction in 1965 of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Without these programs, poverty for older Americans would rise to an estimated 40%.

The other major success story was that the share of U.S. children experiencing poverty fell substantially in 2021 as a result of the child tax credit expansion and the economic impact payments the federal government made to all Americans beginning in 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic wreaked economic havoc.

As a result of these policies and others, the supplemental poverty measure among children fell by nearly half to 5.2% in 2021, from 9.7% in 2020. With the expiration of these benefits, the rate of childhood poverty has returned to pre-pandemic levels. According to the supplemental poverty measure, it rose to 13.7% in 2023 — the highest rate since 2018.

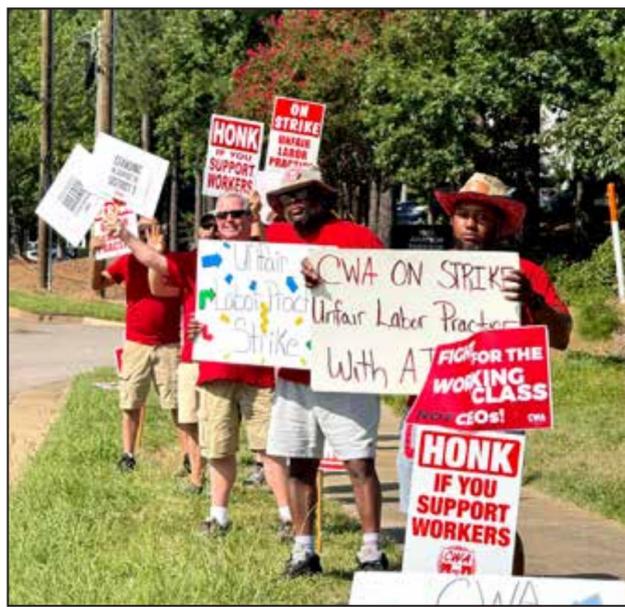
AT&T Workers Nationwide Escalate Strike: A Conversation with Locals

By: Ms Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

In a demonstration of solidarity across nine Southeastern states, workers at AT&T have taken to the picket lines in an ongoing strike, citing unfair labor practices. The strike, organized by the Communications Workers of America (CWA), has seen widespread participation, including right here in North Carolina. CWA's most recent press release states, "AT&T workers on strike include over 17,000 technicians, customer service representatives, and others who install, maintain, and support AT&T's network in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Workers are demanding AT&T return to the bargaining table in good faith so they can secure a fair contract with higher wages, affordable healthcare, and improvements to work-life balance for the workers subject to mandatory forced overtime."

I had the chance to speak with local AT&T technician and striker Kelvin Little about the ongoing situation. "We've been out here for about 19 days now," Kelvin said when asked about the timeline of their strike. "This is a worker strike for unfair labor practices." He clarified that the issue stems from failed negotiations between AT&T and its workers. "What we're doing is trying to have AT&T come to the ne-



gotiation table and negotiate fairly, we have five or six different sites, locations that are all picketing. We're all different levels of wire tech, facility tech, and service technicians," he noted. This strike might not impact the AT&T stores directly, but its ripple effects are already being felt. "It might be impacting them in reference to making sales. So, if they can't

get sales for installs because we're out here, that's going to affect them indirectly."

The frustration among the striking workers stems from what they see as unfair negotiations. While AT&T is still at the table, Kelvin mentioned, "There were a few instances that made it where they weren't negotiating fairly. So, this is our action in

reference to that."

When asked how the public can support their efforts, Kelvin had a clear call to action. "People can come out, bring waters, or even just honk when they see us picketing," he suggested. "They can also call AT&T and try to make appointments to see what the timetable is. Then, blast them on social media for the inconvenience. It's not just about saying there are issues with their service but showing how it's impacting people—especially those working from home."

The broader strike covers nine states in the Southeast. "It's affecting a lot of neighborhoods," Kelvin added. "If you do a Twitter strike search, you'll see how big this is." As negotiations continue, Kelvin remains hopeful for a resolution but acknowledges that there is still a disconnect. "They are negotiating at this moment, but it's not getting through," he shared.

The ongoing strike highlights the challenges faced by workers fighting for fair treatment and the difficulties in negotiating with large corporations. For the workers on the frontlines, the hope is that this action will push AT&T to the table for meaningful and fair discussions.

As the strike continues, North Carolinians are encouraged to show their support for these workers and the cause they are fighting for. From small gestures like honking in solidarity to making noise on social media, every bit of support can make a difference.

Yellen Says Ending Biden Tax Incentives Would Be 'Historic Mistake' For N.C.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen warned voters in the battleground state of North Carolina that they could lose jobs if Republicans weaken a signature Biden administration law that encourages investments in manufacturing and clean energy.

Yellen said that Republican-dominated states like North Carolina are greatly benefiting from tax incentives under the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act and that eliminating them would be a "historic mistake," in a Thursday speech at a community college in Raleigh.

North Carolina has emerged as a key battleground this election cycle between Republican former President Donald Trump and Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris, where Trump ultimately won North Carolina in the 2020 presidential election.

Yellen said Treasury data shows that 90,000 North Carolina households claimed more than \$100 million in residential clean energy credits and \$60 million in energy

efficiency credits.

"Rolling them back could raise costs for working families at a moment when it's imperative that we continue to take action to lower prices," Yellen said. "It could jeopardize the significant investments in manufacturing we're seeing here and across the country, along with the jobs that come with them, many of which don't require a college degree. And it could give a leg-up to China and other countries that are also investing to compete in these critical industries."

"As we see clearly here in North Carolina, this would be a historic mistake," she said.

Some Republicans have called on

their leaders to reconsider repealing IRA energy tax incentives.

A group of 18 House Republicans in August called on House Speaker Mike Johnson to reconsider efforts to eliminate them.

"Prematurely repealing energy tax credits, particularly those which were used to justify investments that already broke ground, would undermine private investments and stop development that is already ongoing," the letter reads. "A full repeal would create a worst-case scenario where we would have spent billions of taxpayer dollars and received next to nothing in return."

But Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, tweeted on social media site X that

the lawmakers who signed the letter want to "preserve so-called 'green' handouts to Democrats' corporate cronies."

"The GOP must ignore K-Street lobbyists and refuse to fund the climate corporate cronies destroying our country," he said.

The Republican case against the Inflation Reduction Act hinges on the argument that the spending is wasteful and benefits China.

IRS data released in August states that 3.4 million American families have claimed \$8.4 billion in residential clean energy and home energy efficiency tax credits in 2023 — mostly towards solar panels and battery storage.

To Pumped-Up Democrats, Harris Was Everything Biden Was Not

WASHINGTON (AP) — To many Democrats, Kamala Harris was everything Joe Biden was not in confronting Donald Trump on the debate stage: forceful, fleet of foot, relentless in going after her opponent.

In a pivot from Biden's debate melt-

down in June, Democrats who gathered in bars, watch parties and other venues Tuesday night found lots to cheer in her drive to rattle the Republican.

In a race for the White House that surveys say is exceptionally close, with

both sides looking for an edge, it was the Democrats who came away more exuberant after the nationally televised debate.

"She prosecuted Donald Trump tonight," said Alina Taylor, 51, a high school special education teacher who joined hundreds of people on a football field of the historically Black Salem Baptist Church of Abington in a suburb of Philadelphia, where people watched on a 33-foot (10 meter) screen.

As for Trump, she said, "I was appalled" by his performance. "People were laughing at him because he wasn't making very much sense."

In Seattle, people gathered at Massive, a queer nightclub where scores watched the debate on a projector set up in front of the club's large disco ball. The crowd laughed and cheered when Trump branded Harris a Marxist. More cheers when the debate moderator called out Trump's false claim that some states legalize the killing of babies after birth.

"He's getting smoked," one said.

But in Brentwood, Tennessee, Sarah Frances Morris heard nothing at her watch party to shake her support of Trump.

"I think he beat her on the border," she said. "I think he also beat her on actually having plans and letting the American people know what those are. And I think that Kamala Harris likes to mention that she has plans for things, but she doesn't actually ever elaborate on what those plans are."

Morris conceded she was watching history being made, "because we have our first Black woman running for president." But, she added, "I don't think she delivered to get her to that place she needed to be."

Harris supporter Dushant Puri, 19, a UC Berkeley student, said the vice president took command before the first words were spoken — when she crossed the stage to shake Trump's hand. "I thought that was pretty significant," Puri said. "It was their first interaction, and I thought Harris was asserting herself."

At the same watch party, fellow student Angel Aldaco, 21, said that unlike Biden, Harris "came in with a plan and was more concise."

Aldaco was struck by one of the night's oddest moments, when Trump "went on that rampage about eating pets." That's when Trump endorsed a baseless conspiracy theory that immigrants were stealing and eating people's dogs and cats. Harris was incredulous. "That was good," the student said.

PASTOR APPRECIATION

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Business & Finance

Driivz, EV Charging Company, Chooses Raleigh As New HQ

Ms Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer



Driivz, a leading provider of electric vehicle (EV) charging software solutions, has announced plans to establish its North American headquarters in Raleigh, North Carolina. The company, which was founded in Israel in 2012, has a strong global presence and is expanding its operations in the United States to capitalize on the growing EV market. Driivz's decision to choose Raleigh as its headquarters is driven by several factors, including the city's thriving technology ecosystem, its proximity to the parent company, Vontier, and the growing demand for EV charging infrastructure in the region. The address of the headquarters - 5438 Wade Park Blvd, Raleigh, NC, is close to their parent company, Vontier.

We connected with Oren Halevi, CPO of Driivz, a Vontier company; part of EVolve™ e-mobility portfolio for a deeper insight. Oren shared, "Driivz was founded as a startup 12 years ago in Israel, a long time for the EV market. It was a dream of Dawn

Frankel, the founder and first CEO, replaced by Andy Bennett, the current CEO of Driivz, really as an idea of understanding that there needs to be a connection between the energy revolution and the mobility revolution. The energy revolution is around

a decentralized network using the sun locally for energy, many other batteries, and many other new innovations that come into place. The mobility revolution, of course, is moving into EVs, and it's very logical to do one-in-one together and have a company that is central, centered exactly, or gluing between those two revolutions."

The company plans to hire a significant number of employees in Raleigh to support its operations and continue its growth in the North American market. While the exact number of positions is still to be determined, Driivz is committed to contributing to the local economy and creating new job opportunities.

Oren elaborated on the EV growth in the area, "This is part of the Biden administration in the last years, huge effort in infrastructure for EVs that

includes thousands of new charges that are installed about a thousand weekly, which is unbelievable. In addition to that, or in order to manage all that, you need, strong software. North Carolina, is somewhere in the middle in the adoption of EVs. You see West Coast is faster to adapt, but we all see in the last year, a fast-growing market, initially with a lot of fleets transitioning into electrical vehicles. As the infrastructure becomes more available, I'm sure we'll see more and more EVs in Raleigh."

Driivz's software is already used by many of the largest EV charging net-

works in the United States, including Shell Recharge, Circle K, Volvo US, EVgo, and ChargePoint. The company's technology enables seamless charging experiences for EV drivers, from finding available stations to managing payments and accessing charging data.

As the number of electric vehicles on the road continues to increase, the demand for reliable and accessible charging infrastructure is also growing. Driivz's presence in Raleigh will help to meet this demand and support the transition to a cleaner, more sustainable transportation future.

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D/M/WBE

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Durham Leaders, Local Business Owners Assess VP Harris' Economic Proposals

By: Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

On Friday, a press conference in Durham spotlighted the legacy of Durham's Black Wall Street. U.S. Rep. Valerie Foushee, State Rep. Zack Hawkins, and local Black small business owners came together to evaluate Vice President Kamala Harris' proposals alongside Donald Trump's agenda.

"Since taking office, Vice President Harris has overseen a small business boom that is uplifting communities across the country, including North Carolina," Congresswoman Foushee said. "That includes a record 19 million new small business applications, the fastest creation of Black-owned small businesses in more than 30 years—and Latino business entrepreneurship growing at the fastest pace in more than a decade."

Foushee also discussed the history of Black Wall Street and the ongoing progress in revitalizing it in the Durham community.

"It was a thriving community of Black small businesses, and its success made Durham one of the centers of the Black middle class. Much of

this neighborhood was disrupted in the 1960s due to highway construction and underdevelopment. But because of concerted efforts to revitalize the area in recent years, Black Wall Street is finally coming back," Congresswoman Foushee said.

Megan Cain, owner of The ZEN Succulent in Durham, joined other local entrepreneurs to celebrate the advantages of Vice President Harris' new small business plan. Launching her business in 2012 with limited resources, Cain underscored the positive potential of Harris' proposed \$50,000 in credit and incentives for new businesses, particularly in underserved communities.

LaShonda Modest, owner of Melanated Wine—the first Black-owned winery in Durham, NC history—also spoke at the event about how Harris' plans would have supported her when she founded her business.

"On the ballot this year, we have a champion for small businesses, who is making support for us a cornerstone of her campaign. With new announcements just this week, Vice President Harris has planned to expand tax relief for people when they are starting new businesses—that

would've been life-changing when I started out," Modest said.

Small business owner Matthew Scully—who is running for the District 4 seat on the Greenville City Council—praised Harris' record of prioritizing working families, noting that her New Way Forward plan aims to ensure that small businesses, especially in rural and historically underserved areas, receive the support they need.

Vice President Harris has been actively engaging with North Carolinians; last week, on Power 98 radio, Harris discussed her background and how it shapes her policy plans, highlighting a significant expansion of tax relief for small businesses and aiming for 25 million new applications during her first term.

These events, along with others occurring this week, underscore a broader Democratic effort to show support for small businesses and to attract votes in the crucial battleground state of North Carolina. On Saturday, DNC Chair Jaime Harrison met with local faith leaders from Lumberton, Hoke, Scotland, and Robeson Counties to discuss how Harris' vision for the future includes

support for both urban and rural communities.

The Harris-Walz campaign is actively engaging voters in the state with their 'Fighting for Reproductive Freedom' bus tour this week, featuring scheduled stops in Asheville and Raleigh with Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff and First Lady of Minnesota Gwen Walz. Kamala Harris plans to be in both Greensboro and Charlotte on Thursday.

Meanwhile, former President Donald Trump traveled to Charlotte on Friday to address policemen and secure the endorsement of the country's largest law enforcement union. This visit followed news earlier that day of Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s name being removed from North Carolina ballots.

The Democrats' multifaceted approach—emphasizing support for small businesses, engaging with rural communities, and addressing reproductive rights—reflects their strategic effort to build momentum and secure crucial support in North Carolina as the 2024 election approaches. Harris currently trails Trump by less than 1 percent in state presidential polling averages.

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Groundbreaking Ceremony Held for the New Methodist University Cape Fear Valley Health School of Medicine

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – The new Methodist University Cape Fear Valley Health School of Medicine officially broke ground on a \$60-plus-million facility – a significant milestone in changing the future of healthcare in Fayetteville, Cumberland County, and the entire Southeastern North Carolina region.

In front of hundreds of key members of the community – that included political leaders, donors, partners, community organizations, doctors, nurses, and media – leadership from Methodist University, Cape Fear Valley Health, and the School of Medicine announced the start of construction for a new five-story facility that will be located on the western edge of Cape Fear Valley Medical Center along Village Drive.

“This is an historic occasion, and I’m privileged to be a part of it,” said Methodist University President Stanley T. Wearden. “This is a collective project, and it has a lot of people behind it who believe in it deeply. At Methodist University, we’re committed to students and alumni success in the context of a mission that values community service, which is why we have our various Health Sciences

programs that will soon include the Methodist University Cape Fear Valley School of Medicine. But this is not about MU alone. Without our partnership with Cape Fear Valley Health, this could not happen.”

The 127,500-square-foot, 200-room building (that will add nearly 300 parking spaces) will feature learning centers, state-of-the-art classrooms, community and multi-purpose rooms, student lounges, a commons area, virtual anatomy laboratory, fully-equipped standardized patient lab, conference rooms, and space for faculty and staff, along with an entrance plaza, learning garden, and courtyard outside of the building. The goal for welcoming the first cohort of students is the fall of 2026, pending approval by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) and SACSCOC (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges).

The Methodist University Cape Fear Valley Health School of Medicine (SOM) is projected to create more than 250 new jobs and graduate more than 100 doctors each year. The school will combine the expertise and resources of both institutions to

provide students with unparalleled educational and clinical experience while creating opportunities for students to learn in a collaborative and innovative environment, with access to cutting-edge technology in the brand-new facility.

Through the generosity of the Golden LEAF Foundation, the new SOM recently received an \$8-million gift to support instructional equipment, including technology.

“Golden LEAF is honored to be a part of this project because it is going to have generational impacts on this region, and that’s what we are about at Golden LEAF,” said Golden LEAF President/CEO Scott T. Hamilton. “The School of Medicine is an opportunity to create more jobs.”

The class size for the incoming class is expected to be approximately 80 students. By 2032, the class size plans to grow to 120 students per year – for a total of 480 students at a given time. Students will be able to access all aspects of Cape Fear Valley Health across eight hospitals and more than 90 outpatient clinics in Southeastern North Carolina.

The demand for the School of Medicine is evident. By 2034, the

Association of American Medical Colleges projects nationwide shortages up to 48,000 primary care physicians and up to 77,100 non-primary care specialty physicians.

“This project is going to not only physically transform the Cape Fear Valley Health campus, but more importantly, it will transform our region,” said Mike Nagowski, CEO of the Cape Fear Valley Health System. “We’re going to be able to recruit and retain desperately needed physicians, especially in rural areas like Southeastern North Carolina. This School of Medicine will keep graduates and attract high-level doctors who want to join an academic health system.”

NC Legislature Say NO To Centralized Digital Currency

by **Timmy Shen**
The Block

The North Carolina General Assembly has passed a bill that prohibits the state’s participation in Federal Reserve branch testing of a central bank digital currency.

On Monday, the Senate voted 27-17 in favor of the House Bill 690 to override Democrat Gov. Roy Cooper’s veto. The bill bans payments to the state using a CBDC and prohibits state participation in CBDC testing.

Cooper said in a July statement on his veto that the House Bill 690 was “premature, vague, and reactionary.”

He said at the time that “efforts are being made at the federal level to ensure standards and safeguards are in place to protect consumers, investors and businesses that may want to make monetary transactions in digital assets and North Carolina should wait to see how they work before taking action.”

Dan Spuller, head of industry affairs of Blockchain Association, wrote on X on Monday that the bill “should have never been vetoed,” and that Cooper “blew an opportunity to send a strong message to the Federal Reserve that [North Carolina] stands united against CBDCs.”

The North Carolina’s anti-CBDC bill comes after the U.S. House in May passed the CBDC Anti-Surveillance State Act, a Republican-led bill blocking a CBDC. The bill intends to block the Fed from issuing a CBDC to individuals.

The Federal Reserve has been exploring the possibility of CBDC issuance and has released a report examining its pros and cons. Fed Chair Jerome Powell has said that the Fed would not issue a CBDC without congressional approval – and that, if the central bank was to adopt a CBDC, it would be done through the banking system.

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Health and Wellness

Why Does Prostate Cancer Affect Black Men Differently?

By Dr. Charles Modlin, MD
blackdoctor.org

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in American men and African American men have the highest rate of prostate cancer in the world, with incidence rates and mortality rates twice that of Caucasian men.

"Why do African American men have a higher incidence of prostate cancer?" Some have proposed that it may be a function of genetic or hereditary factors. African American men have been shown to have

significantly higher levels of testosterone compared to Caucasian men. Because prostate cancer is stimulated by testosterone production, this higher level of testosterone in African American men may lead to a higher incidence of prostate cancer.

However, factors other than hereditary factors may also contribute to the higher rates and more aggressive forms of prostate cancer observed in African American males. There may be common environmental exposures that lead to higher rates of prostate cancer.

MORE AGGRESSIVE FORM OF THE DISEASE

Not only do African American men tend to have an increased incidence in prostate cancer, African American men also tend to have more aggressive disease at the time of their diagnosis, which may play some part in the disparity in increased mortality rates from prostate cancer in African Americans.

However, it is unknown whether the higher mortality rates of prostate cancer observed in Black males is due to the more aggressive forms

of the cancer itself occurring more often in African American males, or the fact that African American men have historically been those less likely to be screened for the early detection of prostate cancer and therefore have more advanced prostate cancer at diagnosis due to delayed presentation.

Currently there is no proven way in which to prevent prostate cancer; however, based upon certain observations some suggest that risk reduction for developing prostate cancer may be possible.

DIET & NUTRITION

As discussed, the rate of prostate cancer is highest in the United States, and the incidence of prostate cancer is increasing in other countries where Western diets and lifestyles have been adopted, suggesting that nutritional factors may contribute to prostate carcinogenesis. Specifically, culture and race-specific differences in dietary intake and nutritional factors may play an important role in prostate cancer risk in certain racial minorities. With the observations that obesity and high fat diets are more



prevalent among African-American populations, these data support the linkage between diet and cancer risk.

A nutritional factor related to prostate cancer risk is vitamin D deficiency. Vitamin D deficiency is more common in African Americans compared to Caucasians and is believed to be due to deficient nutritional intake (i.e., due to lactose intolerance in many African

Americans) as well as to the fact that increased skin pigmentation decreases vitamin D production in the skin in African Americans.

It has thus been suggested that lower levels of vitamin D could contribute to the elevated rates of prostate cancer in African Americans. Low fat diets and vitamin D supplementation may lead to risk reduction of prostate cancer in African American males.

Looking For An Activity That's Both Social And Will Give You A Workout?

Watching climbing at the Paris Olympics makes it seem as if it's a sport that would be completely out of the question for a weekend athlete. The speed, strength and dexterity with which the competitors scale the walls appear impossible to match.

Think again. Climbing might look terrifying on television, with and without ropes. Whether it's watching "Free Solo" or roped climbers making an ascent on one of the world's highest peaks, one thing is clear: it's not for the easily queasy. That's not the climbing we are talking about here.

"Climbing's a terrific workout from your fingers to your toes and right through your core," said Eric Horst, who runs the website trainingforclimbing.com. "The beauty of climbing gyms is you have this very controlled setting where anybody can walk in and take a climbing lesson and in the first hour start climbing the walls."

Recreational climbing doesn't look much different from what's being performed in the Olympics.

Don't worry, you won't have to hang from a hold by your fingertips at a crazy angle - at least at first! Climbing has a level for everyone.

With over 600 climbing gyms in the United States, the opportunity to get started is there. Gyms offer climbing with ropes and without for beginners. Whichever you choose, you can be certain that given a little time you will get a well-rounded workout.

"The advent of indoor climbing walls has changed accessibility, so it's easier for people to join and take part in the sport" said Nick Draper, professor of sport and exercise science at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand. "One of the things that limits people being active is accessibility."

New climbers can start with bouldering, climbing without ropes on shorter walls up to about 15 feet (4 1/2 meters), with padded floors to cushion their landing when they fall or jump down. Another option is top rope climbing in which the climber is tied into a rope and belayed by a partner. Top rope walls are typically in the 40- to 60-foot

range (12-18 meters). More advanced is lead climbing - a climber clips their rope into protection called a quickdraw as they ascend to prevent a long fall - and, of course, there is outdoor climbing on real rock.



THE GOLDEN YEARS
By Judykay Jefferson

MIRACLE AFTER MIRACLE

Being reared in a very traditional, Black United Methodist Church in the 50s and 60s, there wasn't a lot of talk about modern-day miracles. In fact, there wasn't a lot said about God's intersection in our individual lives. We were strictly by-the-books, those books being the King James version of the bible and the United Methodist Hymnal. To say there wasn't a lot of being moved in the Spirit was an understatement. It was calm, methodical, and safely unemotional. Truth told, I had a hard time staying awake.

As an adult, I tried a number of churches in Jackson, Mississippi and later in North Carolina's Triangle. Nothing felt right. I'd give up and wait until someone invited me to visit their church thinking that maybe this time was the charm. It wasn't. In fact, it wasn't until at 65 years old, I found myself in a stand-off with a man who was a foot taller and out-weighted me by 100 lbs. that I may not be able to beat him down as I believed and that I needed to seriously change my life. In that moment, I heard God laughing at me. It took a moment, but I had to laugh at myself. For 65 years, I had avoided physical altercations and rarely participated in heated discussions. This was a moment of ridiculousness that was unmatched. Crazy, but impactful.

There was a non-traditional church that met in the auditorium of the high school 6 minutes walking distance from my house and I promised myself and God that I would be there the next Sunday. I was and began a transformative relationship that has brought me joy, purpose, and a deeper spiritual connection than I ever thought possible. Yes, it was different, and I liked the differences. Many attendees, regardless of age, gender, race, appeared to be there in desperate search for some type of spiritual rescue. That was me, old, Black, alone, introverted but not shy. I too was there for rescue from myself.

During my brief marriage, my husband and I joined and attended (at his insistence) the largest white Baptist church in Jackson, Mississippi. The pastor, a lovely, humble man nearing retirement, made us feel welcome and would visit our home to pray with my mother who was living with Alzheimer's disease. He shepherded thousands of Mississippi's wealthiest, most influential families. There was a banner hung at the entrance to the sanctuary that read, "Servants, not celebrities." Generally wasted words.

In our Sunday school class for married couples, taught by the head of the counseling ministry, we were studying the New Testament. Eventually, we arrived at the 1 chapter book of Philemon. You may remember Paul's letter from prison to Philemon and his wife. Philemon hosted in his home what we call at our church a watch party. The first seven verses of the bible's account of Paul's message to Philemon remind Philemon of Paul's love and appreciation of him and his ministry. It's warm and fuzzy, and a total set-up.

The warm turns beginning with verse 8. Paul reminds Philemon of his anointed position as Christ's ambassador and the authority of his position. Paul, saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Ghost, was still a Boss. He points out that he has a favor to ask that he rightfully could have commanded but confidently made a personal request. It's the biblical version of making an offer that can't be refused.

Back to the letter. Onesimus, formerly enslaved by Philemon escaped enslavement running to Paul for help. Paul, knowing this man would be hunted down and returned like property, flips the script on Philemon by claiming Onesimus as his son and returning him to Philemon, not as a slave but as a brother in the faith. Additionally, Paul underscores Onesimus's value by accepting responsibility for any inconvenience or loss Onesimus's absence may have caused and sending Onesimus to Philemon to hand deliver the letter.

Our Sunday school teacher rested his bible in his lap and asked the class, "Why do you think Onesimus away?" The silence was deafening. My husband, sensing things were crashing, looked at me nervously. Like James Brown, I had broken out in a cold sweat. I said, "You can't actually be asking why a slave would run away. Is the concept of slavery and subhuman status so foreign to you that you believe some people are born subordinate to others?" All this was said without taking a breath. Inhaling, I looked around the room into the expressionless faces of people who believed just that. It was our last Sunday as at my 4-year-old daughter called it, First Backdoors.

This was not "church hurt." It was a reminder of the deep indoctrination and maintenance of the American caste system undergirded and justified by some traditional religious systems. Much has changed since 1997 when this happened but not that much. Now we talk about entitlement, a term that to some extent trivializes the deep entrenchment of the commitment to us vs. them.

Perhaps this cycled through my mind because we're in a political season, desperately hoping for change, or maybe it's just Monday.

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Arts & Culture

Citizen Spotlight: Celeste Beatty And NC Based Harlem Brewing Company

By: Ms Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

I'm excited to share our next citizen to spotlight, Celeste Beatty the first Black woman to own a brewery in the United States. You will be thrilled and inspired by the story of Harlem Brewing Company, particularly their North Carolina division, Harlem Brew South. As soon as I walked into the historic space, I was captivated by the size and the architecture. This space was the location of 'Operation Dixie.' On this same site, women were treating the tobacco, picking leaves, tying it up, hanging it up to dry processing, all of that here, where Celeste will soon be brewing beer. More than 10,000 black women, black leaf tobacco workers, cast a vote right in this area. In 1946, pay was bad, and so were the working conditions. So they cast a vote through a unionized process that allowed them to get better working conditions and better pay. The historic marker indicates that this was a "precursor to the civil rights movement."



After dropping this knowledge on me in this overwhelming beautiful and historic space, Celeste offered me the best beer I've ever had made from coffee and chocolate, and we had a memorable conversation. As we explored the building, Celeste highlighted more history, "This whole area was tobacco and cotton. So all the stuff you see here helped dry the tobacco, helped process the tobacco, and there was an auction. Auctions continually that happened, people would walk through and evaluate the condition of tobacco. They would purchase it based on whether they thought it was in the appropriate condition. So during the day, this was auctions. It was processing. At night, music was on! Everybody who came through the Apollo came through here. I don't know if it was this exact building yet, because we still haven't found out, but some tobacco warehouse and Rocky Mount. Everybody that was on the stage of the Apollo came through there." This made perfect sense, being that the location is not far from interstate 95. I was excited to learn about the

brewing process. At the moment, Celeste and her team are brewing in Harlem. Soon they'll be brewing here in eastern North Carolina thanks to a game changing donation, "Not quite a year ago, this equipment that you see here was actually donated to our project. Yes, donated! We were in the middle of raising capital to renovate and to get equipment. Through the National Black Brewers Association, which I'm a founding board member of, along with Kevin Johnson (KJ), also, Marcus Baskerville, who created the Black is Beautiful beer campaign that raised more than \$5 million during the George Floyd movement to support black organizations around the world. Denise Ford-Sawadogo and Leo, they own the brewery, Montclair Brewery in New Jersey. Nappy roots out of Atlanta, they are part of our board as well, Atlantucky Brewing. So there's a group of about 15 members of our board. One of our members, Garrett Oliver, is the brewer for Brooklyn Burley. He showed up at a meeting, I think we were in Sacramento at the time, he said, look, guys, I have a brewing system we don't have room for, we got to figure out what to do with it. I was sitting right behind them at the time. I said, I'll take it! They did a vote right at that moment, the motion was put on the table by KJ. And everybody voted for us to get the system. It was moved in here from Princeton, New Jersey."

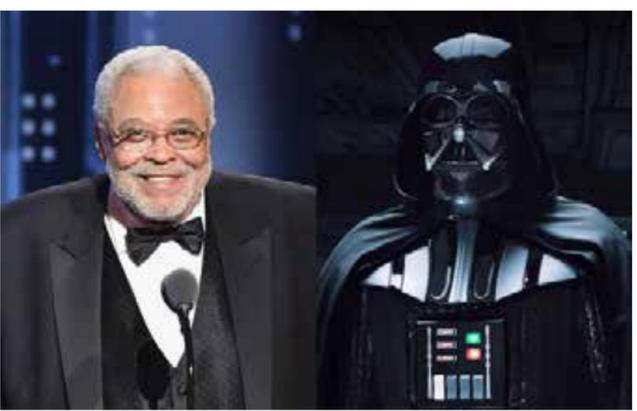
What a savvy entrepreneur! I inquired about the actual brewing process, "So now it's sitting here. We can't do anything with it, because the plans are now with the city. They've got to approve the plans for the electrical, plumbing, and mechanical stuff that has to be put in place to support this."

Celeste had mentioned that breweries are not exactly the most lucrative investment these days, because quite a number of them are closing, but there is a bigger play. She elaborated, "Now that we have black brewers, black and brown brewers are on the rise, but we have problem getting funding for our projects. Even though it's been shown that black and brown breweries, have the greatest potential for success. The environment, in terms of the brewing industry, is not favorable to invest in breweries. So, to convince people to invest in our products, we've got to really go overboard to show them why what we're doing is culturally unique from what the other brewers are doing that are closing. Fact is, we don't have gathering places. McDonald's, all those fast food places are not the environments where work or deals happens. When you gather, you communicate, people fall in love when they gather. Today, 9,500 locations exist in our country that allow other communities to do that. They don't allow our communi-

ties to do that. So, it's not just about drinking and getting a little saucy. Historically, from the women that I met in Africa, that brew beer, they were part of the ceremonies, having been there for thousands of years. It was part of that. We're trying to bring the same thing to our communities now that we legally can actually brew beer and sell it, historically, weren't able to do that."

Already impressed with the flavors and the space, I wanted to know more about Celeste and her background. She shared with me about her career in international relations and her experiences in New York and abroad. I was excited to learn that brewing was in her blood, "Farm to table is something we grew up with. My grandparents grew stuff on the farm. I was in Future Farmers of America at RJ Reynolds High School. I grew hops. I grow stuff, and I brew it. That's just what I do. The combination of the land, the gardening, and the history pulled me deeper into what was a hobby. The meaning and purpose of what that represents to me go deeper into it and I fell in love with it. There is so much history in brewing to ceremonial and cultural elements. ... My mother used to make Ginger Beer for the early Kwanzaa celebrations in Winston-Salem. The process of making it we would help cut the ginger, crush the ginger, boil the ginger. It wasn't beer, but it made me think about the process. When I started connecting the dots, remembering those things had an impact and the gatherings we had were positive."

On October 1st, 2024, Harlem Brew Soul, A Beer Infused Soul Food Cook Book by Celeste Beatty will be released! Harlem Brew Soul shares over 80 beer-infused soul food favorites with a beer-infused twist. With more than two decades of brewing history and tradition, Harlem Brewing Company has been crafting beers that satisfy and excite beer drinkers everywhere. Moving beers into restaurant after restaurant and onto shelf after shelf, Harlem Brewing Company is one to follow and find for your bar.



Acclaimed Actor And Voice Of Darth Vader, Dies At 93

NEW YORK (AP) — James Earl Jones, who overcame racial prejudice and a severe stutter to become a celebrated icon of stage and screen — eventually lending his deep, commanding voice to CNN, "The Lion King" and Darth Vader — has died. He was 93.

His agent, Barry McPherson, confirmed Jones died Monday morning at home in New York's Hudson Valley region. The cause was not immediately clear.

The pioneering Jones, who in 1965 became one of the first African American actors in a continuing role on a daytime drama ("As the World Turns") and worked deep into his 80s, won two Emmys, a Golden Globe, two Tony Awards, a Grammy, the National Medal of Arts and the Kennedy Center Honors. He was also given an honorary Oscar and a special Tony for lifetime achievement. In 2022, a Broadway theater was renamed in his honor.

He cut an elegant figure late in life, with a wry sense of humor and a ferocious work habit. In 2015, he arrived at rehearsals for a Broadway run of "The Gin Game" having already memorized the play and with notebooks filled with comments from the creative team. He said he was always in service of the work.

Jones created such memorable film roles as the reclusive writer coaxed back into the spotlight in "Field of Dreams," the boxer Jack Johnson in the stage and screen hit "The Great White Hope," the writer Alex Haley in "Roots: The Next Generation" and a South African minister in "Cry, the Beloved Country."

He was also a sought-after voice actor, expressing the villainy of Darth Vader ("No, I am your father," commonly misremembered as "Luke, I am your father"), as well as the benign dignity of King Mufasa in both the 1994 and 2019 versions of Disney's "The Lion King" and announcing "This is CNN" during station breaks. He won a 1977 Grammy for his performance on the "Great American Documents" audiobook.

"If you were an actor or aspired to be an actor, if you pounded the pavement in these streets looking for jobs, one of the standards we always had was to be a James Earl Jones," Samuel L. Jackson once said.

Some of his other films include "Dr. Strangelove," "The Greatest" (with Muhammad Ali), "Conan the Barbarian," "Three Fugitives" and playing an admiral in three blockbuster Tom Clancy adaptations — "The Hunt for Red October," "Patriot Games" and "Clear and Present Danger." In a rare romantic comedy, "Claudine," Jones had an onscreen love affair with Diahann Carroll.

LeVar Burton, who starred alongside Jones in the TV movie "Guyana Tragedy: The Story of Jim Jones," paid tribute on X, writing, "There will never be another of his particular combination of graces."

Jones made his Broadway debut in 1958's "Sunrise At Campobello" and would win his two Tony Awards for "The Great White Hope" (1969) and "Fences" (1987). He was also nominated for "On Golden Pond" (2005) and "Gore Vidal's The Best Man" (2012). He was celebrated for his command of Shakespeare and Athol Fugard alike. More recent Broadway appearances include "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," "Driving Miss Daisy," "The Iceman Cometh," and "You Can't Take It With You."

NC Bazaar Draws Vintage Enthusiasts

Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

The North Carolina Vintage Bazaar, the largest vintage clothing market and thrift convention in the state, has once again brought vintage lovers together for a weekend of unique finds and nostalgic experiences. Held this past weekend at the Exposition Center at the State Fairgrounds, the Bazaar, which started in 2022, was a resounding success, expanding to a two-day format for the first time in its history.

On Saturday, approximately 90 vendors showcased their vintage treasures, ranging from retro video game setups to iconic 2000s boy band T-shirts. The following day, a fresh lineup of vendors continued the excitement. The expansion to two days allowed attendees more time to explore the extensive selection of secondhand clothing and accessories, making it a worthy event for both seasoned thrifters and newcomers alike.

One of the vendors, Wyatt Gonion-Waldref, brought his vintage shop 'Recovered Classics' from Charlotte to the event.

"I wanted to set up at the NC Vintage Bazaar because it's recognized as the largest vintage shopping event in the state," Gonion-Waldref said. "I make an effort to promote my so-



cial media and website to customers as they browse my items or simply walk by. Anyone interested in talking or shopping had the chance to learn about my business."

The Vintage Bazaar has become a tradition for those passionate about sustainable fashion and local shopping. Every vendor at the event specializes in secondhand vintage items, ensuring that attendees can find classic, rare, and exclusive items. From sports jerseys to retro sweatshirts and vintage graphic tees,

the event catered to a diverse range of tastes and interests.

"Being able to network and meet new people who share my passion for vintage apparel, as well as reconnecting with other vendors I've established relationships with, makes it all worthwhile," Gonion-Waldref said. "I'll definitely be back. I love the atmosphere and sense of community that the NC Vintage Bazaar offers."

Garrett Young-Wright and Aaron Wan, the founders of the Bazaar, began their journey with a modest setup

of about 20 vintage vendors in a Durham parking lot. Their passion for vintage fashion and resale value quickly garnered attention, leading to the first event at the Raleigh Convention Center in 2022. Since then, their vision has grown, and the Bazaar has become a major fixture in the state's vintage fashion scene.

Attendees not only enjoyed an abundance of vintage clothing but also retro video game setups, photo booths, live music, and numerous local food trucks. The NC Vintage Bazaar hosted a smaller event at Moore Square in June.

The Bazaar's influence extends beyond Raleigh. In Chapel Hill, the Vintage Market, featuring 15 vintage clothing vendors, was a hit with locals on Friday. It has grown to include a beer truck, live music, and various food options, and has become a popular Friday fixture in the college town before home football games.

The NC Vintage Bazaar is designed to immerse visitors in a nostalgic atmosphere, with retro technology and vintage fashion creating a sentimental and engaging environment for all ages. With its continued growth and commitment to celebrating vintage fashion, the NC Vintage Bazaar remains a premier destination for anyone looking to dive into the world of thrift.

A Celebration Of Raleigh's Historic 4th Ward District



Incredibly Rare Document Discovered In NC

ASHEVILLE, N.C. and NEW YORK—An incredibly rare, original printed archetype of the United States Constitution, signed by Secretary of Congress Charles Thomson, will be auctioned on September 28, 2024, in Asheville, North Carolina at Brunk Auctions. The auction will begin with a starting bid of \$1 million, without reserve. It is expected to sell for much more.

This revolutionary document is one of only eight known surviving signed ratification copies of the United States Constitution, and the only known in private hands. The last and only other recorded sale of a similar document was in 1891.

The ratification copy of the Constitution will be sold at Brunk Auctions on September 28, the 237th anniversary of the day Congress passed the ratification resolution.

Drafted in Philadelphia and signed by the delegates to the Constitutional Convention, the proposed Constitution was delivered on September 18, 1787 to the Confederation

Congress that was then meeting in New York on the site that is now the Federal Hall National Memorial at 26 Wall Street. After heated debate, on September 28 Congress resolved to send it to the states for ratification. To that end, Charles Thomson, the Secretary of Congress, ordered 100 copies of the printed archetype, only a fraction of which he signed for sending to the legislatures of the 13 original states. It is that resolution, along with Thomson's signature, that makes the present copy an official ratification edition of the Constitution.

This incredibly rare document was discovered in 2022 at Hayes Farm, a 184-acre plantation in Edenton, North Carolina. The property was purchased in 1765 by Samuel Johnston, who in 1787-1789 was governor of North Carolina and presided over the state's two ratification conventions. In 1865, it was acquired by the Wood family, which has held it for seven generations. The document was found inside an old filing cabi-

net in 2022 when the property was being cleared out and sold to North Carolina for preservation under the care of the Elizabeth Vann Moore Foundation with assistance from the Edenton Historical Commission and the Town of Edenton.

Previously, most of the books, documents and artifacts from the home were donated to North Carolina, and a recreation of the Hayes Library was built at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

According to auctioneer Andrew Brunk, "James Madison wrote that the Constitution 'was nothing more than a draft of a plan, nothing but a dead letter, until life and validity were breathed into it by the voice of the people, speaking through several State Conventions.'" Brunk added, "this simple looking version is what started breathing life into the Constitution."

Seth Kaller, a renowned historic document expert who is collaborating with Brunk on the sale, noted that "This is a unique opportunity to own a cornerstone of our democracy, par-

ticularly at this time in our nation's history. It also reminds us of the crucial role New York played in the founding of America."

Kaller was involved in bidding on the Constitutional Convention printing that Sotheby's sold on November 18, 2021 for \$43.2 million to Ken Griffin, founder and CEO of Citadel, LLC. In 1988, that same document had sold for \$165,000. According to Kaller, "The ratification copy now up for auction is rarer and arguably more significant, but the consignor gave Brunk the luxury of selling it without reserve, with a starting bid of \$1,000,000. The market will decide what the Constitution is worth to us today."

The public will be able to view the document on Friday, September 13 from 1:00 - 4:30 PM at Federal Hall National Memorial at 26 Wall Street in New York, the location where the Confederation Congress met in September of 1787 and resolved to send the Constitution to the States for ratification.



Community

Historic Prince Hall District Under Siege By Developers

By: Ms Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

The fight to preserve Raleigh's historic Black neighborhoods, like the Prince Hall District, has intensified as developers encroach on land once vital to the African American community. In an exclusive interview, Eugene Myrick, a mayoral candidate and advocate for these neighborhoods, sheds light on the ongoing battle against gentrification and the exploitation of Black landowners.

"Prince Hall District was once a majority-Black neighborhood," Myrick explains. "It's a historic overlay, meaning it's protected by law. But as land becomes more valuable with downtown's expansion, developers are swooping in to get access to that land." Myrick explained that Prince Hall has deep historical roots, with the Prince Hall Masonic Lodge as one of its most iconic structures. The Masonic Lodge, which is designated as a historic landmark, used to house North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance, one of the first insurance companies for Black people. "It was a sanctuary for Black people when there were few places we could go," Myrick says, referencing the Lodge and the Lincoln Theatre as the only Black-owned spaces in downtown Raleigh. He shared stories our elders told him about this being a safe space where they could play, watch films, and be themselves growing up.

Today, the district is under threat. Developers seek to build a high-rise hotel and other commercial properties, drastically changing the character of the neighborhood. "One devel-



oper wanted to build a 12-story hotel next to the Masonic Lodge. This area is historic, and the Masonic building is only three stories high. A 12-story hotel would tower over it," Myrick continues. Myrick questions the ethics behind these developments. "Councilman Branch is the ringleader behind a lot of this. He's putting developer interests over Black homeowners and historic preservation." Many involved in the conversation believe that politicians like Councilman Corey Branch are facilitating these changes at the expense of the community.

We spoke with Councilman Corey Branch and he shared, "This project was a rezoning for vacant land directly beside the Prince Hall Masonic

lodge that the Prince Hall Mason's actually owned. We're selling to the developer for redevelopment."

The proposed hotel project has been controversial from the start. "The Planning Commission rejected it. The Raleigh Historic Commission rejected it. It doesn't even have a certificate of appropriateness, but still, it's being pushed forward," Myrick shared. "And why? Because the same planning commissioner who recused himself due to a financial conflict has ties to Corey Branch—his spouse is Branch's campaign manager. This is a conflict of interest that's being ignored."

In regards to building height Councilman Branch indicated, "Taking that consideration, the height



of the original project was lowered. Originally it was around twelve stories. It has been lowered to seven stories. The first three stories have to look very similar. Of course, it'd be a little more modern based on the technology, but similar to the current Prince Hall building as far as floor spacing. And then they can build 68ft above that, which is equivalent to, when you add it all together, another four stories which equals seven."

In addition to political influence, Myrick highlights how developers are taking advantage of elderly Black property owners. "A developer will secure a property under contract and then claim that Black people want out of the Prince Hall Dis-

trict. But when you ask to see these people, they're nowhere to be found. Are they actually representing the homeowners or just the developers?" He also shares an example of this exploitation, involving an 82-year-old Black woman who was unknowingly bound by a contract to a developer. "I tried to rent office space from her, but she told me she couldn't talk about it because of the developer. Developers are preying on the elderly, offering them deals that line their pockets while stripping the community of its heritage."

The issue isn't confined to the Prince Hall District alone. Myrick, a graduate of Shaw University, criticizes the leadership of his alma mater for mismanaging funds and allow-

ing developers to encroach on their land. "Shaw University has an empty dormitory that has been vacant for years, yet the administration sits on the Downtown Raleigh Alliance board, doing nothing to protect the school's interests," he says. "They're burning through money, posting losses while developers circle, waiting to snatch up the land."

Myrick's frustration is palpable as he describes the broader picture. "We have Black realtors and leaders working with developers instead of protecting our people's legacy. They're lining their pockets while the community suffers," he says. "Once these buildings are gone, once this land is sold, it's not Black anymore. We're losing our history."

The Prince Hall District and other historic Black neighborhoods in Raleigh are at a crossroads. If developments like the proposed hotel are allowed to proceed, it could signal the beginning of the end for what remains of these cultural landmarks. "This is about preserving Black history. Just because our history isn't as old as other places doesn't mean it's not important," Myrick says passionately. "If we don't stand up now, there will be nothing left to stand up for."

As Raleigh's Black communities continue to be pushed out, Myrick calls for greater accountability from city leaders and for the community to rally together. "We need to stop this exploitation before it's too late," he warns. This story reflects the ongoing fight to protect Raleigh's Black history, a struggle that is far from over.

Celebrating The Career Lattice Program

GREENSBORO, NC – Abbotswood at Irving Park – a Kisco Senior Living community, is proud to celebrate the recent graduates of its Career Lattice Program, a dynamic framework designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of its associates. This milestone is not just a testament to the hard work and dedication of the participants but also a reflection of Abbotswood's commitment to fostering growth and development among its associates.

To honor the achievements of these dedicated individuals, Abbotswood at Irving Park is hosting a graduation ceremony on Wednesday, August 21, at 11:00 a.m. The event will feature a slideshow highlighting the graduates' journey through the program. Graduates, dressed in their caps and gowns, will receive their diplomas and be recognized by the community's management team.

"This program has been a life-changing experience for me," said Brittney Davis, a current memory care associate and recent gradu-



ate. "I've learned so much and am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to grow my career here at Abbotswood. I'm excited to see where this journey leads me and look forward to applying everything I've learned in my future roles."

The Career Lattice Program at Abbotswood offers a structured

pathway for associates to gain experience across all departments. From dining services, environmental services, to memory care, participants receive hands-on training that deepens their understanding of the community's operations. The program not only enhances their skills but also rewards their progress with

pay increases, making it a truly valuable opportunity for professional growth.

For the associates, graduating from the program signifies a significant step in their professional journey, equipping them with new skills and knowledge that open doors to future opportunities. This program is designed to empower associates to advance their careers within the community and senior living industry, ensuring they are well-prepared to take on leadership roles and provide exceptional care to residents.

"We're incredibly proud of this graduating class," said William Eubank, executive director at Abbotswood at Irving Park. "The Career Lattice Program is one of my favorite initiatives because it allows us to see our associates grow and advance within our organization. It's fulfilling to watch them develop the skills they need to move up the ranks, and I'm so proud of what this class has accomplished. This program truly embodies our commitment to investing in our associates' futures."



Aviation Support Equipment Technician Airman Kymontee Sykes, from Raleigh, North Carolina, drills holes in an aircraft toolbar in the hangar bay onboard Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), while in-port Naval Base Kitsap, in Bremerton, Washington, Aug. 19, 2024. Ronald Reagan provides a combat-ready force that protects and defends the United States, and supports alliances, partnerships and collective maritime interests in the Indo-Pacific region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Kazia Ream)

Rural Pharmacies Struggle To Stay Open

By Jaymie Baxley

NC Health News

People in rural communities depend on local pharmacies for more than just prescription medicines.

Many rural pharmacies offer immunizations, blood pressure testing and other services that can be difficult to get in remote places where traditional health care providers are few and far between. In some areas, a rural pharmacist "may be the only trained health professional in town," according to Professor Delesha Carpenter of the Eshelman School of Pharmacy at UNC Chapel Hill.

"If you wake up with a rash or some kind of bite, the pharmacist is the most accessible health professional," she said. "You don't need an appointment, you don't need health insurance and they're often open after providers' offices have closed."

But rural pharmacies across the country are struggling. A recent study by the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) at the University of Iowa found that the number of retail pharmacies in rural communities across the U.S. declined by 5.9 percent from 2018 to 2023.

North Carolina is not immune to the trend. In an email to NC Health News, Fred Ullrich, program director for RUPRI, said at least three rural municipalities in the state — Faison, Selma and Tryon — lost access to retail pharmacy services during that period.

Carpenter said pharmacy closures can be devastating for rural communities, where residents skew older and are more likely to live with obesity, high blood pressure and other conditions than their urban counterparts. They also face greater transportation challenges and higher rates of poverty.

"When a rural pharmacy closes, people lose access to that health care provider and there may not be anything else in town," she said. "There might not be anywhere else for them to go, especially if they're uninsured — and there's high levels of people

being uninsured in rural communities. Where can those folks now go?"

COMPETING WITH CITIES

Joe Moose, who with his brother runs Moose Pharmacy, a 142-year-old business with eight locations in the Central Piedmont, fears the state will lose more rural pharmacies in the future.

He said the ever-rising cost of prescription drugs has created a "volume market" that favors corporate drug stores in urban areas. Smaller, independently owned shops in more sparsely populated communities, meanwhile, "make very little or nothing at all" from filling prescriptions.

"You can't even keep the doors open if you don't have volume, and density generally creates volume," Moose said. "That becomes really challenging when you're trying to pull from 10,000 patients over a 30-mile, rural setting versus 10,000 patients over a half a mile setting."

While rural pharmacies get a higher reimbursement rate for some prescription drugs, Moose said the difference is negligible and not enough to sustain a pharmacist's salary.

"Pharmacists are expensive," he said. "You've got to get a certain amount of volume just to cover that expense before you get into all the other stuff like the electricity and water bills, the rent and the insurance."

Another challenge, Moose said, is attracting qualified pharmacists to rural communities, which may be seen as less desirable places to live.

"If a person's invested a ton of money in their education to become a pharmacist, do they want to go back to a rural area? Or do they want to be in a city like Charlotte, Raleigh or Greensboro?" he asked.

REIMBURSEMENT WOES

Moose believes many of the financial issues plaguing rural pharmacies can be traced back to pharmacy benefit managers.

These companies set the reimbursement rates for prescription drugs. They also decide which drugs are covered by health insurance plans and where those drugs can be

dispensed — often with little government regulation.

States have been reluctant to regulate pharmacy benefit managers, but some states have started. This year, 12 state legislatures made moves to rein in pharmacy benefit managers, according to a report in Politico, with more anticipated after this fall's election.

"If you want to pinpoint one thing that has led to closures, it's that the hands of pharmacies are tied on the amount of money that they can charge," Moose said. "Somebody tells them how much they can charge and how much they're going to get reimbursed, and that number keeps ratcheting down every year. It's consistently declining."

"Legislatively, we need to make their activities more transparent so people can see the cost of things and

see where their dollars are going," he said.

Moose isn't the only rural pharmacist who wants to rein in pharmacy benefits managers. Carpenter, who directs a rural pharmacy research network that includes more than 150 pharmacies, said the network's members identified the companies as a top financial threat in a recent survey.

"Pharmacies get reimbursed less than what they pay for these prescriptions," she said of the rates set by the pharmacy benefit managers. "On some brand name medications like Ozempic, a pharmacy can lose up to \$100 per prescription to dispense it."

And many contracts with the pharmacy benefit managers require local pharmacies to dispense a medication, even if it's a money-losing proposition.

CITY OF RALEIGH DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT TO HUD AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT

The City of Raleigh's Draft Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER, for the period from July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) is available for public comment from September 9th – 24, 2024. This report summarizes how the City used federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), CARES Act and local funding to carry out its housing and community development programs from 7/1/23 – 6/30/24. The draft CAPER is available by e-mail, on the City website, and from the Community and Small Business Development Division, 421 Fayetteville St. Suite 1200, Raleigh, NC 27601

Accommodations for disabled or non-English speaking residents will be made available upon request. The City offers interpreter services in other languages, including American Sign Language, at no cost to the speaker. The public has until September 24th, 2024, to review and submit written comments. Comments may be sent to cd.info@raleighnc.gov, or to Community and Small Business Development, P.O. Box 590, Raleigh, NC 27602. To request a copy, call (919) 996-4330.



Campus is Ready Thanks to Major Volunteer Efforts from the Entire SAU Community

Thanks to the generous efforts of the SAU community — including faculty, staff, students, and alumni — the Saint Augustine's University (SAU) campus is ready for classes to start today.

Students began moving into dorms on Tuesday, Aug. 27. Preparations got a big boost this summer, especially on Aug. 10 when volunteers gathered for a campus clean-up. The volunteer team performed various activities, such as cutting grass and picking up trash.

Those efforts were supplemented by several other informal efforts throughout the summer, including faculty and staff members who came to campus on their own time and performed tasks such as cleaning out buildings and landscaping.

The university could not have done the job of preparing the campus for the fall without the help of dozens of volunteers, said Dr. Marcus H. Burgess, Interim President of Saint Augustine's University.

"I am deeply grateful for the hard work put in by the faculty, staff, and community over the summer getting the campus ready," Dr. Burgess said. "Their selfless sacrifice shows that we have the positive spirit and the drive that we need to bring this campus back."

SAU received another big boost when it won a \$60,000 Campus Improvement Grant after finishing fifth among universities with a student enrollment of 1,200 or less in Home Depot's prestigious Retool Your School competition. Saint Augustine's won the grant in April after an online voting campaign supported by the entire SAU community, including students, staff, faculty, and alumni.

The equipment began arriving in mid-August. The funds will pay for 15 sets of washers and dryers for four campus laundry rooms. In addition, the university was able to purchase:

- privacy walls, tables, and chairs for the new Academic Success Center
- lounge furniture, charging towers, outdoor tables, benches, and umbrellas for the student union
- paint, brushes, and other miscellaneous supplies
- a case of 50 bags of laundry pods to gift to students living in campus housing.

There were even funds left to help replace mini blinds and get window AC units for our dormitories.

Dr. Janelle Jennings-Alexander, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Experience, summarized: "We still have work to do, but the community has come together to ensure that our institution is ready to provide an excellent experience in the fall semester and for the future."

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

Can the President Control the Economy?

With the presidential campaigns in full force, one question people are asking is if a president can control the economy. In fact, I've had this question put to me by both the media and attendees at meetings.

In the type of economy we have — a market economy — a high majority of day-to-day economic decisions are made by business people in companies and by individuals in households. This is by design. Promoters of the market system argue individualized decision-making about the economy maximizes freedom.

Yet even in the market system, the government has some influence. For example, local governments like cities and counties apply zoning regulations to control land uses. In North Carolina, the state government funds roads and also a large portion of both K-12 and public university spending. Also, both local and state governments contribute to public safety by financing law enforcement and the court system.

When it comes to the economy, the federal government is the big player, and this is where a president can have influence, but not control. This wasn't always the case. Until the 1930s when the Great Depression occurred, the federal government largely followed a "hands off" approach to the economy. An exception was the use of tariffs on foreign imports. Tariffs are effectively a tax on foreign-made products sold in the U.S. They were used to motivate consumers to buy domestic-made instead of foreign-made products.

Then came the 1930s, probably the worst economic decade in our history. The federal government responded by taking an active role in the direction of the economy by developing fiscal policy. Fiscal policy involves using federal taxing and spending to influence how fast the economy grows. If the economy is not growing enough, and especially if it is contracting — as in a recession or depression — then fiscal policy means the federal government will cut taxes and/or increase spending to stimulate growth. Of course, this can mean more borrowing. Conversely, if the economy is expanding too fast and prices are rising rapidly, the federal government attempts to cool the economy and slow price increases by raising taxes and/or reducing spending.

After World War II when there was fear the economy would slip back into a depression, Congress encouraged the country's central bank, the Federal Reserve or Fed, to use its influence over interest rates and the supply of money to impact the direction of the economy. This is called monetary policy. To boost economic growth, the Fed will lower interest rates and increase the money supply. When the objective is to slow the economy and lower the inflation rate, the Fed raises interest rates and cuts the money supply.

With this background, I can now address the question about a president's power over the economy. A president has influence over both fiscal policy and monetary policy, but the influence is indirect. Fiscal policy is implemented through the federal budget. While a president can make recommendations about the budget, ultimately both chambers of Congress must pass the budget. This often results in long negotiations between a president and both chambers and all political parties in Congress.

For monetary policy and the Federal Reserve, a president does have the power to appoint the members of the governing body of the Fed (with the consent of the Senate), called the Board of Governors. A president also has the power to appoint one of those board members as the chair.

While this may imply the president has major control over the Fed, this actually isn't the case. The reason is the term of the board members is long, at 14 years. This is longer than two full terms of a president. Additionally, while the chair serves a four-year term, that term does not necessarily match the presidential term. Also, although the chair is the "face" of the Fed, the chair only has one vote on the Board of Governors, just like the other board members.

It is thought the framers of the Fed over a century ago purposefully made presidential influence over the Fed difficult in order to insulate monetary policy from political influence. The Fed is also independent from Congress, due to the fact that Congress does not fund the Fed. Instead, the Fed is self-financed from interest earnings on securities it owns. However, Congress does have the power to change the Fed's charter. The changes would have to be approved by the sitting president, or Congress would have to overrule a president's veto of the changes.

The conclusion is a president's powers over the economy are limited, especially with the two major tools of fiscal policy and monetary policy. However, there is another source of presidential influence that shouldn't be overlooked. This is a president's use of the "bully pulpit," a term coined by Theodore Roosevelt to mean a president advocating policies using speeches and interviews. The goal is to generate public support for policies and public pressure on Congress to agree with a president's ideas and recommendations.

A president doesn't guide the economy like an executive or manager guides a company. A president has influence over the economy, but the influence is indirect through working with Congress, making appointments to the Federal Reserve and rallying support from the public. So while the economic ideas of a president are certainly important, the reality is that it takes more than that one person — even a very powerful person — to move the economy. There are many, many hands on the oar of the economic ship. Is this the way it should be? You decide.

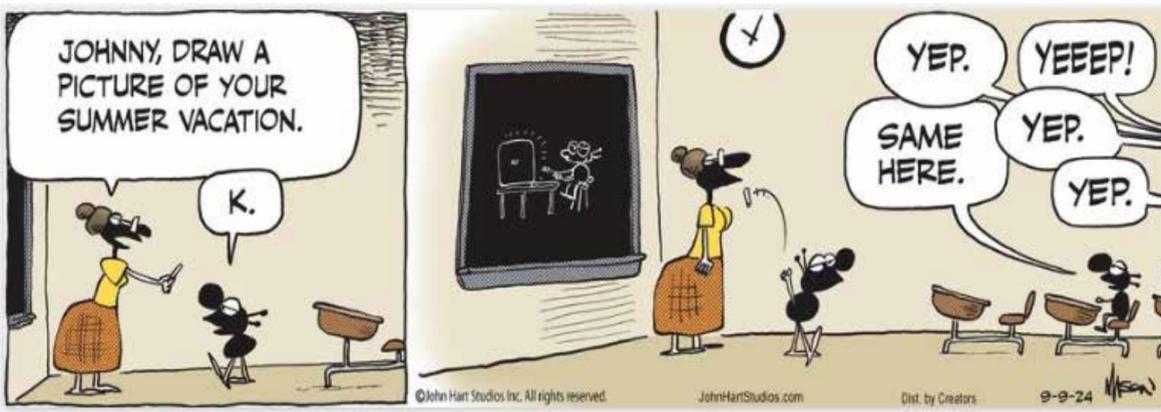
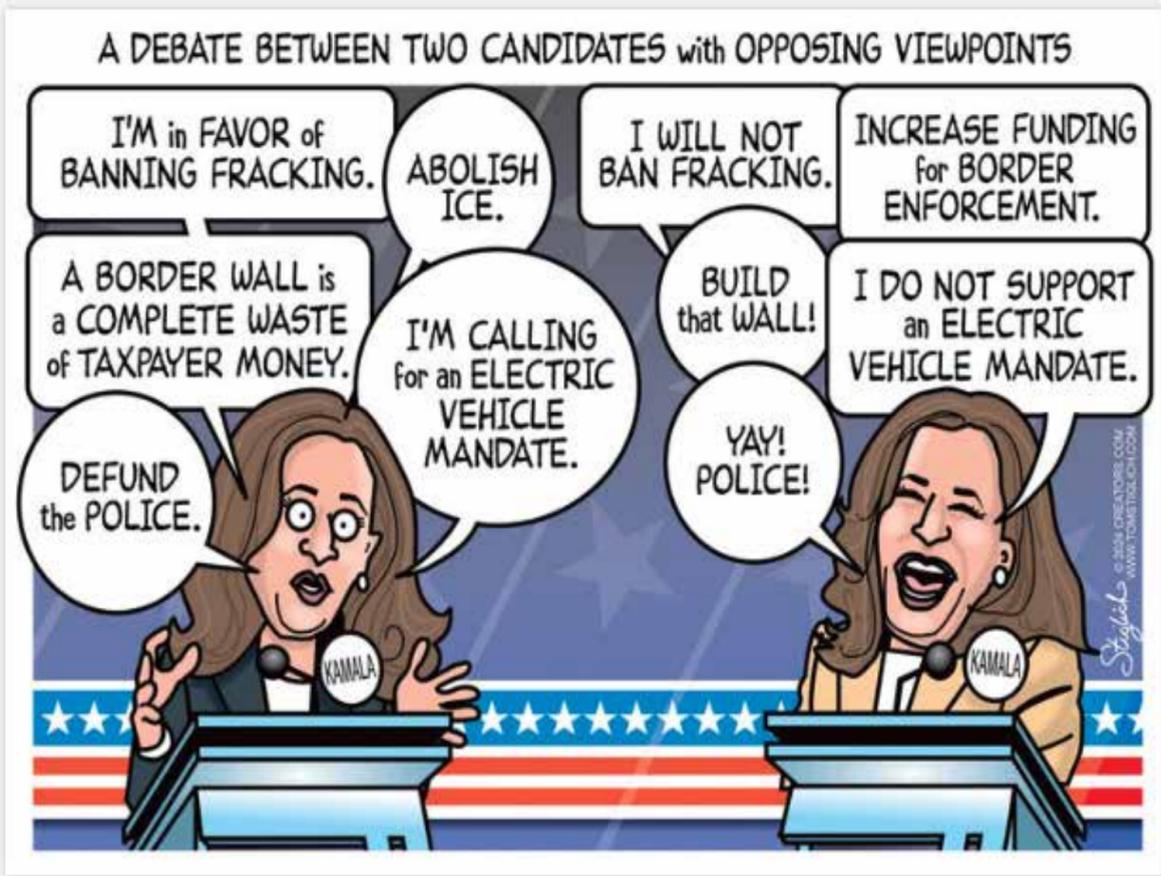
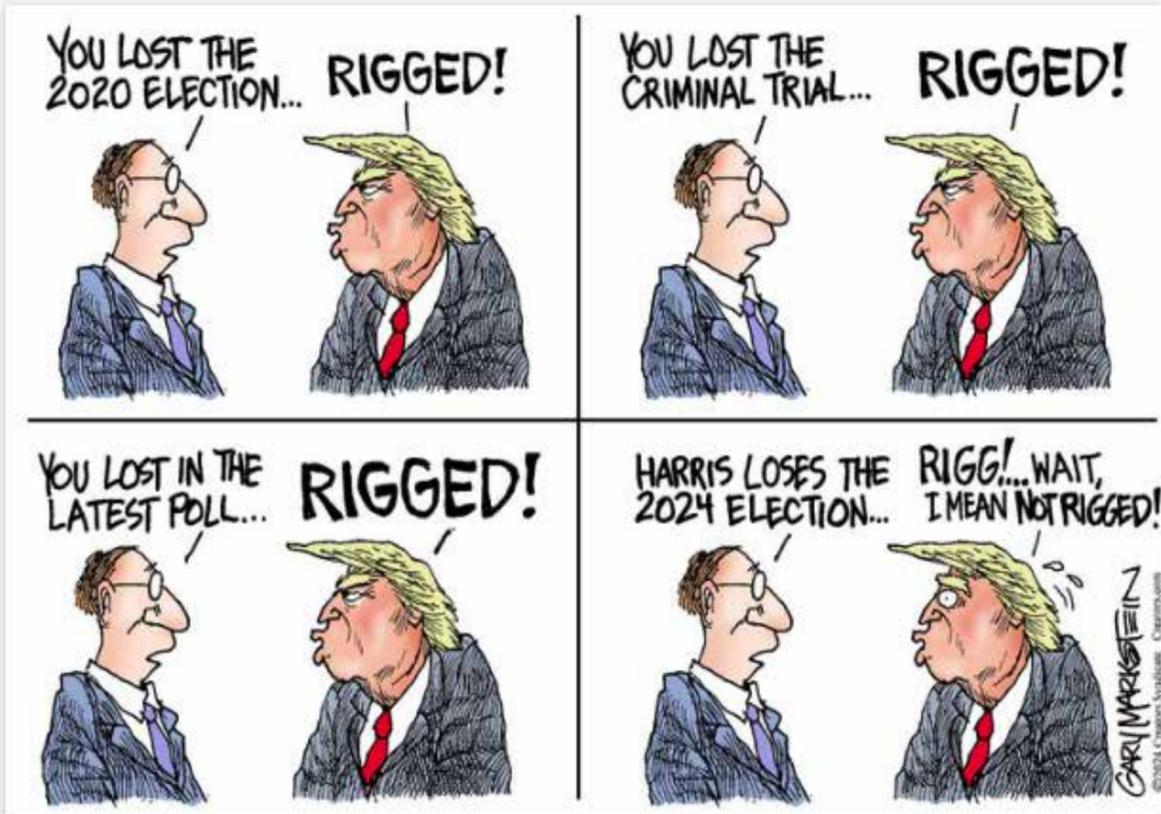
Mike Walden is a Reynolds Distinguished Professor Emeritus at North Carolina State University.

Talk To Us

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

The Government of the United States makes proposals and passes legislation that sometimes is sold to us as 'temporary' regulations. The problem is that they don't go back and remove them once they are in place. That means that the 'temporary' tax increase just rolls over.

Do you think that it would be easier to hold our representatives accountable for their decisions if We The People demanded term limits?



Church

Obituaries

BARBARA ANN HICKS WHITE WILLIAMS

Barbara Ann Hicks White Williams, the eldest daughter of late Roy and Mamie Hicks, was born on January 21, 1941, in Raleigh, NC. She was quietly called home by Lord Jesus Christ on Wednesday, July 31, 2024.

Affectionately called BarbAnn, the eldest of 5 siblings was preceded in death by her sister Sandra Roylene Hicks Murphy and brother Roy Hicks III. She leaves to cherish her remaining siblings: Carolyn Hicks Perryman (GA.), Alfredo Valente Hicks (Paulette) Raleigh, NC, Manetta "Tootie" Hicks Graham (Joseph) Raleigh, NC; brother-in-law J.B. Murphy of Plainsfield, NJ. The heart felt love for siblings was immensely strong. Demonstrated every Saturday morning, "The Great Hicks Roll Call". She and her siblings would call each other to connect and discuss family, trips, vacations, and recipes. Laughter all day would echo throughout each home.

Barbara attended Wake County Public Schools, Crosby Garfield Elementary and J.W. Ligon Middle and Senior High Schools, class of 1959. Where she established infinite bonding childhood friendships with Barbara Morgan Bradley, Sherby-Jean Rogers and Ruby Wilder. Barbara extended her education prowess to



receive her Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education while attending Saint Augustine's College, Raleigh, NC class of 1963. There she met her first love and married General (Hoss) L. White. Their union blossomed and later that year welcomed a daughter Quanda Jeannine White, born in Miami, Florida.

Barbara quickly became acclimated to sunshine and beautiful weather and never looked north again. She established many long-lasting friendships with Eleanor Frazier, Brenda Durden, Barbara Killen, Patricia Harper Garrett, Cindy Salzman Amar, and Susan

Pinkney to name a few. In addition, her next-door neighbor of 25 plus years, Cathy Annakie. In her spare time, Barbara aligned herself in the support of Church functions and connected to civic community service groups. A dedicated teacher for 43 years, she taught in several schools in the Dade County area but made her home at Perrine Elementary. She went on to pursue her master's degree in education administration in 1974, at Nova University in Miami, Florida. In 1985, Barbara remarried again briefly to Harry Williams from New Jersey.

Barbara Ann Hicks White Williams is survived by her only child Quanda White-Spencer, son-in-law Alvin Spencer; two grandchildren: Chelsea A. Spencer and Alvin Branden Spencer Jr. both of Raleigh, NC; first Great-granddaughter Capri A'Brielle Sorrae' Spencer; 16 nieces/nephews, 25 great-nieces/nephews, and loving cousins that she adored. Special recognition and acknowledgements: God-daughter Deedee Rodgers of MD, God sister Joni Coburn of Raleigh, NC, Mr. Walter Franklin, Barbara's longtime companion with whom she had an extraordinary friendship. They talked over the phone when away from each other, travelled when together, and truly enjoyed each other's presence.



Mathias Bishop Photos

Rhythm of Joy: A Gospel Experience — Over 300 people packed into the Cary Arts Center on Saturday night to enjoy gospel music by Chuckey Robinson, CoCo McMillan, Collin Williams, William Stokes (aka Quiet Storm), B Markie, Bertha Young Poteat, Deep River Singers, and Voices of Peace.



State Representative Kelly Alexander Jr. Dies At 75

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — State Rep. Kelly Alexander Jr., a scion of an influential civil rights family in North Carolina who advocated for legalizing medical cannabis, died Friday. He was 75.

A family statement posted on an Alexander social media site said the Mecklenburg County Democrat died Friday morning. It didn't say where or provide a cause of death.

A former president of the state NAACP, Alexander was appointed to the House in mid-2008 and had been reelected to a Charlotte-area district ever since. He did not seek reelection this fall, telling WFAE radio in December that health issues would make it hard to run in 2024.

"Kelly's unwavering commitment to his city, district, state, and this nation has been both profound and heartfelt throughout the years," the family statement said.

Alexander, a leader at the family's century-old Charlotte funeral home, graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was the son of Kelly Alexander Sr., who



reinvigorated the NAACP's Charlotte branch and became the state chapter president in 1948 — a position he would hold for over 35 years, according to the state NAACP's website. His son succeeded him.

While at the General Assembly, the younger Alexander was a strong

and early advocate for the legalization of medical cannabis. Such a bill has since passed the Senate but it has not found enough support in the House. Alexander also spoke in favor of an effort to strip an unenforceable literacy test requirement from the state constitution that was used for decades to disenfranchise Black voters.

U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., was state House speaker during the early 2010s. He said Friday on X that Alexander was instrumental in the legislative effort to make North Carolina the first state to provide compensation for people whom it sterilized during the 20th century.

"I'm grateful for his years of service to our state, and my thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones during this difficult time," Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper said in a similar statement on X.

Funeral arrangements weren't immediately released. Charlotte-area Democratic officials will pick someone to finish Alexander's term through the end of the year.

Practical Biblical Principles

BLESS THE LORD

Read: Psalm 103

By John L. Caldwell, Pastor

New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral
It is amazing how David not only communes with himself, but in doing so, he found ways to commune with God. Of the one hundred and fifty Psalms written David is known to have written at least half of them. When David is communing with his heart, he is basically stirring up himself to the duty and habit of praise to God. David found many reasons to praise God. Church, how many reasons can we find to praise God?

David became king of Israel when He was thirty, yet he worshipped and praised God when he was a shepherd boy. The foundation which David created for praising God appeared to have happened when he was in the fields tending his father's sheep. It is obvious David had real life trials while tending his father's sheep. Such experiences must have included fear, rejection, loneliness, anger, having enemies and other unpleasant traumas. Included in his psalms were statements like, "I was born in iniquity; my brothers didn't treat me fairly; my enemies sought after me to kill me; Lord save me from my enemies; when things were stolen in and around the community, I was seen as the guilty party." David gives us the impression that he was looked down upon when he was young and yet somehow, and in some way, David discovered the Lord while being alone in the field tending his father's sheep. It is obvious the Lord favored David when he was a young shepherd boy. God had Samuel, the priest, anoint David with oil and ordain him while he was yet a young shepherd boy tending his father's sheep.

There are some Jewish historical readings which indicate David might have been born out of wed lock. This may have been the reason David's brothers looked down on him. We see this when David came to deliver food to the Israel's army when they faced

off with the Philistine army and their giant Goliath. David inquired about this giant and his brothers heard about his inquiry admonished him and told him to go back home and continue tending his father's sheep.

His proposed songs were written to be sung in the temple. These were songs about his personal life's experiences written to be sung in the temple worship services. These psalms were written to praise God for His goodness, protection, love, care, and deliverance from dangers. In short, these psalms were written to praise God. David had much forethought in that he wrote these psalms for the future church and you and I so that we too might learn to praise God as we should. To praise God is to lift Him up and thank Him for being the Number One Person in our lives. And besides, Him there is no other God in all the universe to thank and praise.

The church must and should always be about praising God. What is meant here is that individuals in the church should take on the joy and seek reasons to praise God for the good He has done for us. "Bless the Lord, O my soul and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not His benefits (Psalm 103:1-2). David, the shepherd boy, and David the King ceased not to praise and worship the Lord throughout his entire life.

God took David from zero to hero when David killed Goliath, the giant Philistine. This giant the whole army of Israel was afraid of, including King Saul. It is obvious that God was with David all his life. Even when David committed adultery with Bathsheba. In psalm David repented, praised God, and asked Him, "Not to take His spirit from him." David knew that God's spirit was always with him. However, God's Spirit left David when he committed this terrible sin. God restored His Spirit in David. The eleven verses in Psalm 32 are reflective of this terrible part of David's life and the revamping of

his life with God. God forgives those who seek forgiveness of sin. This is why Jesus came to blot out our sin. "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered...When I kept silence (and unrepented), my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long (Psalm 32:1-5). David praised God also (Psalm 32: 6-7). We, as God's children, should always be aware of that same continuous indwelling of God's Holy Spirit. Are we constantly aware of this gift from God given to help us live a victorious life?

When God saw how David protected his father's sheep, by killing a bear and a lion which came upon the flock and took away young sheep. David pursued the dangerous animals and slew them. This is the very same spirit of protection which is found in Jesus Christ. Jesus even called Himself the Good Shepherd (John 10:11). This may have been one of the reasons why God called David, "A man after My own heart." David, in a sense, implored the same loving care of his father's sheep, just as Christ cared for his own (us).

It is by reading and studying the Book of Psalms that we can follow David's personal life with the Lord. We are also able to see the reasons as to why David praised and worshipped God, it seems, daily. We too, must bless, worship and praise God daily. God's Spirit is found in the praises of His people (1Peter 2:9). When we praise God is always there to tend to us as individual and not just the collective church.

Church let us praise God from whom all blessings flow. Let us praise Him always when we are up and especially when we are down. For this will be a challenge to our faith. David did. Let's just praise and bless the Lord anyway! Micheal Combs in his praising songs sings, "There may be sunshine there may be rain, may be heart ache may be pain, we don't know what tomorrow will bring so let's just praise Him anyway."

SERMON of the WEEK



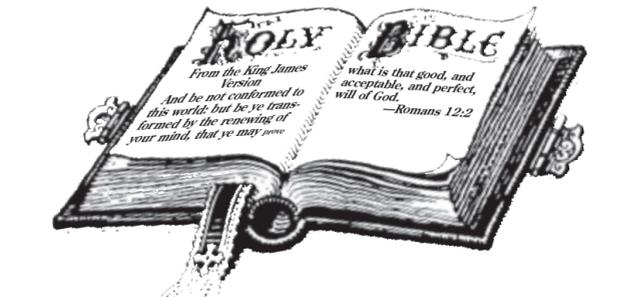
THE CHOICE IS YOURS

Sermon by Mike Roberson

We all have choices in life. God has given us a mind and free will to make choices. We must understand that the daily choices we make affect the life we will lead in the future.

I can recall choices that greatly affected my life. One of the greatest choices I made was to call my wife back when I was introduced to her. Another choice I made was to move to Fort Wayne, Indiana. There, I was able to work with young people and get them to college.

We all have those major choices to make in life. I want to encourage you all to be prayerful and make wise choices. There are several choices we will have to make that will have a sig-



nificant impact on our lives. One of the choices we have to make is who we surround ourselves with. Be careful who you associate with.

The friends you choose have a huge influence on the choices you make. Young people stay away from people who influence you to do things that will hurt your body, harm your mind, or get you in trouble.

Next, we must choose where we are headed in life. We must be goal-oriented. Setting goals is nothing more than making choices to head toward an expected end. While we all have obstacles to overcome, we have opportunities for success. We must make the right choices.

Last but certainly not least, we have the choice to choose Jesus as our Lord

and Savior. We all can make an intelligent decision to make Jesus our choice. Having a relationship with Jesus is the best way to be successful. He will guide you to make the right choices in life.

One great example of making good choices can be found in Luke 10:25-37. These verses tell the story of a man known as the good Samaritan. The Samaritan man was not good by nature only. He made a series of good choices to help someone in need. We all can do the same. So, I will close by saying the choice is yours.

One of my favorite songs as a teen was "You can get with this, or you can get with that." Again, I will say, "You can get with this Jesus, or you can get with that." I suggest you get with Jesus because this is where it's at.



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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 24E002038-310
The undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of LAVERNE Y. ELLIS, late of Durham County, NC does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned at the address below on or before the 24th day of November, 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 22nd day of August 2024.
Keith J. Ellis, Administrator
3320 Oak Knob Court
Hillsborough, NC 27278
8/22, 8/29, 9/5, and 9/12/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002014-310
The undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of DONNA BARKMAN WILSON, late of Durham County, NC does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned at the address below on or before the 22nd day of November, 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 22nd day of August 2024.
Thomas Howe Wilson, Executor
c/o Richard F. Prentis, Jr.,
4 Consultant Pl.,
Durham, NC 27707

8/22, 8/29, 9/5, and 9/12/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In The General Court Of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002072-310
The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of ESTELLE LORBACHER GOOCH A/K/A ESTELLE LEE GOOCH, late of Durham County, NC does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned at the address below on or before the 29th day of November, 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 29th day of August 2024.
Pressley Lorbacher, Executor of the Estate of Estelle Lorbacher Gooch, a/k/a Estelle Lee Gooch, c/o The Law Office of Anne Page Watson, PLLC, 3400 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 205, Durham, NC 27705.

8/29, 9/5, 9/12, and 9/19/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In The General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002078-310
The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of JACQUELINE LANE, late of Durham County, NC does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned at the address below on or before the 29th day of November, 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 29th day of August 2024.
Laura Grunert, Administrator
4607 Whitfield Rd.
Durham, NC 27707

8/29, 9/5, 9/12, and 9/19/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In The General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 21E000204-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR, FIDUCIARY of the Estate of HOPE NIMMO LAMBERT, 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 29th day of November 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 29th day of August 2024.
Pharis Lambert, Administrator,
Fiduciary
4105 Trotter Ridge Road
Durham, NC 27707

8/29, 9/5, 9/12, and 9/19/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In The General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002033-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of KATIE GRAY NEWTON, 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 29th day of November 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 29th day of August 2024.
Lennie Daniel Newton, Executor
513 Chambers Road
Rougemont, NC 27572
8/29, 9/5, 9/12, and 9/19/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In The General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002068-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JEAN HOLT TILLEY, 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 6th day of December 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 5th day of Septmeber 2024.
Teresa Williams, Executor
221 Monarda Way
Hillsborough, NC 27278
9/5, 9/12, 9/19, and 9/26/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 24E001759-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 27th day of August, 2024, as Executor of the ESTATE OF HAROLD R. DAVIS, 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 7th day of December, 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 5th day of September, 2024.
Craig A. Davis, EXECUTOR
ESTATE OF HAROLD R. DAVIS
c/o Richard G. Long III, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
9/5, 9/12, 9/19, and 9/26/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 24E002102-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 27th day of August, 2024, as Executor of the ESTATE OF BILLIE MARIE LATTA, 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 December, 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 5th day of September, 2024.
David Earl Latta, Executor
120 Scheer Ave.
Durham, NC 27703
9/5, 9/12, 9/19, and 9/26/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In The General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E001978-310
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of SARA JORDAN EBRON, deceased, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate of SARA JORDAN EBRON to present them to the undersigned on or before the 12th day of December, 2024, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

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

This, the 4th day of September, 2024.
EDWARD J. FALCONE
Attorney for the Estate of SARA JORDAN EBRON
120 E. Parrish Street, Suite 200
Durham, North Carolina 27701
(919) 682-9273
9/12, 9/19, 9/26, and 10/3/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In The General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002076-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ANNE THERESE TIMLIN, 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 13th day of December 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 12th day of Septmeber 2024.
Margaret Majsak, Executor
20247 Gary Lane
Livonia, MI 48152
9/12, 9/19, 9/26, and 10/3/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 24E001978-310
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of SARA JORDAN EBRON, deceased, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate of SARA JORDAN EBRON to present them to the undersigned on or before the 12th day of December, 2024, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

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

This, the 4th day of September, 2024.
EDWARD J. FALCONE
Attorney for the Estate of SARA JORDAN EBRON
120 E. Parrish Street, Suite 200
Durham, North Carolina 27701
(919) 682-9273
9/12, 9/19, 9/26, and 10/3/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 24E001964-310

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of SANDRA ROSE TURNER, Deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit the same on or before December 11, 2024, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

Dated September 12, 2024.
Amber Rudisill, Executor
c/o Attorney Heather Hazelwood
PO Box 61182
Durham NC 27715
9/12, 9/19, 9/26, and 10/3/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E001913-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of ANNE THOMAS LYNCH A/K/A ANN M. LYNCH, 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 13th day of December 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 12th day of September 2024.
Reginald E. Lynch, Administrator
3708 Danube Lane
Durham, NC 27704
9/12, 9/19, 9/26, and 10/3/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number: 24E001706-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ROBERT DALE HAMM, 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 13th day of December 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 12th day of September 2024.

Katherine Joy Hamm, Executor
136 Shumard Court
Leesburg, GA 31763
9/12, 9/19, 9/26, and 10/3/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In The General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number: 24E002053-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATRIX of the Estate of EMANUEL L. EDMONDS, 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 13th day of December 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 12th day of September 2024.
Angelette M. Short, Administratrix
4922 Old Page Rd., Apt. 622
Durham, NC 27703
9/12, 9/19, 9/26, and 10/3/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number: 24E002142-310

The undersigned having qualified as Executor of the Estate of ELEANOR ANN FORBES, Deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to Exhibit them to the undersigned at the office of IDOL LAW, PLLC, PO Box 51759, Durham, North Carolina 27717, on or before the 15th day of December, 2024, or this Notice will be in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment.

This is the 12th day of September, 2024.
Ted Nelson Griffin, Executor
Estate of Eleanor Ann Forbes,
Deceased

Robert A. Idol, Esquire
IDOL LAW, PLLC
Attorney at Law
PO Box 51759
Durham, NC 27717
(919)401.5151
9/12, 9/19, 9/26, and 10/3/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number: 24E002135-310

The undersigned having qualified as Executor of the Estate of DAVID ALEXANDER SPENCE, Deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to Exhibit them to the undersigned at the office of IDOL LAW, PLLC, PO Box 51759, Durham, North Carolina 27717, on or before the 15th day of December, 2024, or this Notice will be in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment.

This is the 12th day of September, 2024.
Christopher David Spence, Executor
Estate of David Alexander Spence,
Deceased
Robert A. Idol, Esquire
IDOL LAW, PLLC
Attorney at Law
PO Box 51759
Durham, NC 27717
(919)401.5151
9/12, 9/19, 9/26, and 10/3/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In The General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number: 24E002150-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of GONZALO DE ARMAS FERNANDEZ A/K/A GONZALO FERNANDEZ DE ARMAS, 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 13th day of December 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 12th day of September 2024.
Gonzalo Fernandez, Executor
2970 W. Roxboro Rd. NE
Atlanta, GA 30324
9/12, 9/19, 9/26, and 10/3/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of MICHAEL WILSON BAILEY of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before December 12, 2024, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, or corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 12th day of September, 2024.
Michael Shea Bailey, Executor of the Estate of Michael Wilson Bailey
2317 Alderbrook Drive
High Point, NC 27265
Nathan A. Chrisawn, Attorney
Gallimore Levy Chrisawn Gallimore PLLC
1838 Eastchester Drive, Ste 100
High Point, NC 27265
Telephone: (336) 754-8490
9/12, 9/19, 9/26, and 10/3/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
FILE NO. 24E002146-310
The undersigned, Sherrice Rowland, having duly qualified as Executrix of the Estate of HELEN BLAIR MAY, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned in care of Ronald G. Coulter, Attorney for the Estate, 3400 Croasdaile Dr., Ste 205, Durham, NC 27705, within ninety days of the first publication of this Notice or it will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons and legal entities indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment.

This the 12th day of September, 2024.

Sherrice Rowland, Executrix
C/O Ronald G. Coulter, Attorney
3400 Croasdaile Drive Ste 205
Durham, NC 27705
1-919-246-5775
9/12, 9/19, 9/26, and 10/3/2024

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 24E002004-910

The undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of CRYSTAL JENKINS BRIGGS, late of Wake County, NC does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned at the address below on or before the 22nd day of November, 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 22nd day of August 2024.
Clarissa Danielle Stone
Administrator
8 S 15th Ave. 4A
Mount Vernon, NY 10550
8/22, 8/29 9/5, and 9/12/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 24E003084-910
Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of GEOFFREY GRANT WILLIAMS, deceased, late of Wake County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the November 29, 2024 or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment.

This the August 29, 2024.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of MARTHA JANE FRYE SMITH, deceased, late of Wake County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the November 29, 2024 or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment.

This the 29th day of August, 2024.
c/o Elinor J. Foy, Attorney for Mary Ann Parseghian Williams
Estate of Geoffrey Grant Williams
Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton, LLP
4101 Lake Boone Trail, Suite 300
Raleigh, NC 27607
8/29 9/5, 9/12, and 9/19/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In The General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E003107-910

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of MARTHA JANE FRYE SMITH, deceased, late of Wake County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the November 29, 2024 or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment.

This the 29th day of August, 2024.
c/o Elinor J. Foy, Attorney for Stephen M. Smith, Administrator of the Estate of Martha Jane Frye Smith
Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton, LLP
4101 Lake Boone Trail, Suite 300
Raleigh, NC 27607
8/29, 9/5, 9/12, and 9/19/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In The General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E003164-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of THOMAS HERMAN SELLERS JR., 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 29th day of November 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 29th day of August 2024.
Barry Clark Bowen, Administrator
1017 Ancroft Avenue
Durham, NC 27713
8/29, 9/5, 9/12, and 9/19/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In The General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E003280-910

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of FELICIA D. CROOM, 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 29th day of November 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 29th day of August 2024.
Paula S Croom, Executor
279 Yuma Trail
Augusta, GA 30907
8/29, 9/5, 9/12, and 9/19/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division
FILE NO.: 24CV0011527-910
TO: DOUGLAS EMMINGER, 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 an Absolute Divorce from the Plaintiff.
You are required to make defense to such pleadings no later than the 15th day of October 2024, said date being at least forty days from the first publication of this notice; and upon your failure to do so the party seeking relief against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.
This the 5th day of September 2024.
LaMonica Shelby, Plaintiff
6840 Fox Landing Way, Apt 722
Raleigh, NC 27616
9/5, 9/12, and 9/19/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF

Classifieds

WAKE COUNTY

PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division
FILE NO.: 21CV012744-910
TO: EMMANUEL BANYA
FOUTOU, 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 an Absolute Divorce from the Plaintiff.

You are required to make defense to such pleadings no later than the 15th day of October 2024, said date being at least forty days from the first publication of this notice; and upon your failure to do so the party seeking relief against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 5th day of September 2024.
Gisele Muanza, Plaintiff
412-G Hensley Drive
Raleigh, NC 27615
9/5, 9/12, and 9/19/2024

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division
FILE NO.: 24CV020990-910
TO: EUGENE STRICKLAND, 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 an Absolute Divorce from the Plaintiff.

You are required to make defense to such pleadings no later than the 22nd day of October 2024, said date being at least forty days from the first publication of this notice; and upon your failure to do so the party seeking relief against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 12th day of September 2024.
Helidah A. Anyano, Plaintiff
2222 Fox Ridge Manor Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27610
9/12, 9/19, and 9/26/2024

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division
FILE NO.: 24CV003009-910
TO: WALLACE CRIDER, 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 an Absolute Divorce from the Plaintiff.

You are required to make defense to such pleadings no later than the 22nd day of October 2024, said date being at least forty days from the first publication of this notice; and upon your failure to do so the party seeking relief against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 12th day of September 2024.
Esther Crider, Plaintiff
3973 Volkswalk Place
Raleigh, NC 27610
9/12, 9/19, and 9/26/2024

BURKE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
BURKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of MARTHA TAYLOR McGUIRK, deceased, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate of MARTHA TAYLOR McGUIRK to present them to the undersigned on or before the 22nd day of November, 2024, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

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

This, the 22nd day of August, 2024.
DIANE H. BORDEAUX
Executor for the Estate of MARTHA TAYLOR McGUIRK
120 E. Parrish Street, Suite 200
Durham, North Carolina 27701
(919) 923-5081
8/22, 8/29, 9/5, and 9/12/2024

FORECLOSURE

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
FILE NO. 24SP001692-310

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in that certain deed of trust executed by 101 SOUTH MAPLE STREET, LLC dated January 29, 2021 to MITCHELL & ASSOCIATES LAW FIRM, PLLC, Trustee for TRIDENT REALTY INVESTMENTS, LLC, recorded in Book 9216, Page 559, DURHAM County Registry; default having been made in payment of the indebtedness thereby secured; and the necessary findings to permit foreclosure having been made by the Clerk of Superior Court of DURHAM County, North Carolina; the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, the property conveyed in said deed of trust, the same lying and being in the County of DURHAM and State of North Carolina, and more particularly described as follows:
PROPERTY ADDRESS/LOCATION: 101 S. Maple Street, Durham NC 27703; DATE OF SALE: September 26, 2024; TIME OF SALE: 10:30 A.M.;

LOCATION OF SALE: DURHAM County Courthouse; **RECORD OWNER(S):** 101 South Maple Street, LLC and Dedrick Hines

TERMS OF THE SALE: (1) This sale will be made subject to: (a) all prior liens, encumbrances, easements, right-of-ways, restrictive covenants or other restrictions of record affecting the property; (b) property taxes and assessments for the year in which the sale occurs, as well as any prior years; (c) federal tax liens with respect to which proper notice was not given to the Internal Revenue Service; (d) federal tax liens to which proper notice was given to the Internal Revenue Service and to which the right of redemption applies; and (e) the right of payoff or reinstatement of the loan as permitted by law. (2) The property is being sold "as is". Neither the beneficiary of the deed of trust, nor the undersigned Substitute Trustee, makes any warranties or representations concerning the property, including but not limited to, the physical or environmental condition of the property. Further, the undersigned Substitute Trustee makes no title warranties

with respect to the title to the property. (3) The highest bidder will be responsible for the payment of revenue stamps payable to the Register of Deeds and any final court and/or auditing fees payable to the Clerk of Superior Court which are assessed on the high bid resulting from this foreclosure sale. (4) At the time of the sale, the highest bidder will be required to make a cash deposit of five percent (5%) of the bid, or \$750.00, whichever is greater, with the remaining balance of the bid amount to be paid on the day following the expiration of the applicable ten (10) day upset bid period. (5) Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may after receiving this Notice of Foreclosure 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 10 days, but no more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in this Notice of Foreclosure 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. (6) An order for possession of the property being sold may be issued pursuant to N.C.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. (7) If the sale is set aside for any reason, or if the Trustee is unable to convey title to the property being foreclosed for any reason, the purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee's attorney, or the Substitute Trustee.
Date: August 28, 2024
SMITH DEBNAM NARRON DRAKE SAINTSING & MYERS, L.L.P.
Jeff D. Rogers, Substitute Trustee
PO Box 176010
Raleigh, NC 27619-6010
(919) 250-2000 Fax: (919) 250-2211
This communication is from a debt collector. The purpose of this communication is to collect a debt. This is an attempt to collect a debt, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
9/12 & 9/19/2024

NC STATE UNIVERSITY BASEBALL ADDITION & RENOVATIONS – DOAK FIELD SCO PROJECT NO. 22-24384-01B

Advertisement to Bid from Prequalified Subcontractors
September 5, 2024
New South – Right Build, A Joint Venture (NSC-RBI) is accepting bids from prequalified vendors for the NC State University Baseball Addition & Renovations - Doak Field project.

Pre-Bid Meeting:
A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on September 17, at 2:00PM in Conference Room 124A in the Administrative Services III building on the NC State University campus located at 2701 Sullivan Drive, Raleigh, NC 27607.

Bid Opening/Submission:
Sealed Bids for specified bid packages (Bid Group #1) will be received from prequalified bidders on October 1, 2024 at 3:00PM, in Conference Room 124A in the Administrative Services III building on the NC State University campus located at 2701 Sullivan Drive, Raleigh, NC 27607.

Sealed Bids for specified bid packages (Bid Group #2) will be received from prequalified bidders on October 3, 2024 at 3:00PM, in Conference Room 124A in the Administrative Services III building on the NC State University campus located at 2701 Sullivan Drive, Raleigh, NC 27607.

- Bid Group #1 (bidding 10/01/2024 at 3:00pm):**
- 2-01A General Trades
 - 2-02A Demolition
 - 2-03A Cast-in-Place Concrete
 - 2-04A Masonry
 - 2-05C Turnkey Steel
 - 2-07C Turnkey Roofing
 - 2-07E Air Barriers
 - 2-07F Joint Sealants & Subgrade Waterproofing
 - 2-07G Mezzanine Waterproofing
 - 2-11A Sports Equipment & Indoor Synthetic Turf
 - 2-21A Fire Protection
 - 2-22A Plumbing
 - 2-23A HVAC
 - 2-26A Electrical
 - 2-32A Turnkey Sitework

- Bid Group #2 (Bidding 10/3/2024)**
- 2-01B Final Cleaning
 - 2-06A Architectural Millwork
 - 2-07D Metal Wall Panels & Louvers
 - 2-08A Doors, Frames & Hardware
 - 2-08B Aluminum & Glazing
 - 2-08C Acrylic OHD's and Coiling Service Doors
 - 2-09A Drywall Assemblies
 - 2-09B Acoustical Ceilings & Panels
 - 2-09G Turnkey Flooring
 - 2-09H Painting & Coatings
 - 2-10A Specialties
 - 2-12A Window Blinds
 - 2-32C Fences & Gates

For additional questions and information, contact Scott Wolynec at (swolynec@newsouthconstruction.com) or via Phone: (919) 683-1701.

Sports

NC Moves Closer To Allowing H.S. Athletes NIL Deals

NC Newsline—As early as next year, North Carolina's public high school athletes could get paid for sponsorship deals. The state Board of Education advanced proposed rules Thursday to allow students to profit from their name, image, and likeness.

NIL deals have been common in college athletics for some time and increasingly, more states have allowed high school athletes to get in on the action.

The State Board of Education initially prohibited NIL arrangements. But the N.C. High School Athletic Association told the board in July that more than 30 states have NIL policies in place, and some students were probably already accepting money on the side without any guardrails.

The board voted to allow the proposed rules to move forward with a two-month public comment period commencing October 1. Following a review of those comments, the full board will consider permanent NIL rules for public high school students at its first meeting in 2025.

The proposed rules that advanced on Thursday would allow use of a student's name, image, or likeness for commercial purposes in exchange for compensation to the student or an immediate family member.

- Permitted activities include:
- Public appearances or commercials
 - Autograph signings
 - Athletic camps and clinics
 - Sale of non-fungible tokens ("NFTs")
 - Product or service endorsements

Promotional activities, including in-person events and social media advertisements

Student athletes would be prohibited from profiting from certain promotions involving adult establishments or entertainment services. Alcohol, tobacco, vaping, cannabis-related products and sports betting would be prohibited products for teen-athletes with NIL deals.

Athletic directors, coaches, and booster clubs would also be prevented from using an NIL deal as a recruitment tool.

Ryan Collins, Assistant General Counsel for the State Board of Education, said a very small percentage of students are going to be offered these kinds of deals and the state's disclosure requirements basically puts local schools on alert.

"This is probably the most major decision or action that I have been part of since I've been on the state board," said board member Dr. Olivia Oxendine. "It's pretty monumental in terms of the ramifications and the consequences."

Board member Kimberly Jones worried about how the arrangement might impact students active across social media.

"I'm aware that a number of students, whether they play sports or not, have built up social media personalities. Many of our kids are creating content at school, on the bus, et cetera, and those accounts are then monetized."

"I think this would force an examination of that to the extent that the student is wanting to participate in athletics," Collins answered.

The proposed rules would prevent a student athlete from appearing in

their team uniform during an NIL promotion.

Board of Education Vice Chair Alan Duncan suggested that as the rules moved to the public comment phase, the state should include a provision specifying that NIL dollars should be deposited in a fund that would go to benefit of the student whose name, image and likenesses is being purchased.

Oxendine said South Carolina was exploring whether the money should be placed into a trust fund for the high school student.

"I don't know that every digital NIL deal will be in millions of dollars range where a trust would be a

sensible solution, but it certainly is an option," Collins told the board.

The N.C. High School Athletic Association has recommended that the state adopt a financial education component to help students understand the deals to which they are agreeing. Because money is involved, parents should also be aware of possible tax implications. If a student is under 18, their parent or legal guardian would be party to the agreement.

Ian House, a student advisor to the state board of education, runs track-and-field at Cary's Green Hope High School.

House told the board that even

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kendrick Lamar will pop out on the NFL's biggest stage next year: The Grammy winner will headline the Apple Music Super Bowl Halftime Show in New Orleans.

The NFL, Apple Music and Roc Nation announced Sunday that Lamar would lead the halftime festivities from the Caesars Superdome on Feb. 9. The rap megastar, who has won 17 Grammys, said he's looking forward to bringing hip-hop to the NFL's championship game, where he performed as a guest artist with Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Mary J. Blige, 50 Cent and Eminem in 2022.

"Rap music is still the most impactful genre to date," Lamar said in a

statement. "And I'll be there to remind the world why. They got the right one."

Lamar, 37, has experienced massive success since his debut album "good kid, m.A.A.d city" in 2012. Since then, he's accumulated 17 Grammy wins and became the first non-classical, non-jazz musician to win a Pulitzer Prize for his 2017 album "DAMN."

The rapper's latest album "Mr. Morale & The Big Steppers" was released in 2022. He was featured on the song "Like That" with Future and Metro Boomin on a track that spent three weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 this year. He also scored another hit with "Not Like Us."

In 2016, Lamar gave a stunning seven-minute performance of tracks

without a lucrative contract, there's plenty of pressure both on and off the field for high schoolers.

"For those few students who will benefit from NIL, they may make athletics first and being a student come second. So, they're an athlete-student, but not a student-athlete," House cautioned.

House agreed with the portion of the policy that would prevent students from showcasing a brand while on the field or in uniform.

"If someone is there not to build those values, but simply there to make money, that's defeating the whole point of why athletics are there, why you have the team build-

ing."

Top-ranked high school quarterback Faizon Brandon sued the State Board of Education last month over its current ban on endorsement deals. The Grimsley (Greensboro) High School QB has since committed to play for the University of Tennessee.

What's next? The public will have a chance to weigh in on the proposed NIL policy during a comment period that will run from Oct. 1 through Dec. 6th. The state board will hold a virtual public hearing on Nov. 8th, process the feedback it receives, and vote on the final policy at its January 2025 meeting.

Kendrick Lamar Will Headline The 2025 Super Bowl Halftime Show

such as "The Blacker the Berry" and "Alright" at the 58th Grammy Awards. Lamar dazzled as an opener two years later at the Grammys with a performance of "XXX."

In June, Lamar turned his June-teenth "Pop Out" concert into a celebration of Los Angeles unity. It came on the heels of his rap battle with Drake during the three-hour concert featuring a mix of p-and-coming LA rappers and stars including Tyler, The Creator, Steve Lacy and YG.

Roc Nation founder Jay-Z called Lamar a "once-in-a-generation" artist and performer.

"His deep love for hip-hop and culture informs his artistic vision," Jay-Z said. "He has an unparalleled ability to

define and influence culture globally. Kendrick's work transcends music, and his impact will be felt for years to come."

Roc Nation and Emmy-winning producer Jesse Collins will serve as co-executive producers of the halftime show. The creative direction of Lamar's performance will be provided by pgLang, a creative company founded by Lamar and Dave Free — who has previously directed the rapper's music videos.

"Time and time again, Kendrick has proven his unique ability to craft moments that resonate, redefine, and ultimately shake the very foundation of hip-hop," said Seth Dudowsky, the head of music at the NFL.

Politics

US commemorates 9/11 attacks with victims in focus and

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. remembered the lives taken and those reshaped by 9/11, marking an anniversary laced with presidential campaign politics as President Joe Biden, former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris stood together Wednesday at ground zero.

Sept. 11 — the date when hijacked plane attacks killed nearly 3,000 people in 2001 — falls in the thick of the presidential election season every four years, and it comes at an especially pointed moment this time. The anniversary ceremony at the World Trade Center brought Harris and Trump, the Democratic and Republican nominees, face-to-face just hours after their first-ever debate Tuesday night.

Trump and running mate Sen. JD Vance arrived at the trade center site around 8 a.m. and posed for photographs with some in the audience. Harris arrived with Biden about a half-hour later, to cheers of “Kamala!” from some audience members.

Biden and Trump shook hands, and former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg appeared to facilitate a handshake between Harris

and Trump. Then the presidential rivals stood only a few feet apart, with Biden and Bloomberg between them, as the observance began with the tolling of a bell and a moment of silence.

The political backdrop wasn't top-of-mind for victims' relatives such as Cathy Naughton, who came to honor her cousin Michael Roberts, one of hundreds of firefighters killed in the attack.

Twenty-three years later, “it's just so raw,” she said. “We want to make sure people remember always, and say the names always and never forget.”

“Every year, it just doesn't get easier,” she added.

Regardless of the campaign calendar, organizers of anniversary ceremonies have long taken pains to try to keep the focus on victims. For years, politicians have been only observers at ground zero observances, with the microphone going instead to relatives who read victims' names aloud.

If politicians “care about what's actually going on, great. Be here,” said Korryn Bishop, who lost her

cousin John F. McDowell Jr. “If they're just here for political clout, that upsets me.”

Biden, on the last Sept. 11 of his term and likely his half-century po-

litical career, was headed with Harris later to ceremonies in Pennsylvania and at the Pentagon, the three sites where commercial jets crashed after al-Qaida operatives took them over

on Sept. 11, 2001. Trump also was due at the Flight 93 National Memorial near rural Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Officials later concluded that the

aircraft that crashed there was headed toward Washington. It went down after crew members and passengers tried to wrest control from the hijackers.

The attacks killed 2,977 people and left thousands of bereaved relatives and scarred survivors. The planes carved a gash in the Pentagon, the U.S. military headquarters, and brought down the trade center's twin towers, which were among the world's tallest buildings.

The catastrophe also altered U.S. foreign policy, domestic security practices and the mindset of many Americans who had not previously felt vulnerable to attacks by foreign extremists.

Effects rippled around the world and through generations as the U.S. responded by leading a “Global War on Terrorism,” which included invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq. Those operations killed hundreds of thousands of Afghans and Iraqis and thousands of American troops, and Afghanistan became the site of the United States' longest war.

As the complex legacy of 9/11 continues to evolve, communities around the country have developed remembrance traditions that range from laying wreaths to displaying flags, from marches to police radio messages. Volunteer projects also mark the anniversary, which Congress has titled both Patriot Day and a National Day of Service and Remembrance.

At ground zero, presidents and other officeholders read poems, parts of the Declaration of Independence and other texts during the first several anniversaries.

But that ended after the National Sept. 11 Memorial and Museum decided in 2012 to limit the ceremony to relatives reading victims' names. Bloomberg was board chairman at the time and still is.

Politicians and candidates still have been able to attend the event. Many do, especially New Yorkers who held office during the attacks, such as former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who was then a U.S. senator.

She and Trump overlapped at the ground zero 9/11 remembrance in 2016, and it became a fraught chapter in the narrative of that year's presidential campaign.



Black PACs Unite to Endorse Democrats in NC

By: Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

In a historic move, four of North Carolina's leading Black political action committees (PACs) have come together to endorse candidates for the 2024 elections.

This unprecedented coalition, comprising the Raleigh Wake Citizens Association, the George C. Simkins, Jr. Memorial PAC of Guilford County, the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, and the Bladen Improvement Association, represents a significant shift in the state's political landscape.

The announcement was made during a press conference on Wednesday in front of the North Carolina Legislative Building in Raleigh. Melvin “Skip” Alston, leader of the George C. Simkins, Jr. Memorial PAC, emphasized the coalition's dedication to issues impacting all North Carolinians.

“The candidates we are endorsing today have demonstrated time

and again, the dedication to the issues that affect us all, issues that are critical to ensuring that every North Carolinian, regardless of their race or background has the opportunity to be successful,” Alston said.

The PACs have exclusively endorsed Democratic candidates, including Josh Stein for governor, Justice Allison Riggs for the North Carolina Supreme Court, Jessica Holmes for state auditor, and several other candidates for statewide offices. This decision to support Democrats over Republicans, such as Mark Robinson, who is running to become the state's first Black governor, underscores the coalition's strategic focus.

Steve Bowden of the Simkins Memorial PAC clarified the coalition's position: “We hope that the united front of this PAC demonstrates to our Black community where the leadership they've relied on for so many years stands on this issue.”

The PACs plan to leverage their resources through a comprehensive

strategy, including voter registration drives, door-to-door canvassing, voter training sessions, and poll transportation. Alston highlighted these efforts as vital to ensuring that every eligible voter can participate in the election and has access to information about the candidates who best represent their interests.

The coalition's support extends beyond gubernatorial and judicial races. They have also endorsed all Democratic candidates running for Council of State positions and Kamala Harris for president. They focus on candidates with proven advocacy records for African American communities and other marginalized groups.

Josh Stein, who spoke at the press conference, expressed his gratitude for the PACs' support.

“These organizations that we've just heard from have spent decades loving North Carolina, even when that love was not reciprocated,” Stein said. “They've been working to improve the lives of Black North

Carolinians and bringing us closer to fulfilling the promise of North Carolina.”

Jessica Holmes, who is seeking to retain her position as state auditor, responded to criticisms from her opponent, Republican David Boliek, and former auditor Beth Wood. Holmes stressed her commitment to integrity and public trust.

“I would say the difference between the people standing behind me and their opponents is the word integrity,” Holmes said. “One thing that taxpayers of North Carolina do not have to worry about is me misusing state assets or betraying the public's trust for selfish gain.”

The PACs' collective endorsement signifies a unified approach to addressing the challenges facing the Black community in North Carolina.

“These activities are aimed at ensuring that every eligible voter has the opportunity to participate in this critical election and have information to candidates who best represent their voices,” Alston said.

TRUMP'S PROJECT 2025 IS A THREAT TO BLACK AMERICANS

Project 2025 is Donald Trump and JD Vance's plan to remake the federal government if they win.

It would:

Use Civil Rights-era laws created to address discrimination to instead benefit white people

– Axios, 4/1/24

Gut the Affordable Care Act, which will raise health care costs and threaten health care coverage for millions of Americans

– AP News, 11/27/23

Cut Social Security and Medicare Americans have earned

– Washington Post, 2/9/23

Ban abortion nationally

– New York Times, 2/16/24

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